Belmont – 10/20/16

Race 1-

1st #4 BARRIER TO ENTRY
2nd #3 MY GOOD VENEZUELA
3rd #8 MADAME MAYBRY

#4 BARRIER TO ENTRY was given a curiously passive ride last time out against tougher competition and now drops in class for trainer Linda Rice. She was taken well off the pace in that early October outing and now figures to be a serious pace player. Her best weapon is tactical speed, and this class level should be ideal. #3 MY GOOD VENEZUELA is returning from a layoff after getting claimed for 50k back in June by David Jacobson. This barn is 17% with turf sprints off of claims, good for a $2.48 ROI and she should be moving well in the late stages. #8 MADAME MAYBRY is by a new sire who has limited progeny to try turf, but there is a great deal of grass influence on her damside. Her dam was a 3x turf winner and has dropped two winners on the lawn, so there’s reason to believe she can improve on the turf. Her speed is an asset as well.

Race 2-

1st #4 LUCKYBUCK SYNDROME
2nd #1 DISSIDENT
3rd #6 BATTLE MIDWAY

Many times in racing when it seems too obvious, it is, as #4 LUCKYBUCK SYNDROME looks to be well clear of this bunch in the opening stages. He switches surfaces off of a failed turf experiment and should be as far in front as jockey Aaron Gryder so chooses. Trainer Bruce Levine has a positive mark with claimers going long switching from turf to dirt (20%, $2.11 ROI) and this son of Lookin at Lucky will not be favored here. #1 DISSIDENT is another changing surfaces for Todd Pletcher, and he has shown some ability on dirt in limited opportunities. If the top pick is given any pressure in the opening stages, this guy will benefit as the likely favorite given the class drop. #6 BATTLE MIDWAY stretches out in distance second off a claim and faces a field with less depth than the one he contested in late September. He should be in a stalking position on the
move to a route race and that will give him the jump on some of the closers.

Race 3-  
1st #1-1A BROWN ENTRY  
2nd #4 GIOIA STELLA  
3rd #3 SHIAWASSEE

#1 QUINTA VERDE did everything but win last time out when second to an impressive Graham Motion trainee off a layoff. She goes 2nd off a lengthy layoff this afternoon and will get enough pace to make an impact in the lane. Coupled with #1A NOUVELLE VAGUE, who has shown speed in three prior starts overseas, this pairing looks to be rather formidable. #4 GIOIA STELLA returns off a brief layoff after running into a subsequent graded stake winner last time out in a N1X here at Belmont. She came to hand quickly earlier this year and can get the jump on deep closers today under John Velazquez, who is an appreciable upgrade from her prior pilots. #3 SHIAWASSEE was wide in crunch time last time out and that had a detrimental effect on her chances of winning. She faced much tougher competition in that afternoon and will benefit from the class drop and inside post in here.

Race 4-  
1st #2 TIZ PARADISE  
2nd #10 WELL BLESSED  
3rd #7 BRIGHT SIDE UP

#2 TIZ PARADISE drops in class again after getting stuck inside when the real running began in her last start. She gives the indication that cutting back to 7 panels will be beneficial, and the races that she’s run against tougher competition make her the one to beat. Trainer Chad Brown is second in the standings at this meet and is clearly on a mission to bridge that gap. #10 WELL BLESSED is in for a tag for the first time as she returns from a layoff and will be moving in the late stages on the turnback to 7 panels. Trainer Christophe Clement is 29% with turf maidens dropping in for tags and she meets a weak field in here. #7 BRIGHT SIDE UP slid up the rail to snag the place dough last time out for trainer Dave Duggan and continues to improve with each passing start. This distance will be perfect, as she can rate and finish as a likely live longshot.

Race 5-  
1st #1 REDISCOVER  
2nd #6 RIVER ECHO  
3rd #8 DARK GEMINI

#1 REDISCOVER was claimed for 40k last time out and now returns off a brief respite for the red hot barn of Rudy Rodriguez. He was close to a hot pace on closing weekend at Saratoga before fading late and should be well within range early today going a trip where saving ground is ideal. If the lead is up for grabs, this son of Bernardini is certainly fast enough to take command. #6 RIVER ECHO was compromised by a slow pace in his last start and now drops in for a tag for trainer Bill Mott. He landed in a strong field two back at Saratoga that included two subsequent winners, and this group is a clear stepdown from those. That makes him a major threat as the main alternative to the top pick. #8 DARK GEMINI returns from a layoff for trainer George Weaver and has benefited from big pace setups in his last couple of starts. He will have to overcome a wide draw today, but should get some pace to run at in the late stages.

Race 6-  
1st #4 DETAIL  
2nd #2 DEBBIE’S  
3rd #10 ONE PENNY
#4 DETAIL was given an incomprehensibly awful ride last time out, as jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr. found a way to get into traffic trouble in a four-horse field. She lacked sufficient time to get clear and rally, and wound up settling for second. A cleaner trip today will do a world of good, and she will be a fair price given the competitive nature of this field. #2 DEBBIE’S TUDE is the one to catch from the inside as she comes to NY for a barn that has not had a starter here in the last five years. Speed is a dangerous weapon, and she is clearly quick enough to get loose in this bunch. Her rivals will have to show her the proper respect and stay close early. #10 ONE PENNY PIECE is a late runner who has had to overcome slow paces in each of her last two starts for trainer Phil Serpe. She will get some more ground to work with today, which should help her chances and her recent form is good enough to give her extra consideration here.

Race 7-
1st #1 SPLENDID GOLD
2nd #8 HOT HOUSE ROSE
3rd #2 FIRST SERVICE

#1 SPLENDID GOLD returns off a brief layoff and drops in class for Chris Englehart. She has a tricky inside post position, but possesses enough speed to stay close from the outset. That will greatly help her chances, as will having the rider aboard who last led her to victory. #8 HOT HOUSE ROSE is another getting serious class relief, as she was up against it facing stakes foes last time out upstate. Some of her best races have come here at Belmont and she’s now drawn an ideal post position from which she can stalk and pounce under Antonio Gallardo. #2 FIRST SERVICE is a habitual money burner who exits a distant second place finish behind the talented Wonder Gal. She has gone off less than 2-1 in each of her last two starts, only to come up empty late, and she has drawn a poor post in a race that will not set up in her favor.

Race 8-
1st #1 EXCILLY
2nd #6 DICKINSON
3rd #2 MY CARA MIA

#1 EXCILLY is new to the barn of trainer Christophe Clement and gets serious class relief. She has faced top notch foes in two prior US starts and will find this a much more reasonable spot. The inside post will help her chances, and she is quick enough to stay within range in the opening stages of this affair. #6 DICKINSON took a clear step forward in her turf debut, as many Kiaran McLaughlin trainees have over the years. She stalked a soft pace and exploded late, pulling clear to win by a comfortable margin. A similar trip is likely in the offing today given the pace dynamic in here, and she should be a square price to boot. #2 MY CARA MIA has had a case of ‘seconditis’ of late, but that has had a lot to do with the caliber of competition she has faced. She gets a rider upgrade today from this cozy inside post and should be in stalk and pounce range from the start.

Race 9-
1st #2 SAVE THE TIGERS
2nd #6 MARGARITA SUNRISE
3rd #11 DANCE GRAZE

#2 SAVE THE TIGERS was given serious support on debut for trainer Linda Rice and wound up racing wide on a surface where the rail was the place to be. He should improve with that race behind him, and Rice is a solid 7-21 with 2nd time starting maidens dropping in for tags ($3.14
**ROI.** The #6 MARGARITA SUNRISE is new to the barn of Rudy Rodriguez, who has called all the right shots at this stand of late. He showed good speed on debut in south Florida and now drops in for a tag. If he can get in the mix early, he will be a threat from start to finish. The #11 DANCE GRAZE is a second timer who was well backed at the windows on debut as well. He was hurt by a poor start, but wound up making an early move that showed he has some quality. With a cleaner trip, he can be dangerous in crunch time today.

**BELMONT FALL MEET STATS: 250-59-44-38 $379.80**

Nick Tammaro has been a public handicapper for seven years and his selections have shown a positive ROI at 9 different meets during that time. Nick is an avid trip handicapper who appears weekly on At the Races with Steve Byk. Nick has qualified for the National Handicapping Championship multiple times and finished 4th in the 2014 Breeders’ Cup Betting Challenge. You can interact with him on Twitter at @NTamm1215