



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Friday, February 16, 2018

Race 1: 4 – 8 – 5 – 2

Race 2: 2 – 1 – 4 – 5

Race 3: 4 – 7 – 2 – 5

Race 4: 7 – 6 – 3 – 5

Race 5: 6 – 8 – 7 – 5

Race 6: 5 – 4 – 10 – 1

Race 7: 4 – 3 – 5 – 7

Race 8: 5 – 3 – 2 – 1

Race 9: 2 – 4 – 9 – 1

Race 10: 3 – 10 – 8 – 5

Always Loved Forestry: A part of me has a hard time believing Forestry's much-hyped 3yo season took place 19 years ago. It did. Doesn't feel that long ago I was watching – as an enraptured young student of the game, I might add – Forestry strutting his stuff in the Big Apple beneath Jerry Bailey and, for a time, the late Chris Antley. Expectations were high on Forestry the moment he left the auction ring as a yearling at Keeneland July (remember some of the prices and names in this sale?) The price paid for the then young Storm Cat-Shared Interest, by Pleasant Colony colt, was \$1.5 million. Forestry just missed running as a 2yo – his debut was Jan. 2, 1999 at Santa Anita, a tough second place as a huge 3/5 favorite. Yet, in the proceeding months, Forestry would evolve from losing favorite to one of the nation's leading 3yo colts. In fact, Forestry competed against his generation's best in what turned out to be the final four starts of his career. He was a powerful winner of Belmont Park's history-rich Dwyer Stakes in July of '99 – the first time I saw Forestry in the flesh – and went on to finish a close third in the Haskell (behind Menifee and Cat Thief), won Saratoga's Grade 1 King's Bishop and capped his career with a fourth-place finish – as a 7/2 favorite – in the Breeders' Cup Sprint behind Artax, Kona Gold and Big Jag. All these years later, Forestry still stands stud at age 22 in Parana, Brazil. But in Friday's 2nd race, good ol' Forestry has a very rare first-time starter in South Florida, **Noble Commander**. This Mark Casse trained colt – seriously, was there a hotter trainer in the country last weekend? – sports some nice recent works. He sold for 235k at Fasig-Tipton last March, a sale in which he breezed a furlong in :10 1/5. He was, unsurprisingly, the only Forestry entered in that sale.

Friday's Early P5: Obviously, I think Noble Commander is going to run really well first-out Friday in race 2. And I'm anxious to see what he can do against a decent-looking field of maidens that includes **Noble Drama** (hammered down to 2-1 favoritism in his debut last month) and **Dexter**, who easily beat Noble Drama in that Jan. 20 race at four times the price. My plan is to use all three maidens in race 2 while anchoring the Pick 5 with favored **Kitten's Covergirl** in the opener. This is a \$12 Pick 5 for 50 cents.

R1: 4 -Ran nearly too well to lose last month; prefer the race she's coming out of
R2: 1,2,4 -Would love to see the Forestry firster come out roaring; using both 2nd-timers, too
R3: 4,7 -Using two logical players while simultaneously covering the best speed and stalker
R4: 6,7 -Outside runners look best to me; trimmed both Romans horses at the last second
R5: 6,8 -Tough to get cute with the bigger-priced maidens in this last leg; good luck!