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Friday

BELMONT @ Aqueduct

September 23, 2022



THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL

#6 DAME CINCO (Race 2)

In a race where speed horses Sweet As Sugar, Beautiful Karen, and Frosted Wild Ride could all duel up front, this versatile filly is expected to sit the right stalking trip. She's won on the lead and pressing the pace, but is expected to rate a bit farther back today under patient jockey Joel Rosario, who gets the mount first off the claim by Jose Camejo. Camejo has won at a great 33% rate first off the claim in 2021-22, and if Dame Cinco can just repeat her effort from August 11, she can win again while in for the same claiming tag. Trainer Cherie DeVaux had Dame Cinco sharp and ready off the 3.5-month layoff in that win at a mile, and the 4-year-old filly should only be fitter second start back. She's also going from route-to-sprint, a 24% winning angle for Camejo in 2021-22.

#1 WHO HOO THAT'S ME (Race 4)

Stalker/closer is expected to get a great set-up in this field that's loaded with early speed. Foolish Ghost and Excellent Timing, breaking to his immediate outside, both have blazing early speed and are expected to duel on a blazing pace. Never worse than 2nd in three career races at this distance, Who Hoo Thats Me rallied boldly from last to finish 2nd on August 26 going 7F when stepping up to this class level for the first time. In that August 26 race the 3-year-old colt matched the career-best figure he had earned on July 8 when rating off the pace and then drawing off by nearly 4 lengths in the final furlong. Flavien Prat has been aboard for those two career-best races and retains the mount, having won 5 of 15 (33%) when riding for trainer Jorge Abreu in 2021-22.

#7 ORCHESTRATION (Race 7)

\$260,000 yearling in the Chad Brown barn is lightly-raced and has a lot of upside potential at age 4 while making his second start off a 10-month layoff. Orchestration has a win and two close 2nd place finishes from his three career races on firm turf, and he even ran well in his only start on non-firm turf, a race where he had considerable trouble. In his July 30 return from a 10-month layoff, Orchestration rallied from off the pace to finish 2nd of 11, beaten by just one length despite having to try to rally against a mild pace. He's returned with 6 more works and could take a big step forward after earning a career-best figure in that July 30 return. Irad Ortiz stays aboard, and was also aboard for Orchestration's maiden win last summer at Saratoga.

#6 SARATOGA GAZE (Race 9)

In three races last year at age 3, this filly earned two 2nds and a 3rd in turf races against MSW company. Top turf trainer Christophe Clement then gave her plenty of time off, and when she returned from the 7-month layoff on June 26, she ran her best race by far. In that heat she went to the lead for the first time, widened when asked, and cruised home as much the best while never asked for nearly her best. The figure she earned was her best by several lengths, and she can certainly improve upon it with that 'prep' behind her. She's a half-sister to two stakes winners, including one stakes winner on turf, and Irad Ortiz will take the mount. Having won so easily off a 7-month layoff, the current layoff of nearly 3 months isn't a concern at all.

(In Order of Preference)

RACE 1

#1 HAY STACK

Gained valuable experience in her Aug 21 debut at this distance, overcoming a less than ideal start to rally from off the pace and miss by just 2-1/2 lengths. She was favored in that race, and could take a significant step forward now for top trainer Chad Brown, who's won 27% with second-start maidens in 2021-22, and 19% with 2-year-olds overall during that time. Hay Stack is by an excellent turf and stamina sire, and is out of a dam who was a 3-time turf winner and also Group 3 turf stakes-placed in France. Hay Stack's only older sibling was a turf winner at age 2 and a turf stakes winner at age 3. Irad Ortiz stays.

#5 IMPLICATED

Chad Brown's other entrant sprinted on dirt in her debut and finished a distant 3rd of 7, behind a next-out winner in 2nd. Implicated is the first foal to race out of an unraced dam whose family is very precocious, and also has produced some good turf runners. Brown has won 28% with sprint-to-route runners in 2021-22 and 20% with first-time turf runners. Top turf rider Flavien Prat stays aboard.

#9 INVEST WISELY

Raced evenly in a 'key' race at this distance in her debut to finish 5th of 9, with next-out winners finishing 2nd and 3rd. Todd Pletcher has won 25% with second-start maidens in 2021-22 and 21% during that time with 2yos overall. Filly becomes the top choice if this race is on dirt, as her sire was a Triple Crown winner on dirt, and her dam was a G1 and G3 dirt sprint winner.

#10 MADEMOISELLEJACKIE

\$200,000 yearling was well-bet at this distance in her debut but took up early and was far behind a moderate pace all the way in a race she seemed to need. Trainer excels with second-start maidens, winning 22% in 2021-22, and he's won 25% during that time with 2yos overall. Switches from one top turf rider to another and adds blinkers, but has a tough post, as she did in her debut.

RACE 2

THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL (BEST BET)

#6 DAME CINCO

In a race where speed horses Sweet As Sugar, Beautiful Karen, and Frosted Wild Ride could all duel up front, this versatile filly is expected to sit the right stalking trip. She's won on the lead and pressing the pace, but is expected to rate a bit farther back today under patient jockey Joel Rosario, who gets the mount first off the claim by Jose Camejo. Camejo has won at a great 33% rate first off the claim in 2021-22, and if Dame Cinco can just repeat her effort from August 11, she can win again while in for the same claiming tag. Trainer Cherie DeVaux had Dame Cinco sharp and ready off the 3.5-month layoff in that win at a mile, and the 4-year-old filly should only be fitter second start back. She's also going from route-to-sprint, a 24% winning angle for Camejo in 2021-22.

#7 BEAUTIFUL KAREN

Speedy mare finishes 2nd and 3rd a lot more than she wins, but she's dropping in class to race for a tag for the first time for hot trainer Linda Rice, and Karen also has earned both of her wins at this distance. Rice has won 22% second start off similar layoffs in 2021-22 and her main rider, Jose Lezcano, gets the mount. Must avoid a duel for her best chance.

#1 SWEET AS SUGAR

Speedy filly likes the lead but can also stalk the pace. She's dropping a bit in class to race for a tag for the first time in hopes of rebounding to an effort similar to her front-running wins at very short odds on June 14 and July 13 at Finger Lakes. However, she was badly beaten at even money on August 15, and now must avoid a duel with the other two speed horses for her best chance.

#2 BOSS CARA

Stalker/closer should get a fast pace to rate behind and rally into. She ran the best race of her career on June 18, rallying from 6th to win by more than 3 lengths at 8-1. However, she regressed badly against a solid allowance field at Saratoga on Aug 7, a race where she was 18-1. Fits for at least a share if able to repeat the June 18 effort.

RACE 3

#7 OCEAN'S RESERVE

Stalker comes off a clear 2nd place finish at this class level and distance on July 28, a race where he finished 6-1/2 lengths clear of 3rd. He's now finished a close 2nd in three straight, beaten a total of less than 3 lengths in those races, all under Javier Castellano, who's back aboard today. 3yo colt was a beaten favorite in his last two but gets a field he can handle today if he doesn't let Today's Flavor get too comfortable up front.

#1 TODAY'S FLAVOR

Returns from a 10-month layoff as a new gelding and has probably grown and matured more from age 3 to 4. He's also been gelded while away, and that can often get a horse to focus more on racing and thus improve. Probable pacesetter breaks from the rail and finished 2nd in all 3 of his races last year. Those races were all against tougher 'open' company, and now he drops in class into the NY-bred ranks for the first time. He's coming off some outstanding works and has a very good chance of leading every step of the way under Manny Franco.

#5 CONQUIST

Goes turf-to-dirt and route-to-sprint for John Kimmel while coming off two close 2nd place finishes at this class level in turf routes. He set the pace in those races but is expected to stalk today, with quicker fractions to deal with in this dirt sprint.

RACE 4

THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL (BEST BET)

#1 WHO HOO THAT'S ME

Stalker/closer is expected to get a great set-up in this field that's loaded with early speed. Foolish Ghost and Excellent Timing, breaking to his immediate outside, both have blazing early speed and are expected to duel on a blazing pace. Never worse than 2nd in three career races at this distance, Who Hoo Thats Me rallied boldly from last to finish 2nd on August 26 going 7F when stepping up to this class level for the first time. In that August 26 race the 3-year-old colt matched the career-best figure he had earned on July 8 when rating off the pace and then drawing off by nearly 4 lengths in the final furlong. Flavien Prat has been aboard for those two career-best races and retains the mount, having won 5 of 15 (33%) when riding for trainer Jorge Abreu in 2021-22.

#3 EXCELLENT TIMING

Lightly-raced 4yo gelding has been on the lead in all 7 of his races, but could have to work very hard to get the early lead away from Foolish Ghost today. Excellent Timing set a hot pace going 7F when returning from a 13-month layoff on August 26 and did well to hold 3rd in the 10-horse field. Now he should be fitter while cutting back in distance and returning to a dry track, which he probably prefers. Irad Ortiz stays aboard and has won 34% for trainer Rob Atras in 2021-22.

#2 FOOLISH GHOST

Speedball breaks inside of Excellent Timing and could be under pressure from that rival while up front. Foolish Ghost won at this class level on July 4, leading all the way, and was claimed by Rudy Rodriguez, who asked Ghost to step up into open company when coming off a 2-month layoff on Sept 3. He pressed a blazing pace that day before tiring to finish 5th, but should be fitter now for the class drop while also coming off a bullet drill on Sept 15.

#5 QUICK RETURN

Versatile gelding is expected to sit a good stalking trip. He's stepping up in class off two straight wins, but the figure he earned last time out when romping by nearly 7 lengths could win today as well. New trainer has won 27% first off the claim in 2021-22.

RACE 5

#6 INVENTING

\$390,000 yearling has finished 2nd or 3rd in all 3 races against MSW company, and mixed in there was a curious try in the G1 Acorn. Now she'll add blinkers for the first time, a 24% winning angle in 2021-22 for trainer Todd Pletcher, who's also won 25% during that time when teaming up with Luis Saez. Inventing can lead, press, or stalk the pace today and still has plenty of upside potential.

#7 MATTAPOISETT

\$775,000 weanling is bred top and bottom to run all day and should love this initial stretch from two sprints to a route. She finished well from off the pace at 6F last time out and has returned with 5 more published works.

#9 SIGNAL FROM NOISE

\$280,000 yearling debuts for Chad Brown, who's won 21% with first-time starters in route races in 2021-22. Sire was a Horse of the Year and recent worktab shows some very fast moves. Precocious dam won twice as a juvenile.

#2 BEACHFRONT BID

Has rallied well from off the pace in all 7 of her races, hitting the board in 6 of the 7 while losing the other by just 1-1/4 lengths. However, she was in the barn of Chad Brown for those 7 races, so this is a clear step down in terms of barns, and she's also being asked to step up in class after losing as the 7-5 favorite in maiden claiming company on August 19. Fits well for a minor award.

RACE 6

#4 EYE WITNESS

\$650,000 yearling was quite expensive, especially for a NY bred. He's by a 16% debut sire and is a half-brother to More Mischief, who was a winner at age 2 and also stakes-placed as a juvenile, then was a stakes winner at age 4. Turf breeding is okay, and Eye Witness is working very fast for trainer Wesley Ward. Ward is perhaps the best debut and juvenile trainer in the country, winning with 28% of his first-time starters in 2021-22, and with 25% of his 2-year-olds overall during that time. Joel Rosario will ride, and he's won 26% for Ward in 2021-22.

#8 ITSALLCOMINGTOGEHTA

Was well-bet at odds of 9-2 in his August 10 debut going 5.5F on turf at this class level. In that race this colt hit the gate at the start, losing any real chance while dead last down the backstretch and into the turn. To his credit, he rallied quite well to finish 3rd of 8, and he has pedigree to be a very good NY bred turf runner. 2 of his 6 siblings to race on turf won over it, and both of those winners were turf stakes winner. This longer trip will help and Luis Saez stays, a positive sign.

#12 DISARMED

Must draw in from AE list, but if he does, he will be tough to beat. He probably should have won last time out, but his rally fell a head shy after a very troubled trip. He's been a beaten favorite in both starts, but had legitimate excuses, and should sit a good stalking trip from the outside.

#9 FIRE KING

Was hard to handle going long on turf in his debut, fighting against the rider while green. He could improve a lot second time out while cutting back to a sprint, where he probably won't be so hard-held early. Christophe Clement has won 22% with second-start maidens in 2021-22 and 24% with this route-to-sprint move. Irad Ortiz got a feel for the colt in the debut and stays aboard. Fire King is the first foal to race out of a dam who raced just twice, both at age 2, winning her only turf try.

#2 TWENTY SIX BLACK

Ran well from post 1 in his debut and finished 3rd of 7 at this class level going 5.5F. He should benefit from that experience, as well as this longer trip, while keeping Jose Ortiz, who's won 25% for trainer Horacio De Paz in 2021-22.

RACE 7

THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL (BEST BET)

#7 ORCHESTRATION

\$260,000 yearling in the Chad Brown barn is lightly-raced and has a lot of upside potential at age 4 while making his second start off a 10-month layoff. Orchestration has a win and two close 2nd place finishes from his three career races on firm turf, and he even ran well in his only start on non-firm turf, a race where he had considerable trouble. In his July 30 return from a 10-month layoff, Orchestration rallied from off the pace to finish 2nd of 11, beaten by just one length despite having to try to rally against a mild pace. He's returned with 6 more works and could take a big step forward after earning a career-best figure in that July 30 return. Irad Ortiz stays aboard, and was also aboard for Orchestration's maiden win last summer at Saratoga.

#6 FIGHTER IN THE WIN

Chad Brown's other entrant is quite interesting at a price. He's raced just twice on turf, and the first time was a toss-out way back in his career debut over soft ground in France. Fighter in the Win's only U.S. turf try was June 18 off a layoff, and he overcame a bad start to rally and miss by less than a length while also adding Lasix for the first time. Fighter was compromised by a slow pace that day but earned a big late-pace figure with his rally. He's expected to like this longer trip.

#8 SHAWDYSHAWDYSHAWDY

Like Orchestration, this 4yo gelding is a deep closer who is expected to like this longer trip, and he does have the breeding for it. He's finished 2nd or 3rd in 4 of 5 races this year, all at this class level, but he's also lost 14 straight races since winning his career debut more than 2 years ago.

#4 C FALLS

Looms the lone and controlling speed at expected attractive odds. 6yo gelding comes off the two best figures of his career on July 30 and August 25 after returning to turf for the first time this year, and he lost those races at this class level by less than 3 lengths combined, both at huge odds. This longer trip may be asking too much, but if he can slow things down considerably, then he could get at least a share.

RACE 8

#2 SECURITY CODE

Stalker finished 2nd of 10 in her debut while 7 lengths clear of 3rd, and the only filly who beat her was a next-out stakes winner. Security Code won fairly easily second time out and now steps up in class while expected to sit the right stalking trip behind questionable speed.

#7 MIRACLE

Romped in her career debut going 6F on the dirt, scoring by 6 lengths with a figure that fits well in today's field. She wasn't as effective on a sloppy track second time out, but can rebound today back on a 'fast' track with Prat staying aboard for a trainer who's quietly having a great year at 20% wins.

#4 LADY MINE

Can lead, press, or stalk the pace as she comes off a surprising 2nd at 24-1 in a small field, though she did finish in front of Miracle that day. Improving filly shows a slow work since and keeps improving apprentice Jose Gomez aboard.

#6 GAMBLING GIRL

Steps up in class off a 10-length win as the heavy favorite on Aug 24 for Todd Pletcher. That win was her first try at this tough 7F distance and she should get pace to rate behind and rally into.

RACE 9

THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL (BEST BET)

#6 SARATOGA GAZE

In three races last year at age 3, this filly earned two 2nds and a 3rd in turf races against MSW company. Top turf trainer Christophe Clement then gave her plenty of time off, and when she returned from the 7-month layoff on June 26, she ran her best race by far. In that heat she went to the lead for the first time, widened when asked, and cruised home as much the best while never asked for nearly her best. The figure she earned was her best by several lengths, and she can certainly improve upon it with that 'prep' behind her. She's a half-sister to two stakes winners, including one stakes winner on turf, and Irad Ortiz will take the mount. Having won so easily off a 7-month layoff, the current layoff of nearly 3 months isn't a concern at all.

#10 BUSY MORNING

Breaks from the outermost post and could have a wide trip as a result, but she's expected to love this cutback to a sprint, having won by 6 lengths in her only previous try at this distance. Her only start since was a stakes-placing going a mile on turf in her first try against winners on August 18.

#2 LISA'S VISION

Started off her career with a close 2nd, then a win, in turf sprints. She's had excuses in two starts since, taking on stakes company in a route on July 20 without Lasix, then racing in the mud on Aug 26. She can rebound here back in a turf sprint with Lasix while reuniting with winning jockey Jose Ortiz.

#4 AUNT VIRGINIA

Rallied from dead last to finish 2nd last time in an off-the-turf race. Two horses have run back from that race, and both won next time out. She had raced in two turf sprints prior to that, winning one and losing the other by a neck. Still has much upside potential while returning to turf, and she can stalk or rally from farther back.

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