

JIM BANNON'S JOURNAL JULY 11TH, 2018

RACE #1

BANNON

6 ITSTARTSWITHADRINK
5 ROCKET PLAN
2 STREET LEGAL
3 VILMA

SHANTY TOWN seemed to enjoy his trip June 16th coming from last to first with a rush in the stretch in his third start of the year; Boulanger takes over here against non winners of three; he seeks his second lifetime win.

STREET LEGAL is counting on the big drop tonight and the switch to Tapeta for a change in fortunes; he began this season in a near impossible spot against, Conquest Swagman, and most recently, was out of the money on turf; he now goes for \$10,000 on Tapeta; Hernandez has been aboard for both career wins and takes over tonight.

VILMA has had consecutive in the money finishes at routes at this price range; he couldn't protect the lead last time against a wake up winner but fought to the end and took the show award.

BANGOR RIDGE battled for the lead inside at seven furlongs when dropped to this level last time but gave way very late and, Itstartswithadrink, was better in second.

ROCKET PLAN had a booming race June 2nd in his second run of this season; he moved over to turf with a drop for \$19,000 and gave away the lead very late; most recently, he tried pressing tactics but was farther behind into the stretch and far behind at the end; he is hoping a switch in surfaces and tonight's big drop will allow for a change in form.

ITSTARTSWITHADRINK missed an entire year and came back June 23rd with a drop for \$10,000 and overcame a slow pace to be second at the end with a late run; Husbands is staying aboard for Denyse McClachrie; he goes from a sprint to a route.

RACE #2

BANNON

5 PERFECT FORESTER - *BEST BET*
6 MARTEN LAKE
2 THREE RING CIRCUS
1 CAT ZAPPER

CAT ZAPPER is exiting the same starter allowance race on turf as the winner, Marten Lake, and was doing some nice running deep in the stretch behind that one while, Three Ring Circus, was third.

THREE RING CIRCUS will take the blinkers off for this third run of the season; he has been in the money in both starts this year and last time was in a race similar to this where he set the pace duelling with the favourite who buckled to be sixth; he then was beaten late when third just inches behind.

TINKER RING ran strongly in his seasonal bow to have success for Lisa Burry with a determined late run; second time out he was far behind in a complete letdown; perhaps the addition of lasix today will explain his poor effort last outing; the blinkers are off.

SUMERIAN BELL opted to get in a three way speed chase last time and couldn't keep up with the overwhelming demand of the extra fast pace and faltered; Christopher Husbands takes over in this starter event.

PERFECT FORESTER was quite rank leaving the gate last time and expended so much energy on the pace with a half in 44 he was without reserve through the stretch and finished sixth beaten three and a half lengths; the winner was lined up to face, Pink Lloyd, on Sunday; he now nestles in to an easier spot where his speed can have more lasting results.

MARTEN LAKE was very much an opportunist June 8th in his seasonal bow when he won on turf in an event similar to this; he was trapped in the stretch but found room on the inside to rescue the victory; he kept, Three Ring Circus, in third; he has had a fast interim prep coming to this event for Jim Ensom.

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RACE #3

BANNON

6 A MANS DRINK
3 TIMBERLINE
4 AUNT SUE
2 ARTICULATE

PECHE MOBILEE had a June 17th seasonal bow on turf when well beyond her means and not much was expected in that event; for this second start she comes into much clearer focus with the sharp drop for \$12,500 and with a move to Tapeta.

ARTICULATE started the year May 27th against some of these and attracted a claim by Shana Lopez from that fifth place finish when, A Mans Drink, was the winner; she has been busy with works since the middle of June getting ready to come back.

TIMBERLINE started the year in an ideal spot for \$10,000 as the 3-5 favourite; she pursued the pace and was softened up in a duel with the eventual sixth place finisher and then she was beaten late by, A Mans Drink; she just recently got back in the game last Wednesday on turf where she was a rank outside but that race should be an ideal bridge to get her ready for a speed try here with the big drop.

AUNT SUE is getting her first start since May 12th when she began the year in a typical starter event where she finished third behind the top two finishers who had considerably more value than these; it is just a case of her readiness; she has embarked on an ambitious training schedule which has seen her appear regularly in the morning for Scott Fairlie.

THALIA'S FIRE had an awkward departure from the gate in her second start of the meet May 27th; she then closed to be third against, A Mans Drink; most recently, she opted to go against the boys and after that double digit loss is now back in against the girls.

A MANS DRINK started the year in successful style for Kevin Attard; her chances were helped when the heavy favourite, Timberline, was softened up in a duel with the sixth place finisher; she then received a strong winning ride from Garcia to move outside and prove best; she comes off the shelf here and indicates two half mile preps getting ready.

RACE #4

BANNON

3 MONETARY SYSTEM
8 SILENT CONTEMPT
2 DANNY'S RUSH
6 FLASHY TRIAL

CHEROKEE KNIGHT is getting a belated first start of the season for Blair Miller and has had a regular workout regime coming to this; he managed just a couple of shares last season.

DANNY'S RUSH was getting his second start of the meet June 23rd and he dropped into an acceptable spot; he was departing an out of the money finish on turf; he finished second against a winner who has since disappointed; he stretches out for this.

MONETARY SYSTEM attracted a claim May 25th for \$19,000 when third against a key winner; most recently, he went long with a drop for \$16,000 against a key winner who took a significant edge and he finished fourth; he now drops for \$10,000 and shortens to seven furlongs.

KYSLIOS'S JUSTICE went to Fort Erie last time where he was a non threatening third on turf as the heavy favourite.

TOP HAT TRICK has been searching for the best spot; he is a Stronach Stables entrant and a half brother to the popular turf winner, Berliner; he has trained up to this for Martin Hinckson and Fukumoto rides and they combined for a winner Friday with, Written.

FLASHY TRIAL was out of the money on turf two starts ago then dropped for \$8,000 last time and went to Tapeta at five furlongs where he attended the pace and stayed on to be second against a preferred winner who was debuting; the blinkers are off and he extends to seven furlongs and goes up one price.

FIREY GIZMO dropped for \$10,000 last time and attended the pace but faltered when, Danny's Rush, was better in second.

SILENT CONTEMPT missed considerable time from August of 2016 through last month and returned for a turf race where he made a bid in the middle and then faltered; he now gets the big drop and a shift to Tapeta at seven furlongs and improvement is expected here.

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RACE #5

BANNON

6 VICTOR'S FLAG

3 AMEN ALLEY

1 REDOUTE'S LIGHT

7 BLU WITHOUT YOU

REDOUTE'S LIGHT takes a big drop here for \$40,000 in his third start of the meeting; he won at a route on Tapeta two starts ago for a maiden score; the runner up has since won; he got in against a key winner at a route last time and was fourth; following interim prepping he now shortens to seven furlongs.

EMPEROR JOHN a claim at Gulfstream in January off a long layoff was subsequently second there but disappointed March 31st and went on the shelf; he makes his way back here for Steve Owens for \$40,000 with the blinkers off.

AMEN ALLEY missed considerable time and had a return here April 29th when second narrowly beaten at seven furlongs; most recently, he returned from time away and experimented with a route but hung late when the late pace was weakening; he now drops for \$40,000 and shortens to seven furlongs for Mark Casse.

DIVINE AMI was getting his seasonal bow June 30th and he was in at a vastly reduced evaluation where he showed speed on turf before sagging; he attracted a claim and now goes for Daryl Ezra.

CASTLE IN THE SKY took a moderate drop and received a perfect winning ride from Boulanger to score June 15th for maiden \$25,000; he handled this distance perfectly and was timely with his move; he has come back to work five furlongs on turf but competes on Tapeta.

VICTOR'S FLAG returned from Florida to compete May 21st and took a maiden win at short odds; most recently, he went to turf and late money showed for him; he was presented with a big opening at the head of the lane where he moved prematurely to the lead only to disappoint in the home lane; following a freshening and a fast prep in 58.2 he shortens to seven furlongs on Tapeta for Steve Owens.

BLU WITHOUT YOU is a wake up prospect now but he gets his second start following considerable time off; he was beaten only five lengths when he returned and he has been busy with works since then.

JUST RENO has had two out of the money finishes this season and was in against a key winner last time who repeated Friday; he remains at seven furlongs.

RACE #6

BANNON

1 GWENDOLINE H

4 UNSEEN ANGELS

3 PICASSO MOON

7 WESTLODGE INTRIGUE

GWENDOLINE H found the perfect spot for her seasonal bow at this price range at six furlongs and she was able to dominate the middle pace when, Unseen Angels, the runner up wasn't quite ready; in the interim she has tried a spot that became just too difficult for her because of the concentration of early speed in the race and she paid the price through the stretch; with today's drop it is just a case of recapturing the form of two starts ago.

SAN NICOLA STORM concluded last season without much momentum but her lone win of the year came at this distance early in the summer time; she has posted recent works at five furlongs getting ready Zeljko Krcmar.

PICASSO MOON had a big change in evaluation last time and had a big change in form as she dropped for \$20,000 to beat non winners of three; she found a golden path along the rail and that was her ticket home; she jumps in value after that big win looking to avoid any regression.

UNSEEN ANGELS didn't seem ready for her seasonal bow May 27th; she was somewhat rank and she simply chased, Gwendoline H, around the track in second; now that she has had an opener and some interim prepping, she looks to go forward against that same rival who has since had an out of the money finish.

LONDIE LOU was looking for room last time against soft pace fractions set by the front runner who was dropping down; when she got room it was too late and she finished second; she is up in value.

BELLA FIGURA was in against a winner taking a big edge on turf last time and she did ok to be fourth; she will shorten to seven furlongs on Tapeta here.

WESTLODGE INTRIGUE is getting her third start of the season after consecutive in the money finishes; she was in against a difficult front running winner last time who set a blistering pace and she chased that one thoroughly in second.

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RACE #7

BANNON

1 ZEPHAN

2 IN VIEW

3 UNCLE LOU

5 STORMY ACTION

ZEPHAN is winter raced at Gulfstream Park without any production against a key winner; when he was brought here May 5th for a second start of the season unexpected support showed for him but he didn't do much running as a first time lasix user; both the third and seventh place finishers have come back to win; now that he drops for \$32,000 and returns from another freshening he is likely to be more competitive.

IN VIEW was entered for July 1st but scratched and will go here instead; he made one start last summer and did not keep up then at long odds; lasix and blinkers are added and he drops for \$32,000 for Robert Tiller.

UNCLE LOU attracted a claim May 19th by Norm McKnight when a distant fourth and in a protected race last time he was far behind; he now drops underneath his claimed evaluation and puts the blinkers on.

JAIL TIME tried to steal his opening race this year for \$32,000 when boosted up at a short distance; he finally was beaten by a preferred winner in the stretch; he returns from a layoff and has been getting ready on the training track.

STORMY ACTION was winter raced at Gulfstream and came here June 8th to run on turf where he fully committed to the front end in a turf race then stopped in the lane; he now adds lasix and has had a couple of interim preps getting ready for Don MacRae and Contreras has been enlisted.

TWICEASLUCKY was a useful spring performer but lacked the needed punch deep in the stretch; he should benefit from the freshening from John Ross and gets to drop for \$30,000 in this comeback event.

CALCULATIN' CAT was entered on Queen's Plate day but scratched from that event and will go here in his first start since August of 2016 when he ran a solid race; he competes for Jim Ensom and has had a series of works getting ready and Hernandez rides.

RACE #8

BANNON

3 HAILEY'S PRIZE

7 FORESTELLA

8 HATCH GATE

6 NORTHERN COLORS

2 BROKEN MEADOW

DISCREET BEAR started the year May 20th on turf when out of the money against a superior group; she gets to take a significant drop here for \$40,000 and she did win in this category at this distance last September when taking her second lifetime win and now she seeks her third career score for Chris Steve.

BROKEN MEADOW was moving late along the inside in a route event last time when fourth; two starts ago on turf sprinting she had a good result when close by.

HAILEY'S PRIZE showed some improvement second time out at the meet June 16th when competing at seven furlongs and she hung late finishing fourth just two lengths back; the cutback to six furlongs may well help her.

BEAR KITTY attracted a claim May 30th when she was able to win for \$20,000 against non winners of two; she did not break well on that occasion but was so much the best she was able to recover; last time she went to the Lady Angela Stakes where her typical bad departure from the gate could not be overcome; she now settles in for \$40,000.

I LOOK INCREDIBLE is getting her first start since last September when she was out of the money for the fourth time in a row; she tries just six furlongs on Tapeta here for Zeljko Krcmar.

NORTHERN COLORS had an excusable trip in her seasonal bow and that event is best forgotten; a shift is made to Bahen and she looks to recapture the goodness of some races late last summer.

FORESTELLA received a perfect winning ride from Garcia June 2nd when saving up for a stretch run which resulted in an off the pace win against, Hatch Gate; Ryan who knows this one well takes over here for Vito Armata.

HATCH GATE was getting a seasonal bow June 2nd when beaten by Forestella and the inside post and cramped quarters were enough of an excuse; most recently she again drew the inside post when shortening to five furlongs and she had more racing luck to win.

GREEN FREEDOM has had just a single start this season and did not factor into the result; she has had some good fringe tries in the past and will look for improvement in this second start of the year after a series of preps leading to this.