



"NICK'S PICKS"

FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH, BELMONT PARK

RACE 1

5	BLUEGRASS PREVAILS	With "Bobby" even on the morning line, let's try to steal the pot.
8	BOBBY ON FLEEK	
2	MANIPULATED	

RACE 2

3	CATCH YOUR DREAMS	"Dreams" of Sheppard shortening a 4-yr old in a great betting race.
5	SHE'S DREAMING	
7	SPRING FOLLY	

RACE 3

6	BACKSIDE OF THE MOON	Back to turf for "Moon" after a Belmont win in a race with many options.
2	ZENNOR	
5	MONSTER BEA	

RACE 4

10	IRST	Will a rest restore a Union Rags' talent? Several 1st timers here could prevail.
12	EMANCIPATION	
8	STAN THE MAN	

RACE 5 - \$150,000 TREMONT

3	PRESENCE OF MIND	Nothing by 8 2-yr old first race winners seeking their second one.
1	HE HATE ME	
7	SALMANAZAR	

RACE 6

2	ROCKETRY	Long distance for young colts, yet many here well accomplished already.
10	INTO THE BREACH	
6	IM THE CAPTAIN NOW	

RACE 7

8	SNAP DECISION	Woodslane's Lunaire could surprise now that turf switch is working.
11	LUNAIRE	
1	DADDY'S HOME	

RACE 8 - \$250,000 TRUE NORTH (G2)

8	WHITMORE	The last horse Whitmore lost to was Nyquist, five races ago.
4	STALLWALKIN' DUDE	
7	ROY H	

RACE 9 - \$500,000 NEW YORK (G2)

8	DACITA	6 of 9 here bred overseas, yet many here run well on the Belmont turf.
2	SUFFUSED	
5	HAWKSMOOR	

RACE 10 - \$400,000 BELMONT GOLD CUP (G3)

10	RED CARDINAL	Renown among the many longshots facing favorites off the hurdles overseas.
2	RENOWN	
8	ROMAN APPROVAL	

RACE 11 - \$250,000 BED OF ROSES (G3)

9	BY THE MOON	Proven at Belmont, "Moon" sees only one other with a win here.
3	INDULGENT	
2	HIGH RIDGE ROAD	

HORSEPLAYER'S BELMONT

There's the Triple Crown bid Belmont, the rubber match Belmont, the beat the classic winner Belmont and this one: the one when the Belmont Stakes fails to attract the Derby winner or the Preakness winner, a consequence usually labeled as a "Tarnished Triple Crown." Now fold in that its likely morning line favorite, Classic Empire, the most discussed horse over the last two weeks, had to step aside and that Epicharis was treated for lameness earlier in the week.

Usually that would leave a Triple Crown race decimated, but that's not the case here. Whatever the situation with the Japanese runner, the Belmont still keeps a double digit number of balanced starters. In other words, its the "Handicapper's Belmont." Though the many newcomers being introduced to racing through racing's most visible porthole, the Triple Crown, may recognize thoroughbreds familiar to them from the first two legs, seasoned horseplayers will have difficulty finding strong arguments for any of the Belmont choices going at this new distance for them of a mile and a half.

For those handicappers that can, don't forget the opportunity to play the multi-day doubles of the Belmont Gold Cup/Belmont double as well as the New York/Met Mile double that start today in the 9th and 10th races. In these wagers, you'll likely find yourself spreading wide in today's first leg.