

IN FOCUS

DELAWARE HANDICAP PICK FOUR

RACE 9 – G1 DELAWARE HANDICAP

Grade 1, Purse \$750,000, post time 5:30 p.m.

80th running, Fillies and mares, 3yo and up, 1 ¼ miles

THE FIELD

- Miss Mo Kelly (15-1)** – Interesting to see Gorder trainee wheel back on relatively short rest off a middling effort against allowance foes. She's a stake winner, which counts for something, but her graded tries have been pretty dismal, and she'll need a pace meltdown to compete here.
- Martini Glass (8-1)** – Local runner is as formful as can be, with three wins and a second in last four and lost by just a neck in the local prep for this, the \$100k Obeah, in which she ran well against a speed bias Two rivals from that race won next out, including stake winner Curlish Figure. Dam did her best work going two turns on the lawn, but unraced sire's offspring are 0-for-19 at 1 ¼ miles or beyond. Will need a huge one.
- Weep No More (6-1)** – Deep closer has been bested by the favorite here twice by a combined 25 lengths, including lone try at the trip. Career-best was shocking 30-1 win in '16 G1 Ashland at KEE, but she hasn't been able to replicate that effort since. The combination of blinkers on today and the stretch out might put her a bit closer to the pace early, and if others can press the favorite – an enormous, king-sized, gargantuan if – she might pose best chance at an upset.
- Line of Best Fit (12-1)** – Formful veteran knows where the wire is, owning 15 wins in 38 career starts, five in her last six tries. The problem: these were all against allowance types, and in six races, only one runner other than this one has won her next start, suggesting these might not be the toughest fields. This seven-year-old mare has never gone beyond a mile 70 yards, making this a tricky test, especially given the giant class jump. She figures to be forwardly placed early, but it'll take some doing if she's to be around late.
- Songbird (1-5)** – Any way you slice it, this four-year-old Medaglia d'Oro filly towers over her rivals: eight Grade 1 wins to her rivals' combined total of one, 10 90-plus Beyer speed figures to her rivals' combined total of one, and, for good measure, a seven-length win at her only try at 10 furlongs. She shows three sharp works since her win in the G1 Ogden Phipps to kick off her season June 10, brings regular pilot Mike Smith with her, looks to be able to control the pace if she wants – it says here all systems are go.
- Hone In (15-1)** – It would be a major shock if this Smart Strike mare were to get a piece here. The last time she recorded a Beyer speed figure above 70 on the dirt was 2015 and in her lone try against graded foes, that same year, she lost by 44 lengths.

THE PICKS

1. #5 Songbird
2. #2 Martini Glass
3. #3 Weep No More
4. #4 Line of Best Fit

RACE 6 – CARL HANFORD MEMORIAL S.

3yo and up, 1 1/16 miles

\$50,000 purse, post time 3:49 P.M.

THE PICKS

1. **#1 Ain't Got Time (3-1)** – DEL-lover had a useful first local start July 6 and on the stretch-out to a two-turn event rates a major shot in here. Won this event two years back...
2. **#2 Adirondack King (2-1)** – Enters off a good try in the G3 Salvator Mile but working on an eight-race losing streak. Can run well in second off a break ...
3. **#4 Sea Raven (8-1)** – Rubley runner has been in the money six of eight times at the trip. Can run well in second off a five-month break, and pace may play to advantage...
4. **#8 No Distortion (6-1)** – Career-best win in the Long Branch a year ago at MTH but hasn't won in last five. Jones trainee is working forwardly since last start, was well-beaten by freakish Seymourini in last but also well clear of rivals...

RACE 7 – HOCKESSIN S.

3yo and up, 6 furlongs

\$50,000 purse, post time 4:21 p.m.

THE PICKS

1. **#6 Always Sunshine (5-1)** – Toss last, on turf versus rugged group, and two back, he was compromised by a bad break on a major speed-favoring strip. Get him in the mix early, and there's no reason to think G3 winner can't compete here...
2. **#7 Chief Lion (3-1)** – Has five wins at the trip and will be winging it from the front. A clean break puts him on the lead, and his best efforts compete with these. Picks up local leader Cedeno in the irons...
3. **#2 Never Gone South (6-1)** – First blinks gave this Lynch trainee improved zip and first win since January '16. Class is there – stake-winner was a good third at big odds in

the G3 General George – and might now be ready to live up to early promise.

4. **#1 Eighty Three (2-1)** – Boy, this guy's sure kept the right sort of company, and he loves the trip – eight of nine in the money. Youngster Gaffalione in for the ride's not a bad sign, either – but question marks make short odds tough to take.

RACE 8 – G3 KENT S.

3yo, 1 1/8 miles turf

\$200,000 purse, post time 4:55 p.m.

THE PICKS

1. **#4 The Tortoise (15-1)** – Has turned in two bang-up efforts since switched to the lawn, and two from last-out win won follow-ups. Figures to be the one with the target on his back – and the class questions to answer...
2. **#5 Master Plan (2-1)** – Certainly has kept the right kind of company. Has two wins from three on the lawn and every right to added a graded score here...
3. **#2 Lunaire (9-2)** – Nothing wrong with turf work of this half to graded turf winner Sadler's Joy, as top two from last won next out. Added ground – and experience – make this one live...
4. **#6 Frostmourne (8-5)** – Scored nicely in G2 Penn Mile – but beaten rivals are 0-for-5 next out. Not concerned by the added ground – but note that rider Ortiz passes on the trip.

Playing the Pick 4

- 50-cent wager starting with Race 6

Ticket (cost: \$22.50)

RACE 6 – 1, 2, 4

RACE 7 – 2, 6, 7

RACE 8 – 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

RACE 9 – 5