

ROAD TO THE MEADOWLANDS PACE
Week 5 (of 10) – Thursday, June 1
The Meadowlands Pace is on Saturday, July 15, 2023

| RANK | HORSE (EARNINGS – MARK) | DRIVER, TRAINER OWNER(S) | DAVE LITTLE'S (AND TRAINER'S) COMMENTS |
|------|--|--|---|
| 1 | VOUKEFALAS (\$391,088 – 1:49.4) | J. STRATTON, M. RUSSO MICHAEL PAGONAS | GETS BUMPED UP TO No. 1 AFTER PUTTING ON ANOTHER DAZZLING DISPLAY SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MEADOWLANDS TO COMPLETE A THREE-RACE SWEEP OF THE NEW JERSEY SIRE STAKES. RUSSO: "I THOUGHT HE CAME OUT OF THE RACE REALLY WELL. HE'LL TAKE THIS WEEK OFF. I'D LIKE TO TRAIN HIM TUESDAY AND THEN SHIP TO CANADA WEDNESDAY FOR THE NORTH AMERICA CUP. THAT'S MY PLAN." BREEDING: LAZARUS N-INITTOWINAFORTUNE LAST RACE: 5/27/2023 – M¹ – NJSS – 1ST (1:49.4) |
| 2 | FULTON (\$307,428 – 1:49.2) | D. DUNN, L. TOSCANO LET IT RIDE STABLES INC, BOTTOM LINE RACING LLC | OPTED TO TAKE LAST WEEK OFF. THE COLT WITH THE BIG LIFETIME STATS (8 WINS, 11 STARTS) IS NOW OFF TO CANADA, WHERE HE WILL RACE IN THE SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE SATURDAY NIGHT. BREEDING: HESTON BLUE CHIP-BETTOR BE STEAMIN LAST RACE: 5/21/2023 – PCD – PASS – 1ST (1:50.2) |
| 3 | CHRISTCHURCH (\$24,475 – 1:49.3) | D. DUNN, N. TAKTER DIAMOND CREEK RACING, FARHI STANDARDBREDS CORP., SPREYDON LODGE LTD | MOVES UP TO No. 3 OFF A WEEK OFF, HIS EYE-POPPING SEASONAL DEBUT STILL FRESH IN THIS POLL-COMPILER'S MIND. WHAT NOW? TAKTER: "HE'S GOING TO QUALIFY (RACE 9) SATURDAY MORNING AT THE MEADOWLANDS. THEN, HE'LL HEAD TO THE NORTH AMERICA CUP IF HE QUALIFIES WELL, WHICH I EXPECT HIM TOO." BREEDING: ALWAYS B MIKI-DARLINONTHEBEACH LAST RACE: 5/19/2023 – M¹ – NW2 – 1ST (1:49.3) |
| 4 | CONFEDERATE (\$451,200 – 1:49.2) | T. TETRICK, B. PELLING DIAMOND CREEK RACING | IT APPEARED HE HAD TOO MUCH TO DO IN HIS FIRST START OF THE YEAR LAST WEEK FACING OLDER FOES, BUT AFTER SWINGING THREE-WIDE AT THREE-QUARTERS, HE USED A FINAL QUARTER OF :25.4 TO KEEP THE CHALK PLAYERS SMILING. IS HIS TRAINER SMILING? PELLING: "HE DID WHAT I EXPECTED, LESS CAN GO WRONG WHEN YOU ARE COMING OFF THE PACE. HE'S READY TO GO." THE N.A. CUP IS NEXT. BREEDING: SWEET LOU-GEOTHERMAL LAST RACE: 5/27/2023 – M¹ – NW\$10,000 – 1ST (1:50.1) |
| 5 | AMMO (\$429,833 – 1:50.3) | D. MILLER, J. HOLLOWAY VAL D'OR FARMS, TED GEWERTZ | SLIPS TO No. 5 AFTER FINISHING SECOND TO THE SUPERB, BUT PACE INELIGIBLE, IT'S MY SHOW, WHO MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE BEST 3YO IN THE COUNTRY. HOLLOWAY: "I WAS A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED BY THE RESULT BUT HE RACED WELL. HE'S GOT TO GET A LITTLE BIT BETTER. WE'LL TAKE THE WEEK OFF AND THEN HEAD TO THE NORTH AMERICA CUP." BREEDING: SWEET LOU-BEACH GAL LAST RACE: 5/28/2023 – PHL – PASS – 2ND (1:49.2) |
| 6 | STOCKADE SEELSTER (\$711,576 – 1:49.3) | J. JAMIESON, I. MOORE SALLY MACDONALD, PAUL MACDONALD | WHY IS THIS TOP 10 SO CHALLENGING TO PUT TOGETHER THIS YEAR? BECAUSE THE TOP 2YO IN THE GAME FROM A YEAR AGO WOULD STILL BE IN THE TOP SPOT WERE IT NOT FOR A NOSE LOSS IN HIS ONLY START OF 2023. MOORE: "YOU SAID I WAS TIRED OF TRAINING THIS HORSE," EXPLAINED MOORE. "THE TRUTH IS, THE HORSE IS TIRED OF ME TRAINING HIM. HE WANTS TO GET OUT THERE AND COMPETE." HE'LL GET THAT CHANCE SATURDAY NIGHT AT WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK IN THE SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE. BREEDING: STATE TREASURER-SOIREE SEELSTER LAST RACE: 5/20/2023 – WMP – ONTARIO SBOA – 2ND (1:51.2) |
| 7 | COMBUSTION (\$292,275 – 1:49.3) | T. MCCARTHY, B. PELLING DIAMOND CREEK RACING, THOMAS DILLON, SCOTT DILLON, COOPER SILVA STABLES | SPRINTED HOME IN :26 TO TAKE HIS QUALIFIER. IS THERE A RACE FOR COMBUSTION TO PARTICIPATE IN? THE NORTH AMERICA CUP ELIMINATIONS ARE NEXT WEEK. PELLING: "HE'S GOING TO RACE SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MEADOWLANDS (RACE 7), COMBUSTION IS ROBUST, SO RACING BACK-TO-BACK IS LESS OF A PROBLEM FOR HIM." BREEDING: CAPTAINTRACHEROUS-ACQUAVELLA LAST RACE: 5/27/2023 – M¹ – QUALIFIER – 1ST (1:52.2) |
| 8 | EL REY (\$288,775 – 1:49.2) | S. ZERON, T. ALAGNA BRITTANY FARMS LLC, EL REY RACING | TOOK LAST WEEK OFF AFTER A SECOND TO THE TOUGH, BUT PACE INELIGIBLE, FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE. ALAGNA: "HE CAME OUT OF THE RACE WELL. SO, WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO CANADA. IT'LL BE NICE TO GET A START OVER THE TRACK THIS WEEK (IN THE SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE) BEFORE THE NORTH AMERICA CUP." BREEDING: CAPTAINTRACHEROUS-MYSTERY GAME LAST RACE: 5/20/2023 – M¹ – W2-NW5 – 2ND (1:51.2) |
| 9 | SAVE AMERICA (\$357,005 – 1:48.1) | Y. GINGRAS, N. TAKTER 3 BROTHERS STABLES, CAVIART FARMS | PUT UP AN OPENING HALF OF :54 BEFORE A BACK HALF OF :54.1 MADE HIM THE FIRST OF TWO COLTS ON THE SUNDAY CARD AT CHESTER TO PACE IN A 3YO SEASON'S-BEST 1:48.1. AS A RESULT, HE MAKES HIS RETURN TO THE TOP 10. TAKTER: "I ACTUALLY SWITCHED UP HIS TRAINING. I THINK I'VE BEEN A LITTLE BIT TOO NICE TO HIM. WE KNEW HE HAD THE ABILITY TO DO THAT. HE'S HEADING TO THE NORTH AMERICA CUP." BREEDING: CAPTAINTRACHEROUS-MY LADY DAY LAST RACE: 5/28/2023 – PHL – PA STALLION SERIES – 1ST (1:48.1) |
| 10 | SEVEN COLORS (\$76,209 – 1:48.1) | T. TETRICK, B. BROWN COUNTRY CLUB ACRES INC., JOE SBROCCO, BILL ELLIOT, MILTON LEEMAN | MAKES HIS DEBUT IN THE POLL AFTER TAKING HIS FOURTH VICTORY OF THE YEAR LAST WEEK OVER THE "CHESTER DRAG STRIP" IN A SEASON'S-BEST-EQUALING (FOR A 3YO) 1:48.1. IS THIS ONE A REAL PACE PLAYER? BROWN: "THIS HORSE HAS NOT HAD A BAD RACE THIS YEAR. HE'S MATURED AND TRIES HARD. HE'S TURNING INTO A REALLY NICE HORSE. IN FACT, I THINK HE'S THERE ALREADY. WE'RE GETTING READY FOR THE NORTH AMERICA CUP." BREEDING: STAY HUNGRY-RAINBOWINTHEDARK LAST RACE: 5/28/2023 – PHL – PASS – 1ST (1:48.1) |

KEY PREP RACES

MEADOWLANDS PACE ELIGIBLES IN CAPS – Supplements are permitted per the conditions of the race

| Date | Stakes | Site | Winner | Trainer | Driver | 2 nd Horse | 3 rd Horse | Time |
|------|-----------------|------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| 5/6 | NJ Sire Stakes | M1 | VOUKEFALAS | M. Russo | J. Stratton | HANDLELIKEAPORSCH | Lifes A Puzzle | 1:50.3 |
| 5/6 | Pa. Sire Stakes | Mea | BAMBOOZLER | V. Morgan | D. Dunn | Loubet | SEVEN COLORS | 1:50.1 |
| | | | Ken Hanover | R. Mallar | D. Miller | Ervin Hanover | All Class | 1:49.4 |

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| | | | Annapolis Hanover FULTON | M. York L. Toscano | H. Myers D. Dunn | NAZARE Flight Craft | Just Bet It All ADMIRAL HILL | 1:50.3 1:49.2 |
| 5/13 | NJ Sire Stakes | M1 | VOUKEFALAS | M. Russo | J. Stratton | HANDLELIKEAPORSCH | Laz | 1:50 |
| 5/14 | Pa. All-Stars | PcD | Idiosyncratic Command Ken Hanover | R. Burke B. Pelling R. Mallar | S. Allard T. McCarthy D. Miller | MAMBA Hunters Hero LYONS SURFING | Stay Grounded Panettone Hanover IM HUNGRY | 1:50.3 1:51.1 1:51.4 |
| 5/21 | Pa. Sire Stakes | PcD | AMMO FULTON It's My Show Ken Hanover | J. Holloway L. Toscano L. Toscano R. Mallar | D. Miller D. Dunn S. Zeron D. Miller | Flite Craft LYONS SURFING BAMBOOZLER Larceny | Just Bet It All Annapolis Hanover Captain Batboy All Class | 1:50.3 1:50.2 1:49.2 1:49 |
| 5/27 | NJ Sire Stakes | M1 | VOUKEFALAS | M. Russo | J. Stratton | VICI | Lifes A Puzzle | 1:49.4 |
| 5/28 | Pa. Sire Stakes | Phi | It's My Show Ervin Hanover SEVEN COLORS | L. Toscano R. Burke B. Brown | S. Zeron Y. Gingras T. Tetric | AMMO BAMBOOZLER Annapolis Hanover | LYONS SURFING Larceny Tip Top Cat | 1:49.1 1:49.2 1:48.1 |
| 6/3 | Somebchsomewhere | Wbsb | | | | | | |
| 6/7 | NY Sire Stakes | BR | | | | | | |
| 6/10 | N.A. Cup elims | Wbsb | | | | | | |
| 6/16 | NY Sire Stakes | VD | | | | | | |
| 6/17 | N.A. Cup final | Wbsb | | | | | | |
| 6/23 | Messenger elims | YR | | | | | | |
| 6/24 | NY Sire Stakes | Stga | | | | | | |
| 6/30 | Messenger final | YR | | | | | | |
| 7/8 | Meadowlands Pace elim. | M1 | | | | | | |
| 7/15 | Meadowlands Pace Final | M1 | | | | | | |