



IN FOCUS:

WEST VIRGINIA BREEDERS CLASSICS NIGHT

RACE 8: \$350,000 WEST VIRGINIA BREEDERS CLASSIC

- ✓ 10:30pm EDT, \$350,000 purse for WV-bred three-year-olds and up, 1 1/8 miles

THE FIELD IN FULL

1. **Big Bad Dude (20-1):** Has run behind several of these and will need a career-best effort in here; owns two wins at the trip, which might be his strongest argument
2. **North Atlantic (3-1):** Improving Runco trainee got the head-bob last out for second straight win and hasn't been worse than third in six '17 starts; second in his only try at the trip, winless in five stakes tries – but none this year
3. **Charitable Annuity (9-5):** Not inclined to judge the late-arriving fifth in the Gall too harshly, as he was facing a loose-on-the-lead foe at a less-than-ideal distance, but comments of trainer Casey - "He didn't come back great from his last workout" - have to give you pause at 9-5 odds; on best he wins here, and probably should be included in multi-race wagers, but worth trying to beat in win bets
4. **Ello Govna (4-1):** Good trip last out behind a pair of speed rivals, even with having to wait for room near the head of the lane; this Figgins trainee enters in good form; last went faster than a 7-furlong stake on the same card; the bad news here, though, is the unsightly 0-for-4 record around three turns at CT, never better than fourth
5. **Rockhopper Penguin (20-1):** Ronney Brown trainee's been in the money 10 of 13 this season and three times in three tries at the distance, but he's been keeping much easier company than these
6. **Weekend Liberty (15-1):** Has certainly taken a step forward since trainer Runco stretched him to three-turn events (5-2-2-1 since the switch) but he's finished behind some of today's rivals and will need to step forward in his first try since June 29; regular pilot Bocachica chooses the trainer's other runner here, North Atlantic
7. **Green Time (20-1):** Profitable claim's best shot looks to be to grab the early lead and take 'em as far as he can; has made three career tries around three turns, giving up the lead late to lesser in all three
8. **Profit Machine (20-1):** Ran fifth, beaten 13 lengths, in this event a year ago, and it's pretty hard to see a different outcome here; first off the claim for trainer Grams, who's waited four months for this start
9. **Follow the Notion (6-1):** Pretty good effort in the Gall when bounced around out of the gate and wide on the far turn, he ran on willingly before flattening out late to be third; owns the right to improve in his second start off a five-month break, but the question mark is distance; in lone career three-turn try he ran evenly to be third in the '16 A Huevo behind Charitable Annuity; rider Montano goes to Ello Govna
10. **Blazin Luck (10-1):** Will have to figure out way to turn tables on rivals like Ello Govna and Charitable Annuity, who both have thrashed him; late-closer gets Xavier Perez in the irons as Bocachica goes to North Atlantic
11. **(also eligible) Navigate (20-1):** Was sixth in this race a year ago and looks to be in for similar if he draws in
12. **(ae) Run Real Quiet (20-1):** Unlikely to draw in and looks to be overmatched if he does
13. **(ae) Charitable Mark (20-1):** Hard to imagine a horse eased against \$12,500 claimers last out contending here

RACE 6: WV LOTTERY B.C. PICKS

- **Race particulars: Post time 9:30 p.m., \$75,000 purse, 7 furlongs, WV-bred 3yo**
1. **#6 Aaron's Tap (6-1):** Chased Unrideabull to no avail two back but might find a better trip here with other speedy types to do some of the heavy lifting early; plenty of upside for this lightly raced sort; followed Leavitt with a nice win, and one of seven to run back has taken their next
 2. **#9 Grumpelstiltskin (2-1)** – NY-based runner has given pretty good accountings of himself at BEL and SAR and with excuses in last two; if he takes to the track, he could be tough in here, though note he's stretching out after having lost ground in the final furlong in all four prior starts
 3. **#8 Unrideabull (9-5):** Speedster owns back-to-back stakes wins on the front end going 7f and will look for the hat trick here; major impediment to a repeat performance figures to be Grumpelstiltskin, who's also shown plenty of early zip while sprinting
 4. **#7 Brass Bull (10-1):** Nothing wrong with his effort in the Leavitt when he made a menacing move while hung out wide before emptying out; has been training forwardly towards this for top trainer Runco

RACE 7: ONION JUICE B.C. PICKS

- **Race particulars: Post time 10:00 p.m., \$80,000 purse, 7 furlongs, WV-bred 3yo and up**
1. **#8 Royal Blue (7-2):** Owns right to improve in third start off a short rest and two back showed he can compete with these; has tactical speed to find a good spot
 2. **#10 Help a Brother (8-5):** Won this event in '15 and just missed last year; ran well last out and winner chooses the Classic; has ability to lead or stalk and figures tough in here but must overcome tough outer post
 3. **#4 Hear the Chatter (12-1):** Early promise hasn't quite panned out as hoped, but he's still been a productive local runner; will need to find '16 or early '17 form here -- not

out of the question, as long as you get decent odds

4. **#13 (ae) Prince of Windsor (4-1):** Could pose serious trouble if he draws in (which is unlikely); beaten two lengths last out in the Gall with trouble; but winless in '17

RACE 9: WVBC DISTAFF PICKS

- **Race particulars: Post time 11:00 p.m., \$80,000 purse, 1 1/8 miles, WV-bred fillies and mares 3yo and up**
1. **#7 Spa Creek (5-2):** One of several to finish well back last out in the Sadie Hawkins -- with modest excuses, as she was fractious and bumped around at the gate -- but this 9f trip is what she does best (5-2-2-0), and she's the only one with wins at the trip; looking for a threepeat here
 2. **#8 Lies and Scandals (10-1):** Fiber Sonde filly bypasses 3yo filly race at 7f to stretch out off so-so effort in the Sadie Hawkins; figures to be forwardly placed early and happy to get away from Moonlit Song
 3. **#6 Romantic Cork (2-1):** Won 7f Division of Tourism last year, then ran second in the My Sister Pearl at today's distance, her only try going 9f; had a two-race win streak snapped last out against the terrific Moonlit Song, but no shame in that; can run well in this spot
 4. **#5 Spanish Moss (15-1):** Trainer Runco has a preposterously good record stretching horses from sprint to route distances (39%, positive ROI); lightly raced sophomore has run OK in last two, and it's notable that Runco bypasses soft 3yo filly spot going 7f to run long here

PLAYING THE PICK FOUR

- ✓ 50-cent wager
- ✓ **Race 6:** 6, 8, 9
- ✓ **Race 7:** 8, 10 (4)
- ✓ **Race 8:** 2, 3, 9 (4)
- ✓ **Race 9:** 6, 7, 8 (5)

TOTAL COST: \$27.00

Cost if including horses in optional horses in (parens): \$72.00