



THE GREEN SHEET

Full-Card Analysis and Selections

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Ellis Park: Summer Meet 2017

Sixth Day: Saturday, July 8, 2017

Post Time: 1:50 P.M. Eastern

Ellis Park Meet Stats: 43-11-9-5—26%W, 58%ITM

Note: Selections are made in order, first through fourth

RACE ONE

The bay colt **MAGICIAN MAN** will try the grass for this first time in this spot for trainer Steve Hobby, and while he doesn't have a strong grass pedigree (by dirt router Drosselmeyer), he does take a significant class drop from \$40K maiden claiming company into this \$7,500 affair in the day's opener. Four-year-old is out of an Empire Maker mare and should be able to handle the going on the weeds, and he figures to be prominently placed early stretching out around two-turns off his last start. His current form is atrocious, but this is a soft bunch and he will certainly be tighter in his second start off a near two-month layoff; rates top billing. The lone first-time starter **CREATIVE CLASS** has hints of green in his pedigree and will try the grass for the first time for trainer Wayne Mackey, whose outfit is capable of winning with a debut runner, and this gray fellow sports a pretty consistent work tab at Lexington's The Thoroughbred Center since late March. It's a tall order for a horse to win its first start around two-turns, but this gelding catches a soft bunch and could find himself on the early lead if he breaks well under Jack Gilligan, as there is a dearth of front-running types assembled in this spot, and this gelding has a sharp "bullet" :48 1/5 gate move over a traditionally slow, deep surface on June 2 and followed that breeze up with a "bullet" five-panel work in 1:02 3/5 seven days later. He's 8-1 on the morning line; demands your attention in the paddock and post parade—watch the tote board. **SUNNY KITTEN** hasn't been seen at the races since last September and has made one start off the claim, where he failed to beat a horse and finished 27 lengths off the win facing maiden claiming foes for a quarter late in the 2016 meet at Ellis. He hasn't fared well in his past two starts off the shelf, but the best effort of his

career was on the local turf course at this class level. Son of Kitten's Joy gets in light with the "bug boy" Rogelio Miranda named for the assignment, and the apprentice won yesterday's opener on Solid Red Ruby (\$11.20); contends on the drop. ANFIELD beat on horse on debut at Indiana Grand facing maiden allowance stock at 60-1, but he was fractious behind the gate while loading, which had to have taken something out of his chances on that day. He takes a substantial class drop in this spot for trainer Conor Murphy; improvement expected with the class relief.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-1-3

RACE TWO

The heavy morning line favorite (2-5) RESTLESS RAMBLER has the field in the second half of the early double over the proverbial barrel, as he's the "speed of the speed" in this compact field and draws the one-hole for trainer Bernie Flint. Fleet-of-foot bay son of Ghostzapper made short work of a slightly tougher group of \$5K starter allowance types in his last start at Churchill Downs, and he gets wheeled back off 13 days rest in this affair. He reeled off splits of :21, :44, :56 2/5 and 1:10 flat in that heat while winning by five and a quarter lengths, and the other early pace threats in this spot (ROBERTO GATO and COMO SE LLAMA) don't have that kind of early lick. He always breaks running, will be tough to collar, and has won his past three main track starts by open lengths; holds all the aces. The veteran campaigner COMO SE LLAMA steps up in class out of open \$10K claiming company into this \$5K starter allowance/\$7K optional claiming test and will make his first start since being re-claimed by the high-percentage Karl Broberg outfit. Texas-bred pressed a quick pace and gamely prevailed on this class level by a head in his last start at Ellis Park last summer, and he figures to get a similar trip in this spot stalking/pressing the top choice. He leads the field in career earnings; contender. FLEET GOLD DIGGER hooked a razor sharp Ship Disturber (\$6), who won his fourth straight race on the rise in yesterday's nightcap, and this gelded son of Not For Love has finished in the money in four-of-six lifetime starts in Henderson. I like the turn back to a distance at which he's a perfect one-for-one, and he demonstrated a nice turn of foot from off the pace the last time he was seen locally, where he won a conditioned \$5K affair by open lengths; can't dismiss based on his affinity for the local surroundings. FLYING MR K. invades from Fairmount Park for trainer Leroy Hellman, but this gray son of Giacomo is a perfect two-for-two lifetime at this five and a half-furlong trip and was only beaten two lengths against \$10K starter types at Ellis last summer. Late running gelding will get plenty of early pace in front of him to set up his late kick, and he's a juicy 6-1 on the morning line; using in exotic wagers.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-6-3

RACE THREE

FUNNY QUESTONS has run well in his past two starts off the sidelines and returns to the races off a near two-month hiatus in this spot for trainer Steve Hobby, who is looking to have a big day in Henderson, as he also has the live entrant Magician Man in today's first race on the program. Five-year-old son of Quality Road was squeezed back at the start in his last race and hit best stride too late in a six-furlong heat that went in a blistering 1:07 4/5 over a speed-favoring racetrack. He should love the extra sixteenth of a mile in distance in this affair, it doesn't hurt that he takes a significant class drop, and he's a consistent horse that has finished in the money in seven-of-10 lifetime starts; choice. **MAHALO JOHN** broke his maiden for a \$40,000 price tag at Aqueduct back in early April but has been in way over his head in his past two outings facing \$50K starter allowance company in Louisville, and he drops into the \$30K "non-winners of two lifetime" ranks in this spot for trainer Steve Asmussen, whose outfit is winning at a high-percentage at the tilt. The gray has placed in 50 percent of his lifetime starts; contends on the drop. **DOS CUERNOS** creeps up in class for the John Hancock barn—who got off the duck winning yesterday's sixth race with Leroi's Thrill (\$14.80)—and this gray gelding has a license to improve making his second start off a near two-month layoff. He was making up ground late in a heat that went in a snappy 1:10 4/5 in his last start and is another that should appreciate the slight stretch out in this spot. He's 8-1 on the morning line and will be tighter this go-around; threat at a square price. **DARK ARDEN** has been wide at the quarter-pole in his past two starts, has been first-or-second in 50 percent of his outings this year, and will run without blinkers for the first time in seven starts in this heat for trainer Tim Glyshaw. He failed to menace when stepping up to this class level in his last start, but he'll like turning back slightly to this six and a half-furlong trip. He gets in light with the seven-pound apprentice Rayan Gazader named to ride; more interested as the price increases.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-2-7

RACE FOUR

PRINCESS PRINCESS is stakes-placed sprinting on the grass and will make her first start for the white-hot Brad Cox barn, whose outfit has won four-of-six starts to date at the nascent meet, and this chestnut miss was only a length and change off stablemate Inveniam Viam, a winner of three straight races who will run later on the card in the \$50K Ellis Park Turf Stakes. She's in a snug spot in this \$40K optional claiming/money since allowance race, has effective tactical speed, and gets an advantageous inside post draw; gets the nod for hot connections. **FROZEN HANNAH** was a one-paced third in her last start off a layoff, and she hasn't been seen at the races since last New Year's Eve. Her last win was against \$50K

conditioned claiming types at Belmont last September, but she's another that has turf black type and drops out of the \$75,000 Pago Hop at Fair Grounds where she faced next-out winner Believe in Bertie. She's a consistent filly that has placed in seven-of-nine lifetime starts, and six-of-seven grass outings. Her tactical speed should serve her well in this heat; fires fresh. **YOU CHEATED**'s best past form has been on the Polytrack at Turfway Park over the winter, but this bay daughter of Colonel John ran a big race on the grass three starts back at Keeneland at 27-1, and she hooked a tough field in her last turf start at Churchill facing the likes of Sassy Little Lila and Burma Road. There's plenty of early pace signed on in this affair to set up her late kick; dirt-to-turf angle intriguing. **FIELDS OF SONG (IRE)** has legitimate excuses in her past two starts, as she was carried out wide in the lane and bumped around in her last race at Churchill on June 15, and she stumbled at the start in the penultimate effort and lost all chance. She's another that is minor stakes placed on the weeds, and she was only beaten five lengths and change by a speedy useful filly in Morticia in just her second start stateside; contends with a clean trip.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-3-6

RACE FIVE

DIAMONDS AT DAWN steps up to face winners for the first time out of the \$30K maiden claiming ranks, but I like the way she won that race on June 10 at Churchill, where she rated off a quick pace, made a five-wide move at the quarter-pole and won going away. Bay daughter of Lookin At Lucky figures to sit a dream trip stalking likely pace-setters **LADY CONSTANCE** and **SOFT CHEESE**; choice. **SOFT CHEESE** drops out of the \$200K Sunland Park Oaks into this "non-winners of two lifetime" affair for trainer Kenny McPeck, and she's a free-wheeling daughter of Quality Road that broke her maiden on debut in Hot Springs back in early March. She hasn't been seen at the races in a tick over three months, but she has been training forwardly and will appreciate the class relief; contender. **LADY CONSTANCE** will be an early pace presence along with **SOFT CHEESE** and steps up in class out of conditioned claiming company, but this is a light race and she was only beaten four lengths and change two starts back in a "live" "a other than" allowance event at Churchill. She's tractable enough to rate and finish; threat. **BERNADREAMY** pressed a moderate pace and was bankrupt in the drive in her first start against winners for trainer Philip Bauer, whose outfit is coming off a solid meet in Louisville, but that was on the grass, and the lone win of her career was in an off-the-turf heat over a "fast" racetrack. I like the turn back in distance from a nine-furlong heat to this one-mile trip, and she gets reunited with Calvin Borel; lots to like.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-4-7

RACE SIX

I'm not crazy about the wide post draw, but I do like the chances of the first-time starter **LORD REVELSTOKE** in this five and a half-furlong turf sprint, especially at 10-1 on the morning line. Son of First Samurai (by Giant's Causeway) is out of a stakes winning Monashee Mountain mare that was also trained by Jimmy Corrigan. He's bred to handle the grass and has been firing "bullet" works at will over the traditionally deep and slow going at Lexington's The Thoroughbred Center, a surface that legged up the winner of today's first race—Creative Class (\$11); "live" price play on debut. **BANTU** is a bay Stormy Atlantic colt out of a stakes placed Gone West mare that will make his career debut for the high-percentage Brendan Walsh barn and is bred to relish the grass. Barn doesn't click at a high-percentage with its debut runners, but this colt hasn't missed a beat in the A.M preparing for start number one; contends right out of the box. **OVERCRITIZED** is another debut runner that is by a son of Giant's Causeway shipping in from The Thoroughbred Center, and this son of Hold Me Back is sitting on a useful :48 3/5 move from the gate on June 30. Connections only paid \$10K for this guy, but the Caramori barn hits at a solid clip with its debut runners; demands your attention in the paddock and post parade. **TRES EQUIS** is a first-time starter that hails from the high-percentage Mike Maker barn, and this bay son of Stay Thirsty (by Bernardini) is bred to handle the weeds. His work tab is solid and gap-free since late May; watch the tote board.

SELECTIONS: 9-5-4-8

RACE SEVEN

The well bred Union Rags filly **UNION WAY** has never put forth a poor effort for trainer Rusty Arnold, who has seen two of his five starters at the tilt win. I like the turn back in distance from a nine-furlong race to this one-mile trip, and this best race of this fillies' career was on the dirt two starts back, where she stalked the pace, made the lead and gave way in the shadow of the wire after a long stretch drive. She's 6-1 on the morning line; has the looks of an overlay. **UPSTAGE** will look to end a case of seconditis in this spot, as she has been wide at the quarter-pole in her past three starts and is favorably drawn breaking from the two-hole this afternoon with the scratches of Bid List and Sierra Forest to her inside. She's a consistent filly that has placed in five-of-eight lifetime starts; contender. **BOURGEOIS** is the recipient of an unfortunate wide post draw, but this dark bay or brown daughter of Awesome Again was only a head off **UPSTAGE** in her last start and has been honest in three prior dirt outings for trainer Dale Romans. She gets in light with the seven-pound apprentice named for the assignment, and I like how she overcame a troubled start in her last race to be a game third. She has some early lick, which will help

her overcome the wide post position; threat. **KITTY UNION** will make her first start outside of California for the high-percentage Brad Cox barn, and this Union Rags filly is bred to love the stretch out to a mile trip in this spot. She's failed to hit the board in two prior outings but exits some quick SoCal heats and she'll be prominent early on the stretch out. Her Churchill Downs work tab is sharp; contends in a contentious heat.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-11-7

RACE EIGHT—The Ellis Park Turf Stakes

INVENIAM VIAM is a perfect three-for-three off the claim for trainer Brad Cox, and I like how this bay mare retained winning form while stepping up in class in her last start at Churchill Downs, where she out-finished fellow entrant **BURMA ROAD** on the square despite being in the six-path at the quarter-pole in her first start off a near two-month layoff. She'll be tighter in her second start off the shelf for hot connections, has finished in the money in an impressive 11 of her past 13 starts, and is a three-parts of length off winning her past five races; choice. With a handful of scratches, **RATTATAPTAP** draws into this mile and a sixteenth test on the weeds for Hall of Famer Bill Mott, and she drops in class out of a grade three stakes sprinting on a Tapeta synthetic surface in her last outing at Woodbine back on June 4, her first off a near two-month hiatus. She beat an honest mare in Queenofthepalace three starts back in a competitive high-end optional claiming "three other than" allowance at Tampa Bay Downs back in February, she'll be tighter this time around, and will appreciate the surface change back to grass; contender. **POUR GIRL** is a "live" longshot at 30-1 on the morning line, as the dark bay daughter of Twirling Candy has never run a bad race on the grass for trainer Sam Logsdon, and she has never been worse than second over the local course. She was kissed into second in her last start behind a hard-knocking mare in Sugar Cube in a roughly-run race, she beat a good field in an "a other than" allowance heat at Keeneland back in the spring, and was only a neck off the win at 50-1 five starts back against a salty bunch of \$50K starter allowance types at Churchill; contends at a price. **BURMA ROAD** is a consistent Street Boss filly that has never been worse than third on the weeds, but she has faltered on the front-end in her past three cracks at this mile and a sixteenth trip, and she was beaten on the square by the top choice in her last start at Churchill on June 3; likely for part, taking a stand against for top honors.

SELECTIONS: 9-14-5-10

RACE NINE

MORE THAN KISSES was the beaten favorite in her last start at Churchill Downs, but she was the recipient of a wide trip and was only six lengths

behind next-out winner Sully's Dream. She takes a substantial class drop from \$40K conditioned claiming company into this \$16K affair for trainer Steve Margolis, and she has a touch of tactical speed. Jockey Gabe Saez has a pair of wins on today's program; rates top billing. **BRILLIANT KITTEN** will take her first crack at winners in this spot but is coming off a convincing maiden score at Indiana Grand for a \$15K tag, and she gets a positive rider change to Chris Landeros. She'll get a ground-saving trip on the hedge and takes the next natural step up in class; contender. **CAPE DIVA** was a sneaky good fifth in her turf debut at Churchill Downs, as she was only beaten three lengths and change for all the money at 39-1 despite having to steady on the clubhouse turn. She has a license to improve in the third start of her current form cycle; threat. **OPEN INVITATION** won her last start off a layoff and returns to the races off a two-month plus freshening in this spot for trainer John Ortiz, whose barn is one-for-one at the meet and hits at a solid clip first off the claim. Class drop + blinkers on noted; rates a shot in a wide-open heat.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-10-6