

Woodbine

Saturday April 29, 2023

## Race 7

### Star Shoot Stakes

#### Top contenders with minimum (fair) odds for considering win bets:

**#5 Jill Jitterbug** – minimum win betting odds 2 to 1

**#7 Strokes** – minimum win betting odds 3 to 1

Exacta: 5, 7 over 1, 3, 5, 7 (#1 is Collecting Flatter, #3 is Kavala)

Trifecta: 5, 7 over 1, 3, 5, 7 over 1, 3, 5, 7

**Jill Jitterbug** is one of two horses which have run this month, rallying from seventh of 10 to finish second (beaten under a length) in the Serena's Song Stakes on April 1 at Turfway on the similar Tapeta surface. That followed another runner-up effort, this time to a runaway seven length winner, in the Cincinnati Trophy Stakes. Since the Serena's Song, **Jill Jitterbug** put in a very strong half-mile morning drill in 47 flat which was the best of 26 at the distance on the day and she enters the race off a pair of 90 then 88 field high Equibase Speed Figures and is the one to beat.

**Strokes** also ran at Turfway this year, finishing ninth in the Valdale Stakes in February. However, she did not race on Lasix for that race and goes back on Lasix today which may be a key to returning to the top form one before that on January 4 at Gulfstream Park on the Tapeta when drawing off late and earning an 84 figure. That effort also came off a short layoff like the one she's coming back from today so the pattern suggests she will fire with a competitive shot.

**Collecting Flatter** will likely scoot to the early lead from the rail as that's how she likes to run and she too goes back on Lasix with which she won the Glorious Song Stakes in November at Woodbine to end her 2022 campaign. She could hang on for second or third so I'm going to use her on exacta and trifecta tickets. **Kavala** has run twice, both starts this year at Gulfstream, and she won both on the Tapeta. The first was a maiden claiming race and the second a starter allowance so she may appear overmatched in this stakes but her last race 80 figure and her pattern of improvement from 72 to 80 and higher possible here suggests she fits at the level.

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