



IN FOCUS: WEST VIRGINIA BREEDERS CLASSICS ALL STAKES PICK 4

RACE 6 – WV ONION JUICE BREEDERS CLASSIC

Storyline:

A pair of past winners tangle in this wide-open affair. Help a Brother, who won this race in 2015 and again last year, returns to defend his title.

But awaiting him is 2016 champ Follow the Notion, who skipped this race a year ago to tackle the Classic.

Will one of these past champs get the money today? Or can a newcomer like Fairweather Friend or Grumpelstiltskin upset the apple cart?

SELECTIONS

1. **#2 Help a Brother (7-2)** enters on 2-race win streak in quest for 3rd title
2. **#6 Fairweather Friend (4-1)** should be forwardly placed from the opening jumps
3. **#9 Grumpelstiltskin (9-2)** must recapture best form

RACE 7 – WV CAVADA BREEDERS CLASSIC

Storyline:

The Cavada offers neither the largest field nor the most money of the night – but it just might be the best race of all.

Last year's champ Moonlit Song returns to defend her crown, hunting her fifth win of 2018 – but first in stakes company this season.

Awaiting her is Anna's Bandit, who has won three stakes this year, including a triumph over Moonlit Song in the Sadie Hawkins last month.

And perhaps towering over both of them is three-year-old Late Night Pow Wow, the Javier Contreras trainee who was an upset winner of the Grade 3 Charles Town Oaks last month.

In wagering this race, it's easy to see any of these three winning – but it's very hard to see any of the other runners in the field doing so.

SELECTIONS

1. **#4 Late Night Pow Wow (6-5)** dazzled in G3 win over the strip, is a half-length from being undefeated
2. **#3 Moonlit Song (5-2)** had no excuse in the Sadie Hawkins but can make amends here – unless she gets cooked by other early speed
3. **#1 Anna's Bandit (2-1)** just keeps churning out good races, ran down #3 in last and owns three stakes wins this season

RACE 8 – WV BREEDERS CLASSIC

Storyline:

What an intriguing tussle the \$300,000 Classic is!

The slight morning line favorite, Runnin'toluvya, hasn't done a thing wrong this year and was very impressive in winning the Frank Gall Memorial Stakes last month – but he's never been three turns, or beyond seven furlongs.

The second choice, North Atlantic, has never been worse than second in six tries at the distance and was the hard-luck runner-up in this race last year. But he's breaking from the 10-hole tonight, and horses breaking from the two outer posts are 0-for-11 this year at the distance (and 0-for-22 in all three-turn races).

These two might just be good enough to overcome those "buts," but those facts invite the bettor to look at other runners. And foremost among those is Weekend Liberty, who has never been worse than third in a three-turn race locally and who was a nose behind North Atlantic in this test last year.

SELECTIONS

1. **#1 Weekend Liberty (6-1)** missed in this race by two noses last year, loves the 3-turn trip; rail post 21% in 3-turn races this year
2. **#10 North Atlantic (9-5)** loves this trip but hampered by difficult outer post
3. **#2 Runnin'toluvya (8-5)** is probably the most formful runner in the bunch but will try 3 turns for first time
4. **#8 Via Leone (10-1)** enters in good form but gets major class test

RACE 9 – WV BREEDERS CLASSIC DISTAFF

Storyline:

Trainer Jeff Runco loads up with three runners in the 10-horse field for the finale.

Among those is the favorite here, T Rex Express. A year ago, she was a good second in the Cavada and then destroyed the field in the My Sister Pearl at this nine-furlong distance. But she hasn't been nearly as sharp this year, and no one could blame you for looking around for more value than her 7-5 morning line odds offer.

Among the logical contenders: last year's runner-up in this race, Rock n' Gold, who has an unfortunate touch of seconditis (10 runner-up finishes in 24 career starts); veteran Scottish Denis, trying 1 1/8 miles for the first time; and Frozen Tundra, one of the other Runco runners, who won easily in her only three-turn try and gets the trainer's go-to rider, Arnaldo Bocachica.

SELECTIONS

1. **#3 Scottish Denis (4-1)** has chased some good rivals, stretches out for first time
2. **#7 Rock n' Gold (5-1)** does love to finish second, including in here last year
3. **#9 Frozen Tundra (10-1)** won easily in only prior 3-turn try, has trainer's go-to rider in the irons
4. **#4 T Rex Express (7-5)** needs to find 2017 form here – but if she does, she'll be a handful