

Pandy's Meadowlands Selections for Saturday, February 3

Note: My odds-line for my top four contenders is based on what I think each horse's chances are to win the race. For instance, if I make a horse 4-1, I think the horse's chances of winning are about 20%, so if the same exact race was run ten times, he'd win it twice. If I make all of the horses about the same odds, that's an indication that I think the race is wide open, or that I can't pinpoint a horse that appears to have a clear edge.

Meadowlands Race Picks by Bob Pandolfo

RACE 1

9 IDEAL BEACH 6-5
5 IMABEACHBOY 7-2
3 TKO BLUE CHIP 5-1
6 LOVETHEWAYYOU LIE 6-1

IDEAL BEACH paced in 1:50.2 here and at Pocono last year but appeared to struggle to stay healthy (scratched sick three times in three months). Came off a 5 month layoff with a sharp qualifier at Freehold then drew post 7 against a pretty good field. He takes a key drop second off the bench and can be tough to catch here...IMABEACHBOY also needed last at Freehold and he had a tough trip at this level in December and held well...TKO BLUE CHIP was in close quarters in last but had good late pace finishing...LOVETHEWAYYOU LIE has improved since joining the Chiodo barn closing fast in all three starts; steps up off a nice win from post 10.

RACE 2

9 JK LUCKY CHARMS 2-1
4 HOMESTRETCH WES 5-2
7 LOVIN ON YOU 7-2
3 DESIRE'S CAPTAIN 4-1

JK LUCKY CHARMS never found his best form in Ohio but the return to the Estrada barn coincided with a return to form; he steps up off a sharp win and Hall of Fame driver David Miller stays with him...HOMESTRETCH WES takes a key drop...LOVIN ON YOU has been closing gamely...DESIRE'S CAPTAIN beat similar with a nice drive by Stratton in last.

RACE 3

2 BARRIER 8-5
3 SHEER TERROR 2-1
4 NO WORDS 7-2
5 HUNGRYHUNGRY HIPPO 9-2

BARRIER struggles to win with only 2 wins in 51 career starts and might be over bet here but he comes off a fine third against faster horses and the last time he raced at this level, on December 2, he was an easy winner...SHEER TERROR was overmatched at times last year but turned in some decent efforts. He hasn't raced since June but trainer Joe Holloway does well off layoffs...NO WORDS was driven aggressively in his first start for this barn and first start since August and held okay in a weaker field than this, but that could serve as a perfect tightener...HUNGRYHUNGRY HIPPO finished second at this level in last and picks up Dexter Dunn here.

RACE 4

5 LOU ED ZEPPELIN 5-2
1 DE LOS CIELOS DEO 8-5
7 WHIMSICAL JOURNEY 6-1
6 CROWN HANOVER 7-1

LOU ED ZEPPELIN takes a key drop...DE LOS CIELOS DEO wasn't racing well at Dover Downs and comes off a sick scratch but classy veteran has 17 wins over this track, picks up Andy McCarthy and moves into a barn that's been on a roll...WHIMSICAL JOURNEY had no shot in last...CROWN HANOVER drops, loses McCarthy to the 1 horse, but could be set for a good effort third start off the bench.

RACE 5

8 IMINURBLINDSPOT 12-1
2 CONBOYVILLE 5-1
7 ITHACA HANOVER 5-1
1 SEEUNNASHVILLE A 5-1

IMINURBLINDSPOT had a good year last year, although he was off his best form the last few months. He was given month off and had no shot from post 8 in last at Freehold. Ten year old hasn't raced here in a long time but he has 2 wins in 3 starts over this track...CONBOYVILLE makes first start off a trainer change and might go well in a wide open race...ITHACA HANOVER is racing in good form...SEEUINNASHVILLE A was used hard in last, didn't tire that badly.

RACE 6

5 NEXTROUNDSONME 8-5
3 RICH AND MISERABLE 2-1
7 TOCCOA FALLS 5-2
1 MON AMOUR 8-1

NEXTROUNDSONME left well but was shuffled in tight quarters last start; speedy sort appears set for a good trip...RICH AND MISERABLE is third off the layoff here, showed late trot in last, and classy veteran is capable of a big mile...TOCCOA FALLS remains in good form and didn't have the smoothest trip in last...MON AMOUR was dull in last and was given a few weeks off.

RACE 7

6 STELLAR YANKEE 2-1
4 MONTANA STORM N 5-2
1 BET ON BUTER 3-1
5 WHOLE LOTTA LOU 7-2

STELLAR YANKEE was a sharp wire to wire winner in last; he steps up but this isn't that tough of a field for this level...MONTANA STORM N drops and gets a better post, has a shot here...BET ON BUTER raced well first over in his first try over this track...WHOLE LOTTA LOU was a beaten favorite in last but didn't race badly on a windy night; he's been inconsistent lately but he's dangerous on one of his better races.

RACE 8

2 LEVINE 7-2
5 DECISION DAY 2-1
3 TITO ROCKS 4-1
9 BOBCAT BAY 9-2

LEVINE came off a layoff in last and was blocked while showing good pace behind horses...DECISION DAY classy veteran drops to level of his last win...TITO ROCKS chased a shar winner in last...BOBCAT BAY was used hard leaving then pulled to challenge, took the lead but was out-kicked by a strong closer in a solid placing.

RACE 9

9 MY PAL JOE 8-5
4 STONEBRIDGE REEF 8-1
10 OAKWOOD PADDY IR 4-1
8 BLAZING BANNER N 9-2

MY PAL JOE steps up in class off a game win on the lead on a windy night but the field he beat might have been tougher than this one...STONEBRIDGE REEF is in form and gets Dunn...OAKWOOD PADDY IR has been sharp, steps up...BLAZING BANNER N hasn't raced since December 30 but comes off a good effort against similar.

RACE 10

4 SAULSBROOK RAPTOR 7-2
7 MARCUS SEELSTER 8-5
8 GENTLEMAN II IE 5-2
3 THE BEST TYME EVER 9-2

SAULSBROOK RAPTOR was driven aggressively in last and held well for the show; holding good form and won at this level three starts back...MARCUS SEELSTER gunned to the lead, set a lively clip and held on gamely to beat similar; one to catch...GENTLEMAN II IE battled gamely to the wire against Marcus Seelster...THE BEST TYME EVER chased the 7 in last and held the show.

RACE 11

9 SOUTHPORT BEACH 7-2
2 ALTA BLUES A 5-1
6 LITE N SWEET 5-1
8 GAITWAY GUY 5-1

RACE 12

4 DONT GET SHOCKED 5-2
5 LYONS PRIDE 3-1
7 ODDS ON BOCA RATON 7-2
1 GOLDEN GESTURE 9-2

RACE 13

4 HEZA REAL DIAMOND** 2-1
8 GOOD DEAL 2-1
6 BULLVILLE FRANK 9-2
7 HEREITTIZ 8-1

HEZA REAL DIAMOND was used hard in a fast paced race on a windy night here on January 20, now drops and gets Bartlett...GOOD DEAL drops and can be tough here.

RACE 14

7 ER VEGAS 2-1
9 SUNSHINE'S FINEST 3-1
2 MV OK PALACIO BR 7-2
4 GOTTA MINUTE N 10-1

ER VEGAS had a tough trip in last; drops to level of last win three starts back...SUNSHINE'S FINEST gets a big driver change...MV OK PALACIO BR got a big driver change to David Miller in last and raced much better...GOTTA MINUTE N best needed.

BEST BETS: HEZA REAL DIAMOND 13th Race