Handicapping Analysis
Thu September 19th, 2024

Howard's Late Pick 4

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 4:30 PM CST

Analysis by Howard Kravets

Race 6: 6 - 9 - 4

Pick 4 Ticket: 4,6,9 / 1,5,8 / 5,6,8 / 1,2,4,5 ($54)

#6 Hoppin John (4-1) drops down from allowance company into a MUCH easier spot, $12.5 claimers. His closing kick should be very useful in a race where a decent early pace should ensue. He's one good trip away from the winner's circle.

Race 7: 1 - 5 - 8

Turf sprints are always a bit tricky and trip-dependent. There's also a big difference between 5f and 5.5f…closers have a much better chance at the longer distance. **#1 Red Rizzler (6-1)** is improving and should appreciate that extra distance…a rail trip is coming and the son of Texas Red seems to like the turf.

Race 8: 8 - 5 - 6

With the main speed directly to his inside, **#8 Champagne Mike (9-2)** should stalk that one and have a chance to go by in the lane, getting first run on the closers. He was a bit wide on the turn and goofy in the lane. If he minds his manners, he can beat this field today.

Race 9: 4 - 1 - 2

Wide-open optional claiming turf sprint ends the card….I'm going to take a flyer with **#4 Threefiftyseven (10-1)** for Trainer Bahena and Jockey Reyes, who are hitting at 17% as a combo in the last two years at Hawthorne. Reyes was aboard the gelding last time when he stalked and pounced to a victory in an off-the-turf event. Now he steps up, but showed a decent run on the turf two back. I know he's 0-for-8 on the turf in his career, but he's in good form and maybe has turned a corner. Just don't have confidence in the "likely winners."