#### 1<sup>st</sup> Race (Costanzo)

- 1. Maltese Dog (E) (Stalker) Son of War Chant has been outstanding this year, hitting the board in all four of his starts with victories in each of his last two outings, most recently prevailing at Lone Star Park. He ships locally for his Polytrack debut, but with a good turf pedigree and some decent grassy races showing, there is reason to believe he'll take to the all-weather track. He also sports a strong record at the distance, although those were all two-turn events, unlike what he'll be asked to do today.
- 2. Son of Tiger (U) (Speed) Gelding had a two-race winning streak snapped in his last when finishing second as the lukewarm favorite. He is now winless in nine attempts over a synthetic track, and at this point he is looking more like a true dirt horse that likely can't wait for racing to return to Hawthorne.
- 3. Massecuite (U) (Stalker) This guy has hit the board in each of his last 10 starts, but could do no better than third in his last when sent forth as the favorite. He was claimed from that outing for \$7,500, and his new barn not only does well with new acquisitions, it has been no worse than second with nine of its first 12 starters at the meet. If this gelding can take to the all-weather track, he should be competitive again, and can threaten for the win.
- 4. Ninth Client (D) (Stalker) Son of Malibu Moon continues to tumble down the claiming ladder and enters this off a sixth-place performance on the turf against \$16k rivals. He hasn't gotten his picture taken in a while, and truth be told, his two prior synthetic-surface starts weren't much. He'll likely need to show a little more today to be successful.
- 5. Beleliu (D) (Speed) A winner in three of his last five starts, this guy couldn't hold on in his last after setting reasonable splits up front against starter allowance rivals. He drops today to meet easier, and while he may not have things his way up front, he doesn't necessarily need the lead to be successful. And his Polytrack ability is probably better than his one-for-nine record suggests.
- 6. Oliver (U) (Stalker) Gelding was rather flat in his last when coming up empty and finishing seventh as the lukewarm favorite on dirt at Oaklawn. He was claimed that day for \$5k, and his new connections have given him some time off before bringing him back on the rise today. This barn is better than its current record suggests, and this guy should really appreciate getting back on a synthetic track today.
- 7. Timeless Facts (E) (Stalker) He was fifth at this level in his last when beaten less than four lengths over the local Polytrack. That was an improved effort, and he does appear to like running over the all-weather. His form does tend to fluctuate, but when he is at his best, he fits this spot well.
- 8. Drumblare (U) (Presser) Son of Smart Strike was a strong six-length winner in his last, and clearly he likes running over the local all-weather track. He moves up to meet stronger rivals today, but if he runs back to his last he can seemingly be competitive with this group.
- 9. Gray (U) (Presser) Colt was a winner in his last when defeating \$7,500 conditioned-claiming rivals. That outing was his first in nearly a year, and was also his first for his current connections. Think he's well-drawn on the outside, and having a recent win at this distance and over this track is an advantage.

Maltese Dog has won each of his last two starts over different tracks, and has never been better. If he takes to the all-weather track and runs back to his last, he can defeat this group. Massecuite is consistent and hits the board with regularity, while Oliver can likely improve in a big way when getting back on a synthetic surface.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Race (Uchman)

- 1. Conecuh (E) (Presser)-Split the field in last but he was taking on winners and trying Polytrack, both for the first time. Comes back at the same level. Drew the inside post. He probably won't grab the early lead but he'll be right there from the start. The experience on the surface could help greatly. Might find his way back to the winner's circle.
- 2. Canaveral Ride (D) (Speed)-Appears to be the quickest member of this field. However, he graduated in 2009 and hasn't won since. He does tend to tire late in his races but he's dropping to his lowest level ever and he might finally be able to carry his speed throughout today.
- 3. Trillionaire (E) (Closer)-Seems to prefer dirt to Polytrack. His four Polytrack races have been the worst four races of his career. However, he is completing the sprint-route-sprint sequence and he did display a good middle move in last when they stretched him out. The return to the sprint could be just what is needed.
- 4. Port Hudson (E) (Stalker)-Ran very well in his local debut. He got up for second in that race, only his second start since getting claimed by this barn. Had a nice workout since. He's another likely to improve after getting a race over the surface. Looks like he could be one of the top contenders.
- 5. Protection Game (E) (Closer)-Scored his lone victory on turf and managed only one third-place finish between all of his main-track starts. But, he does possess a decent closing move. Could be too far back to really do some damage but it's possible that he'll be able to make up enough ground to get up to share.
- 6. No Passage (U) (Stalker)-Took 19 races to break his maiden but he was competitive for a long time before that win and he did run well in his two races since. He finished fourth in his last but was beaten by less than a length. His previous Polytrack races were against good maidens and he ran well enough to earn some checks. He could be in the right spot to surprise.
- 7. Schillerthekiller (D) (Stalker)-Meets his easiest field ever. He graduated, on turf, two races back but couldn't handle allowance company in his first start against winners. The sharp drop and move to the main track is a bit surprising but obviously his barn knows what it is doing. His works on this track have been fine. Would expect him to go off at low odds. Might deserve it. 8. Big Blue Caboose (D) (Stalker)-Didn't show a thing prior to his maiden victory last October and he hasn't shown a thing since. He did display early speed when they stretched him out on the turf in last in Florida but he ran out of gas after about a half mile. Has to be considered with the drop in class and the turn back in distance but he finished up the track when racing on this track here last year. Don't know how much we can expect from him.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Race Key

With Shillerthekiller's sharp drop in class you would expect him to grab the attention of the betting public. It's even possible, probably likely, that he'll win at this level. However, you do have to wonder about the switch in surfaces, especially when he showed some turf ability. On the

other hand, many turf specialists display an affinity for Polytrack. If, however, this gelding does prove to be vulnerable at a short price, there are quite a few runners in here capable of taking advantage. Both Conecuh and Port Hudson, coming out of the same race, are capable of improving after getting a trip over the track. And, No Passage, coming off a strong fourth-place effort, could play the role of upsetter.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Race (Spencer)

- 1. Too Wild for Words (U) (Speed) He was not claimed out of that romping win against \$25K conditioned claimers last time out, and that ran his record over Arlington's Polytrack to a perfect 3-for-3. He's hiked up in class for this one off that confidence-building tally, and there's little reason to think he won't run another big one, as he obviously loves this surface. He's versatile enough to sit just off the pace if necessary, so there's plenty to like.
- 2. Bell by the Ridge (E) (Closer) This is a bit of an interesting move, as he's always been as his best going two turns on the grass and validated that line of thinking last out with a good 2<sup>nd</sup> at 24-1 at this level in his turf return. That said, he is a winner sprinting on this Arlington carpet, and he should be rolling along late down the lane. Would prefer him routing on the grass, but unwilling to count him out based on his sprint success here last summer.
- 3. Cap'n Nick (U) (Presser) He'll move to face tougher open company this time around off a nose score against second-level Illinois allowance company. Thinking that these deeper waters are going to pose a significantly tougher test than he's seen in his last couple of races, but he is certainly going well at the moment, so perhaps he'll be able to give another good account of himself. Thornton signs on as Alvarado bails for the rail runner, and this guy has the look of a type who would go either way in here, but thinking he's in a bit tough.
- 4. Meezaan (IRE) (E) (Closer) He was only able to produce a mild rally going a mile on the grass last time out in his 2011 debut, and that run came off a nearly 10 month layoff. He figures tighter for this next try, and given his successes in Europe going seven furlongs on the grass, this six furlong Poly sprint may actually wind up being just what the doctor ordered, even if it's a bit curious at first glance given his first stateside effort. Figuring him along for a share late.
- 5. Bergman (E) (Stalker) 2<sup>nd</sup>, beaten just over two lengths, when last seen behind a super tough Poly runner in Saint Leon, he ran one of the best races of his entire career that afternoon. This will mark his third start off a brief layoff, meaning there's a slight chance we could see a repeat of that effort. He'll need another huge run if he's going to handle this group, but wondering if that last run took a little starch out of him considering how sizable the improvement was from the runs prior to that try. Graham takes the reins for this try, and he's an interesting contender a repeat of that last would probably drill this field, and that's the question to answer today.

  6. Shore Do (E) (Stalker) When he's at the top of his game, he's awfully good, and his
- 6. Shore Do (E) (Stalker) When he's at the top of his game, he's awfully good, and his consistency is rather remarkable, as he rarely ever runs a bad race. 4<sup>th</sup> against allowance foes on the Indiana Downs dirt when last seen in mid-May, he'll make his Arlington Polytrack debut this afternoon. His synthetic record is pretty solid, despite the 1-for-10 career record, and he should be involved from a good, spying spot from the bell. Wouldn't put it past him to be in the hunt late.

3<sup>rd</sup> Race Key

This is an awfully good event for a six horse field, as nearly all of them appear capable of winning this one with their best stuff. You're Too Wild has yet to lose here and he may well score his fourth straight victory over this Polytrack surface, but Bell by the Ridge and Bergman are also proven at this trip and could give him fits late. Meezaan is the wild-card. His turf sprint form from Europe stacks up very well, and he did win once on the synthetics across the Atlantic. Second off the layoff might be the right time to take a shot with him.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Race (Kristufek)

- 1. Faptitude (First time starter) -- By the \$10K sire Aptitude, this Danny Pietz-trained homebred debuter is out of the stakes placed Fappiano mare Fapany, who has been a decent producer in the breeding shed. Pietz sports fair stats in the applicable categories, and this guy flashes sharp works leading up to the debut. Watch the toteboard for clues.
- 2. Crofter (E) (Presser) -- This 4-year-old son of Forestry has already had some ups and down in his young career. Sandwiched in between two poor performances at Oaklawn was a solid fourth place effort two back. Freshened up for two months, he returns off a sharp string of works, and the pedigree suggests a potential affinity for the Poly. He has a major right to improve, so be careful.
- 3. Mister Dixie (E) (Closer) -- In a pair of fall starts as a 2-year-old, this son of Dixieland Band showed little. Off a 6 ½ month layoff, he returns to action off a string of forward drills. The connections give him another crack in the special weight ranks, but if he doesn't display improvement, a drop into claimers may be inevitable.
- 4. High Heir (E) (Stalker) -- In his career debut at Oaklawn, this sophomore son of Wildcat Heir didn't have the cleanest of trips and finished seventh of ten. Stepped up for his Poly debut last out, he ran a big race to finish second. He's one of the few proven commodities in this field, and there's no reason to think he won't run another big race.
- 5. Quillian (First time starter) -- By the \$15K sire Macho Uno, this Eoin Harty-trained debuter is out of the stakes placed Pulpit mare Sly Butterfly. Harty doesn't run many horses at Arlington, but when he does, they're usually super live. This guy looks ready off the works, and a recent bullet out of the gate should have him on edge for a solid debut run.
- 6. Rocket Zone (U) (Closer) -- Off five poor efforts to begin his career, it is somewhat surprising to see that this son of Suave was claimed last out for \$10K. He did cost \$65K at auction, but has yet to show much talent, or competitiveness, on the track. He actually steps up in class for this. Need to improve by leaps and bounds, and the connections must have reason to believe that he will.
- 7. Bennett G (First time starter) -- Purchased for \$10K as a 2-year-old in training, this sophomore son of With Distinction is out of the unraced Line in the Sand mare Modest Lady. There's not much to go on pedigree-wise, but he has worked well leading up to this, and is being handled with kid gloves. Mickey Goldfine's only recent debuter won at a big price. Could be a live sleeper.
- 8. Avoid (First time starter) -- By the \$50K sire Empire Maker, this Gennadi Dorochenko-trained debuter is out of the Known Fact mare Averti, who has produced several stakes caliber performers. This colt does not show a published work past a half mile, but that isn't necessarily a huge negative with this barn. Sending mixed signals.
- 9. Parody (E) (Closer) -- Dismissed at 32-1 four weeks ago in his career debut at Oaklawn, this sophomore son of Posse ran to his lofty odds, finishing a distant ninth of 12. Bred for Poly, there

were expectations for improvement in his Arlington debut. Off to a sluggish start, he struggled to get it going, and finished a distant fifth of eight. He posted a very sharp work between starts, hinting that there is still hope. Be careful, he could improve without warning.

## 4th Race Key

Trainer Eoin Harty likes to swing into town with a talented young horse and break a maiden on occasion. Quillian fits the profile. Faptitude is another debuter worth watching. Of those who have raced, High Heir looks best off a solid second place run under similar circumstances last out. Donnie Von Hemel sends out a pair of runners who are in search of an identity in Crofter and Parody. Both have dropped hints of being useful horses, and are worth considering in the gimmicks.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Race (Uchman)

- 1. Ideal Alluvial (D) (Stalker)-Hasn't shown a lot so far. However, he did display some early zip when stretched out on yielding turf in last and his previous main-track races weren't all that bad. Drops to his lowest level yet. Turns back in distance and moves back to the main track, trying Polytrack for the first time. Might show some late run.
- 2. Citoyen Style (E) (Presser)-Tired in last and beat only one but he was making his first start since December. Came back with a terrific four-furlong bullet drill. Drew an inside post for this and should have a far easier time getting to the lead. With little other speed in here, he could take it all the way.
- 3. Spread the Chips (E) (Closer)-Has had a couple of competitive efforts. He only split the field in his AP debut but he was making up ground late when he ran out of real estate. It's conceivable that he'll improve after getting a trip over the track.
- 4. Yes Sir Officer (D) (Stalker)-Drops to the lowest level of his career. He didn't beat a rival in his first start of the meet but was in against open company and racing against considerably better rivals. The drop to this level could place him squarely in the hunt.
- 5. Naturday (D) (Stalker)-Should be one of the top contenders. Though he finished in the money only once in his seven races, he was always in against better. Drops in class and turns back in distance. Popped a :34.1 three-furlong drill since his last race. Looks ready to roll.
- 6. Dancing Sword (E) (Closer)-Comes off the best race of his career. He finished third in that spot, his first race on Polytrack and his first race with blinkers. He already showed that he's capable of unleashing a big late move. Could use it to get by all of them today.
- 7. Maritime Man (First time starter)-Races for a barn that hasn't had much recent luck with first-time starters but this one has been training better than most. He could be prepared to make an immediate impact.
- 8. Rap On Felix (First time starter)-Has been posting only moderate drills coming into his career debut but he races for a barn that is winning at a 27% clip for the meet, that generally does well with first timers, and he gets the top rider in the irons.
- 9. I'd Marry Me (E) (Presser)-Should ensure a fast early pace. He's making his first start of the year but that isn't likely to stop him from displaying his good natural speed. Would expect him to start to fade soon after the half but, by then, he could have softened up Citoyen Style on the lead.

Naturday seems to be in the right spot to graduate. He races for strong connections, he's dropping a couple of levels, and he's heading back to the state-bred ranks. His speed figures pretty much tower over those of his rivals. However, he could face a challenge from Citoyen Style. That quick runner is making his second start off a layoff and just might be able to secure an easy early lead. If he does get there unchallenged, he could take it all the way.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Race (Costanzo)

- 1. Approved by the mint (D) (Closer) Son of With Approval was a winner on the Fair Grounds turf two starts ago but could do no better than seventh in his last when trying tough second-level optional claimers over the local lawn. He now drops considerably while stretching out lightly, which may help. Late-runner should also be the recipient of a good ground-saving trip.
- 2. Paisano Creek (U) (Closer) Son of El Prado came from way back to prevail in his last, getting up to win by a neck on the Oaklawn dirt. He now returns to a turf course that he has enjoyed success over, including a second-place run at this level last year. He is another that will be flying late, and the fact Alvarado signs on is encouraging.
- 3. Mr. Mischief (U) (Presser) Son of Stormy Atlantic tallied a good win in his last when beating \$18k rivals when returning to this grass course. He has now posted five wins from 11 tries on the local lawn, with some of those previous wins coming against stronger competition than he will meet here. He has some natural speed and should be forwardly placed and may even find himself on the lead, by default.
- 4. Guadalcanal (D) (Closer) Son of Graeme Hall exits a sixth-place performance where he was beaten three lengths for everything. Make no mistake, those were legitimate mid-to-upper level claiming horses he was running with, and his effort was in fact quite good. He now drops to an easier spot, and it would appear that he must merely run his race to have a real shot in here.
- 5. Hype (D) (Closer) He ran well in a couple of turf sprints at Fair Grounds earlier in the year, but he has taken a step backward in his last two, and comes to this off an eighth-place effort when meeting tougher on this turf course in his last. He was stuck with an outward post that day which likely hurt his chances. And the shift inward today combined with the easier competition should allow him to show more.
- 6. Flying Warrior (D) (Presser) A rather good performer in 2010, he hasn't enjoyed any success this year when placed in a couple of difficult spots. He now drops to a more reasonable level, and one must hope that his confidence hasn't been negatively affected by his last two. With that said, his best can contend here.
- 7. Fly'n Lion (D) (Stalker) This guy tallied his lone win of last year on this course when he defeated \$25k claiming rivals. He hasn't started since a mid-December outing at Remington Park, and while it does appear that he can be competitive at this level, he will likely need a start or two before he is at his best. At least that's what he showed us last year, and what his barn's layoff numbers suggest.
- 8. Valtrus (D) (Closer) Son of Lemon Drop Kid exits a close fourth in a starter allowance at Keeneland that was likely stronger than what he encounters here. Veteran has really held his form together for a long time, and he almost always seems to run his race. If that's the case again today, he should be getting to them at the wire.

Mr. Mischief was a good winner in his last, and even though he moves up a level in class today, he can beat this group if he runs back to his last. And his up-front running style may be conducive to success here. Approvedbythemint, Paisano Creek, and Valtrus are all solid closers that will be flying late, while Guadalcanal was competitive with better at Gulfstream in his last. This is another tough turf heat.

# 7<sup>th</sup> Race (Spencer)

- 1. Oughta Be Mine (E) (Stalker) A good  $3^{rd}$  last out when bet to 4-5 going a one-turn mile, he makes his second start off a brief layoff this afternoon and moves around two turns. His best runs seem to have come routing, so the stretch-out should help the cause, and his best stuff stacks up favorably with those he'll face today. Expecting that he runs big enough to land a slice in here.
- 2. Strait of Mewsina (IRE) (D) (Presser) A Grade III winner of the Hawthorne Derby in 2008, he's fallen a long way to find a competitive spot. He was far from disgraced last out against starter allowance monster Helicopter, and now he makes his second start off the long layoff while dropping in class against easier company. He figures to get a good, pressing trip once again, and on paper he appears to be the one to beat in this spot.
- 3. Jamaica Bound (D) (Stalker) He's been struggling against similar company at Mountaineer, but the good news is that he returns to the Polytrack where he's tallied a trio of wins from nine career starts. The best hope seems to be that this change in footing moves him up enough to be competitive off some dull efforts. Not projecting that kind of improvement, but can't blame those willing to give him a chance.
- 4. Momentarily (E) (Presser) He's significantly better on the dirt than he is on the synthetics, and he was 6<sup>th</sup> in the same race last out as the rail runner, so he's got tables to turn in this one to begin with. He figures to get a decent kind of trip from a forwardly-placed position, but thinking he's going to have to find something better to handle this group believers can point to this being his third start off the layoff, and that often produces a big performance.
- 5. Summer's Empire (D) (Stalker) He drops in hard for this off a dull turf debut last time out, and he's been struggling to stay competitive in the longterm against tougher foes. The drop in class has the potential to move him up, as his races generally seem pretty competitive with the best of those he's facing today. Figures to get some tote action, and if he's going to get over the hump, this is as good a chance as he's had in quite some time to do so. Your call.
- 6. Show Your Face (E) (Closer) He got pretty good near the end of the Arlington meet last year and into the Hawthorne fall meet, but he's been a bit dull in his most recent runs to start the 2011 season. He figures to get rolling along late, but he's going to need to step up his game in order to handle this crew. That's not entirely out of the question, and he does have a little bit of consistency to him.
- 7. Harbor Win (D) (Closer) This guy's run admirably in a pair of starts over this Arlington Polytrack, but his most recent runs at Oaklawn this Spring were on the underwhelming side. He hasn't really been the same horse since he was red-hot in the summer and fall of 2009, but he is meeting an easier bunch than he was generally facing at Oaklawn. There aren't any real obvious signs that he's about to turn in something improved, so willing to take a pass today.
- 8. Doctor Cal (D) (Stalker) He's done his best work on the grass throughout his career, but he did run alright in his only synthetic try. This will mark his third try off the layoff, so an improved

effort is not completely out of the question at this point in time, and he's another taking a pretty significant class drop into this spot. Wouldn't be surprised to see the easier competition allow him to show a bit better in this one.

- 9. Calzone (D) (Presser) Like a couple of others in here, he's taking a pretty steep plunge into this spot after being most recently seen in an \$18K claimer on the Arlington turf. His form prior to that turf dud was actually pretty competitive against tougher company, and he has won a third of his six career tries on this surface. Think he's got a good chance to make some noise here.

  10. Watch Cupid (E) (Closer) He did a little bit better last time out when dropped in at a similar level, running evenly throughout and managing to snag the 4<sup>th</sup> money at odds of 29-1. That was his synthetic debut, so we could potentially see better this afternoon. That being said, his best stuff seems to stack up a little soft against the rest of these, so he seems to be a slight outsider.
- 11. Lucky Merlot (E) (Stalker) His form so far this year hasn't been competitive, and his 0-for-19 career slate on the Polytrack isn't much to get excited about, either. His wide post draw didn't do him any favors, and with his midpack running style, he figures to get hung out wide heading into the first turn. Thinking he's up against it in this spot.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Race Key

This is a pretty wide-open affair with several class droppers adding intrigue, and perhaps the slight edge goes to Strait of Mewsina on the class drop after chasing the monster Helicopter. Summer's Empire could do better with the easiest company he's ever seen and Calzone does good work on this Arlington main track. Oughta Be Mine fits and Jamaica Bound could bounce back on the move back to the Polytrack.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Race (Kristufek)

- 1. Yukan Do It Too (U) (Closer) -- By Royal Academy out of the successful turf mare Yukan B a Lady Too, this 4-year-old gelding is well-bred for grass. Hung wide at every call against \$25K claimers in his turf debut last out, he would finish a respectable seventh, beaten only five lengths. He steps up off a useful work, and is worth considering as a gimmick price shot.
- 1a. Rim Rock (First time starter) -- By the \$1,500 sire Quaker Ridge, this Frank Kirby-trained homebred debuter is out of the Lieutenant's Lark mare Flower Circle, who was a stakes winning turfer in her day. This 4-year-old gelding has trained forwardly leading up to the debut, but the barn's stats are lacking a bit in the applicable categories. Tough call.
- 2. Chief Chicago (E) (Closer) -- Winless from 12 starts, this 4-year-old gelding does have a pair of dirt seconds on his resume, but he's failed to light the tote from four career turf tests. He failed to make a serious impact in a recent one-turn mile run on Poly. He does his work from off the pace, so if honest fractions heat up, he could rally for a piece of the pie.
- 3. Run Nickie Run (First time starter) -- By the \$1K sire Canyon Run, this Danny Miller-trained homebred debuter is out of the Magabird mare Spiritual Drift, who was stakes placed on grass while earning over \$200K. It's a strange pedigree match, but she surely has green in her blood on the mother's side. The works aren't inspiring, but trainer Danny Miller has sharp stats from a limited number of debuters. Tough to gauge.

- 4. Big Poppa D (U) (Closer) -- This 4-year-old son of Pleasant Tap has just two thirds to show for 18 career starts, and he recently finished a distant eighth in a \$25K maiden claimer on grass. He actually steps up in class for this. Tough to recommend.
- 5. Cougar's Shadow (E) (Stalker) -- Bet down to 2-1 favoritism in his career debut at Hawthorne, this sophomore son of Petionville disappointed big time, finishing a tired tenth. He bounced back nicely in his follow-up start, finishing a game third. Last out, in his first try on Poly, he crossed the line a credible third. Two turns on turf is the next test, and he's not necessarily bred to do this. He's talented, but is still trying to find his niche.
- 6. Baranit (U) (Stalker) -- This gelding really hasn't done much of anything in his eight-race career, and was last seen finishing a non-threatening eighth in a \$20K maiden claimer on grass at odds of 100-1. Easy toss.
- 7. Bowmans Castle (First time starter) -- By the \$6K sire Bowman's Band, this John Harantrained homebred debuter is out of the Anees mare Castle Dargan, who failed to win from six career starts. He surely looks fit off the works, but the pedigree does not suggest a potential affinity for the grass. Keep tabs for later.
- 8. Desani's Chance (D) (Presser) -- This sophomore son of Leroidesanimaux ran better than it looks this spring in a pair of Oaklawn dirt dashes. Out of the G1 winning mare Mary Linoa, he's bred for turf on both sides of the pedigree. The timing is right for today's stretch out on grass, and he fired a bullet work in final preparation. Likely to fly under the radar, but he is very intriguing.
- 9. Hippodrome (U) (Closer) -- No better than fourth on Hawthorne dirt in the first four runs of his career, this sophomore son of Animo de Valeroso didn't fare any better when switched over to the grass last out. He actually steps up in class for this, and the outside post doesn't do him any favors. Tough to recommend.
- 10. You Dancing Demon (E) (Stalker) -- By the \$10K sire Pleasant Tap, this Christine Jankstrained homebred is out of the Diablo mare You Devil, making her a sibling to several productive runners, including the grassy stakes winner You Dancing Devil. A good third over a one-turn mile of Poly in his career debut, he should run even better around two turns on turf. The extreme outside post does make the task tougher, but he looms as a solid contender.

None of the horses with experience inspire much confidence here. You Dancing Demon and Desani's Choice, are short on know-how, but they're both bred to do great work on grass. Cougar's Shadow has done some nice work sprinting. His form must be respected, but based on the pedigree, turf routing isn't necessarily what he was born to do. The Kirby entry and the Miller debuter Run Nickie Run, are worth considering in the gimmicks.

# 9<sup>th</sup> Race (Uchman)

- 1. Beauty's Lad (E) (Stalker)-Split the field in his last, his first race at this level and his first with blinkers. He was favored in that spot but never really fired. However, it was also his first race on Polytrack. Could improve with experience.
- 2. Oh So Lo (D) (Stalker)-Moves back to Illinois breds. He finished in the money in three of his last four races, though he was never really competitive in last. He owns a good late move and he should have plenty of pace to aim at ahead of him. Might finally roll by them all.

- 3. No More Talkin (D) (Presser)-Could display early zip. He hasn't really improved since dropping into maiden claimers but he was facing open company in those races. The move back to state breds could do the trick.
- 4. College Blues (D) (Presser)-tired in his lone race. He did try for the lead and he stayed competitive for a half but soon faded after that. However, many improve in the second starts of their career. His barn is quietly putting up a very good year. This price shot deserves another chance.
- 5. Powerful Impact (D) (Stalker)-Was totally overmatched on the turf in last but he did finish second, on the main track, in his previous race. He was taking on open company, at this claiming level, in that spot. He'll be meeting state breds today. Not sure how he'll handle Polytrack but he does deserve the benefit of the doubt.
- 6. Eight Gauge (E) (Presser)-Has never gotten close but he did have the best finish of his career in his last start. All of his previous races were at Hawthorne, on dirt, but he did have a great local bullet drill since his last race. He's quick from the gate. Could surprise on the front end.
- 7. Mr. Miniver (D) (Stalker)-Finished far back in all three of his races. However, he did display some early zip in his last couple, when they stretched him out. Turns back in distance. He's not quick enough to challenge for the lead but, at this distance, he could stay competitive throughout. 8. Gold Double (D) (Stalker)-Drops into maiden claimers for the first time. He's also completing the sprint-route-sprint cycle. He finished far back in all of his races but all were against much
- better rivals. Could get things turned around in a big way at this level.

  9. Family Six (First time starter)-Sports a long series of slow drills. His barn doesn't start many first timers and they haven't had a lot of success with those that they have started. However, this
- 10. Potentate (D) (Stalker)-Lost his local debut by 34 lengths, his career debut by 25. However, he did press the pace in last through pretty fast fractions and he was in against much tougher. Drops in class. His barn won with two of their first six starters at the meet. Could surprise with this one.

field didn't come up very tough. Might get close.

There are a number of runners in here likely to be competitive, namely Beauty's Lad, Oh So Lo, Powerful Impact and Gold Double. Gold Double drops sharply while the others have shown some signs of competitiveness. However, should definitely consider Potentate on your ticket. Like the early zip he showed in his local debut. He could be tough at a price with the drop to this level.