# **BELMONT** @ Aqueduct

# Sunday

# **September 25, 2022**

\*ANY UPDATES FOR ANY GIVEN RACE WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED

	SELECTIONS	WAGERS
1	3-1-1A-7	* NO suggested wagers on this race.
	SELECTIONS	WAGERS
2	6-5-3	* A win bet on (6) LASTCHANCEATGLORY
	SELECTIONS	WAGERS
3	6-1-5-2	* A win bet on (6) MY LIPS ARE SEALED  * Exacta box 1-5-6 = \$12 for a \$2 wager  * Trifecta 1-6 over 1-2-5-6 over 1-2-4-5-6 = \$18 for a \$1 wager  ***********************************
	SELECTIONS	WAGERS
4	2-6-4-5	* A win bet on (2) MISS ALACRITY  * Exacta box 2-4-6 = \$12 for a \$2 wager  * Trifecta 2 over 4-5-6 over ALL = \$9 for a \$0.50 wager  * Trifecta 2 over 4-5-6 over 1-4-5-6 = \$9 for a \$1 wager  ***********************************
	SELECTIONS	WAGERS

5	6-5-7-10	* A win bet on (6) KREESA  * Trifecta 6 over 5-7-10 over ALL = \$12 for a \$0.50 wager  * Trifecta 6 over 5-7-10 over 1-3-5-7-10 = \$12 for a \$1 wager  * Trifecta 6 over 1-3-5-7-10 over 5-7-10 = \$6 for a \$0.50 wager  * Trifecta 5-7-10 over 6 over 1-3-5-7-10 = \$6 for a \$0.50 wager  * Trifecta 5-7-10 over 6 over 1-3-5-7-10 = \$6 for a \$0.50 wager  ***********************************
		get more ground to work with while able to build on that educational outing. His only sibling to race on turf won over it, and not only was his dam a 4-time turf winner, but she's also a half-sister to King Kreesa, who won 10 turf stakes for this same owner and trainer, including two graded stakes.
	SELECTIONS	WAGERS
6	8-10-1-9-12-11	* NO suggested wagers on this race.
	SELECTIONS	WAGERS
7	5-11-8-2-1	* A win bet on (5) KHAFRE * Exacta box 5-8-11 = \$12 for a \$2 wager * Begin a PICK 4 play: 1-2-5-6-8-11 / 1-2-8-10 / 5 / 2-3-6-8 = \$48 for a \$0.50 wager
	SELECTIONS	WAGERS
8	8-1-10-2	* A win bet on (8) TRAIN TO ARTEMUS * Exacta box 1-8-10 = \$12 for a \$2 wager * Smaller Exacta box 1-2-8-10 = \$12 for a \$1 wager
	SELECTIONS	WAGERS
9	5-1-2	* (5) KIMARI is our 'key' horse in the PICK 4 play from Race 7. NO other suggested wagers on this race.
	SELECTIONS	WAGERS
10	6-2-8-3	* A win bet on (6) MYRISKYAFFAIR  * Exacta box 2-6-8 = \$12 for a \$2 wager  * Trifecta 6 over 2-3-8 over 2-3-4-5-8 = \$12 for a \$1 wager  * Trifecta 2.3.8 over 6 over 2.3.4 5.8 = \$6 for a \$0.50 wager

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\* Trifecta 2-3-8 over 6 over 2-3-4-5-8 = \$6 for a \$0.50 wager

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# **BELMONT** @ Aqueduct

# Sunday September 25, 2022



# THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL

## #6 MY LIPS ARE SEALED (Race 3)

Probable pacesetter pressed the pace all the way and lost by just 3/4 length at this class level when returning from a long layoff on August 14. She must have needed that race off the 10.5-month absence while also making her first start for new trainer Rob Atras, but she was extremely game nonetheless. Now she could get a fairly comfortable lead while also cutting back to her best distance, where she has a record of 6-2-2-1. Note also that the only time that she raced over this turf course, nearly 2 years ago, she won by 2-3/4 lengths over a full field. Atras now makes a switch back to John Velazquez, who won the only other time that he rode My Lips Are Sealed. Although her first two wins were on the lead, her most recent victory was after stalking the pace, so she can adapt if someone else unexpectedly guns for the front.

## #2 MISS ALACRITY (Race 4)

Speedy filly looms the one to catch, and she could be even tougher with blinkers going back on, a 29% winning angle in 2021-22 for trainer Wesley Ward. Miss Alacrity began her career winning 2 in a row, including the Colleen stakes at 5F on turf, but she's lost 5 in a row since while racing over a variety of surfaces and distances. She returned to dirt on August 6 for the first time in 8-1/2 months and ran a big race to finish a clear 2nd to Mosienko, who was beginning a 3-race winning streak. She's back at the same class level and distance for high-percentage trainer Wesley Ward and Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez stays.

#### #6 KREESA (Race 5)

3-year-old gelding in the David Donk barn nearly won his career debut at 11-1 on August 27 and has the potential for a big forward move second time out. In that 5.5-furlong sprint he broke from post 1, which can be daunting for a first-time starter, especially when breaking so close to the first turn. Kreesa was far back in last for much of that race, and when he tried to rally in the stretch, he was stuck in traffic most of the way. However, in the final 1/16 of a mile, he exploded while in tight between rivals, and his late blast of energy fell just a head short. If that race was at today's 6F distance, he might have won by several lengths. Now he does get more ground to work with while able to build on that educational outing. His only sibling to race on turf won over it, and not only was his dam a 4-time turf winner, but she's also a half-sister to King Kreesa, who won 10 turf stakes for this same owner and trainer, including two graded stakes.

## (In Order of Preference)

# RACE 1

#### **#3 ATTACHED**

Trainer Jorge Duarte has done very well with debut runners in 2021-22, winning 22%, and he's won 19% with juveniles overall during that span. Lone sibling to race won first time out and sire Fed Biz was also a juvenile winner. Taking a calculated shot with a first-time starter in a field that looks rather weak.

#### **#1 SLOW DIAL**

\$200,000 yearling debuts for a \$40,000 tag... not a positive sign. Nonetheless, Todd Pletcher has won 24% with debuting maiden claimers in 2021-22, and the worktab is pretty good for a top owner in Michael Repole. Slow Dial is a half-sister to Suddenbreakingnews, who won first time out as a juvenile and later became a G3 winner.

## **#1A BOOK AND CANCEL**

Didn't show a lot first time out, but that was against tougher MSW company in a 'key' race field that has produced 2 next-out winners from 7 who have run back. Now blinkers go on, and Rudy Rodriguez has won 21% with MSW class-droppers in 2021-22.

#### **#7 NICE 'N SPICY**

Drops out of tougher MSW company, a 16% winning angle in 2021-22 for trainer Mike Maker. Blinkers also go on for the first time. Filly showed improved early speed Sept 2 and could show even more early zip with the blinkers going on.

# RACE 2

#### #6 LASTCHANCEATGLORY

Ran great on August 24 when beaten by just a neck behind Mount Travers. Versatile gelding earned a career-best figure in victory for this tag on July 22 and retained that peak form last time out. He's also been popular at the claim box, having been claimed from 5 straight races when in for a tag. Javier Castellano stays through the claim and has won both starts for trainer James Ferraro in 2021-22.

#### **#5 SECRET RULES**

Likes the lead but can also press the pace. He was claimed from a runaway win on May 28 against lesser company, but the figure he earned fits well with this group on the class rise. New trainer Robert Falcone has won 26% first off the claim in 2021-22 and winning jockey Jose Lezcano stays thru the claim.

## **#3 AMERICAN POWER**

Loves this 7F distance, winning 5 of 16 previous tries, and he's getting a smart drop in class. Could be set for a peak effort in his third start off the long layoff while returning to a track where he has a stellar record of 11-4-3-2. Kendrick Carmouche stays and has been aboard for American Power's last 3 wins.

# RACE 3

#### THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL (BEST BET)

### **#6 MY LIPS ARE SEALED**

Probable pacesetter pressed the pace all the way and lost by just 3/4 length at this class level when returning from a long layoff on August 14. She must have needed that race off the 10.5-month absence while also making her first start for new trainer Rob Atras, but she was extremely game nonetheless. Now she could get a fairly comfortable lead while also cutting back to her best distance, where she has a record of 6-2-2-1. Note also that the only time that she raced over this turf course, nearly 2 years ago, she won by 2-3/4 lengths over a full field. Atras now makes a switch back to John Velazquez, who won the only other time that he rode My Lips Are Sealed. Although her first two wins were on the lead, her most recent victory was after stalking the pace, so she can adapt if someone else unexpectedly guns for the front.

## **#1 HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**

Has good early speed and can sit 2nd or 3rd behind probable pacesetter My Lips Are Sealed. 4yo filly won off the layoff on June 25, and in her two races since, both at this class level, she's finished a close 2nd each time. Last time out she also earned a career-best figure, and she can continue her slow but steady improvement for top turf trainer Clement.

#### **#5 LADY THORNHILL**

Versatile filly can be placed close to the pace or she can rally from far back, as she did in her July 17 win. She then stepped up to this class level on August 14 and rallied well to miss by just 2 lengths. Now she reunites with Jose Ortiz, who won the last two times he rode her.

#### **#2 SPUNGIE**

Stalker/closer should get an honest or fairly fast pace to rate behind and rally into. Improvement is likely in her second start off the year layoff, but her August 14 return race as the favorite was disappointing, and at age 5, off the long absence, we may have already seen her best.

# RACE 4

#### THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL (BEST BET)

#### **#2 MISS ALACRITY**

Speedy filly looms the one to catch, and she could be even tougher with blinkers going back on, a 29% winning angle in 2021-22 for trainer Wesley Ward. Miss Alacrity began her career winning 2 in a row, including the Colleen stakes at 5F on turf, but she's lost 5 in a row since while racing over a variety of surfaces and distances. She returned to dirt on August 6 for the first time in 8-1/2 months and ran a big race to finish a clear 2nd to Mosienko, who was beginning a 3-race winning streak. She's back at the same class level and distance for high-percentage trainer Wesley Ward and Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez stays.

#### **#6 KHALI MAGIC**

Stalker won at this level by 3 lengths on July 15 and has been beaten by Mosienko in both starts since. She should get a fairly fast pace to stalk and rally into and retains Manny Franco, who was aboard for that last win.

#### **#4 RUVIES IN TIME**

Stalker could get a good set-up in this field that has a lot of early speed. She's dropping in class to race for a tag and she's won 7 of 20 at this distance, and 5 of 13 over this track. The last time that Ruvies raced at this class level, she won.

#### **#5 LEELOO**

Steps up in class after dominating a 'key' race at the previous allowance condition. Both horses who exited that race won their next starts, and Leeloo left her field strung-out behind that day, which is often the sign of a quality victory. She can press or stalk the pace and has won at this distance and over this track.

# RACE 5

### THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL (BEST BET)

# #6 KREESA

3-year-old gelding in the David Donk barn nearly won his career debut at 11-1 on August 27 and has the potential for a big forward move second time out. In that 5.5-furlong sprint he broke from post 1, which can be daunting for a first-time starter, especially when breaking so close to the first turn. Kreesa was far back in last for much of that race, and when he tried to rally in the stretch, he was stuck in traffic most of the way. However, in the final 1/16 of a mile, he exploded while in tight between rivals, and his late blast of energy fell just a head short. If that race was at today's 6F distance, he might have won by several lengths. Now he does get more ground to work with while able to build on that educational outing. His only sibling to race on turf won over it, and not only was his dam a 4-time turf winner, but she's also a half-sister to King Kreesa, who won 10 turf stakes for this same owner and trainer, including two graded stakes.

#### **#5 EMPIRE SKY**

Has rallied from off the pace to finish 3rd in all 3 career races, and 2 of those 3 races were against 'open' company, not NY breds. Now blinkers go on, a 30% winning angle in 2021-22 for trainer Kate DeMasi. Could show more early speed now with the blinkers on and he should love this slightly longer distance.

#### **#7 HEYMACKIT'SJACK**

Finished a close 2nd in two straight races, one at 7F and one at 5.5F, before the 6th place finish as the favorite on August 27. In that July 30 race when beaten by just a neck, this 4yo gelding earned a career-best figure, and one that could win against this field, if repeated. Irad Ortiz stays and there's an outstanding bullet 5F stamina work on Sept 20.

#### **#10 RACEY TYPE**

Could be the one to catch after pressing the pace most of the way in a dirt sprint in his career debut 2-1/2 months ago. Now he gets a positive trainer change to Steve Asmussen, who's won 18% with new acquisitions in 2021-22. Racey Type's only sibling to race on turf won over it, and Freud has been a top NY turf sire for a very long time. Note also the good turf work on Sept 9.

# RACE 6

#### **#8 KAW LIGA**

\$600,000 yearling has a surprisingly high morning line for a Chad Brown debut runner going long on turf. Brown excels with first-timers in routes, winning 21% in 2021-22, and he's also won 19% during that time with 2-year-olds overall. Tapit is a 3-time champion sire and the dam won on turf. The dam also produced 2 other foals who raced on turf, and both won over it. One of them won 5 of 15 on the lawn and was also a G3 turf winner. Gets top turf rider Flavien Prat, who's won 30% for Brown in 2021-22.

#### **#10 DETERMINEDLY**

Stalker/closer has improved with each race. He rallied to finish 2nd of 10 in his turf and route debut on July 30, then tried tougher G3 company at this same distance on August 31 and finished 4th of 7, beaten by just 3 lengths. Drops back down in class and keeps Hall of Fame rider John Velazquez.

## **#1 BAIE LONGUE**

\$250,000 2yo purchase tried turf and a route for the first time on August 13 while making his second career race. He stalked in 2nd, led on the far turn and in the lane, and finished 2nd, ahead of a next-out winner in 3rd. Has lots of upside potential second time going long and second time on turf for Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott.

### **#9 PALACE GATE**

\$500,000 yearling also debuts for Chad Brown. Colt is by top young sire Justify, who's getting 28% debut winners from juveniles, and this colt is out of a dam who was a G3 dirt route winner. Gets top jockey Irad Ortiz and shows several good works, albeit on dirt.

#### **#12 CONVERSING**

Gets a tough post if in from AE list, but he's coming off a tremendous debut when beaten by just a head at this class level and distance, and he has a ton of upside potential. Dam was a G3 turf winner going long and Into Mischief is a 3-time champion sire.

## **#11 COACH PETRO**

Gets a tough post if in from AE list, but he's finished 2nd and 3rd in his two races, both at this class level, beaten by a total of just 1-3/4 lengths. Top trainer is winning 24% on the year.

# RACE 7

### **#5 KHAFRE**

Has good speed and could sit just behind one or two others, making his move before the rest of the field has a chance to rally. Khafre finished a good 2nd last time out at 1-1/8 miles and should love this cutback in distance. Flavien Prat gets the mount.

#### **#11 ENDOWED**

Can stalk the pace while in the clear from his outermost post. He's hit the exacta in 3 of 4 races this year and may appreciate this cutback in distance, as his only prior race at a mile was a win by nearly 5 lengths when adding blinkers for the first time.

#### **#8 LUNI SIMA**

Stalker/closer has finished 2nd in 4 of his last 5 races, and prior to that he won by 6 lengths to begin his 2022 campaign back on Feb 25. His best races are good enough to win at this class level and he sheds weight today with the switch to apprentice Jose Gomez.

#### **#2 NEVER CHANGE**

Stalked the pace and won by a nose when adding blinkers on July 16. That's his only race to date at this 1-mile distance, and today he projects to sit a similar stalking trip behind an honest pace, saving ground from his inside post. Jose Ortiz has won 25% for Todd Pletcher in 2021-22.

#### **#1 CASH IN A FLASH**

Could get loose on the lead and forget to stop. He benefits by breaking on the rail, and new trainer Rob Atras has won 26% first off the claim in 2021-22. Note also that Cash in a Flash has never raced on dry dirt, so he's eligible to move up considerably over it.

# RACE 8

#### **#8 TRAIN TO ARTEMUS**

Versatile 4-year-old filly comes off back-to-back back wins while in sharp and improving form. She sat close to the pace in her August 13 victory, then led all the way over 9 rivals when stepping up in class on August 28. Train to Artemus earned a career-best figure in that 3-length win last time out and a similar effort could be enough despite this sensible rise in class. Top turf jockey Flavien Prat is now 2 for 2 on Artemus after guiding her to the two recent victories, and new trainer Kelly Breen has won at a solid 13% rate first off the claim in 2021-22.

#### **#1 MISPELLED MOOON**

Speedy filly draws the rail and will try to lead them all the way. She might get some pace pressure, but probably not a lot, as there aren't many others in here who seem capable of staying with her early. She's hit the board in 6 straight and has lost her last two races by just a half-length each. Both of them were at this class level at Saratoga.

#### **#10 CROWDING OUT**

Can press or stalk the pace from her outside post, having won with both running styles in the past. She's 2 for 3 this year, with both wins coming in turf sprints, but she did run poorly in her August 19 race against tougher allowance company.

#### **#2 ABUSE OF POWER**

5yo mare missed by just a neck at this class level on August 28 when coming off a nice win in the claiming ranks on July 14. Versatile mare has won on the lead and stalking the pace, and the only previous time that she raced on Aqueduct turf, back on Nov 7, 2020, she earned a career-best figure over this course and distance.

# RACE 9

## **#5 KIMARI**

G1/G2 dirt sprint winner is just shy of a million dollars in earnings for trainer Wesley Ward, who's managed her well in a wide variety of races here and in England. Kimari has won 8 of 15 overall, including 6 of 8 on dirt, and she's 1 for 1 at this distance. With speedballs Cheetara and Lady Rocket to her inside, Kimari is expected to stalk the fast fractions while in the clear from her outside post. Joel Rosario was aboard for the win in the G2 Honorable Miss on July 27 and retains the mount. Kimari earned a career-best figure in that win over champion Frank's Rockette, and would be awfully tough if she gets close to that figure again today.

## **#1 LADY ROCKET**

Speedy mare could duel with Cheetara, but she's the more classy of the two, and is expected to outlast that rival up front. Lady Rocket is a multiple graded stakes winner and she also finished 2nd in this race last year when it was run at

Belmont. Now that it's being run on the Aqueduct track, that may be to her advantage, as the best race of her career was her only race over this track, a 9-length victory in the G3 Go For Wand at a mile on Dec 4, 2021. She also gets a positive rider change back to Irad Ortiz, who was aboard for that runaway victory.

## **#2 REMAIN ANONYMOUS**

Versatile mare comes off the two best races of her career, both dominant wins. She scored on the lead in claiming company on July 15, earning a career-best figure, then essentially equaled that figure when rallying from far back for a 5-3/4 length win in state-bred stakes company on August 22. Today she's expected to rate again, given the probable fast pace.

# RACE 10

#### **#6 MYRISKYAFFAIR**

Lightly-raced 3-year-old filly in the barn of top turf trainer Christophe Clement has improved with almost every race, and can do so again today off a 2.5-month freshening. Clement has won 19% off similar short layoffs in 2021-22, and either of her last two efforts look good in comparison to the rest of this field. She can stalk or rally from farther back, and she also has some class in her family, being a half-sister to 2-year-old G3 turf winner Forty Under. Joel Rosario knows her well and stays aboard.

## **#2 TRANSIENT (GB)**

Versatile 4yo filly can sit close to the expected mild pace or rally from farther back. Last year at age 3 she won 1 of 7, but that win was on turf at 1-1/4 miles, the longest race of her career. Now she goes even longer and is expected to like this trip. Her Sept 2 effort off the 10-month layoff was an excellent 2nd, rallying from off the pace, and she should be a lot fitter for this second start off that long absence. Adds top jockey Irad Ortiz as well.

#### **#8 BLUE TIMES**

Looms the lone and controlling speed with the potential for a big forward move in her second start off the 5+ month layoff. She led most of the way in her Sept 2 return and finished a game and close 3rd, right behind Transient. The main concern is this longer distance, as she's never raced more than 1-1/4 miles in the past, though she did handle that trip well, finishing 2nd.

#### **#3 PEARL EARRING**

Stalker can sit close to the expected mild pace today as she comes off the best race of her career. In that Sept 3 race that was just 1/16 of a mile shorter than this one, Pearl Earrning finished a close 3rd of 12 at odds of 12-1, the second time in her last 3 starts that she's finished 3rd at today's class level. She also had fairly significant traffic trouble last time out, and might have been best. Half-sister to 5-time turf stakes winner Pixelate fits well today if she gets a cleaner trip.

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