

IN FOCUS – DELAWARE OAKS PICK FOUR

RACE 11 – G3 DELAWARE OAKS

Grade 3, Purse \$300,000, post time 6:35 p.m.

66th running, 3-year-old fillies, 1 1/16 miles

THE FIELD

1. **You Know Too (10-1)** – Speedy sort was the easiest kind of winner last out against allowance foes in a race that produced a next-out winner, and she showed a new dimension that day, relaxing behind the pace before making her move. But – and a big but – that was at 5 ½ furlongs, which is a long way from today’s two-turn distance. Breeding says she’ll do this, but she’ll need a career-best effort to contend here.
2. **Proud and Fearless (8-1)** – Rapidly improving sort bested her elders easily last out and looks like she’s ready to take the plunge here. She brings a three-race winning streak to the party and has been training well since her last.
3. **It Tiz Well (8-5)** – Gotta believe trainer Jerry Hollendorfer isn’t shipping east from California without having every intention of getting the money here, and this miss has kept the right company. A G3 winner, she finished third in the Santa Anita Oaks behind freakish winner Paradise Woods – but just a couple behind runner-up Abel Tasman, who’s won two straight G1 races since. She had a rough trip last out but certainly has every right to run big here.
4. **Modacious (4-1)** – Thrashed as the favorite last out with no great excuse in the Light Hearted over the strip, this one has kept decent company – running in a pair of G2 events at GP – but looks likely to need a big step forward to take this one.
5. **Berned (9-2)** – Throw out the debacle in the G1 Starlet, and this Bernardini filly hasn’t done much wrong. She was beaten less than a length when second in the G3 Tempted behind Miss Sky Warrior, and that

runner ran off a streak of four straight graded wins. This runner, now in the Graham Motion barn, was clearly best last out in winning an allowance at MTH over Light Hearted show horse Teresa Z. Note that Motion and rider F. Lynch hit at 35 percent together.

6. **Actress (5-2)** – First try around two turns did the trick for this Tapit filly, who came from the clouds to win the G2 Black-Eyed Susan at long odds. She hasn’t run since and shows just a single work in the interim. That’s one possible cause for concern; another is that there just doesn’t appear to be enough pace to give this one the setup she’s going to want.

THE PICKS

1. **#3 It Tiz Well** – Mmm, that chalk sure is tasty; tactical ability, company lines, connections say this one’s the winner.
2. **#2 Proud and Fearless** – Crushed her elders last out in what on paper looked like a wide-open affair; can’t be more formful than this miss.
3. **#5 Berned** – Draw a line through the G1 Starlet and this one hasn’t done a thing wrong.
4. **#6 Actress** – Deep closer likely to be compromised by pace, and concerned about lack of activity in last two months – but she’s got some talent...

RACE 8 – G3 ROBERT G. DICK MEMORIAL S.

Fillies and mares, 3yo and up, 1 3/8 miles turf

\$200,000 purse, post time 4:50 P.M.

THE PICKS

1. **#1 Bishop's Pond (10-1)** – The only runner here with a win at the trip arrives off a useful try in the 1 1/16 mile Eatontown. Consistent sort has competed against similar, and figures to be a forward factor...
2. **#4 Zipessa (2-1)** – Major class advantage for a runner who's made nine of 12 career starts in graded company, winning last year's G3 Dr. James Penney Memorial. Interesting to see this Stidham trainee picks up money rider Jersey Joe Bravo...
3. **#9 Paige (3-1)** – Recent form makes her competitive here, and patient trainer Clement has a positive ROI off similar layoffs. Only mount for NY-based rider Cancel.
4. **#6 Guilty Twelve (12-1)** – Improving mare kicked off '17 with a win last out, and two back ran credibly in stake at KD, which produced a next-out G1 winner...

RACE 9 – DASHING BEAUTY S.

Fillies and mares, 3yo and up, 6 furlongs

\$50,000 purse, post time 5:25 p.m.

THE PICKS

1. **#4 Spanish Concert (8-1)** – Owns six wins at this trip, including in Tampa's Minaret three back, when she beat next-out G3 winner Southern Ring. Could be speed of the speed here with Daniel Centeno up...
2. **#10 Sweet On Smokey (7-2)** – Veteran looks to defend title here, gave a good account of herself last out when third – beaten just two lengths – in the Skipat at Pimlico after a troubled trip. Working well...
3. **#5 Bodacious Babe (8-1)** – Needs to find her '16 and early '17 form, but if the morning line is a guide, the price will be square...

4. **#8 Malibu Princess (6-1)** – Improving Rudy Rodriguez trainee has been checking off conditions and makes first foray into stakes company here. May appreciate the cutback in distance here after emptying out in last...

RACE 10 – CAPE HENLOPEN S.

3-year olds and up, 1 1/2 miles turf

\$50,000 purse, post time 6:02 p.m.

THE PICKS

1. **#11 Street Fashion (4-1)** – Has finished behind *Renown* twice, including in this event, by a nose, last year, but enters off a good allowance victory at BEL and figures to find a good spot to run from. If he's going to turn the tables, this might be the race...
2. **#3 Postulation (15-1)** – Trainer Graham used this race to set up *Hardest Core* for win in the '14 G1 Arlington Million. Has seen some terrific runners in last two...
3. **#6 Renown (3-1)** – Graded winner closed 21 lengths in the middle of a strangely run Belmont Gold Cup before fading from the scene, but if we toss that, the defending champ gives every indication of being a major player here...
4. **#4 Top of Mind (5-1)** – Nearly got the money in '16 G2 Commonwealth Turf Cup, was beaten just two in the Henry S. Clark (see Postulation above). Note 7-furlong work in preparation ...

Playing the Pick 4

- 50-cent wager starting with Race 8

Ticket (cost: \$36)

RACE 8 – 1, 4, 6, 9

RACE 9 – 4, 10

RACE 10 – 3, 6, 11

RACE 11 – 2, 3, 5