Handicapping Analysis
Sun May 24th, 2026

Emily's Analysis

Hawthorne Race 1

Post Time 2:43 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#5 BALLYBAY BEAUTY stretches out for the first time this season and getting back to those Hawthorne route race efforts from last July makes her a major player here. In terms of current form she has a level of B-OptixGRADE consistency and STRETCH in the OptixNOTES from this current form cycle. Trip should also suit in today's race in what projects to be an honest early pace with many showing early speed and stretching out in distance for the first time.

#3 CARMALITA brings in current route form and consistent speed figures from Oaklawn Park on par with today's group. She could be another in this race looking for the lead and while a "BOS" scenario could be the key, she could still have to fend off early pace pressure.

#4 GREEN GRACE will stretch out for the first time in a longtime. Though first time for the connections and only second time in her career. The STRETCH out in distance could key as well as timing now third start of this current cycle, returning to Hawthorne N2 claiming level running at a higher OC condition earlier this month, something of a "form darkener" coming back around while potentially sitting in a peak effort.

Hawthorne Race 2

Post Time 3:16 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#1 LILA'S OAK TREE was entered under similar conditions scratched on 5/10 and with a class edge upgraded here. The first time at this claiming level presents a class edge while speed figures stack up on par with this field and could even hold upside returning to this circuit and sprint distance. This jockey trainer combination of O. Hernandez/J. Campbell is looking for their first win together though have been right there and hitting at a live 57% in the money with a 14 race sample.

#5 STYLISH GIRL wheels right back for this second start and class drop from the $25k turf sprint last week. She might have needed the race from both a conditioning (pressed pace) and mental standpoint (reluctant to load) as part of the reason to come back on shorter rest. Should also note on 5/17 their stablemate War Torn Goddess closed from well off the pace to finish together as one of the three at the wire.

#2 LOLITA J also moves up with the change in class, first time at today's MCL level. They bring in fitness for this second start back off the layoff and showing tactical speed dueling with Epic Moment in the 4/18 FP start holding a clear place. Should also note from that race, she was heavily backed by the public and from the 5-1 ML.

Hawthorne Race 3

Post Time 3:46 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#4 LALY could be a slight stab coming off the layoff and giving up recency to their rivals in this field. With that said, she has been able to fire fresh off the layoff keying off the 6/26 win last year. Her form and figures continued to improve throughout the season and closing out 2025 with a win under similar conditions/par to today's race on 11/2.

#2 MARY MOONGLOW brings in class, current form and tactical speed to work a trip in today's race shape. She can run with, or stalk #1 ILLY SIMZ to her inside and look to take first run. That first run is key with the competitive nature of this field and rivals #3 DIXIE PENNY and #6 DIAMONDS JOY also looking to track the pace and land first run trip.

#5 RACEDAY ATTIRE rebounded to form on this circuit and while she projects to be shorter odds today than the 27-1 (unless betting to show) on 5/7 with the third place outcome on the day and J. Loveberry taking over.

Hawthorne Race 4

Post Time 4:18 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Looking at the race shape (Plot Fire/66 SpeedRate) there should be an honest pace for ML/projected favorite #5 SILVER QUARTERS to make their late run and continue on winning ways. While in many ways, he figures solid in here, the shorter price on a closer is still something to consider from a value standpoint.

Looking for get first run and the trip: #3 VITALE has early speed without being an “need the lead” type and could tuck inside and look for first run, given the ABOVE+ designation on the Plot. They also bring in current form and conditioning coming back from the 5/7 race taking off the turf making an inside/SAVED MOVE and B- OptixGRADE under similar conditions.

#4 TEMPER TANTRUM also wheels back for a second start of the meet with a subtle TROUBLE- trip checking into he first turn and despite the 5th place outcome still recording a competitive B- OptixGRADE from the layoff on 5/14. #1 ICE SHARD had a “longshot look” in that 5/14 common race finishing a distant third on the day while moving forward with each race in this current cycle.

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 4:48 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#5 SINE QUA NON returns to Hawthorne where they had a strong 2025 season picking up a pair of wins and a photo for win in the 9/11 layoff return. They return in a similar pattern second off and from a competitive effort all things considered, a B_ OptixGRADE with the TRAFFIC SHUFFLE making a WIDE MOVE in the higher level turf sprint allowance last month at CD. The distance change comes into play here stretching back out around two turns; while they have had the bulk of their success sprinting the two turn races back in California (and the distance they started their career to show route intent) fit consistent speed figures on par with their current form and this race as a whole.

#6 HEART N SOUL is overdue for some racing luck – not only with the “trips” throughout the Oaklawn season coming back in a favorable spot on 5/7 with the TROUBLES+ (legitimate stumble) losing the rider out of the gate. In addition, they return to the turf and route distance for the first time since 2024. Though going back through those limited starts many in MSW company, was consistent speed figure wise and consistent with their current form to suggest that can transfer here.

#1 PROTONIC POWER has been holding his form and figures despite the outcome and off that form should be competitive right back on this circuit. Trip will be key with necessary pace to chase, something stablemate #7 SOUND OF VICTORY should assist with here.

Some further intent could be in play J. Felix jumps back aboard in this race and defending a near perfect record aboard PROTONIC POWER. The two perfect two-for-two on the turf late last season and finishing second in a maiden track race in their only other career pairing in the spring of 2024.

J. Felix has been the primary rider of #3 R KATIEBUG showing up here for a seasonal return off the layoff, the 6yo mare taking on open company for the first time today. That includes stablemate #4 JOURNEY also returning from the layoff and overall upside for this now 4yo showing solid progression throughout the 3yo campaign and competitive looking to pick up where they left off.

#2 BREAK OUT fits with this group though without any overall strong edge where shorter odds appear projected than the other starts for this barn and at the same time giving up recency first off the layoff.

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 5:21 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

As an individual #4 CHI TOWN PRINCE can be taken as the logical horse to beat, however with the complexion of this race, they still must earn it. CHI TOWN PRINCE has early speed, similar to the two runners on their inside #2 BOURBON STREET BOY and #3 REGAINED POWER with the shared E Runstyle to keep the pace Contention (Fire) honest with the 50 SpeedRate also in play. #6 BEST DRESSED MAN is also a typical E runstyle horse, however that is consistent with route races and could struggle if trying to make the lead with the sprint speed of their rivals in this group.

Surface/Distance upgrades #5 CANTARITO looking to stalk off that first flight and take first run and holding double digits on the ML has a value look on that front. Similar for #1 GAME SANTA wheeling back to a sprint for this third start off the layoff and showing progressive figures in this cycle – similar to last year picking up the maiden win in the third career start.

Hawthorne Race 7

Post Time 5:50 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#7 THIS BEAU KNOWS debuted at Hawthorne over the turf last August and has the benefit of the starts this year and intent noting a scratch under similar conditions when the races were taken off the turf on 5/7. THIS BEAU KNOWS moved forward in the two sophomore starts that 10-point improvement pairing up figures at Tampa, those numbers on par for this race. In terms of FTS stablemate #5 URGENT ACTION, C. Block has a solid record overall with debuting runners, however this one being a 5yo that is a smaller sample since 2018, two horses, both off the board.

On class, #6 DUNE A VETTA is the one runner in this field who has yet to run at the MCL level. Their two races to date, are tough to gauge much from as they were very reluctant to load back in December 2024 at Oaklawn Park, a long layoff with 6 scratches before making that belated second start in the St. Louis Derby ($250k) last September, a productive race. They return to maiden company with all the fixings, picking up blinkers, Lasix and J. Felix while racing as a wild card still, that could be what this race is looking for.

#3 HURRICANE EXPRESS projected to move up returning to the TURF and did just that two weeks ago They bring in not only the current form, tactical speed, slight upgrade to a Q1 Square for the first time and a class edge over rivals #1 CATNIP HILL (filly taking on open) and #2 DYNO WAR. Also exiting the 5/10 common race, #4 STORM BACK seemed to prove they are a better runner on the turf and look for that to hold here again.

MTO #8 SUPER MCKINZIE could have to wait for another day, though if not a major contender and one to follow earning a solid speed figure/B- OptixGRADE in the 4/12 Oaklawn debut with a less than ideal TACTIC_ trip along with a TROUBLE_S early RUSH getting SHUFFLE back making another MOVE in a strangely run race which has already produced a next out winner and another to finish second.