

PLAYING THE \$100,000 PICK FOUR

Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races is offering bettors a ***\$100,000 guaranteed Pick 4*** that concludes with the Grade 2, \$1.5 million Charles Town Classic. Pick the winners of those four races, and you could be in for a major payday; last year's \$2 Pick 4 concluding with the Classic paid \$2,527 to winners. We asked The Racing Biz's handicappers to check out the card and share their thoughts. (In the "Consensus Pick 4," each selection appeared on at least two of four 'cappers' cards; the "Long Ticket" includes those horses that appeared in the top slot on any 'capper's card, plus spreading out in the 12th.)

RACE 9: ITS BINN TOO LONG STAKES (4:20 post time)

- ❖ **\$50,000 purse**
- ❖ **WV-bred fillies, 3yo, 4 1/2 furlongs**

Ollie Figgins trainee #4 **Country Mamma** found the going rough in the Caesar's Wish at Laurel Park but returns to her home court, where she's won four of five with a good second. Jose Montano will replace regular rider Xavier Perez... Improving Crystal Pickett trainee #8 **Get the Sensation** has won two straight by open lengths and figures to be on the engine from the get-go as she leaves from the outside stall... If the track comes up wet, give a long look to #7 **Lady Jillet**, whose lone win was an impressive score at the trip in the slop last December... What #3 **My Sister Caro** and Country Mamma share is that neither is as good as Harlan's Destiny, both having finished second to that runner. This Tim Grams trainee has been away since October.

RACE 10: ROBERT HILTON MEMORIAL STAKES

- ❖ **\$100,000 purse**
- ❖ **3yo, 7 furlongs,**

Though idle since winning the Big Drama at Delta Downs in January, Tom Amoss trainee #3 **Control Stake** looms as the one to beat here. Amoss doesn't ship without a reason, and the runner sports a comfy class edge over the group, as well as Cornelio Velazquez in the irons... #5 **Arkaybee** has won three of four lifetime outings for longtime local trainer Ronney Brown and thrashed Attempt to Dream (below) in their lone meeting... One of the top local contenders, #8 **Attempt to Dream** has won three of his five starts over the strip for owner-trainer Angel Gonzalez, including one at the distance; backers will hope the horse-for-course angle is in play here..... #4 **One More Time** ran second in three straight stakes to speedy stablemate Hear the Chatter over the strip, ran credibly with a troubled trip last out, but his most recent try against open company was not promising... #7 **Noteworthy Peach**, who may go in Pimlico's Tesio instead of this spot, enters off an impressive win against well-regarded Top of Mind and will once again have Horacio Karamanos aboard...

RACE 11: SUGAR MAPLE STAKES, PRESENTED BY CANTER MID-ATLANTIC

- ❖ **\$150,000 purse**
- ❖ **Fillies and mares, 4yo and up, 7 furlongs**

Defending champ #7 **Flattering Bea** has won five of seven over the strip, including the Violet, by four lengths, last out; local rider Jose Montano will do the honors for trainer Crystal Pickett... David Jacobson trainee #6 **Frivolity** ran a good

CONSENSUS PICK 4

- > RACE 9 - 4, 8
- > RACE 10 - 3, 5, 7
- > RACE 11 - 1, 7
- > RACE 12 - 4

\$2 Ticket cost: \$24

LONG TICKET

- > RACE 9 - 4, 7
- > RACE 10 - 3, 5, 7
- > RACE 11 - 2, 6, 7
- > RACE 12 - 2, 4, 6

\$2 Ticket cost: \$108

second to stakes winner She's Ordained last out -- but that was three months and an inconclusive work tab ago... **#5 Printasticat** enters in the best form of her career, having seen a three-race win streak snapped last out when second in the Maryland-bred Conniver. But she's winless at Charles Town... **#1 Nesso** ran third in the G3 Charles Town Oaks a year ago, an invader with local form. Enters off a win and rates a look on best... **#2 Found** delivered an eye-popping effort last out, beating local allowance foes by 10, and she's won two of three over the strip; tough spot, but if not now, when?... Flint Stites trainee **#4 Dallas Cowgirl** loves her some Charles Town (5-3-1-1), and though third behind Flattering Bea last out in her stakes debut, retains plenty of upside potential.

RACE 12: GRADE 2 CHARLES TOWN CLASSIC

The Favorite. In his first start outside of California, **#4 Shared Belief** will go off as the prohibitive choice -- and will deserve every bit of bettors' love... Trained by Jerry Hollendorfer and ridden by Mike Smith, Shared Belief arrives with 10 wins from 11 lifetime starts, earnings of nearly \$3 million, and the budding reputation as maybe the best racehorse in the world... Has won three straight stakes Grade 1 events, since his lone defeat when bothered at the start in the Breeders' Cup Classic. Has multiple graded wins at the distance and the running style to win here, if he takes to the track.

Top contender. Making his second appearance at CT, **#6 Moreno** and rider Cornelio Velazquez may seek to control the tempo and take the field as far as they can. Finished second to Shared Belief in the Big 'Cap two back after leading but took off the pace last out... 5yo Ghostzapper gelding's a G1 winner ('14 Whitney at Saratoga) and has \$2 million+ earnings -- but just 3 wins from 25 starts... Ran a good third here a year ago but will need some things to fall just right today.

Live at a price. Although his last two victories came against modest company at Laurel Park, **#5 Page McKenney** is clearly in peak form right now after sharp wins in the Harrison Johnson Memorial and John B. Campbell... 5yo gelding owns 11 wins and career earnings of just over \$500,000 from 33 lifetime outings... He'll have the services of regular rider Horacio Karamanos. Late-running style is not ideal here, and will need pace help. It's a big step; is he ready?

FACTS AND TRENDS

- ✓ **Grade 2, \$1.5 million purse**
- ✓ **4yo and up, 1 1/8 miles**
- ✓ **7th running**
- ✓ 1st race in CT history to earn a grade
- ✓ Largest US purse outside of Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup races
- ✓ No Classic winner has wired the field.
- ✓ Tactical speed matters: all 6 prior winners were w/in 2 lengths of the lead after 3/4 mile.
- ✓ In last 2 wks... 3 of 6 winners around 3 turns led after 3/4 mile.
- ✓ One of last 6 local winners was in the one-hole to start; 3 were in the outside stall or 2nd to the outside.

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Thanks to handicappers Ted Black, Derby Bill Watson, Bobby Zen, and Frank Vespe.

And... Defending champ **#9 Imperative** arrives with an eight-race losing streak and will need a significant form reversal to reprise last year's 26-1 shocker... **#3 Street Babe** spots the field plenty of experience -- he's made just three starts -- but the talent is there: he won the G3 Mineshaft last out and registered a 110 Equibase speed fig... Grade 2 winner **#2 Vyjack** has back class, but is winless at the distance and has done his best running going shorter... **#7 General a Rod** ran in all three legs of the Triple Crown last spring without impact but enters off a win in the Challenger at Tampa Bay last out... **#1 Looking Cool**, a recent \$62,500 claim, hasn't finished better than 7th in graded tries... **#8 Warrioroftheroses** has plenty of early speed but hasn't faced this kind and hasn't placed in three tries at the distance.