Handicapping Analysis
Wed August 23rd, 2023

Emily's Analysis

Hawthorne Race 1

Post Time 4:45 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#4 BIA BOLT RUNNER returns with a race under her belt and that looks to be key going back to the visuals from August 2nd. Santiago was able to get familiarity that day and should prove key as they return today with the shorter distance and must be more assertive getting her into the race. Also returning for a second start off the layoff; **#5 CANDY KICK** as one that looks to benefit from the race and the changes for today's event.

As far as the early pace, ***#6 SUNSET PAYNTER*** is not a proven front runner though with the stretch out in distance and back class could see herself forwardly placed in this race with the complexion of the field. ***#8 INEEDAGIRLLIKEYOU*** and could take up a role forwardly placed once again, though overall can be on the softer side with just a select pair of races in her carer that has her competitive with the others today. Number wise similar could be said for ***#7 LOTTA ROSES*** though should see a move forward all around coming back from the common race on August 2nd where she did not have a chance to compete given her trip that day and SPACED dynamic.

Hawthorne Race 2

Post Time 5:15 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#5 BERNIE LOMAX stands out on current form paired with the class drop. The connections are likely making this move to get a win, a belated win for this horse that has run well this season. He ran well against a well-intended Blackteca on April 13th and closed late on the front running winner, Fastnfurious at Fan Duel settling for place in both events. He had a look returning here on July 26th though was compromised at the break (SLOG, TROUBLE_S) chasing inside on a course that was playing fast and tough to make up ground on and was given minimal (NO_PUSH) ask from the rider.

#2 OVERCALENDARED could be "over the top" coming back on shorter rest from a hard fought battle just two weeks ago at Belterra Park. He broke slow and RUSH to the lead staying on through a fast (X_FLOW) pace as the BOS to get caught late in what could be a taxing effort in a race he appeared well meant in. He should find pace pressure with #3 LIMA ZULU and #6 BOURBON TEDDY, in addition to BERNIE LOMAX one that should be more assertively ridden today.

#3 UNCLE NICK is one with a look in here as he has started to show progress, interest, and improvement late. #1 TEA AFTER BALLET is tougher to trust on the win end with his RunStyle from off the pace (Quad II) and the shorter distance, though has been able to run on late for minors, an outcome that is not out of the question here.

Hawthorne Race 3

Post Time 5:45 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Going to take a swing with **#3 SENSE OF SELF** returning in this spot. She has struggled to find the form this year from last year though has had some subtle excuses. She returned in her seasonal debut in April on the main track in a spot and timing that suggested “prep” and ran to that from a visual standpoint on hold (TACTIC-) and showed a sneaky CLOSE (and GALLOP+) that does not appear in the running line or finishing position. She projected to IMPROVE especially when returned to the turf on May 25th. She was not given a fair chance to compete that day with the rider TACTIC- that followed a check, TROUBLE_S at the start. The barn comes back in this spot at the end of the meet with a rider still looking for a win and with the class drop – this can go one of two ways and at the expected longer odds willing to roll the dice.

There are plenty of other ways to land in this race and much “safer” options. #7 COMMAND POINT figures to be the public default given the connections, the dominant win under similar conditions back in June and returning from a place finish as well as the return of Loveberry. #5 EMBARRASSING has shown run at this level here this season and should get back to competitive ways today. #4 BLOODY MARY MORNIN has been less consistent as of late and noted with the repetitive layoff lines, though coming back to the turf from the main track (NO_HANDLE) 20-days ago should be to her benefit and looks to move up here.

#4 APRIL’S GEM was well prepared, spotted and ridden (PERFECT) with the return to the turf in a second start off the layoff for Rosas last month. She would be no surprise to hold her form and compete #6 ROMANTIC ATTACK should benefit from the class DROP and going back to her “most recent” win, the race here last May was run under similar claiming conditions to today.

Hawthorne Race 4

Post Time 6:15 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#5 SHACKLEFORD STRONG has lived up to his name this season with a strong showing with nearly five straight wins looking to keep up that record here. He is tough to knock with that consistency and with his RunStyle (Quad I Square) in today’s field. Class wise this could be seen as a slight step up and with that the case he must hold his form and run a top effort to win. His biggest threat could come from a fresh horse in #4 VIOLENT GIGI shipping in for Contreras. He bring a level of class and figures that make him competitive here returning to top form off the layoff. He also has tactical speed and the ability to finish (Quad II Square) to work a trip.

Trip is key for #7 TRY TRY AGAIN one that has also been competitive at this starter allowance level and finding some subtle class relief from the higher OFR in the $20k claiming event last month.

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 6:45 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#4 FOLLOW THE SIGNS could get lost on the board in this full field. Following his season, the connections have been waiting to return to the turf and finally finding a grass race last month, they had to run higher than ideal against allowance company. The DROP should move him forward and even carries upside from the legit EX – EXCUSE with TROUBLE+ on July 16th. FOLLOW THE SIGNS beat a main rival here, ***#10 GRAND HIDEAWAY*** in a similar $10k turf sprint here last October. #12 DRAGON DREW also shares some of those common running lines and one that has shown run this season, though requires to show more to win and needs a lot in his favor given no favors with the outside post.

#1 EXPROMPT is at the right level and in current form to get the win today. With that said, value is required as trip/pace figures to be the main hurdle with his RunStyle paired with the rail draw. #2 IAN GLASS has been without a win in over a year and likely part of the reason for the significant class drop, dropping to the lowest level of his career today. With that drop he also has been just common as of late and losing ground late without excuse, something that did not seem a factor of class, rather a lack of interest.

Loveberry jumps back aboard #3 CLEAR N CONVINCING as he returns from injury. He has had success aboard this horse in the past. Most of that success has been at the route distance and going back to Arlington Park prior to 2021. He does hold a sprint win over that AP course at this 5.5f distance, when closing from well off the pace and had a fast pace that day to close into. Looking towards a “closer” **#6 STAR OF KODIAK** could be that horse and longer odds of the two. He will return to his preferred surface/distance off the freshening and back in at a lower claiming level that should have him in the right spot for his abilities. #8 REMEMBER THE MAINE also has a strong closing kick, though much, much tougher to trust on the win end as his most recent win was back in July 2021.

The return to the turf could also benefit ***#7 AZREAL*** looking to get back to his top form. The timing and step up in class wheeling back in two weeks for the $20k event on July 19th did not appear ideal and those factors were further compounded by the TROUBLE_S.

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 7:15 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

The turf-to-dirt move has been effective for **#3 MISTER KELLY** in the past and could signal intent with that move here by Winebaugh. As far as form MISTER KELLY has been competitive this season under similar conditions and his 2022 finale win was at today’s class level. He has shown enough tactical speed to work a trip and try and secure first run on the pacesetters, #5 CAT MAN DO and #6 W W HOTSHOT and the jump on #2 BLOW TORCH and #7 LIKE A SALTSHAKER – with #1 LYKAN a much deeper closer in this race/field.

#8 ENJOY THE MUSIC comes back with a slight freshening and in this spot noting a scratch from an OC$10k turf sprint on August 2nd. That change could suggest intent, however the move to the main track is a surface this horse has not performed well over in the past. Not only does he show 0-for-4 on the dirt, but his figures also dropped on that surface and rebounded shifting back to turf or synthetic.

Hawthorne Race 7

Post Time 7:45 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#1 MY MORNING GAL is worth trying to get creative with as she returns to Hawthorne and given another try on the turf. Physically she appears capable to handle and even move up on the turf with her lone turf start, her second career start and placement was a first against winners taking on allowance company at HS Indy, the main debut win at FanDuel/Fairmount back in 2020. Class wise she comes into this race with a slight step up though has some back class as she did win the Debutante stakes here in 2020.

#4 WAY TOO SMARTE also has some back class, the 2022 Oakbrook stakes winner. She also holds some upside off her form this season and can benefit from today's distance change (SHORTER) returning to a sprint.

#5 BALI BABY Has shown progress this season and seems to be racing herself into form. She was a mental mess (MANIC) making her return back on July 9th losing her race before it started and then losing it again in running. She stepped up showing early speed on August 3rd though also the visuals to suggest she prefers turf. She moved up on the grass two weeks ago, though as far as class was not on the allowance level for the win and should have herself in the right spot today back at the claiming level. #6 SHE'S WANDAFUL, the winner of that August 9th allowance race was able to benefit from an EASY_LEAD and LONE trip to hold and should find more pace pressure today with ***#8 PRINCESS STELLA***, #10 STACK SHACK and even MY MORNING GAL in the field.

The pace might not be enough for #3 MIZZEN ASH to target as she cuts back in distance and projects to make her run from off the pace – a trip that is also noted for #9 RARE ACTION ATTACK, Quad IV Square.

#7 GET NONE has benefit from favorable trips in her recent wins. She could fall into another favorable trip (Quad II Square) here though she will also step up in class slightly for the $20k tag and again gives up recency (something not uncommon, though not always favorable) off the 90-day, three month layoff. The class change is also for her stablemate #2 GOOD MONGOLIA, on that has recency on her side though those current numbers sit on the lower end of the OFR and compared to the others in this field.