

Presque Isle Downs Selections and Analysis by Dick Powell Tuesday 08/18/20

Race One:

- 1st: **(6) VINDICTA** – was claimed for this price two starts back here last September then moved up to twice the price and she just missed going this distance in fast time. She has plenty of back class and should be fit to go off the long layoff for Kevin Rice.
- 2nd: **(7) J'S TWOSTEP BEAUTY** – ran well here last year against similar company and now shows up here off two good turf efforts against better while showing good speed. Maria Bowersock wins 13% with her overall claimers and picks up Harry Hernandez.
- 3rd: **(2) HEARTY PARTY** – was soundly beaten 3 starts in a row on dirt but she improved last out here with a good second against these.

Race Two:

- 1st: **(7) GOHARA** – ran well here last year in three sprints against similar company. He came back off the long layoff with two poor efforts on at Penn National and now gets back to his best surface for Mike Salvaggio, Jr. who wins 23% third start off the layoff.
- 2nd: **(6) ETHICAL COMPLIANCE** – returns off a 309-day layoff for Glenn Wismer who wins 14% in this spot. He has run well here in the past going two turns and he gets in light with apprentice Amanda Schwartz.
- 3rd: **(4) WHATDOISTANDFOR** – has dangerous speed and I like that he came back against allowance foes before dropping down.

Race Three:

- 1st: **(7) LUCKY ANGELS DREAM** – was a game second two starts back on a sloppy track at Thistledown then shipped here and was an even third going 5 ½ furlongs. She stretches out to two turns against the same maiden claiming level.
- 2nd: **(6) BLACK PATENT SHOES** – did absolutely nothing in her first three career starts on dirt but came here and was a good second going two turns against this same maiden claiming level for Joe Martin who wins 26% third start off the layoff.
- 3rd: **(8) BLUEBERRY DUDETTE** – improved last year when Lasix was added. Second start off the long layoff should have her ready.

Race Four:

- 1st: **(7) AMIGO'S AFFAIR** – horse for the course beat this claiming level three starts back then missed by a nose next time out. He bounced back with a win last out and now returns off the long layoff for John Bourke who wins 22% first start after a win.
- 2nd: **(2) CATHMOR** – faded in his return to the races on the turf at Mountaineer Park before shipping here and losing by less than two lengths against this claiming level in very fast time. If he can run back to that effort, son of Ghostzapper should be tough in here.
- 3rd: **(8) BREZNO** – horse for the course has won 14 times here & placed 19 other times. Second start off the layoff should have him ready.

Race Five:

- 1st: **(2) FLANK SPEED** – didn't improve too much two starts back when Lasix was added but it was his first start of the year. He came back in a turf sprint at Colonial Downs with blinkers put back on and showed much better speed. Pablo Morales picks up the mount.
- 2nd: **(4) STRAIGHTOUTADUTTON** – speedball has yet to win here in four tries against cheaper company but is always a threat to hang on. He can run well fresh and the son of Discreet Cat is working well for this.
- 3rd: **(10) GAMBLER ROCKET** – showed high speed from 10 in his career debut going six furlongs at Gulfstream Park in fast time last April.

Race Six:

- 1st: **(3) SPINNING JOEY** – won two in a row last year then raced evenly to be fourth. For some reason, blinkers were added and he didn't show much improvement so he removes the blinkers off the long layoff while returning off the layoff without being risked for the claim.
- 2nd: **(1) NEVERLOOKBACK** – just missed on the dirt two starts back at Penn National then he came here and rallied from off the pace to win going away. Ed Rojas wins 19% third start off the layoff and first start after a win. Scott Spieth picks up the mount.
- 3rd: **(6) BAD MEDICINE** – returned to the races and ran poorly and now drops down many class levels.

Race Seven:

- 1st: **(5) COLONEL TALBOT** – won going two turns on the dirt at Prairie Meadows then shipped here and beat \$25K claimers going two turns in good time. He moves up a notch in class for Joe Martin who goes back to Pablo Morales – 4 for 6 this year together.
- 2nd: **(4) BANTU** – was in terrible form until he shipped here and missed going six furlongs in fast time against this allowance level. He comes back at 6 ½ furlongs for Mike Morrisson who has yet to win a race in four tries this year.
- 3rd: **(6) SIGNS OF GREATNESS** – added blinkers last out and he almost went gate to wire in fast time at six furlongs.

Race Eight:

- 1st: **(5) MALARKEY** – Linda Rice has been moving her low-level horses to here looking for a win and maybe get claimed. This mare was a good second two starts back on a sloppy track at Belmont Park but she ran poorly last out at Saratoga.
- 2nd: **(7) NIKKI BELLA** – drops down in class off some decent efforts this winter at Tampa Bay Downs then had no shot when moved up in class at Delaware Park. Gerry Bennett wins 29% going from dirt to synthetic and 22% with this kind of dropdown.
- 3rd: **(10) ALEXANDRA KAY** – horse for the course has high speed and gets a rider upgrade to Addiel Ayala.

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