Handicapping Analysis
Sun May 26th, 2024

Howard's Late Pick 4

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 5:00 PM CST

Analysis by Howard Kravets

Race 6: 4 - 1 - 3

Late Pick 4 ticket: 1,3,4 / 4,5 / 3,5,9 / 2,4,7 ($27)

#4 Sailing Solo (9-5) has something many of his contenders don't have: early speed. And while I'm hesitant to take 9yo's off layoffs, he has been working forwardly and locally. His class is undeniable and if feels like the $25k claiming price makes sense in the situation. I would not take too low a price on the win end, but is a must use in all verticals and horizontals.

Race 7: 5 - 4 - 2

The Work All Week S., named after the talented Ill-bred who won the BC Sprint back in the day, has a $75k purse and is dominated by trainer Scott Becker, who has half the runners in the field. It's hard to believe the two main speeds, **#5 WW Hotshot (7-5)** and #4 Fast Jack, will battle each other considering they're both trained by Becker. WW Hotshot had a perfect prep at FanDuel winning easily on the lead, but he doesn't have to win that way. Expect a horse trained by Becker to win, perhaps even a Becker trifecta.

Race 8: 9 - 5 - 3

I'm Box Office (9-2) will try to be the star of the Race 8 show off the layoff and close to the lead for Trainer Block. Although her Beyer figs are slower than others, the Timeform numbers suggest she's right there with the top horses in the race. She can't be too far back and will have to tuck in early on the first turn, but she's working well and seems prepared to win today.

Race 9: 4 - 7 - 2

If early speed is your calling card at the betting windows, then **#4 Philipsburg (9-5)** is your man. The main question I have is why the drop down in class after winning at a higher level. Perhaps the connections are just being realistic or couldn't find another spot based on the condition book. He's the likely winner in the finale if he breaks on top.