

Dean's Comments at THE MEADOWS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2014

FIRST RACE

Track rated "good +1" for the day; as opposed to yesterday and last Wednesday, chalk is the order of the day (10 for 15, with one pilot having six of those triumphs): CAVIART GRIFFIN moved at the 5/16 to the lead into the second turn, trotted a 29.2 then a 29.1 quarter home in hand to be a runaway winner. BLOODSTOCKSDIAMOND raced with cover, then continued on without it to the ¾ and around the turn, second-strongest late. LUANN DUNN moved off the second turn and got to retuck in the pocket, outtrotted for second. FLASHY HANOVER yielded for the pocket, shuffled then outside turn, far-back fourth. AL-MAR FIBER OPTIC took back leaving, nothing thereafter. IDEAL EMMA was wide leaving to the top 3/16, gapped out starting before the 5/8. LADY INK was far far back. MAC TOM was looking for forward position early when he ran.

SECOND RACE

R JOURNEY TOGETHER stayed up on his cover in the fast third quarter, wide midturn, steadily late to just get up over TUNE IN (for a \$622.80 Exacta after a 1-20* shot was the first of ten chalks on the day). The latter moved into the second turn raw, paced her third quarter in 28 to challenge the leader and continued the heat through the turn, made the lead midstretch at 42-1, just succumbed late. CAPE MARJ took the pocket early, clear inside, close but a step or two shy. BRAVEHEARTEDMILLIE was wide leaving to the 3-hole at the 1/8, had room deep in the Lightning Lane, OK. SENORITA BELLE was third-over, three-wide with cover on the turn, wider into the lane, not quite enough rally. ANGELIC STAR headed straight down the road, was finally worn down by the first-over challenger, although not fading too badly. CHROME OVER stayed in, made up a little bit of ground late. COUNTLESS GOLD and HONEY DREAMS were far back throughout.

THIRD RACE

ONLY THE BRAVE moved before the quarter to claim the top just past the 5/16, picked up the pace a little down the back, then was on his own late while drifting out some. HAPPY GO JAMIE found the early pocket, Lightning Lane, along for second. PISTOL RIDGE tucked early, came back 9/16, didn't threaten the winner but steadily and third. ABBE NORMAL set sail right to the lead, yielded to the brusher, was tight in the pocket, lost her left headpole 11/16, couldn't keep pace in the stretch. JESSIE RAE went evenly. THE OTHERS made breaks at one point or another.

FOURTH RACE

GOOD CITATIONS was third-over, four-wide going to headstretch, exploded off the turn and ran away. FRISKIE CONNECTION tailed the winner, never tipped wider, followed him home for second. DAYLIGHTSABURNING stacked widest and was gaining as the pace decelerated. MEIN SCHATZ advanced sharply in a bad blindswitch late on the turn, blocked, finally angled in the winner's path and gained. (How often do you see the last four horses at the 5/8 be the first four horses under the wire?)

RAVENSWOOD REESE pulled from second at the 3/16 before the parked horse got to the spot, made the lead, yielded before the 3/8, waited for the Lightning Lane as the outside horses built momentum, finished OK. WEAR ART ANOTONIO was carried up nicely second-over, three-wide midturn but couldn't gain. MEDOLANDCAMPBELL E was very wide to the 1/8, then covered to the 3/8 then was raw, actually made a good challenge down the backstretch before fading, not a bad race at all. STRIKING DESIRE was actually the first on top, yielded, struggled at a couple of points before finally fading 5/8. MY NAME IS MONEY was wide leaving and took back to two-wide, cover from 3/16 to 5/16 to the top just before the 3/8, empty in the lane.

FIFTH RACE

GOVERNOR VICTORY sat just off an early succession lead changes, came out at the half and went by 11/16, opening a big lead that he only extended despite a slowing last quarter. BROAD HORIZON was third-over to second-over, three-wide when the new first-over stalled, trotted very sturdily to catch BROADWAY MOXIE for second. The latter was outside for 3/8 until being left raw, whereupon trotting to the lead at the half, couldn't resist the winner late backstretch, almost held for second. DOWNHILL RACER followed the place horse, not quite as much as that one but OK. PIXEL QUEEN gapped cover then was left raw, not all that much. LINDYS POP ROCKS never got in it. TREASURE COINS left and was looped, cover to the ¼ then up to get the lead 3/8, yielded at the half, began backing off late backstretch. SNOWSON was three-wide to the 1/8, made the top at the ¼, yielded, lost ground from the 5/8. WHIRLING DERVISH seemed interested in being an early forward factor but broke just before the start.

SIXTH RACE

WILLI RAY was seventh and fourth-over at the ¾, then launched a huge four-wide move, still not the picture of an ideally-gaited trotter, but fast and tough, with his burst carrying him to the front in the last 100 feet. MARTY MEGATRON was three-wide off cover midturn, had a short lead midstretch but was hauled in. KNIGHT SKY originally moved with cover but soon lost it, grinded up, briefly had the lead early stretch, held on well. BAD LEROY BROWN was wide to the 1/8 to the lead 3/16, yielded to a brusher 3/8, shuffled then angled out two- and three-wide in a blindswitch late turn, gained in the lane behind the place horse. GOTTA LAUGH AGAIN got away second, moved to the front at the 3/8, yielded 5/8, clear in the lane, fair between horses. DVC KOASTINGSTEADY was in the cover flow but was struggling to stay tight and took the blindswitch, not much late. CLOUD BURST had a good early spot, came out at the half and went right by 5/8, got immediate pressure and tired through the stretch. HUGO FOR US was always last of the flat horses. JIMY BEACH jumped coming off the turn before the start.

SEVENTH RACE

STAR STUDED CAST left well, forced a tuck, then yielded to the favorite for the pocket trip, to the Lightning Lane and won in hand. CAPTURETHEMEMORY was away third and quarter-moved, set the pace, lost most of the field with a quick third quarter, but couldn't withstand the winner. PINEHALL LADY tucked, then came out down the backstretch and gradually gained, bore out a little headstretch then regathered and closed solidly. ONA WYOMING TRIP gapped backstretch cover, finished next. OVERGROWN made a decent recovery from a break before the start to get the last check. HASTY JANE

took the pocket early, gapped from early in the backstretch. THE OTHERS were never factors in this event.

EIGHTH RACE

DECO ART TEEN tucked, then moved from fourth before the quarter to the lead 5/16, yielded into the second turn and sat the pocket, into the Lightning Lane, a little stepy before kicking into gear and going by. ENCOUNTR TO PONDER was far back inside, but angled out then in to find room behind the winner in the passing lane and was along for second nearing the wire. MISTY'S BEST was wide into the first turn, tucked third 3/16, then came out 5/16 and rushed to the front nearing the second turn, set the pace, tired a bit late. ACE RULES followed cover, gapped early in the backstretch then tightened in, three-wide on the turn, dropped down to two-wide headstretch, flattened some. DOUBLE LAUXMONT was in the three-wide flow on the turn, not that much. WHAT'STHEMAGICWORD had the early lead, yielded, came first-up past the half, faded some on the turn, then was shut off nearing the wire going steadily as the horse who went three-wide around her flattened out. QUICK DALE made the lead past the 1/8, yielded, struggled the last quarter. SB NATIVE LIAISON showed little.

NINTH RACE

SAM HAS CLASS was looped, took the pocket briefly then moved 3/16 to the lead, cut the rest of the pace, opened a clear lead past the half and still had three lengths midstretch, carried on lowchecked and determinedly to hold off GO TAPAIGH. The latter advanced up the inside down the backstretch, waited for the Lightning Lane, gained in it then angled out to be on the winner's right at the wire. Y-DAT went right to the lead, yielded to the winner, left a gap from the half, tightened back in a bit late. OVER AND OUT was second-over, three-wide midturn, closed well. AMERICAN GANGSTER and BOOTSWITHTHEFUR were not prominent. SPIRO DE VIE was uncovered at the 5/8 but couldn't make a dent. CAPRICCIO HANOVER broke while well back down the back.

TENTH RACE

STRONSKI left and maintained the pocket although gapped early, slipped out to the 5/8 and went three-wide, down to two-wide and not able to cross over as CHASE'S LEGACY kept going, kept on coming as the pace slackened, may have won by more if he hadn't tried to run in a couple times in the vicinity of midstretch. CHASE'S LEGACY was parked with cover early but went three-wide off the first turn to get into the raw uncovered position, then both cleared the pacesetter past the 5/8 and kept the winner out past a very fast 3/4s and through the turn, held with remarkable resilience in a \$5000 claimer, regardless of the last quarter (or perhaps the slow kicker emphasizes the work he did in fast time). RAINMAKER was able to get into the outside flow at the ¾, wasn't far off at all. BETTOR WATCH HIM followed the winner wide, then ducked into the new pocket midturn, Lightning Lane and tried hard. FOUR STARZ O closed some to be best of the rest. CAPITOL GO and SPHINX were never in it. RED STAR CATCH was parked early, looped past the ¼ and raced outside with cover until getting rough and fading at the half. FOUR STARZ TWINS left very fast and took the lead, had constant pressure in fast fractions, faded rapidly the last quarter.

ELEVENTH RACE

JUST A STEADY HALL left enough to get the early pocket, then moved quickly 3/8 to the lead before mid-second turn, sprinted home in 58 with a clear lead the last quarter. TROTALOT was third-over, four-wide in the lane and just caught MAXIMUM CREDIT for second. The latter was second-over, three-wide late turn, did well, just getting nabbed for the deuce. UPFRONT CHARLIEBOY sprinted 27.4 raw down the back to throw heat on the leader, held very creditably. JESSE'S STORY was third-inside, OK+ in the Lightning Lane. CRADABRA was wide early to the top at the 1/8, yielded to the winner before the half, couldn't keep pace through the stretch. SUPER LUSTRE stayed in, closed well considering how fast the last half was. VAYA CAN DIOS and ROUSH HANOVER were always far back.

TWELFTH RACE

MR EXCELLENT got the pocket in a lineup minus one, moved 5/16 to 3/8 command, in firm control. JUSTIN ART was the only leaver, yielded for the pocket, outside for the drive, held off CRUISING YANKEE for second. The latter looked to be on a line at several points, including much of the stretch where he just missed the deuce up the passing lane. YANZHOU was raw off turn two but got no closer than two lengths. ULSHOOTUREYEOUTKID had cover, no response. THE NEXT TWO were far back. DINGER ONE was 4 off the gate and gapped badly until the half, where he started to fall way back.

THIRTEENTH RACE

CRUELLA DE VILLE quarter-moved and controlled the throttle, looked as if she had two challengers a good part of the stretch but then drew clear in the last 50 yards. STRAY CAT STRUT tucked, then was first-up just past the half, looked to threaten past early stretch but wasn't as strong as the winner late. MR WEAVER left and forced a tuck, yielded to the favorite, passing lane, couldn't mount a rally. BLUENOSE GAL was second-over, gapped on the turn but came on a bit late. VIOLET EYES took the early two-hole, stayed in, so-so. JAILBIRDJUSTINTIME tried to rally three-wide late turn but couldn't reach. HI CLASS CREDIT was never close. REGAL DYNAMITE looked to leave, but took all the way back to last and stayed in the back. DASHNASHRIDGE made a skip midpack just past the 1/8, lost a few lengths, retucked, then backed through the field.

FOURTEENTH RACE

UP TOWN WATTS, coming his last half in 57, was third-over, sat dead chilly following cover three-wide on the far turn, four-wide headstretch and had the best last eighth to pace over the field to give Palone a natural Pick Five and seven on the afternoon. SJ'S BLISSFUL GUY came raw to the half and did 28.2 grinding work in the third quarter, very good but just outblasted late. MEDOLAND JATE was second-over, three-wide uncovered on the turn, also raced well. SOMEWHERE WITH YOU had the pocket in another "lineup minus one" (which just means that only one outside horse leaves, so PP1 has the pocket, etc.), Lightning Lane but not too much to offer late. THE FF JASPER got the lead quickly, rated the half, but didn't have enough sprint home. ZIPPITY DOODAH DEO was in a very tough spot. SONIC DANCER was away third, gapped most of the last half.

FIFTEENTH RACE

GAMBLER SPRINGS was outside in the general backstretch flow around the fading pocketsitter, did not tuck but advanced through the turn, along with solid urging in the last 100 feet. GJ PHOTO VICTORY crucially gapped the winner early on the final turn then sped up to get closer, narrowing in with every step but didn't quite make it. DUKE OF VEGAS was headed down the highway, a bit wide in front of the stands, tried to steal away with fast fractions, was visibly a tired horse early stretch but continued to battle on gamely. PACIFIC WAVE K retucked third down the back, outside behind the top two headstretch and photoed FUN N PLEASURE. The latter gapped virtually the entire mile, was first-up and almost immediately was able to retuck in the distant pocket, so-so late. BROADWAY BEAUTY was never close. ZORGWIJK KINPGPIN gapped out at the half. RT PICADILLY easily got the pocket (in a "lineup minus two"), devoid of trot the last half.