

IN FOCUS:

DE FRANCIS DASH DAY STAKES

RACE 3: SELIMA STAKES

- **Race particulars: Post time 2:10 p.m., \$100,000 purse, 6 furlongs (turf), Two-year-old fillies.**
1. **#8 Wise Gal (5-2)** – Einstein filly rallied to win debut, and race shape here makes a repeat a distinct possibility, as she'll sit off several early types. Jockey Hamilton had a big opening weekend here, taking 4-of-10.
 2. **#1 Light Up the Town (7-2)** – Hard to come up with a more productive barn than this one with two-year-olds, and this miss didn't disappoint on debut, setting a fast pace and going on to win fairly easily at MTH. Shows two sharp works since
 3. **#2 Artattack (20-1)** – Had to drop into claiming ranks to graduate, which she did three back. Tries grass for the first time, and breeding says she'll like it – by top turfer Artie Schiller and out of a dam who won twice on the green...

RACE 5: LAUREL DASH

- **Race particulars: Post time 3:10 p.m., \$100,000 purse, 6 furlongs (turf), 3yo and up**
1. **#8 Snowday (7-2)** – Though just a five-time winner in 33 career starts, Willard Thompson trainee enters with three wins in six tries, including the two-back My Frenchman at MTH – but even more impressive is last out third, beaten less than a length, against a salty crew in the G3 Turf Monster at PRX. His tactical speed's an asset, and outer post will give him a shot to pick his spot.

2. **#5 Spring to the Sky (8-1)** – Bruce Brown trainee won '15 edition, and though he's inconsistent, rates consideration on best. Ran a big one two back after throwing his head at the start and well behind the pace, rallying to just miss. Though he's done best work in front, that showed new tenacity.
3. **#6 Dream Mover (6-1)** – Jimmy Jerkens trainee made his North American debut a winner despite losing his footing and finding himself in the rear of the field early, rallying to wear down his foes. Shows three sharp works since then and in his second start of '17 owns the right to move forward here...

RACE 6: ALL ALONG STAKES

- **Race particulars: Post time 3:40 p.m., \$150,000 purse, 1 1/16 miles (turf), Fillies and mares 3yo and up**
1. **#3 Light Up Our World (7-2)** -- Hails from A. Delacour barn who's 26% in non-graded stakes; filly is winless in three starts in the U.S. while being the bridesmaid twice including when post time favorite in last out G3 Violet with less than ideal trip
 2. **#5 On Leave (2-1)** -- No shame in finishing 3¼-lengths behind Lady Eli in G2 Ballston Spa at Sar; only other off-the-board finish came in G1 QEII at Kee when 4th; makes 12th career start, 1st w/o JL Ortiz in the irons; "Shug" turns to local rider F. Boyce
 3. **#7 Juno (4-1)** -- Veteran of six straight graded stakes races on the West Coast should find these gals a tad easier to try to take gate-to-wire as trainer N. Drysdale seeks to get this BRZ-bred her first win in U.S. in 8th such start after going 5 for 5 in her homeland

RACE 7: SENSIBLE LADY TURF DASH

- **Race particulars: Post time 4:10 p.m., \$100,000 purse, 6 furlongs (turf), Fillies and mares 3yo and up**

1. **#10 Exaggerated (12-1)** – Intriguing price play has raced just once this year – in April – and has been thrashed in her last two. But she is a stakes winner sprinting on the lawn and has kept the right sort of company: the top three from last all won their follow-ups, including Lady Aurelia, who won a G1 in England. Delacour knows how to get a horse ready to win off the bench
2. **#5 Ginger N Rye (9-5)** – Solid Sagamore runner won twice at the Spa, the two best races of her career, last out enjoying a dream inside trip to earn the win in the Smart N Fancy. She's a little more tactical than **#2 Miss Ella** and rates a solid chance to score a hat trick here.
3. **#8 Paquita Coqueta (20-1)** – The likely speed of the speed in here gets blinks on after clearing and stopping in her last two – but note the wicked early fractions in both. The pace may not be quite so contentious in this event, which might give her a shot to carry her speed farther – but it's hard to see the added ground as a positive.

RACE 8: LAUREL TURF CUP

- **Race particulars: Post time 4:40 p.m., \$100,000 purse, 1 ½ miles (turf), 3yo and up**

1. **#2 Ghost Bay (20-1)** -- Seems to want more than the 8-9 furlongs as bloodlines suggest since leaning towards turf races at age 5; gets 12 furlongs here with top local turf rider aboard and can continue to improve on BRIS#s if pace materializes
2. **#6 Infinite Wisdom (3-1)** -- Can boast the best career turf BRIS# (106) of this bunch which he earned in gate-to-wire score going an eighth longer than today's contest; should have it all his own way on the front
3. **#8 Manitoulin (5-2)** -- Continues to get better with every start this year; had all

kinds of trouble in G3 Arlington Hcp two back; should relish more distance based on pedigree; trainer J. Toner 23% in non-graded stakes

RACE 9: G3 DE FRANCIS DASH

- **Race particulars: Post time 5:10 p.m., \$250,000 purse, 6 furlongs, 3yo and up**

1. **#7 Favorite Tale (5-1)** – Show horse in the 2015 Breeders' Cup Sprint returned with a useful try last out after 18-month vacation, a game second to The Man, who's won seven straight. Can move forward, and Paco Lopez In the irons should help a runner who figures to be involved throughout.
2. **#4 Whitmore (7-5)** – Has won six of seven at the trip, including two G3s. Away since a third-place finish in the G2 True North, he shows a solid work tab. The one to beat.
3. **#3 Awesome Banner (7-2)** – Ken Decker trainee sure has kept tough company and showed good tenacity last out, fighting up to second. Never worse than third in seven tries at the trip.

RACE 10: LAUREL FUTURITY

- **Race particulars: Post time 5:40 p.m., \$100,000 purse, 6 furlongs (turf), Two-year-olds**

1. **#5 Therapist (10-1)** -- Easily beat NY-breds in debut over Bel turf with a strong late move w/o feeling the whip; trainer Clement solid w/ shippers, turf starters and those having similar layoff; can get right trip.
2. **#8 Blue Ridge Scout (20-1)** -- After getting trounced in debut on dirt which turned out to be a key race, local runner came back to win over muddy track; New Year's Day gelding should appreciate first on turf
3. **#1 Nauti Boy (15-1)** -- Nice debut win at 29-1 on the Lrl turf; connections set sights a bit too high shipping to Saratoga to run in pair of G3s; class relief should help.