Handicapping Analysis
Sun April 7th, 2024

Emily's Analysis

Hawthorne Race 1

Post Time 2:40 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Trainer F. Villa has a win early in the season and will send out a capable pair in this race that will also race protected. #2 IZZY'S MONSTER has the benefit of local experience and around two turns on this main track. She must improve at this level, a step up from last season and number wise her stablemate #3 SILKY WARRIOR has recorded some of the faster races and consistent figures. That includes races last year over the BTP dirt and current form coming in from the TP races under a similar par to today's event.

#5 DIALED INNA will also race protected here and brings in upside for the live connections. She recorded competitive efforts under similar conditions last year and fitness coming in second off the layoff. She caught a higher race par returning on 3/20 at TP and might not have had full intent that day giving up recency and the front wraps added, something to look for here.

#8 MEMPHIS CASH QUEEN also added the front wraps last out and returns today with the barn change and time off to make her first start of the year. She appears live in this spot with O. Mojica aboard and one that has races that fit on par and consistent figures that fit today's event and could be overlooked. T

MEMPHIS CASH QUEEN shares the Q4 Square OptixPlot position with the Villa pair, IZZY'S MONSTER and SILKY WARRIOR and those runners from off the pace could be assisted by the "Fire" Contention and higher 40 SpeedRate, factors that could make things tougher than it might appear on paper for #7 BLESSED ANNA at least to consider on the win end if a shorter number with #6 APRIL'S GEM one that should continue to improve with racing (and TURF) and another that can show more early speed here.

#4 HOT DAME finished behind SILKY WARRIOR when they met last June. To HOT DAME's credit, she has a solid HAW record that she will look to returning from the layoff with the barn and owner change. In terms of class, on her best day she has been able to win at this level, though has had some favorable trips and could find contention with her preferred front running style here.

Hawthorne Race 2

Post Time 3:08 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#2 BOYCE'S BANDITA returns to make a belated debut and in terms of class a lateral change on this circuit with the shift to open MCL company. Going back to her debut, she was supported heavily as the race favorite, down from the 8-1 ML and after a SLOG made a RUSH into the DUEL between horses and with the eventual and next out allowance winner, Goldicat. There should be intent for this spot with the drop, steady works coming back for this race and given her late start to racing and belated second start as a 4yo she should be all systems go here.

Michele Boyce will also return with a second time starter #7 AKARI. She debuted back on 1/17 at TP on a very, very, very cold night, the races were cancelled after the 5th. She took some time before returning to the published work tab though her first move after the debut was a strong 47.2 half mile and has kept up with the conditioning in the works since and the board has been sending out live including a win with today's rider, O. Hernandez.

#3 TRIBEST is one of the more established in this field and fits off her current form, form she will be required to hold on this circuit and off the claim though better suited for the one turf it took them a long time to make that change. #5 WRITTEN CONSENT also brings in established and current form that fit should she transfer. While the two could just catch the right group, they are still going to be tested from their recent starts, races that featured many other longtime maidens and not the strongest fields.

Hawthorne Race 3

Post Time 3:36 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#1 SHARP STICK is upgraded with the changes to show up in this spot and off their current form this season with races over this course from last year. As far as the current OP cycle, they compromised with the poor break (SLOG, TROUBLE_S) and WIDE trip on 12/30 and given a flow-upgrade staying on as the BOS through a Very Fast early (and Fast late) pace at the longer than ideal mile distance last month.

#2 DEFIANT MALICE wheels right back from opening day and some change for this second start of the meet. The class and distance change are notable though also finds a rider change following a less than ideal ride making a RUSH into TROUBLE and showed enough in that trip to suggest they can IMPROVE. Overall improvement could be projected from the sophomore foundation in this third start of the year. The two first time starters #3 IRISH COAST and #4 THE RIDGE could jump up as the new faces for capable connections though also have some hurdles here giving up experience and taking on older.

DEFIANT MALICE will require that step forward with #5 SPANISH DOUBLOON and #7 ALIBI IKE in the field, runners that have recorded some of the higher figures in this field in their recent starts and will be tested for that to hold on this circuit and recent barn changes.

Hawthorne Race 4

Post Time 4:04 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#5 POSITIONDUMONI has the benefit of recency and in prior form cycles has improved second off and could follow that pattern into this race. She would present that edge in this field as otherwise she has not run as fat as some others though many of those others are coming off layoffs and might require a race and would require their top efforts as well.

A case can be made for #7 COCKTAIL CUTIE and for solid local connections taking over that can be a positive. She will show up here without much time for the new barn given the race back on 3/10 and does not show a local work and had to handle the ship out of California. Her better races fit on par as a contender though her recent Los Al form requires a turnaround as her best days of racing did not appear at night.

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 4:32 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#1 SHEZ RECKLESS return with some changes from the race last week that could suggest intent here. The one thing that does not change is the draw and going back to that 3/31 event she was climbing (NO_HANDLE) early giving up position and showing some run in spots after getting her legs. They might try and send from the rail here though likely if that is the plan should find company with #8 MY LADY SLEW likely to send from the outside and #3 PLAY TWENTY one that had a rough start and her better, more competitive races to date were when run lone on the lead.

Trip was subtle for #4 GO STORMIN GIRL last week and could be some intent back on shorter rest with C. Emigh back aboard. She was restless in the GATE and showed early speed, a trip that is okay for her though perhaps better when she can rate and come with a late run – the Quad IV Square Surface/Distance Plot would allow for that trip – and the Standard (current form) could allow here the jump on #2 PALAGO and #7 LADY ATLANTIC.

#6 MISS WINDY SLEW returns with the group from the 3/23 common race and race behind open length and next out winner, Lily’s Woofy. MISS WINDY SLEW has some form over this course and with a less than ideal trip two weeks ago could benefit from that race and the second time blinkers coming back for this race with upside and should be overlooked.

#5 WITCHING put in a couple of competitive minor finish efforts here last spring and while she is a reach for the top spot, she could sneak into the exotics at a price.

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 5:00 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#5 CHARTED has recorded some of the higher figures in this field and takes the class drop where he should have no excuses to day. This will be his second start for Martinez and coming back from the 2/10 TP race with the 6th and 7th place finishers won in their next start to win under $15k MCL conditions on that circuit and Mining Camp, the 11th place finisher from that event showed up back on this circuit with a place finish under $15k MCL conditions on opening day.

#8 LUCKY PAL returns to make a belated second start and tough to take much from the debut given the time off that followed and the ELP track profile at the time that favored horses on the lead and made it tough to pass and make up ground. That makes their return here closer to a debut and given the field on the day and all but a few still maidens could be taken as a class drop.

#4 GUYDON has continued to step forward race to race and one that looks to be racing himself into shape. He moved forward opening Sunday from the first two OP starts and today race sits under similar conditions with a lower par. That could upgrade the group from that race and the added ground perhaps the biggest advantage for #7 LARRY'S LUNCHBOX and those two looking to turn the tables on #6 RAISERICHIESRANSOM on the barn change and show finish after stumbling (TROUBLE_S) at the star and tiring late. He was colder on the board for Rivelli at 9.5-1 and less fancied than his 1-5 open length stablemate winner, Purple Octopus. The overall recorded is tougher to trust for #3 CHERRY ORCHARD as he returns here from that common event though in the past has been able to pick up a check and should be the longer odds (along with #1 ARTIE AND JESSIE) here and his OptixPLOT position is in line with some of the others in this field.

The shorter distance is noted for #9 BLACK RUSSIAN one that otherwise fits at this level. He showed a pattern of SLOG last year and if that continues he could be left with a lot to running on late. The shorter distance of today's race could be tougher for #2 GRAND FESTIVAL one of the older runners in this field especially with the inside draw and his runstyle.

Hawthorne Race 7

Post Time 5:28 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#7 HEART OF HANISCH could present a pace advantage and upside as she makes her seconds tart back off the layoff. She showed early speed last month, though a hurdle making a return from the 600-day layoff and return late in the FG meet. She will find a class change with the drop and circuit change and picking up a live rider in O. Mojica to suggest further intent.

With HEART OF HANISCH on the front end she has the preference over the other front running types including #1 OPALINE though a scenario where the front runners get picked up late. That upgrades the tracking Squares: #2 ONACOUNTA as she makes her second start this season and could get first run on #4 HOLY IMAGE and the edge returning here over Circle #8 SUNDAY SPIRIT.

#3 GABRIELLA ATTACK is not as "obvious" as ONACOUNTA though can work a trip and finds the class drop and rider change wheeling right back for this race to suggest intent and on her first day she is not too far out of it. Centeno will pick up the call on #6 EVIE JEAN one that is tougher to trust on the win end, though a Q3 Square in a Snowflake Contention is a combination that has pulled off an upset.

Hawthorne Race 8

Post Time 5:56 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

The race dynamic is tricky here with the higher 67 SpeedRate paired with the Snowflake contention. That is in part to many in here with the distance change stretching out and should keep the early pace honest. That includes #9 RED HORNET wheeling back from a legit EX – EXCUSE two weeks ago.

#6 CATEGORY TEN could get the right trip and end intent as one of two for trainer A. Merez. They are upgraded on Surface/Distance and those races last year on the dirt fit on par including the 5th from the MRV allowance back in November. His stablemate #8 BOURBON LIFE brings in some overall upside as a lightly raced sophomore, though one that is N2 eligible and today is the first dirt start.

The race shape (Plot) gives the edge here to #4 ATKINS over #3 ACTION SEEKER as the two show up here from the 3/7 common FG race. Similar Plot shape/position falls to #1 ARROW STRIKE going out for a live team in Butler and Bendezu as they have paired up for success this meet and with this horse. This team has had success together going back to last year with the recent races at FAN but also on this circuit, the 4/13 return from the 219-day layoff at a $25k N2L condition and today's distance turned a place finish with the rail draw.

Hawthorne Race 9

Post Time 6:24 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#6 MISCHIEF MY WAY earned a follow off her debut two weeks ago, a tough spot (and trip) to debut late in the season during closing week of the long FG meet. She should benefit from the experience and appears intent with the timing here on quick return as well. She lunged (SLOG) out of the gate and took contact (TROUBLE_S) after with Rosario taking hold and back to chase inside where she showed run (TRAFFIC, MOVE) and visuals to suggest she has and wants to show more early speed and could be a threat with that trip in this group.

#9 BOLTORO has recorded some of the higher figures in this field and the horse to beat on that front. That includes her limited dirt races, both in early 2023 at the FG in off-the-turf events both with place finish results and figures in line with her current turf/synth form.

#8 STARINA has the current form from the FG and slight class relief though perhaps not quite enough for the top spot as the DROP was projected for her (and #5 ABSOLUTE MIRACLE) off the visuals this year on that circuit and the class change being more of a lateral move for #4 ELODIE though some upside from the trips all things considered. The MSW class is still a test here for both #1 REALISTIC GOAL and #2 PACIFIC VIEW runners that have some local form and intent behind them for the connections. They are required to step up, especially with those “newer” faces.