Handicapping Analysis
Sun June 28th, 2026

Emily's Analysis

Hawthorne Race 1

Post Time 2:41 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

In this competitive field of five, the outcome comes down to trip and rider tactics. Each of the five competitive in their own right and where projected favorites #1 ANOTHER MYSTERY and #5 PROTONIC POWER are solid in that role both make their run from off the pace and require pace to run into.

The early pace should be honest with #4 NOT FALLING BACK in the field, at the their best when on the lead, though requires their speed to carry over Class (BELOW) taking a passive rise up the ladder. **#3 JOURNEY** should find an ideal trip with tactical speed and first run. Further intent appears in play for this second start of the season, a PREP at the sprint distance on 6/4 and picking up a rider change to further intent.

#2 COACH JIMI D is the wild card racing over the turf while they fit on speed figures and class. That carries in terms of current form picking up the allowance win on 5/31, landing a lower race par and also holds tactical speed along and paired well with O. Hernandez, the two together presenting a solid record.

Hawthorne Race 2

Post Time 3:17 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#2 KETCHUM could run as advertised as they likely to show early speed stretching out from an inside post around two turns for the first time. In addition to the pace advantage, they hold a level of class from the allowance FG races and much needed class DROP from the stakes at CD last month. The intent has been to run back at Hawthorne at this level, noting a scratch from a similar conditioned race when the races moved to the main track on 6/14 though that event also a sprint.

#1 CIAO TOMMASO shifts back to the TURF they surface they physically appeared suited for and proved as much with the B+/dominant MSW win on 5/28. They held their own taking on winners on 6/11 over an off track (WEATHER) making a WIDE RUSH to hold fitness as they return to a route distance here.

In terms of class both **#4 CASH APP MIKE** and *#6 MAN ON ATTACK* take a step up from the recent claiming races. MAN ON ATTACK exits the higher par events giving them as an individual, the edge; however in terms of race shape, CASH APP MIKE with some pace to run at seems to do their best work and should have an honest pace to target looking at the Plot with the majority of the field, the others positioned to the left of the y-axis.

Hawthorne Race 3

Post Time 3:49 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

While #5 HARD TO FATHOM is not necessarily a “need the lead” type the change in class, outside post and with E.T. Baird aboard find themselves assertive in this spot. The class drop coming first off the layoff, is another reason to suggest taking the race to the field early as often can be the plan when assuming the class edge.

With HARD TO FATHOM forwardly placed keeping the early pace honest, a pace already projected contentious with #3 CONI’S COUP and #4 PEOPLE FORCE in the race, both front running types and coming off recent front running wins – a potential dynamic change in this spot.

Perhaps #1 LINE TO GAIN attempts to show early speed today to try and wake them up as they draw the rail, stretch back out to a route, a recorded work since the most recent start and with the apprentice weight allowance in play with V. Lara aboard. LINE TO GAIN does require a return to top form though has plenty of races in their career which fit as a contender.

Similar can be said for #2 NEW YEAR SURPRISE requiring a return to top form though has plenty of those races in their career to compete. They find a change in class for this race and that could be a sign of intent as well as J. Tavares jumping back aboard. They are a bit of a stab though the type of race which does hold some “chaos” aspects and the only horse in this field eligible due to the N4 condition.

Hawthorne Race 4

Post Time 4:22 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

A competitive race all around and will note #5 MISCHIEVOUS RICHIE cross entered to run in a turf sprint MSW at CD on the same day could be some intent where they land for this second start.

The two Divito runners draw side by side along the inside with #1 ROCKFEST holding the recency and surface/distance edge improving over the grass sprinting this season. They should be in a competitive position with the pacesetters drawn to their outside and look for a tracking trip along with the extra half-furlong of assistance. Distance wise #2 ROCKY RACCOON presents more on the ROUTER side physically. In addition, they were entered MTO in that 6/7 common race, scratched when the races stayed on the grass and could be sneaky looking for a surface switch should that come into play.

The distance change comes into play for #3 THIS BEAU KNOWS one who has lost ground in the route races while setting or pressing the pace and perhaps some intent cutting back here. While ground loss has been the case, to their credit, they have shown speed figure progression with each start and a player on that front.

#4 THIEVER also has shown speed figure progression though lighter than their rivals and still must step forward on that front. Physically they appear suited for TURF and remain on that surface. The TURF Projection also in play for #6 STORMYSTORMYNIGHT one with additional hurdles returning as an 8yo after 957-days out while taking a big step up in class from MCL to MSW for the return.

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 4:52 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

In terms of #6 EVEN THE WIND, they are a major player at this level with current form and speed figures on par. With that said, they are cutting back to one turn for the first time in their career and a horse often a deep closer routing, trip must be considered with that unknown in play as what expects to be a short priced favorite in this race.

In terms of the early speed, the pace should be honest with #2 NAGY AND DA BEARS and #5 WE MISS ARLINGTON along with #4 SAWYER FOX in the field, one on their best day could be “bos” threat. **#1 SHAKE UP** also has some tactical speed and not a need the lead type, could save ground behind that set of the first flight and fall into a first run rail trip. Their form cycle, also projects upside with the 5/17 PREP, a race competitive (B-) in the fourth place outcome and step forward on numbers is not out of the question.

#7 MR. SWEETS with some tactical speed, could be looking for first run and brining in current form from the races this season. While class and par wise this is a step up from the win on 6/14 two weeks ago, though still a drop from the par set at PRM/TAM where they have previously run and been competitive to suggest they can hold their form here. They should also hold their form back on the turf with surface versatility recording a B OptixGRADE on 5/14.

#3 GUNNY SACK comes into this race lighter figure wise, though upside as a four-year-old in this third start off the layoff. They find a subtle change in class returning to the turf and should be sitting on a peak effort here.

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 5:20 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

This should be the time and place for #1 WOLF HUNTER to pick up their second career win. They bring established two turn main track form, consistent speed figures on par, current form/conditioning and key right running style for today's race shape. With that said, can be a tough horse to take at a short price.

Similar knocks just with the projected value as #2 MOONRISE DRIVE also well-spotted all around looking for their belated N2 win. With some excuses at this level on 5/3 (TROUBLE_S, WIDE, NO_PUSH) they rebounded two weeks later (5/17) making a MOVE into a Slow early pace behind first run winner, Rumbling. The connections use a similar pattern here; a quick turnaround and class drop from the 6/18 HS $10k N2 event just 10-days ago.

In addition to WOLF HUNTER, the barn represented with #4 GAME SANTA perhaps the value of the field. Number wise they have yet to run as "fast" though still a lightly raced 4yo with upside from their races this season and yet to run back to the figures from the first part of the sophomore season. This could be the time they run a top this meet, following an every other pattern back to a route and catching a lower race par then the common race sprinting on 5/24.

#3 BEST DRESSED MAN also worth a longshot look. Some of they top figures from last season were recorded at the maiden level and flow aided and should be noted overall though also likely baked into today's odds. In terms of the races this season, they must step forward though appeared to be using the sprints for conditioning and some nuanced "excuse" with the 6/9 "trip" making an X_RUSH into a Very Fast early pace and wrapped up (NO_PUSH) unable to show their best on the day.

Hawthorne Race 7

Post Time 5:48 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#7 FLORIBUNDA moves up back around two turns, a distance familiar to them and was not the case on 6/7. With that said they continued to show progression and recording a B, a solid effort despite WASTED a lot of energy prerace trying to get saddled, broke SLOG and making a WIDE CLOSE to finish alongside first run winner, Fondre.

#1 ROARING VIXEN is a slight "longshot" though not without an upset chance as she makes her third start off the layoff and back to the TURF their preferred surface. Value should hold with buried form overall and especially from the 6/11 start run under poor WEATHER track conditions making a WIDE RUSH and NO_PUSH less than halfway through the race unable to and not asked for their best on the day. Common rival, #6 PEACOCK ROAD also projects to appreciate the move back to the TURF though more "obvious" given their recent outcome.

#8 ROYALLY SASSY should hold their form taking on winners for the first time as they have been consistent since debut. With that said, they were able to not only get away with the LONE lead to pick up the MSW win though get away with a Slow early and Very Slow late pace. While respecting ROAYLLY SASSY here, the number appears short and creates value alternatives on others.

#5 CULTURE SHOCK also steps up to take on winners and first start around two turns and while ROYALLY SASSY has the established numbers to support, CULTURE SHOCK would not be a shock to present upside in the speed figure department. In addition, there has been intent for these changes this season; CULTURE SHOCK scratched from an identical spot when the races came off the turf on 6/11 and scratched from a race on Thursday with this race preferred all around.