



Friday August 1st: Day 27

1:10 - Saratoga

1st Maiden Claiming (2yo) 6f

BONUS SELECTIONS FROM SARATOGA! The opener at the Spa today is a 6f 2yo maiden claimer carrying a \$35K tag. Just not a fan of these with the youngsters already in for a tag.

PASS

1:44 - Saratoga

2nd AOC / C 9½f – TURF

The conditions for this marathon turf event read, "....which have never won \$20K four times other than OR five races, OR two races other than since February 1, 2025, OR a claiming tag of \$150K...." As you look at **4-Wolfie's Dynaghost (9/5)** you have to wonder if he can run back to his last out 99 Beyer that saw him win a Laurel stakes race since that was his second off a nine month layoff. I think it's fair to say his comeback race was too short in addition to the long layoff. And what makes me think he runs back to that big number is (a) prior to the long layoff he shows multiple figures this good, and (b) got to love the back-to-back bullet works, the most recent over the Saratoga training turf course.

\$10 WIN #4 Wolfie's Dynaghost

2:00

1st Maiden Claiming 8f – TURF

The Friday opener is an open \$12.5K turf mile event. It is an almost certainty that **2-White Lilacs (2/1)** will go off as a short priced favorite and deservedly so. The 6yo mare shows eight turf efforts on the page and EVERY ONE OF THEM is better than par for this level and all would take a career effort by one of her rivals today to beat her. After being gone for over a year she came back in a synthetic sprint in March...then was off for two months before going long on the Laurel turf win against optional \$20K rivals at 1/5 odds. Came back against the same level and weakened late after running TWENTY lengths faster at the pace call. Goes third off the shelf today and I'd expect Sammy Camacho to send her right to the front. She can sit just off the pace, but my guess is she clears. There ARE three who have run fast enough to threaten but those efforts are not the norm for those runners.

\$10 WIN #2 White Lilacs

2:18 - Saratoga

3rd Starter Allowance 8f

We close out the Early Pick-3 with a one mile event going the unique 1 ½ turns out of the chute at the end of the stretch. It is worth noting you only had to run for \$12.5K to get in here. **1-Gone and Forgotten (7/2)** won at 6f and was claimed away. Came right back to win at 7f – both here – and Flavian Prat opts to ride back. **4-Speak Softly (9/5)** has won four of five but all those came on the lesser Texas circuit. BUT he moves into the white hot Joe Sharp barn. Hmmm.

PASS

2:28

2nd Claiming nw2L 6f

The early double on the Jersey Shore wraps with a cheap nw2L carrying a \$7.5K tag. All seven who are scheduled to line up to contest this six panel sprint exit tries against similar cheap company and NONE have run fast enough to reach par.

PASS

2:52 - Saratoga

4th Maiden Special (2yo) 8½f – TURF

Not much to go on with these 2yo's other than connections and sales price but it would **SEEM** that one of the two Chad Brown runners should prove best. Flavian Prat might have had his choice between the two and he is on **8-Tax Holiday (10/1)** for the Klaravich Stables. That's interesting because the "other" runner, **3-Blue Madame (8/1)** was a \$500K sales purchase for Resolute Stables and Irad Ortiz rides here. Hard to separate the two runners who worked exactly the same time on July 20 but then Tax Holiday worked better in the most recent shared workout date. With Prat having had over 300 calls for Brown and Ortiz only 175 I think he got to pick. Don't overlook the Todd Pletcher first, **5-Miss Picky (8/1)** who gets Johnny V in the Repole silks. They scored at a price last weekend.

PASS

2:56

3rd Claiming 5f – TURF

My guess is that the betting will NOT follow the early DRF odds and that **2-Bold Baby (6/1)** goes off as at least the second coice at post time. While the 4yo filly has not run to par, she goes first off the claim for an outfit that's a big 30% first off the claim and they put her back on the turf where she ran 3rd two back in her first try on the lawn. **6-Bedtime Story (3/1)** has multiple Beyers that clear par, but they were all earned in 2023 and one in Jan 2024. Was away for FIFTEEN months and has yet to run anything close to those numbers since.

\$5 WIN #2 Bold Baby

3:22

4th Maiden Claiming (2yo) 5f

I noted this last weekend, I'm really reluctant to bet 2yo maidens in for a tag at this point in the year. Ones that debut for a tag have to be a disappointment to the connections, and the ones who have tried and failed are also not living up to the expectations I'm sure. **5-Forever Hustlin (9/2)** has dueled to the stretch in both MSW tries and COULD improve enough. Having already finished behind one of today's rivals is not encouraging....though she beat another of them. No thanks.

PASS

3:27 - Saratoga

5th Claiming nw2L 7f

While the Saratoga fifth IS a non-winners of two lifetime event, note that it's for a rich \$50K price tag. Still, little to go on from the pp's. MAYBE **4-Fortunate Mia (3/1)** of the first time tag?

PASS

3:50

5th Claiming 8½f – TURF

Next up in Oceanport is a \$16K “beaten” turf route. A full field and a couple of class droppers that don’t look trustworthy make this a “PASS” for me. **3-Fully Authorized (9/2)** ran for a first time tag when in for \$40K last time and regressed. The other class dropper finished closer but didn’t improve his BSF. Nope.

PASS

4:02 - Saratoga

6th Maiden Special (2yo) 5½f – TURF

The ten juveniles in here have a combined two starts and neither were on the grass. **4-Schwarzenegger (6/1)** will debut for Wesley Ward who’s winning at a 27% clip and always does well with his 2yo first timers – though that is almost always at Keeneland in the spring. This colt blistered a :59.4 bullet work over the Saratoga grass and will get Johnny V. Graham Motion has only run five horses here this summer, without a win, but he’s a good 21% with firsters and with 2yo’s. Have to like that Flavian Prat lands on **5-Turf Star (6/1)**, a Calumet homebred.

\$5 WIN #4 Schwarzenegger

4:19

6th AOC nw2x 6f

Four of the eight in this Jersey-bred, second level sprint have earned similar Beyers of late and none of those are fast enough to reach par. Hard to separate those contenders. It’s a “NO.”

PASS

4:36 - Saratoga

7th GRADE 2 HALL OF FAME (3yo) 8f – TURF

If you’re going on speed figures – not always AS reliable on the turf to be sure – then **7-Zulu Kingdom (8/5)** is probably not for you. But he’s CLEARLY established himself as the best 3yo on the turf while six of seven starts, including all three as a 3yo. Thinking he takes a step forward after having to wait, and wait, and wait while races came off the turf before finally getting to run four weeks ago when winning the Gr 3 Manilla HERE. The main threat appears to be **2-Luther (2/1)** who came over from Europe and promptly ran 3rd in the Gr 1 Belmont Derby going nine furlongs.

\$15 WIN #7 Zulu Kingdom

4:48

7th Claiming 8½f – TURF

The seventh is the second half of a split race, the first half having gone in R5 for these identical \$16K “beaten” conditions. Only one in here has hit par and that was their one and only turf try AND they’ve never run here. Mixed feelings about possible contender **1-U Know When U Know (5/1)** in here. On the downside, she was 23 lengths out of it at the first call, oh my, but on the upside made up TWENTY lengths to finish only three off the winner. A better beginning and maybe.....

PASS

5:10 - Saratoga

8th Maiden Claiming 7f

None of the “baker’s dozen” of state-bred maiden claimers have run to par for this \$35K price tag – so no thanks.

PASS

5:17

8th Claiming 8f

The abbreviated 8-race program finishes with a cheap two turn mile on the main track. Despite the fact that at this level you typically find runners consistently inconsistent, in this field of eight runners under a \$6.25K open tag you’ve got FOUR last out winners. But it’s **3-English Painter (7/2)** who’s on a roll having scored in THREE straight, all earning figures better than par. Was 2nd beaten a neck in mid-May and was claimed away. Came back on the drop to win convincingly as the favorite, and was claimed away. Stepped up to this level and drew off at a prohibitive \$0.10 on the dollar, and was claimed again. Won AGAIN last time out at this level again at an even lower \$0.05 on the dollar AND was claimed by a fourth new barn. No surprise to see him extend the winning streak today.

\$5 WIN #3 English Painter

5:44 - Saratoga

9th Starter Optional Claiming 5½f – TURF

6-Chess Master (7/2) should go off as a short priced favorite in here because he holds many advantages. First and foremost, in a field where wins in a turf sprint are hard to find, he’s won his last two starts in turf sprints. AND the last race saw him beat \$50K optional claimers and now faces \$40K optional rivals. That’s because he won HERE last for that price tag. And his last three Beyers top everything on the page.

\$10 WIN #6 Chess Master

6:19 - Saratoga

10th Starter Optional Claiming 8½f – TURF

TEN of the eleven who will run in the finale have run a Beyer of late that’s almost identical to the others. It’s a big toss-up race and we’re out of here looking forward to the big stakes card tomorrow on Whitney Day!

PASS