



2017

In Focus: April 22 Stakes



Gary Quill

The Racing Biz

4/22/2017

Weber City Miss Stakes

RACE PARTICULARS: Race 4 (2:50pm EDT), \$125,000 guaranteed purse for 3-year-old fillies, 1 1/16 miles (Dirt), 2nd running. "Win and You're In" for G2 Black-Eyed Susan Stakes (with restrictions).

LAST YEAR A. P. Majestic won via disqualification in 1:47 2/5.



1AP Majestic was put up by disqualification in the 2016 Weber City Miss. Photo by The Racing Biz..

The Picks

1. **#3 – Jenda's Agenda** (3-5): *This undefeated daughter of Proud Citizen looked good winning her third start in the \$100k Caesar's Wish at Lrl when shipped in from New Orleans (FG), in spite of being unable to breeze for the 12 days leading up to that race, due to poor weather and track conditions; has never seen the back end of a rival at a call and may not in this event*
2. **#1 – Lights of Medina** (7-2): *Hails from the Todd Pletcher barn and bred to be a good one, but didn't break her maiden until last/4th start at Lrl when shipped in from NY; runner-up to her came back to run third as 2-1 second choice; speed figures have improved with each start and her late pace numbers in both two turn efforts are the two best in here*
3. **#4 – Forever Liesl** (4-1): *NY shipper for trainer Michelle Nevin has already made this trip down I-95 three times... game effort when runner-up to "Jenda" by 2 lengths in latest but that rival will carry 6 lbs. more today; first time going two turns should not be a problem but appears she'll have to engage the Morning Line favorite early in hopes of turning the tables*

The Rest of the Field

#2 – Frank's Folly (15-1): *Makes seventh start at fifth different venue; lone win came at this distance on a sloppy GP main oval last December when blinkers were added; an Also Ran in the two that followed then finally put in her best effort in latest outing, runner-up in one turn mile at Prx v. N1x; tough assignment here...*

#5 – Super Star (10-1): *Victim of a paceless race when 4th of four in the Caesar's Wish; unfortunately this event shapes up to be a carbon copy, unless an unexpected early speed duel ensues; has had T. McCarthy in the irons for all eight starts but he bailed to ride Jenda; the silver lining is that Sheldon Russell picks up the mount, just back after recovering from an injury*

Primonetta Stakes

RACE PARTICULARS: Race 6 (3:55pm EDT), \$75,000 guaranteed purse for fillies & mares, 3-years-old and upward, 6 furlongs (Dirt), 30th running

LAST YEAR Lady Sabelia won by a half-length in 1:10.84.

The Picks

1. **#2 – Maziette (10-1):** Lone entry for K. Gorder and mount for C. Hill who have teamed up with this 5-year-old mare in past two starts after \$25k claim at OP getting a win and runner-up on big class jumps; makes stakes debut but will need pace help for her typical stalking trip
2. **#4 – Sweet On Smokey (5-1):** Started '17 campaign winning the 6 furlong \$75k What a Summer Stakes here over a good, sealed Lrl main oval, her 7th victory from 11 starts at the distance, then was outclassed in G2 Barbara Fritchie, sent off 59-1 yet was less than 4 lengths behind winner; nice training pattern since with bullet in most recent work
3. **#1 – Appealing Maggie (9-2):** The speed of the speed as long as she gets a clean break, which were her excuses in only two races where she never got the lead and finished off-the-board; away since last September and out of training until late January; trainer M. Hushion's only entry on the card and first at current Lrl meet; serious threat to discourage foes trying to catch her
4. **#5 – Stormy Sky (5-1):** Tough spot for first race since mid-August but has won in the past first race after layoff; FL-bred 5-year-old shows up for every dance and should get a dream trip as she will likely see all rivals heading into the stretch and pick them off to get at least a minor share



2Lady Sabelia. Photo by Laurie Asseo.

The Rest of the Field

#3 – Bodacious Babe (7-2): Spends summers at Mth and winters at GP for J. Cibelli; makes first ever pit-stop at Lrl on trek north; earned 90+ Brisnet#s in past 3 starts at GP... **#6 – Next Best Thing (15-1):** 7-year-old discovered Fountain of Youth notching 3 wins in 5 starts this year, the latest in state-bred stakes... **#7 – Lovable Lady (9-2):** Wasn't entered in local state-bred stakes last month due to weather/track related disruption in training; was unlucky against "Smokey" in last race 3 months ago and would love an off track (8:2-2-4)... **#8 – Absatootly (8-1):** Only one who could run with #1 early and if she don't, she's toast; never been to Winners Circle without going gate-to-wire... **#9 – Decoratedwithstyle (30-1):** Pen-based runner is 0 for 2 at Lrl including getting buried by 23 lengths in similar event in November when sent off 157-1

Federico Tesio Stakes

RACE PARTICULARS: Race 7 (4:33pm EDT), \$125,000 guaranteed purse for 3-year-olds, 1 1/8 Miles (Dirt), 36th running, “Win and You’re In” for the Grade 1 Preakness Stakes (with restrictions)

LAST YEAR Awesome Speed won via disqualification in 1:53.31.

The Picks

1. **#5 – Carradine (8-5):** *Trainer L. Rice shippers have been winning at a 47% clip (23 for 49) this Lrl meet; this NY-bred has been defying his distance challenged bloodlines by doing quite well going two turns in his last four (2-1-1); earned career best 100 Brisnet# when he destroyed N1x foes at Aqu, his first effort not against state bred; C. Velasquez has 7 mounts on the card but make no mistake, THIS ONE is the reason he made the trip*
2. **#3 – Twisted Tom (7-2):** *Winner of the \$100k Private Terms when shipped in by trainer Chad Brown (4:2-1-1 at Lrl); took advantage of contested pace to launch a furious rally in deep stretch to get up in the final jump, beating #4; will carry 4 lbs. more today, making it equal weight with that rival but appears will continue to improve with each effort as he goes for natural Hat Trick since adding blinkers; local rider F. Lynch retains the mount*
3. **#4 – O Dionysus (5-2):** *This MD-bred Bodemeister colt has been the local 3-year-old star whose connections have pointed to this race since he easily disposed of 7 rivals in the Miracle Wood stakes then got caught by a nose to Twisted Tom (#3) after dueling through the stretch with another rival; stretching out another 1/16th should not be too much but J. Toledo needs to get him to settle and not move too soon*



3Awesome Speed (inside) won via disqualification in 2016.
Photo by Laurie Asseo.

The Rest of the Field

#1 – Hashtag Alex (15-1): *This gelded son of Afleet Alex must have been showing trainer John Servis signs of being special as he broke maiden in third career start against winners earning a gaudy 93 Brisnet# two back but got a reality check when he wasn't up to the challenge in the Private Terms, finishing 6th; gets a positive jock switch to C. Cendeno whose hand may be forced to go to the lead from the rail as none in here are strictly need-the-lead types...* **#2 – Action Everyday (5-2):** *Perfect record (2 for 2) quickly was ended when 4th in the G3 Gotham, 11 lengths behind the winner, the Derby-bound J Boys Echo; second time blinkers as trainer Todd Pletcher explained, “He has been a little bit unprofessional at times... in his second start he made the lead and tried to sort of pull himself up... we’re optimistic that he’s got some improvement in him and that he’ll continue to sort of put things mentally together and learn how to polish his races off a little bit.”*

Dahlia Stakes

RACE PARTICULARS: Race 8 (5:05pm EDT), \$75,000 guaranteed purse for fillies & mares, 3-year-olds and upward, One Mile (Turf), 15th running

LAST YEAR Seeking Treasure won by a half-length in a stakes-record 1:33.99.

The Picks

1. **#8 – Cambodia** (5-2): *Blossomed since breaking maiden in turf debut in her fourth career start; has only raced on turf since (5:3-0-2); got Show purse in two similar events at FG in latest efforts while winner in last came back to repeat; has a great post to get in stalking position early drafting behind pace setters then kick it into high gear entering the stretch*
2. **#12 – Seeking Treasure** (15-1): *Upset winner (\$26.20) of this event in '16 got in a nice prep at GP 3 weeks ago showing late energy going 7½ furlongs; Blinkers off and may be a horse for the Lrl turf course (3:1-2-0); owns best Brisnet# for this trip.*
3. **#1 – Danilova** (9-2): *A winner in lone start at age 2 across the pond, ventured to the U.S. nearly a year and 3 starts later, victorious first start on Bel turf then lost a G3 at SA by a nose. Earned best Brisnet# of career over "good" Aqu turf though off the board; took winter off but very nice work tab includes a trio at 6 furlongs prepping for this race*
4. **#7 – All in Fun** (5-1): *Can boast the top Brisnet# (100) on turf but when travelling an additional furlong; has class edge on these gals but winless (4:0-1-0) at one mile indicates she may repeat last years' 4th place finish in this event; the team of HOF rider E. Prado and trainer Shug McGaughey have won 3 of 6 at current Lrl meet*



Seeking Treasure. Photo by Laurie Asseo.

The Rest of the Field

#2 – Tela (15-1): *Jock A. Cintron was listed on 3 in here on Early Entries (also #6 and #12) yet picked longest price of trainer M. Matz two entries, Hmmm...* **#3 – Pink Elephant** (20-1): *Rough spot for '17 debut but did win only start at this distance, 20 months ago at Pen in \$25N2L...* **#4 – Northern Smile** (20-1): *Deep Closer needs more real estate to catch this level of talent; bright spot is J. Toledo has guided her to three runner-up efforts albeit two years ago v. N1x...* **#5 – Catcha Rising Star** (8-1): *Only chance is to get to the lead and hope to nurse it through slow fractions but the #7, #10 and #11 should prevent that from happening...* **#6 – Queen Caroline** (6-1): *Won three straight v. similar in here right after breaking maiden; concerned that A. Cintron took mount on Matz's other entry (#2)...* **#9 – Love Came to Town** (20-1): *NJ-bred with 27 starts makes turf debut here? Next!...* **#10 – Singmealovesong** (30-1): *A trifecta of firsts... Lrl start, on turf, in stakes; rides 2-race win streak...* **#11 – Sky My Sky** (10-1): *Ships in from CD for trainer Mark Casse; will be mentioned early but speed figs say no way.*

Henry S. Clark Stakes

RACE PARTICULARS: Race 10 (6:17pm EDT), \$75,000 guaranteed purse for 3-year-olds and upward, One Mile (Turf), 17th running.

LAST YEAR Rose Brier won by 1 ¼ lengths in a course record 1:33.11.

The Picks

1. **#8 – Ascend** (5-1): *One of 8 runners in this event making first start of the year, one of two for trainer G. Motion and the one F. Lynch chose to ride for him, as the other (#2) is 9-2 Morning Line; before winter vacation won in 12th career start but first with Lasix; makes first stakes appearance but has faced better competing at Kee, Sar and Bel against N2x and N3x talent and runs well first off the bench; will be heard from in deep stretch*
2. **#7 – Rose Brier** (3-1): *Certainly the one to beat as she's 4 for 4 on the Lrl lawn in addition to being a graded stakes winner; ultra-consistent runner has hit the board in 30 of 37 starts with worst placing being 5th; will have plenty of company setting early pace*
3. **#9 – Marengo Road** (20-1): *Makes long awaited 4-year-old debut; last outing was on Preakness Day when he won similar turf stakes earning an eye-popping 104 Brisnet#, tops among this assembled group; has a bright future on the turf as evidence by two wins and a narrow loss from 3 career grass starts*
4. **#1 – Top of Mind** (6-1): *Not many Curlin offspring make their living on the turf but it seems this one prefers it having 3 wins and a runner-up effort from 4 turf outing, the loss came in a G2 and at today's one mile distance which may be his handicap... needing more ground as he takes his time getting into high gear*



Rose Brier. Photo by Laurie Asseo.

The Rest of the Field

#2 – Irish Strait (9-2): *Third race after layoff following two turf third place efforts on the turf at Tam, beaten 3-5 favorite in latest...* **#3 – Best Bard** (20-1): *7-year-old has earned over \$328k on the turf but in past year could only compete v. claimers and not one to win in first race in 5 months...* **#4 – Xmas Sky** (20-1): *Unlikely to get a gift win as this 8-year-old last raced nearly 2 years ago and that was after 7 month layoff...* **#5 – Silent Waters** (20-1): *2 for 2 on Lrl lawn but speed figures don't measure up to many others signed up to run...* **#6 – Heiko** (20-1): *Used a couple dirt races at Pen in Jan. to stay in race-shape; hard to ignore has he lost G2 here last Sept. by a length when 87-1...* **#10 – Synchrony** (8-1): *Successful turf debut last month at FG v. N2x with M. Murrill aboard as he is here; deep Closer gets perfect setup...* **#11 – Ghost Hunter** (10-1): *Had a 6-race win streak halted when 4th in G2 at WO prior to taking the winter off; just 3 works to prep for this...* **#12 – Talk Show Man** (25-1): *Local favorite likes distance (4:3-0-1), won this event 2 years ago but last raced nearly 1½ years ago....* **#13 – Postulation** (20-1): *Mid-Pack runner used to going longer; 6th in two graded stakes; trainer 27% after layoff*