



THE GREEN SHEET

Full-Card Analysis and Selections

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Churchill Downs: Spring Meet 2017

Eighth Day: Friday, May 12, 2017

Post Time: 12:45 P.M. Eastern

Churchill Meet Stats To Date: 76-17-13-9—22% winners; 51% in the money

Note: Selections are made in order, first through fourth

RACE ONE

DUSTEM CAROLINA is a consistent daughter of Devil His Due that has placed in 29-of-42 lifetime starts and hasn't missed the trifecta in 10 of her past 12 outings. She was the beaten chalk in her last start at Keeneland when stretching out to a two-turn mile trip facing similar rivals, but she will love turning back in distance in this spot. She ran well in her first start off the claim for trainer David Vance while stepping up in class, as she was only beaten two lengths and change facing optional \$25K claiming/\$15K starter allowance types in Hot Springs in a six-furlong affair that went in a snappy 1:10 2/5. She has a versatile running style and should get a ground-saving trip on the fence; rates top billing. The Louisiana-bred **HOT YANKEE** exits state-bred company at Fair Grounds but she ran well when she was last seen hooking open company for a \$17,500 tag two starts back in New Orleans, and she will return to her preferred surface—dirt—in this spot for trainer Merrill Scherer. Chestnut mare has won two of her past four starts when offered for a tag, has effective tactical speed and the wide post draw isn't detrimental coming out of the partial chute; lots to like. The seven-year-old veteran campaigner **WILHELMINA** drops down in class and has placed in 50 percent of her lifetime starts in Louisville, but she always seems to break badly (has done so in 10 of her past 12 starts) which constantly puts her behind the proverbial eight ball. Bay mare is capable of running a winning race off the sidelines, but sports a spotty work tab since her last race and may be a start away from her best effort; tab for a minor award. **GINGERMORE** finished two lengths and change off the top choice when she was last seen at the races back in mid-March, and she was an

honest third behind a useful mare Gotit Todo the last time she tried seven-furlongs at Churchill. She may be a tick cheap for this crew but I like the rider change to Corey Lanerie, and she will be making just her second start off the claim for the Maggi Moss/Chris Richard combo in this heat; on the fringes.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-6-4

RACE TWO

SEEMS A FORTUNE has never run a poor race in her career, and she is coming off a game win over fellow entrant **SUGAR CUBE** facing similar company three weeks ago in Lexington. Bay daughter of Warrior's Reward likes to win, has finished in the money in six-of-eight lifetime starts, and she bobbed at the start and was wide facing a deceptively tough \$16K optional claiming/entry-level allowance field at Tampa Bay Downs two starts back. She was competitive against \$40K starter allowance types last summer in Louisville and should get a great trip stalking the pace; major player. **SMELLY CAT** will make her first start off the claim on the drop for trainer J.R. Caldwell, and this consistent bay mare has placed in 10-of-16 lifetime starts. She made short work of a \$16K optional claiming/entry-level allowance affair at Oaklawn two starts back, but it's worth noting that Pageant Material, who was second to her in that heat, was fifth, beaten nine lengths and change, as the 5-2 favorite facing "a other than" allowance company at Churchill last week. She's eligible for improvement making the third start of her current for cycle, and I like the rider change to Ricardo Santana, Jr., who had a hat trick on yesterday's card; contender. It's difficult not to like **SUGAR CUBE**, an extremely honest starter allowance competitor who ran a good race to be second behind the top choice when stepping up in class in her last start at Keeneland. Bay mare has finished first or second in an impressive 11 of her past 12 starts and loves Churchill Downs, but she's a slight notch below a couple of other entrants in class and is vulnerable at a mile and a sixteenth trip. She'll be tighter in her second start off the shelf and is less than three lengths shy of winning her past five races; threat. **LUCY'S REVENGE** ran like she was a tad short off the shelf in her last start at Keeneland facing lesser adversaries, but she figured to get a lot out of that race and should move forward off the effort in this spot. She has a past money finish in Louisville to her credit, is another that is very consistent, and she beat **SUGAR CUBE** on the square four starts back in Hot Springs. The step up in class figures to be her undoing, however; minor award candidate.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-7-4

RACE THREE

TIGERBEACH exits a quick race at Keeneland, has the benefit of a race under his belt, and will likely improve making the second start of his current form cycle. Trainer John Hancock's barn has fared well in juvenile races this spring in the Bluegrass State, and his charge will make his first start for a tag this afternoon; choice. The lone filly in the field, **ZODACIOUS**, creeps in for a tag for the first time in this spot for trainer Wesley Ward, whose barn excels with juvenile stock, and she is another entrant that has the benefit of a race under her belt. She broke well and stalked an honest pace before tiring in the stretch drive on debut at Keeneland 29 days ago, has plenty of upside, will be tighter this go-around, and has a useful half-mile work since her last race; contender. Trainer Jack Van Berg sent out a live two-year-old first-time starter on yesterday's program at Churchill for a \$50K tag, as Rose Candy broke running, disputed an honest pace and was second at 7-1 in the second race on Thursday's card, beaten a scant three-parts of a length for all the money. The Hall of Famer sends out **NORTHERN TRAIL**, a bay son of Northern Afleet, in this heat that has been training forwardly for the public and is 12-1 on the morning line. He demands your attention in the paddock and post parade; check tote board. **GRITTER MAN** is a colt that acts as if he wants to go farther than four and a half furlongs, but he exits a fast race at Keeneland, is the most experienced entrant in the field and will get Lasix for the first time in this spot; improves enough to garner a minor award.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-4-1

RACE FOUR

The honest Illinois-bred **RECOUNT** is undefeated from two previous starts under the Twin Spires and is at his best sprinting six-furlongs on the main track. Multiple stakes-winning son of Limehouse beat a good field in the \$78K Bet On Sunshine Stakes when he was last seen at Churchill Downs, and he's sharp now, coming into this race riding a two-race win streak. He hooked some salty sprinters in Arkansas (Whitmore, Storm Advisory, etc.) in a pair of stakes over the winter in his past two losses, and he possesses dangerous tactical speed. He has won four of his past six starts; major player. **WILBO** is another entrant in this compact field that loves Churchill Downs, as the chestnut gelding has annexed three-of-four lifetime starts under the Twin Spires, but he gets wheeled back off a week's rest after a big effort at 31-1 in the Churchill Downs Turf Sprint (G3T) on Oaks Day, where he split the field and was making up ground on Green mask in the final sixteenth of a mile in a five-panel turf heat contested over "good" ground. Hard-knocking son of Candy Ride (Arg) has finished in the money in 12-of-17 lifetime starts and returns to his preferred surface—dirt—in this spot while sliding back into high-end optional claiming/money since allowance company. He won a similar race at Churchill last fall at a five-furlong trip in a swift :56 2/5 in an "off-the-turf heat" contested over a

“fast” main track, and if you throw out his race over the unconventional turf course at Kentucky Downs last September, he looks even saltier; contender. **BLACK BEAR** was in deep waters facing Whitmore in the Count Fleet Sprint Handicap (G3) at Oaklawn in his last start, a six-furlong race that stopped the watch in 1:08 1/5. Not that this is an easy spot, but this ultra-consistent (in the money in 19-of-22 lifetime starts) fellow will appreciate the slight class relief this go-around and returns to a Churchill surface on which he has never missed the trifecta. He has effective tactical speed and jockey Calvin Borel had a winner on yesterday’s card with Dublinyourmoney (\$5.80) in the fifth on the Thursday program; threat. **BAYERD** is one for his past 13, hasn’t had his picture taken in over a year and was beaten at low odds in his last start at Will Rogers Downs, however he leads this field in career earnings, has finished in the money in three of his past four starts and gets reunited with jockey Ricardo Santana, Jr. in this affair. He’s capable of jumping up and running a big race at a square price, but seems destined for a minor placing in this heat.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-5-4

RACE FIVE

ELITCH figures to get a ground-saving trip from his inside post draw in this two-turn route race, and the rail has been kind so far at the current tilt. Bay gelding woke up on the drop in his most recent start at Keeneland, where he finished well from off the pace, was bumped in deep stretch by fellow entrant **EITELJORG** and was kissed into show money when returning to the dirt off a lackluster turf effort two starts backs at Tampa Bay Downs. I’m a little worried that there won’t be enough early pace to set up his late kick, but he’s the one to beat on paper, especially with the late scratch of High Multiple; rates top billing. **EITELJORG** figures to have things his own way on the front end in this mile and a sixteenth affair with the scratch of High Multiple, and the bay will be tighter in his second start off the sidelines for trainer Phil Sims. Jazil gelding has a tendency to drift out in the lane—as he did in his last start that cost him a placing—but other than being a bit green he ran a decent race in his first start against winners off a freshening. He may get brave late if left alone on an early lead, and the race shape from a pace (or lack of it) perspective works in his favor; threat. **ENDURING HONOR** has retained flat form despite dropping in class for trainer Tom Amoss, who continues to drop this gelding down the ladder looking for form reversal. He was well-beaten by a suspect crew of \$30K conditioned claiming types in his last start after dropping out of the allowance ranks at Fair Grounds, and he has a penchant for show dough. The last time he paired up good efforts was without blinkers (in the spring and early summer of 2015) and the hood comes off today, but I’m not willing to take a short price (2-1 morning line) based on his current form; figures to part, taking a stand against for top honors. **SPEEDY A.P.** is eligible for improvement making the third start of his current form cycle

and takes an eye-catching drop in class from open \$50K claiming company into this conditioned \$16K claiming affair for trainer Dale Romans. He has faced some “live” maiden allowance company in the past and will appreciate the surface change back to dirt, but he has never run a jump around two-turns in the past. He has never been in this cheap, however; using in exotic wagers.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-4-2

RACE SIX

The Dixiana homebred **ICE FREEZE** caved after setting a slow pace in her last start at Keeneland, but I have cut her some slack as that was her first dirt start, and she was stepping up in class for trainer Ben Colebrook. She drops in for a dime in this spot, has improved with blinkers and catches a field without a preponderance of early speed signed on in this maiden \$10K affair. She'll have to deal with **TWINKLES** and possibly **STREET PERFORMER** from the opening bell but fits with this field on the class front. Jockey James Graham won the second trace on the card today with Sugar Cube (\$5.60); gets the nod. **STREET PERFORMER** ran well in her last start off a layoff and returns to the races off a near two-month hiatus in this spot for trainer Buff Bradley. Chestnut miss gets in light with the “bug boy” Rogelio Miranda named for the assignment and while she's a better horse on the weeds, she has run decently in a couple of “off the turf” heats in Tampa facing tougher stock; threat on the drop. **TWINKLES** is the “speed of the speed” in the race, as she was a length off a opening quarter-mile in :22 3/5 in her last start 13 days ago, which is quick enough to put her on the front-end early in this relatively paceless event. Well-bred Mineshaft filly has improved in each start for trainer Wesley Hawley but will stretch out to a distance at which she's unproven; hangs around for a minor award with a top try. **REWARD'S GIRL** has demonstrated minor improvement with blinkers for trainer Kenny McPeck, but she has suspect dirt form and has lacked a winning move in the stretch drive in her past three starts despite dropping in class. She was unplaced in her only previous start in Louisville, albeit in her career debut; the continued class drop is the biggest attraction.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-7-8

RACE SEVEN

A DIXIE TWISTER makes her first start off the claim for trainer Mike Maker, whose barn wins at a high-percentage in this type of situation. Hard Spun filly steps up to the “a other than” allowance ranks in this heat, but she will return to her preferred surface—turf. She graduated versus maiden allowance company in a turf sprint at Fair Grounds and will appreciate turning back in distance to this five-furlong trip this afternoon.

She'll get a ground-saving trip on the hedge under jockey Corey Lanerie; choice. **GAGAOVERYOU** is a deserved 9-5 morning line favorite in this race, as the consistent chestnut daughter of Zensational has finished in the money in 11 of her past 12 starts—all in turf sprints—and she has won her past four races off a layoff and comes into this heat off a near two-month freshening for the Tom Amoss barn. She has never tried the Matt Winn Turf Course but she has won turf sprints all over the East Coast, and she went to the sidelines with good form while stepping up in class at Fair Grounds. She has been the beaten chalk in her past two starts, but is a major player in this spot nonetheless. The Ohio-bred **KATALUST** has never been off the board in her seven-race career to date, and she ran a good race off a layoff in her only prior turf appearance facing restricted company in the \$75K Tomboy Stakes at Belterra Park. Munnings filly will make her first start for trainer Bret Calhoun in this affair, and his outfit is winning at a healthy 21 percent thus far in 2017. She's stakes-placed on the main track at Oaklawn Park against open company, and it's hard to knock her consistency; threat. **TIZAHANDFUL** hasn't been seen at the races in nearly two months and has been stuck in this condition for a while, but she has some honest turf sprint form in New Orleans and broke her maiden off a layoff. She hasn't been able to handle **GAGAOVERYOU** in her past two starts; more interested as the price increases.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-7-6

RACE EIGHT

I'll take a shot with the price play **STARSHIP ZEUS** (10-1 on the morning line), as the bay gelding likes Churchill Downs, having been first-or-second in four-of-five lifetime starts under the Twin Spires, and he ran well off a near two-month layoff in his first start for trainer Bill Mott 28 days ago at Keeneland. He finished behind fellow entrant **BIG RED ROCKET** in that affair, but he may have needed that effort off the shelf and was in the seven-path at the quarter-pole. I like that he stretches out a bit to this one-turn mile trip; choice at a square price. **KISMET'S HEELS** hasn't been off the board in his past three starts off layoffs and has yet to put forth a dull effort in five outings for trainer Mark Casse. Well-bred Tapit colt out of a Gone West mare has an affinity for place money and turns back to a one-turn trip in this heat, but he ran well facing \$62,500 optional claiming/"two other than" allowance foes to be beaten a dirty neck in his only previous start at Churchill Downs; contender. **DAN THE GO TO MAN** has managed to finish second in his past six starts, and trainer J.R. Caldwell is hoping the turn back in distance to this one-turn mile trip will be the answer to getting this guy's picture taken again. He has been competitive against similar company, owns a prior money finish in Louisville and generally runs his race to earn a paycheck; threat. **BIG RED ROCKET** has never run a bad race to date, and he hooked a nice horse at Keeneland in his last start when he was second to Lex Vegas when cutting

back in distance to an extended sprint. Chestnut son of Summer Bird couldn't handle **DAN THE GO TO MAN** two starts back, but he should get a dream trip in this spot under Corey Lanerie, as the outside post is advantageous, not detrimental, coming out of the chute. He seems well suited for this one-turn mile trip; cannot eliminate with confidence.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-8-10

RACE NINE

The chestnut gelding **DRAGO'S PEARL** drops in for a tag for the first time in this spot for trainer Dallas Stewart, whose outfit has won three-of-seven starts to date at the current tilt, a healthy 43 percent strike rate. The chestnut was fractious in the gate in his first start, but blinkers seemed to have helped with that issue in his last race, and I like that he turns back to this one-turn mile trip with a pair of two-turn races under his belt. He has a license to improve making just his third career start; rates top billing.

SWORDFISH lacked a winning bid the final sixteenth of a mile when dropping in for a \$30K tag in his last start, but he figured to need that effort off a near seven-month layoff. He'll be tighter this time around and Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen seems to have found a class level where this fellow can be competitive; contender. **SUMMER O FIFTYFOUR** loves to run third, however trainer Dale Romans is hoping wheeling back to the races in 10 days with the addition of blinkers will be this colt's ticket to graduation. Oddly, his best efforts to date have been in a two-turn heat and a six-furlong sprint, respectively; useful in the exotics.

CHOCOLATEICECREAM ran well in his first start after being haltered by trainer Greg Compton two starts back for \$20,000, and the son of Wilburn figures to be more in touch with the early pace in this spot stretching out in distance; tab for a minor award.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-4-10