Handicapping Analysis
Sun October 19th, 2025

Emily's Analysis

Hawthorne Race 1

Post Time 2:43 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

While taking the “off the pace” approach could be risky leaving out front runners including #3 POLTERER, the outside three could find the right changes with the inside three setting the pace to work a trip.

#4 ICE SHARD makes the change to this restricted claiming level and real key change in race shape. The Fire Contention paired with the 43 SpeedRate has them under a different dynamic for the first time this season. They had a similar scenario back on 8/28 though a tougher ask with the higher class level that day. ICE SHARD also should be sitting on a peak effort showing some tactical speed in the 10/2 start to further fitness and even intent with the rider change to O. Hernandez, a rider that has not been utilized this meet though going back through the years shows a positive ROI since 2017.

#5 REGIMENTAL and #6 DANVILLE wheel back from the 10/2 common race with DANVILLE finishing as part of the top three together at the wire, a Larger Square and overall more “obvious” of the two. With that said, REGIMENTAL can be upgraded with the trip and perhaps some intent with the rider change O. Mojica the win rider from back on 5/29 reunites. In terms of trip, REGIMENTAL was off a step slog then some early KICKBACK-moving X_WIDE outside horses at each point of call showing a MOVE – all things tougher to see on the running line and finishing position.

Hawthorne Race 2

Post Time 3:19 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#3 ONE TIMER fits right back and upgraded with the fitness on their side. Even the extra half-furlong returning from the 9/18 start nothing compromised break (TROUBLE_S) and moderate opening ¼ leading them a lot to do while making a MOVE and ground loss (X_WIDE) to put in a CLOSE for show.

The 9/18 race winner #7 CONGRATS ON FIFTY was able to take advantage of the FLOW while staying on as the BOS – today’s Contention rating shifts from a Snowflake last month to Fire with a slightly higher SpeedRate and change in post shifting outside as well as that noted slight addition of ground.

The change in SpeedRate is in part to #4 BIG VINCE returning from the layoff, a sophomore sprinting with legitimate early speed. While their turf sprint form is not nearly as established as the 6f Tapeta early speed should still apply and intent for that tactic with J. Felix aboard.

The inside draw should be advantageous for #1 DARK VINTAGE one that scored over this course and distance back in June and stepped up out of town with the six-digit purses in KY since. While unable to secure a win in those two recency starts both races competitive B- OptixGRADE with improving figures, numbers on par here. Stablemate #10 LEADING THE CHARGE scratched from a route event last Sunday and fit for that distance while class a lateral change here. Holding for place in the 9/18 common race was an honest effort for them however still presenting physically STRETCH as far as distance.

Hawthorne Race 3

Post Time 3:55 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

In terms of the trio with experience, each has shown run in their races to date while giving the edge to #5 GOGH with the foundation as well as for today's extended sprint 6.5f distance keying off the STRETCH keywords and the shift back to the outside post could land a further positive.

#2 HEAVENLY BELIEFS has plenty of foundation with the steady works extending back at least since the beginning of July. Some questions with that level of added patience at the same time the connections are more than capable in this category with the added intent as J. Loveberry jumps aboard. A live jockey/trainer combination (43% win, 71% ITM at HAW in 2025, positive ROI) also pairing up with #4 EARL'S OUTLAW one that should be very fit off the recent distance drills including a mile move on 10/9.

Hawthorne Race 4

Post Time 4:25 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

The way this race comes together on class makes for a tricky element with all stepping up. Things could also change as #7 LEMON DROP SHOT is cross entered at KEE on the same day.

As far as the race shape, #1 GENERAL ISSUE presents the edge as a Q1 Square though does not mean they will not be tested with the higher Contention and SpeedRate as the majority of the field is present in Q1/3.

#8 BOURBON LIFE holds the contrast as the lone Q4 Square while on a positive "every other " pattern shifting back to the main track, a surface versatile runner and showed as much on the grass in the two recent starts – notably BLANKET/B- finish with the 6th place outcome 10-days ago.

#3 MYSTIC POWER should hold enough price compensation to get creative with. While they are not as "strong" with the Plot edge, they bring in form and upside. Even going back to earlier this meet racing under a similar allowance condition on 5/25. They recorded a C+ OptixGRADE and upgraded making a CLOSE X_FLOW and a change in dynamic should assist as well as the timing and recent route conditioning.

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 4:56 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

A very solid group lines up for the Pat Whitworth Illinois Debutante Stakes with accomplished juvenile fillies arguably some that have yet to show full potential.

In terms of established runners, #6 BIAGODDESS has that edge with the two wins progressive figures and already rose to take on winners with the allowance score on 9/7. With that on her side, she still faces a test here and with the two recent maiden winners including #1 THEN NOW 'NALWAYS wheeling right back in two weeks.

#5 ZEE (like BIAGODDESS) recorded a B+ OptixGRADE with her MSW win back on 9/7 following a credible debut and also progressive figures and foundation to translate here. The barn will also be represented with #2 CULTURE SHOCK one that brings plenty of upside from a potentially productive open MSW event three weeks ago. CULTURE SHOCK showed run following a TROUBLE_S to make a WIDE RUSH behind the top two setting the pace throughout and should benefit from the PREP – one easily could take the step forward and on the level of their main rivals.

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 5:26 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#8 D'ARGONAUT clearly stronger on the grass just comparing the figures and efforts of the two turf starts this season. The effort and B OptixGRADE from back on 7/10 makes them a contender and the ML holding is a clear value opportunity.

#9 W W BEST OF TIMES also holding their own on the turf and figures a flow upgrade (X_FLOW0 part of Very Fast/Fast early (and late) race shapes while contesting the pace. She is draw outside of #4 ESCOVEDO looking to set the pace coming back from the 101-day layoff and holds turf sprint experience.

#1 ULALUME projects to be one of the longer if not the longest on the board and a legitimate longshot to win. With that said and going back to the 2024 late season debut, presented surface versatility and while it could have been more encouraging following the layoff return in July back quicker than 98-days, perhaps a reach but at the same time something for underneath to get creative with.

Hawthorne Race 7

Post Time 5:57 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#5 TAP THE LINE returns under similar par and N2 conditions off the claim and cutback to a sprint. Looking at the Plot she brings in some tactical speed (Standard Q3) though a strong late kick compared to others in this field represented by the Large Square. Some intent could follow given the rider assignment – utilizing the new OptixEQ jockey/trainer tool on Plot, shows success with a positive ROI since 2022 to suggest intent.

In terms of the early pace, tough to knock the Q1 Squares #2 THE LAST THRILL and #6 KIND KISMET both project similar odds and preferred in this scenario over #7 CAME UP ROSES as the favorite. The timing all around can upgrade KIND KISMET (Speed/Plot ABOVE+) for the second start of the meet and wheeling right back for the 9/7 start perhaps a role in outcome now give 42-days recovery.

#1 JOYZELLA has some longshot hurdles to clear on the win end, though positive change in timing as well and shift on the Plot. The Surface/Distance Q2 Square position is at the least worth underneath consideration.

Hawthorne Race 8

Post Time 6:26 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#2 KEEN GAL has look from the debut last month and should benefit from the experience while racing GREEN. Despite the hurdles going out around two turns from the rail on the grass she showed run while inside/SAVED of horses making a MOVE and strong GALLOP+. She appears to have come out of the race well working to hold conditioning from the gate in the 5f move on 10/12 retaining live rider in L. Colon here.

#6 RESORT FEE also upgraded from the 9/25 common race with a subtle trip/TACTIC- after breaking on top took back rated inside/SAVED with TROUBLE in running and impacted their outcome. She brought upside into that start from the two WO starts both strong race par and still given the opportunity to step up on this circuit.

#3 I’M HUNGOVER had the local and overall experience edge on the day (9/25) though had some class concerns at the shorter odds taking the rise following the two MCL starts and still those factors to consider – especially on the win end, however capable.

#1 HEAVENLY BEAR makes the transition to Hawthorne and the turf and the route distance while bringing in current form and B OptixGRADE from the 9/17 CBY start. They showed run against the dynamic (Slow early/Very Slow late) to close the gap on front running 1-2 chalk winner, Red Volta. They will trade the “B” edge for Surface/Distance experience, something on the side of #4 MIRACLE MINDED one racing the turf/route events at CBY and upgraded from the “trip” on 9/25 getting a local start and scenic X_WIDE route on the day compromised their chances to compete and following the TACTIC- a reasonable expectation with the rider change.

Notable last week with E. West debuting winner Unbeatable on the turf in a sprint a key angle for that barn. Things change with #9 NELLY K debuting around two turns and while similar intent could follow, the overall record not as strong with 1-for-17 three others finishing 3rd though perhaps more impactful in this case are the overall figures for the entire sample in line with many of the runners in this field. Similar trainer stats follow the connections of #5 MAJORING IN GOLD one that has been on the Hawthorne grounds training this season and now in this late season debut.

Hawthorne Race 9

Post Time 6:51 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Projected favorite #11 CLIFF DIVER could present *vulnerable* in this spot without a strong edge (Average/Average-) in all categories. That includes pace with Q1 Standard giving the edge to #9 CHAOS REIGNS as a Square. This will be their first start over the turf though should be able to transfer their form and not showing up in this race would be tough to pin on the surface switch alone.

Q1 also has the presence of #1 CAMP DADDY one that could be overlooked off both the dirt races and current outcome. The change in class is massive; the timing is positive and in terms of Surface/Distance they began their career in two turn turf races breaking their maiden at the 8.5f distance by open lengths at HS Indy (2022) and holding their own with competitive figures in KY the remainder of that season and has not really had a change on the grass since.

Stablemate #8 HAWKS CREEK brings in the established turf route form and while this appears a drop, the open company claiming change actually shows a slightly higher par, though closer to a lateral move. That is especially when considering the races and par from last season where they should hold their form and capable of competing, even repeating in this spot.

#12 SONIC SPEED was slightly taken out of their runstyle to contest the 10/9 pace WIDE outside of horses. That tactical change and ground loss playing a role in the NO_FINISH while still holding ground late in a BLANKET finish at the wire. Returning to a tracking trip as suggested on the Plot should have them right back in the mix. Their Plot position shape similar to #3 COMMISIONER OSCAR holding form and in capable hands given the two wins and TACTIC+ including the 9/28 recent from A. Bendezu.