

Thursday, March 27 By Brian Nadeau (check @Brian_J_Nadeau for OFF turf updates)

Championship Meet Statistics (through 3/16):

GP Meet: 747-179-152-102 (\$1.63/\$4.86) Best Bet: 70-16-18-6 (\$1.30/\$4.69) Longshot: 62-7-4-8 (\$2.43/\$5.61)

Race 1: The Moubarek barn has been firing of late, which means **2 MADE IN KUWAIT** makes sense in the opener, as she takes the MSW drop, stretches out, and adds Lasix as well, after a chase and tire on debut. She'll have to beat **6 CHILL BEAN**, who was a solid 3rd routing on debut, which is easier said than done, and should only move forward off that tightener. Going 2nd-off a long layoff gives **4 REDFIRE** some price appeal, though she still looks a cut below these.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-4-7

Race 2: With the rails out at 80' on the turf, wide draws and closers are up against it, but that's no issue for 2 SOUPER AMUSING, who drew well, has speed, and may shake loose early. Turf is a question for 1 SOCIAL TRIUMPH, but she too drew a groundsaving post and legged up routing on Tapeta on debut in a Florida-bred MSW. Conversely, 9 WORTH CONSIDERING took all the worst of it at the draw, so she's tough to like on top, class drop and all.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-9-8

Race 3: It's Best Bet time with 4 IL ALCHEMYSTA, who comes out of some solid turf races, aired when last on Tapeta, and gets Irad too. Both 1 WANNABEELOVED and 2 LEGAL MANEUVER are next up if the pick falters, but the former faces winners today, while the latter has lost seven straight, so there are hurdles for each.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-2-5

Race 4: Let's go Longshot looking with 1 CICATRIZ, as she hasn't run on Tapeta since her debut when 4th, is a better horse now (and has Lasix), and goes for very crafty connections too. Toss 6 LONG GONE SALLY'S last, as she blew the break, which means her prior two against better make her the one to beat on the front end. No knocks on 7 COLLECTIVE NATION, as her form has improved in each start, though there's no value today.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-7-8

Race 5: Looking forward to seeing the encore from **2 SORCERER'S STONE**, as that debut wire-to-wire win by 8 ¼ lengths was awesome, he meets no one to be scared of on the rise, and figures primed for a stakes try after another romp at minuscule odds. There's some other speed to run with the chalk (at least for a bit), so **4 LAWLER** can make a late run to add some value to the EX, especially if **5 MR TYSON** gets TKO'd chasing the heavy chalk for a half-mile.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-5-6

Race 6: The tactical speed of **4 LE TOUCHE** gives her an edge with the rails on the turf at 80', which makes her a big threat to double up after a strong MCL win last time. Getting back to the turf and dropping in class means **4 MOM'S MARTINI** is the one to beat, as she caught a likely stakes winner when 4th on the grass two-back. A lack of early speed may be the undoing of **3 VINO LIMONE**, who was just necked out in 2nd and is the one to fear in the lane.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-3-8

Race 7: There's plenty to like about 4 BEAUTIFUL CRAZY, as she goes to D'Angelo, takes an MSW drop, adds Lasix, and gets Irad, after some solid WO sprint form, though value won't be part of her package. Fellow MSW dropper 8 I NEVER LIE did well to draw outside and improved with Lasix, and now makes the third start of her career, which can lead to a lifetimebest. Tab the tote on all the firsters, including 6 MYSTIC SHADOW, who has a spotty AM tab but has worked well in spots.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-6-2

Race 8: The level may be the same today, but this is a big drop for **1 INTO PLEASURE**, as he was 3rd to a few toughies last time and seems poised to ace this easier assignment. If **6 FLYING LIAM** doesn't regress off a strong 4th last time, he's a threat for a piece, though he's lost 10 straight dating back to 12/23, so a win seems out of reach. That's no worry for **5 SUGA STEVE**, who has won three in a row over lesser, but offers value as he gets the acid test today for new trainer Sweezey.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-5-4

Race 9: The finale goes to 6 GOES THE CLOWN, who has been knocking on the door, has some tactical speed, and might finally break through today. The wildcard is 5 TALBINGO, as he's yet to try the grass and Lynch is just 9% with first-time turfers, but this dude is all racehorse, and has plenty of speed as well. That's not something 2 WALLEY WORLD brings to the table, so while he won last time in his first for Saffie, you may want to look elsewhere today.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-2-3

Best Bet: R3: #4 II Alchemysta (2-1)

- * Has been facing better on turf
- * Easy win when last on Tapeta
- * Gonzalez barn going good again

Longshot: R4: #1 Cicatriz (6-1)

- * Back on Tapeta when 4th on debut
- * Enough speed to be up close early
- * Perez-Abarrio can pop at a price

