

Woodbine

Saturday November 21, 2020

## Race 9

### Kennedy Road Stakes

#### #2 Ride a Comet – minimum win betting odds – 8/5

Listing just one win contender above does not mean I'm ignoring #7 **Pink Lloyd** (7/5 morning line) or #4 **Silent Poet** (2/1 morning line), nor does it mean those two horses can't win. The reason just **Ride a Comet** is listed above is he's the only one of the three I could bet to win because he opens at 5/2. For the record, minimum odds on **Pink Lloyd** and **Silent Poet** are about 5/2.

Insofar as exactas, there is no value because three of the seven – Dixie's Gamble, Roaring Forties and Eskiminzin, have a combined record of ZERO-for-11 versus **Pink Lloyd**. That leaves only one other horse, #1 **Souper Stonehenge**, who is trained by Casse the same as Ride a Comet, as having potential for the exacta. He opens at 12/1 and I would consider playing small exacta boxes of 1,2 and 1, 4 and 1,7 because if they win they will pay decently.

Other than that, my only play in this race itself will be a win bet on **Ride A Comet**, who appears to be the right horse to end Pink Lloyd's perfect four-for-four streak this year. For any multi race bets like pick 3s I'd certainly use **Pink Lloyd** and **Silent Poet** as well.

**Ride a Comet** won five of his first 10 races, including the Del Mar Derby in September, 2018, defeating multiple stakes winner River Boyne in the process. With whatever put him on the sidelines from that race until his comeback last month behind him, **Ride a Comet** returned in extraordinary fashion with a visually impressive effort that saw him go from seventh and six lengths behind the leader on the turn to the front of the field by the eighth pole. Considering he was ridden out to victory, it appears there's a lot of gas left in the tank and logically the horse should improve markedly second off the layoff. Since that race, **Ride a Comet** has put in three exceptional workouts at Woodbine including one which was the second best of 41 on the day. When he won the Del Mar Derby at the end of his three year old season, Ride a Comet earned a 110 Equibase Speed Figure which is comparable to the 111 figure Pink Lloyd earned winning this race in 2019.

**Silent Poet** and leading Woodbine jockey Justin Stein should be able to take advantage of an otherwise paceless race and go to the front easily at the start of the race. **Silent Poet** has earned nearly all of his wins when leading or pressing the pace in second from the start, including his last two races. The first of the two was an allowance race with a stakes level \$100,000 purse and the second was the Nearctic Stakes at this distance on grass. Those efforts yielded 103 and 104 figures which, with slight improvement, put **Silent Poet** in the thick of the action down to the wire in the Kennedy Road. I'm not concerned about his duplicating those efforts on the main track as he was second in the Sir Barton Stakes the last time he ran on the main track at Woodbine.

**Pink Lloyd's** accomplishments speak for themselves, as he's dominated the sprint stakes ranks at Woodbine for many years. With streaks of five in a row in 2019 and five in a row coming into this race, including all four races this year, he's proven to have an attitude about winning which matches his ability. **Pink Lloyd** was second in the 2016 edition of this race, won it in 2017, skipped it in 2018 and won it again in 2019. Still, except for last year's Kennedy Road in which he earned a 111 figure, his four wins this year earned 103, 102, 92 and 101 figures, which aren't dominant in any way when compared against **Ride a Comet** (99 last race and 110 before the layoff), **Silent Poet** (104 last race) and **Souper Stonehenge** (102 last race). All three of those horses have never faced **Pink Lloyd** previously and all appear to be as capable of winning as the likely betting favorite. That's not to say **Pink Lloyd** can't rise to the occasion and win just as he's done time and time again.

Follow Me on Twitter @Ubercapper

**Other racing content**

Weekend Stakes Blog at <https://www.keeneland.com/media/news/>

Weekend Key Races & Bets Blog and Podcast at [amwager.com/handicapping/ellis-starr-blog](http://amwager.com/handicapping/ellis-starr-blog)

Analysis of major stakes races every Friday at [equibase.com/free](http://equibase.com/free)

Free Selection for one free race daily at:

Santa Anita - [santaanita.com/author/ellisstarr](http://santaanita.com/author/ellisstarr)

Del Mar - <https://www.dmtc.com/contest/45>

Woodbine - <https://woodbine.com/handicapping/ellis-starr/>

Keeneland - [keeneland.com/racing/wagering/expert-picks/Ellis\\_Starr](http://keeneland.com/racing/wagering/expert-picks/Ellis_Starr)

Ellis Park - <https://ellisparkracing.com/handicapping-picks>

Kentucky Downs - <https://kentuckydowns.com/racing/live-racing>