JASON BLEWITT'S
Race Analysis

RACE 1:   6 – 7 – 4 – 5

RACE 2:   5 – 7 – 2 – 8

RACE 3:   2 – 1 – 6 – 5

RACE 4:   4 – 5 – 6 – 7

RACE 5:   5 – 6 – 7 – 4

RACE 6:   8 – 6 – 5 – 1

RACE 7:   5 – 6 – 8 – 3

RACE 8:   8 – 6 – 5 – 2

RACE 9:   5 – 9 – 2 – 8

RACE 10:   2 – 4 – 7 – 9

First-Race Post is 1:15 p.m. ET

Friday, March 22, 2019

This Gelding Has Little 'Downside Risk'

Little went right for Downside Risk here late last month. Debuting for trainer Barclay Tagg, Downside Risk found himself last in a field of seven while a mere half stride from the starting gate, the result of racing's version of a hit-and-run. Despite the tough start, however, Downside Risk ran incredibly well to finish second behind $3.80 winner Battle of Memphis. As luck would have it, Downside Risk returns in Friday's 4th race while facing two key foes from his February 22nd debut. Yes, J P's Pride, the Irish-bred who sideswiped Downside Risk at the start, is one of them. I prefer Downside Risk in this spot because of my deep respect for veteran trainer Barclay Tagg and my admiration of owner / breeder Bonner Young's bloodlines. Bonner raced this gelding's dam, Kristi B, around the new millennium and has since campaigned a couple of very solid foals from her, including the graded stakes winning Bit of Whimsy. Jockey Jose Ortiz has the call from post 4. As far as this rematch goes, here are my trip notes from that one-mile turf race 28 days ago.

Downside Risk – off slow after being bothered at the break, raced inside first turn, followed J P's Pride up the backstretch, four-wide angle around the ¼-pole, determined run outside while second best.

Preacher Power – Very hard-held early, raced outside Downside Risk on the far turn and was widest of all into the stretch, aim outside but had no punch.

J P's Pride – Swerved into Downside Risk start, recovered quickly and tracked leaders inside, raced on rail in the perfect spot and had no response at crunch time.

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