



# THE GREEN SHEET

*Full-Card Analysis and Selections*

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Ellis Park: Summer Meet 2017

Second Day: Sunday, July 2, 2017

Post Time: 1:50 P.M. Eastern

Ellis Park Meet Stats: 9-2-2-1-22%W, 56%ITM

Note: Selections are made in order, first through fourth

## RACE ONE

**SLOWHAND** ran like he needed his last start off a near four-month layoff, where he hit his best stride too late on the drop at Indiana Grand breaking from the nine-hole and finished fifth of 11, beaten six lengths and change for all the money in his first attempt going a flat mile on the weeds. Giacomo gelding has hooked a next-out winner in all three of his previous starts, will be tighter in his second start off a layoff, and has never been in this cheap; contends on the drop. **AGGRO CRAG (IRE)** was the beaten chalk at Belterra Park on the grass facing maiden allowance foes, but he was competitive against arguably tougher rivals four starts back at Hawthorne over “yielding” ground, and he has never been in this cheap in a turf race for owner/trainer Jeff Story. Front-running bay gelding will have company from the opening bell in the form of **PROMISES TO KEEP**, **MALIBU WEST** and possibly **REYDELL** and **SET ME ON THE ROCK**, but he’s tractable enough to rate and finish. He’s 8-1 on the morning line; threat at a price. **PROMISES TO KEEP** will be an early pace factor in a race peppered with potential front-running types, and he will try two-turns and grass for the first time this afternoon. Chestnut son of Kipling’s pedigree is more dirt oriented, but he woke on the drop in his last start when in for a dime, where he broke running, carved out a quick pace and gave way in the stretch but he was able to stay on for fourth, beaten less than three lengths for the win; hangs around for a minor award with a top effort. **REYDELL** has retained lackluster form while dropping in class, and he will stretch back out around two-turns and try the grass for the first time in this spot looking for form reversal. Gray Creative Cause colt has hints of green in his pedigree and Dublinyourmoney, who beat him soundly two starts back in

Louisville, came back to win a \$50K “non-winners of two races lifetime” affair at Churchill Downs on Thursday, paying a whopping \$30.60 to win; on the fringes.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-6-2**

### **RACE TWO**

**CATANOVA** has won fifty percent of his starts this year, and he’s two lengths and change shy of winning four of his past five outings for trainer Mike Tomlinson, whose barn is coming off a good meet at Churchill Downs. I like how this well-bred son of Tale of the Cat has retained good form while ascending in class and he split a field of tougher starter allowance foes in Louisville three weeks ago, where he was a respectable third, beaten two and a quarter lengths for all the money. Eight-furlongs seems to be well within his scope, and he’s one of three entrants in this field (**SIR DOUGLAS** and **BAJAN CASH** are the others) that has a past money finish in Henderson to his credit; rates top billing. **MARKSMAN** made short work of conditioned \$40K claiming types at Churchill when dropping in for a tag for the first time for trainer Robert O’Connor and while he steps up to \$50K starter allowance company in this heat, he does own honest past turf form at Tampa Bay Downs facing entry-level allowance company and has never run a poor race on the main track. I like the turn back in distance to this seven-furlong trip with a mile and a sixteenth two-turn heat under his belt; turf-to-dirt, route-to-sprint angles playable. **ONE SOCK MAUK** impressed off the layoff in his last race, as the chestnut son of Kodiak Kowboy used an inside post draw to his advantage, broke running and wired a field of \$16K conditioned claiming rivals on the drop for trainer Ingrid Mason, winning by open lengths and covering six-panels in a snappy 1:10 4/5. He has a license to move forward off that effort making his second start off the shelf, and he was competitive on this class level all winter in Hot Springs. He’s 6-1 on the morning line and is the controlling speed of the race; lots to like. **SIR DOUGLAS** exits a “live” \$50K starter allowance heat at Churchill Downs, as Hold Me Black and The Gipper are honest horses for this class level and Because Its Time came out of that affair to win his next start. He broke his maiden over the local strip by open lengths, the wide post draw isn’t detrimental coming out of the chute, and this More Than Ready gelding should get a great trip stalking speed drawn to his inside; can’t pitch him and feel good about it.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-6-7**

### **RACE THREE**

**CLASSIC BRIT** stalked a hot pace but had no late kick on debut at Churchill Downs 22 days ago, but this To Honor and Serve filly didn’t embarrass herself, finishing fifth of 11, beaten 14 lengths and change at a tricky six-

furlong distance for a first-time starter. She takes a two-pronged class drop in this heat for trainer Joe Deegan, whose outfit has made the most of limited opportunities in 2017. Bay miss has plenty of upside making just her second career start, will run with Lasix for the first time and should get a great trip stalking **NORTH PRINCESS** and **CHARGERS MISS**; gets the nod in a compact, contentious race. **QUIET TEMPTRESS**—the lone four-year-old in the field—is an improving bay filly with a throwback pedigree (by Devil His Due out of a Sultry Song mare) that took to the class drop and the “muddy” sealed racetrack at Indiana Grand in her last start for trainer Mike Bell. She returns to the races off a near two-month layoff in this spot for a patient barn, will likely improve in her third career start, and is spotted to be competitive in for a \$16K tag this afternoon. She hung on her inside lead in the stretch in the mud in in her last race before switching late in the game and finishing with zeal, and she broke a step slow in the debut run and hopped at the start and brushed the gate in her second race. I like the rider change to Didiel Osorio, who won a pair of races on yesterday’s program; contends with a clean start. **CHARGERS MISS** is a front-running daughter of Regal Ransom that will be an early pace presence in this heat but **NORTH PRINCESS**, who breaks from the one-hole, has a comparable early lick. She broke in at the start in her last race and may not have cared for the slop at Churchill Downs, gets wheeled back off nine days rest, and dips in class slightly; hangs around for part with a top try. **FRIGIDISH** has room to improve in the third start of her current form cycle for Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg, and I’m drawing a line through her last start, where she was beaten by 26 lengths and change, as she ran off in the post parade, which had to have compromised her chances. She’ll take a double-dip class drop in this spot and faced a “live” group of \$30K maiden claiming types in her career debut under the Twin Spires; threat in a competitive race.

**SELECTIONS: 5-2-4-3**

#### **RACE FOUR**

The Smart Strike colt **COUNTERFORCE** holds a back-class advantage over a majority of the entrants in this field, as the four-year-old is a stakes winner at this three-quarter mile trip on dirt and is coming off a sharp second-place effort versus \$62K optional claiming/second-level allowance company at Churchill Downs, overcoming a five-wide trip in the process. I love the slight turn back to six-furlongs and while he hasn’t has his picture taken since his win in the Bachelor Stakes at Oaklawn Park last spring, he has been facing tougher company and has retained honest form of late while ascending in class. He has placed in 60 percent of his lifetime starts; major player. **DINGDINGDINGDING** made short work of low-end “three other than” allowance company at Mountaineer in his last start at 90 cents on the dollar, but he sports sharp main track form and loves Ellis Park having never missed the trifecta from four prior outings in Henderson.

Candy Ride (Arg) gelding nearly won a similar race at The Pea Patch last summer, where he did all the heavy lifting on the front-end and gave up a half-length decision on the wire in a heat that went in a snappy 1:08 4/5. He's eligible for improvement making his third start off a layoff, and jockey Jon Court won his 600<sup>th</sup> race at Ellis Park yesterday on Northern Ranger (\$14) in the second race on the program. He's 12-1 on the morning line; overlay material. **SNOW LEOPARD** is a bay son of Red Giant that possesses effective tactical speed for the high-percentage Kim Hammond barn, and the seven-year-old veteran will appreciate the surface change back to dirt in this spot, as he exits a turf sprint at Indiana Grand and is zero-for-five lifetime on the weeds. He's a fast, front-running horse in a race with a lot of early pace signed on, but he's tractable enough to rate and gets in light with the five-pound apprentice Katie Clawson named for the riding assignment. He leads the field in lifetime earnings; threat. **BOURBON COWBOY** has improved in each start off an extended layoff, and I like how he retained good form while taking a marked class hike in his last start. Granted his past two races have been on Polytrack at Arlington Park, but he has useful main rack form and is stakes placed on dirt at this six-panel trip. He'll move forward in his third start off a near 15-month hiatus from racing; synthetic-to-dirt angle playable.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-4-2**

#### **RACE FIVE**

The well-bred **ARCH CAT** has never put forth a poor effort for trainer Jinks Fires, and the son of Arch is coming off a decent third-place effort behind a well-regarded Dale Romans trainee in Pocket Square in his last start at Churchill Downs two weeks ago. Bay gelding is bred top and bottom to handle the surface change to turf, which may be the answer to getting his picture taken, and this late-running colt should get a honest pace in front of him with **D C NINE**, **HARD FOUGHT** and possibly **DOGGIE DAWG** carving out legit early splits; fires in the stretch drive. **YOUR WAY** is another entrant that will try the grass and two-turns for the first time and is bred top and bottom (by Harlan's Holiday out of an Unbridled's Song mare) to handle the surface change and to relish the added distance. Three-year-old colt had an excuse in his last start where he finished seventh of 10 in a seven-panel dirt affair, as he lost his footing at the start, didn't get involved in the race, and never jumped on the bridle. He's eligible for improvement in his third start off the sidelines; dirt-to-dirt, sprint-to-route angles are playable. **D C NINE** ran a big race in his second start off a layoff on the Matt Winn Turf Course at Churchill Downs in his last start, where he dictated a slow pace and stayed on well in the lane to finish third of nine, beaten two and a half lengths for the win at nearly 28-1. I like the slight cut back in distance to this flat mile trip, and if one takes into consideration he had a troubled trip in his only prior off the board turf effort, his form looks even better. He'll get a ground-saving trip on the hedge from his inside post

draw and is a juicy 10-1 on the morning line; price play special. **ONE LAST STRIKE** is one of two first-time starters in the field, but trainer Mike Maker's outfit excels with horses going two-turns on grass, and this Smart Strike colt has fired off three consecutive "bullet" works at Churchill's Trackside training facility in Louisville in preparation for the debut run. It's a tall order for a first-timer to pop around two-turns on turf, but this fellow seems to be primed for a sharp effort right out of the box. Demands your attention in the paddock and post parade—watch the tote board.

**SELECTIONS: 3-7-1-6**

#### **RACE SIX**

**SEEKING BULL** drops in class, turns back in distance and the blinkers come off for trainer Joe Sharp, who is looking for form reversal for his charge. I'm willing to forgive her last start at Churchill 30 days ago, as she was unprepared at the start and was five-wide at the quarter-pole. Bay daughter of Flashy Bull made short work of \$20K "non-winners of two lifetime" foes three starts back in New Orleans, and she broke her maiden for a \$30K tag without blinkers. **STELLA NOVA** and **MY MYSTERY** should provide enough early pace to set up her late run; fires in the stretch drive. **STELLA NOVA** was the beaten chalk at Belterra Park in her last start, but the bay daughter of Astrology did all the heavy lifting on the front-end in that heat setting a rapid pace of :22 1/5 and :44 3/5 in a five-panel turf sprint before rightfully tiring in the lane. She seems to be a tick quicker on paper than the other early pace factor in this six-furlong sprint—**MY MYSTERY**—and that rival gets the widest post draw of all. Three-year-old miss has won two-of-three starts lifetime over "fast" racetracks, and I like the rider change to Corey Lanerie; contender. **GREELY'S STRIKER** has a tendency to break flat-footed, but the homebred has demonstrated mild improvement since she was equipped with blinkers three starts back at Churchill. I like how jockey Calvin Borel got this mare involved in the race in early in her most recent start, and that effort is better than it first looks on paper, as she was spinning her wheels a bit over a speed-favoring racetrack. Daughter of Greeley's Conquest likes Henderson, as she has finished in the money in three-of-five lifetime starts locally; threat. **MY MYSTERY** ran well in her first start off the claim on the rise for trainer Angel Montano, where she broke slow, then picked up the bit to set a pressured, fast pace before tiring in the stretch drive to finish a respectable second, beaten two and three-quarter lengths for all the money. Colonel John filly has been first-or-second in four-of-five lifetime starts and her only off the board effort to date came off an extended layoff. She'll have to deal with **STELLA NOVA** when they spring the latch, however; hangs on for a minor award with a top effort.

**SELECTIONS: 7-1-4-8**

### RACE SEVEN

The bay Dialed In filly **AMERICAN ALPHABET** has faced “live” maiden allowance company in her first two starts, as Sunny Skies, who beat her by nine lengths in her career debut at Keeneland, came out of that race to win the listed Debutante Stakes on the closing night of Churchill’s recently concluded spring meet, and she faced next-out winner Pure Praise in her most recent outing at Churchill back on May 27 and the winner of that heat—She’s a Julie—is a well-bred filly trained by Steve Asmussen. The Hancock barn has enjoyed success with its juvenile stock in 2017; gets the nod. **BELLES ORB** is a \$120,000 daughter of first-crop sire and Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Orb that is out of a stakes-placed Deputy Commander mare that had some turf speed. Chestnut miss sports a sharp work tab for trainer Eddie Kenneally, including a swift :47 4/5 move from the gate at Keeneland on June 16; playable right out of the box. **MRS ROCCO** is another first-time starter in this five-furlong sprint, and this \$50K daughter of Quality Road has been training forwardly for the high-percentage Brad Cox outfit. The half-mile move from the gate in :47 4/5 at Keeneland on June 20 should have her on her toes, and her sire gets runners—Abel Tasman, Illuminant, Salty, Cowboy Culture, Guest Suite, etc.; demands your attention in the paddock and post parade. **NO PARTNERS** hit her best stride too late in a “live” four and a half-furlong affair at Churchill on June 9, as the second-place horse in that heat—Upset Brewing—was second, beaten a length and change at 17-1 in the Debutante Stakes on closing night at Churchill Downs and the third-place horse, Laudation, came out of that race to win her next-start. She has plenty of upside making just her second career start and is 12-1 on the morning line; lots to like.

**SELECTIONS: 7-3-4-5**

### RACE EIGHT

I’m not crazy about the wide post draw, but **AMERICAN COWGIRL** looks like a solid play for trainer Buff Bradley in Sunday’s feature—an entry-level allowance heat going a flat mile on the turf. Bay daughter of Cowboy Cal has improved in each start off a two-month plus layoff, broke her maiden by open lengths on the weeds in Henderson, and still has room to move forward making her third start off the sidelines. She has placed in 50 percent of her turf starts lifetime and has never missed the exacta over the local course. Bay miss doesn’t have to come from out of the clouds to be a factor; formidable. **MARYBLUEEYES** steps up to allowance company out of the \$16K starter allowance ranks, but she crossed the wire in second in her last start behind a very consistent, hard-knocking mare in Sugar Cube, only to be disqualified to sixth for getting out in the stretch drive after brushing the rail. Chestnut daughter of Pure Prize has placed in 50 percent of her turf starts lifetime and is at her best going eight-furlongs on turf; contender. **DOMONETTE** will try winners for the first time in this spot, but

she impressed breaking her maiden by open lengths in her first grass start, as she broke running from the 12-hole, set a moderate pace and drew on the stretch to win by open lengths in hand. **MARYBLUEEYES**, who breaks just to her outside, and **KENTUCKY DANCER** have a comparable early lick, however, and this filly is unproven over “firm” ground. She’ll take action at the windows off the big maiden score; more interested as the price increases. **SENSITIVE** hasn’t been seen at the races in a tick over nine-months, but she will make her first start for trainer Brad Cox in this spot, and his outfit wins at a high-percentage with horses returning to the races off an extended hiatus from racing. Bay daughter of Divine Park has never put forth a poor effort on the lawn over “firm” ground, and she garnered a world of experience in her first crack at winners trying \$100K stakes company at Belmont last fall. Bay filly fetched \$425,000 as a yearling; can fire fresh.

**SELECTIONS: 11-7-6-9**

#### **RACE NINE**

The dark bay or brown gelding **BRO STROLL** has run well in his past two starts on the grass and takes a two-pronged descent in class in this spot for trainer Jeff Barkley, whose outfit is winning at a 24 percent clip in 2017 with limited starters. Son of Stroll has a license to improve in the third start of his current form cycle, and I like how he has retained honest form while stepping up to take on winners. He’s a healthy 10-1 on the morning line in a wide-open race; lots to like. **MOVE THE CHAINS** has never been off the board on the turf at Ellis Park, has placed in five-of-six grass starts lifetime for trainer Brian Michael, and returns to the lawn in this spot. Five-year-old gelding was only a half-length off the top choice two starts back, is 12-1 on the morning line, and the blinkers go back on today; dirt-to-turf angle is appealing. The German-bred **SAMICEAN (GER)** hasn’t been seen at the races in nearly a year, but he has never been in this cheap and was improving with the addition of Lasix before he was stopped on last summer. He sports a gap-free public work tab since early June, and he’s spotted to be competitive off the sidelines in for a \$7,500 tag facing “non-winners of two lifetime” company; can’t toss him and feel good about it. **EVENT** is a bay Artie Schiller colt that ships in from Lone Star Park for trainer J. R. Caldwell, who is coming off a productive meet at Churchill Downs and sent out Hat of Jacks (\$7.60) to win yesterday’s fifth race with jockey Didiel Osorio in the boot. He broke his maiden on turf in Texas for a \$50K tag; main track to turf course angle is intriguing.

**SELECTIONS: 5-10-12-11**