



In Focus

Black-Eyed Susan Day

May 20, 2016

GRADE 3 PIMLICO SPECIAL

THE FIELD

1. **Page McKenney (5-2)** – Forced to chase #2 – Stanford last month in the G2 CT Classic in a pace-less race over a speed favoring bull-ring, but the scratch of that rival may not hurt here; PA-bred has become the most famous MD based runner next to Ben’s Cat... claimed for \$16k less than 3 years ago has become a \$1.4 million earner via multiple graded stakes placings plus a win in the G3 General George; has a current streak of 24 consecutive finishes in-the-money, 21 of them being part of the Exacta; this will be his 20th straight appearance in a stakes race; was runner-up in this event last year to Commissioner.
2. **Stanford (8-5)** – SCRATCHED.
3. **Savoy Stomp (15-1)** – A lightly raced four-year-old son of Medaglia d’Oro has proven to be outclassed when racing at the graded stakes level, finishing an average of 13-lengths by the winner in three such races. Gets reunited with John Velazquez who has ridden this guy just once, in his winning debut over 2½ years ago. On the bright side, his bloodlines suggest he should relish the extra distance and his worse two losses came on an “off” track.
4. **Golden Glint (10-1)** – Hmmm, it’s interesting to speculate if this runner might help his stablemate (#1 – Page McKenney) by pressing for a quick pace, yet this seven-year-old gelding is far from a “rabbit.” On the other hand, he was reclaimed by Mary Eppler two races back from a N2X, wheeled back to win a N3X and his three most recent A.M. drills were bullets. Only previous graded stakes appearance came in the grassy G2 Commonwealth Cup, which did not go well.

RACE DATA

- Race 7 (2:39pm EDT)
- For three-years-old and upward
- 1 3/16 miles (dirt), \$300,000 guaranteed purse
- 46th running
- 2015 winner: Commissioner
- Stakes records: 1:52.40 for 1 3/16 miles – Farma Way (1991)

5. **Idolo Porteno (ARG) (12-1)** – A multiple G1 winner imported from Argentina has found it tough sledding in the Northern Hemisphere. Though he was game in the G3 Razorback Handicap in his North America debut on dirt, he wanted no parts of the Keeneland turf course, stopping in the 1½ mile G2 Elkhorn. Return to dirt should bring a better result if recent dirt works are any indication.
6. **Hesinfront (15-1)** – What was said about #3 – Golden Glint pretty much applies to this five-year-old. One look at his past performances shows his comfort zone is with high-priced Optional Claimers. By comparison, he was thrashed in G2 and G3 events recently. Until this year, primarily earned his keep racing on the grass; was victorious on the dirt for the first time in five tries in latest outing.
7. **Noble Bird (3-1)** – Hard to figure out this five-year-old as it seems it's all or nothing. He tends to be rank from time to time, so not until he's in the Post Parade will we know how he's acting. A year ago placed in the G2 Alysheba then won the G1 Stephen Foster, but followed that up with a dismal showing in the G1 Whitney. The one constant since breaking his maiden at Del Mar is that when sent off as the Post Time favorite or fails to be among the pacesetters, he never delivers a victory. These types of runners drive horseplayers to drink.
8. **Warrioroftheroses (30-1)** – There's only one way this 7-year-old gelded son of *A.P. Warrior* runs... that's on the front, and he probably is speed of the speed in here. In every race he gets the first call when not stumbling at the start, but has never won at nine furlongs or more. Has gotten beat by *Page McKenney* and *Golden Glint* three times each on the page. Only hope in hitting the board is if the track holds early speed.

THE PICKS

1. #1 – Page McKenney (5-2): *Carries 2 lb. less while Stanford adds 6 lb. (an 8 lb. positive shift) compare to their assigned weight in the CT Classic plus Stanford will be pressed early in this contest leaving "Page" run his race, free to stalk v. press the early speed*

2. #3 – Savoy Stomp (15-1): *Buying into his two worst races have been on an "off" track and not that he has distance limitations based on the fact he's bred to run all day*

3. #5 – Idolo Porteno (ARG) (12-1): *Makes his third start of the year and in North America; considering the 1 3/16 mile is shorter than he race in 6 of his 12 lifetime races indicates he shouldn't be looking for oxygen when the field turns for home and could outlast others for a minor purse*

GRADE 3 ALLAIRE DU PONT STAKES

THE FIELD

1. **Theogony (6-1)** – Winless in five starts on natural dirt but four of those were in graded stakes events facing the top fillies and mares in the country. Has improved on her speed figures in her last two races while facing better each time. Julien Leparoux gets the call for trainer Mark Casse as this duo has won at a 29% clip the past year.
2. **Enganglee (6-1)** – This five-year-old daughter of Fusaichi Pegasus has made a slow climb up the class ladder, taking eight starts to break her maiden then competing nine times in allowance company before jumping into grade stakes... and she handled it quite well at huge odds, placing third in the G2 Inside Information at 7 furlongs followed by a runner-up finish in the 1 1/16 mile G1 La Trioenne, both at long odds.
3. **Camille Claudel (20-1)** – She'll be forwardly placed but may not hang around for long as she finished 4½-lengths behind fellow longshot #7 – America in her only try in a graded stakes race. Since then she's raced without blinkers winning twice and being a bridesmaid twice from four starts, though the competition in those races were much softer than what she'll face in here.
4. **Mei Ling (3-1)** – Has the speed to wire this field, but may yield the early lead #9 – Super Majesty. She's just one for four at this distance but just missed by a half-length in the G3 Top Flight Handicap at Aqueduct last month (in which she was 15 ahead of show horse *America*). Putting the blinkers back on her two race back paid immediate dividends as will getting Johnny

RACE DATA

- Race 9 (3:44pm EDT)
- For fillies and mares, three-years-old and upward
- 1 1/8 miles (dirt), \$150,000 guaranteed purse
- 23rd running
- 2015 winner: Stopchargingmaria
- Stakes record: 1:48.70 – Ajina (1998)

Velazquez back in irons, who last rode her at Saratoga to a victory in a 1 1/8 mile N1X allowance race.

5. **Ahh Chocolate (5-1)** – Hails from the CD-based barn of Neil Howard and makes a return engagement to Pimlico after placing third in the last years G2 Black-Eyed Susan. One of the most consistent gals in this field, hitting the board in six of her eight starts on a fast dirt oval while earning her best BRIS speed figure (99) three back when winning the G2 Fall City Handicap at Churchill Downs today's race distance of 1 1/8 miles.
6. **Savings Account (7-2)** – This lightly raced but well-traveled five-year-old mare will make Pimlico the ninth different racing venue she's competed at in just her sixteenth start. Though she's been doing well in minor stakes races, she earned black-type in the G1 Zenyatta last September when finishing third, 8¾ lengths behind multiple Eclipse award winning mare, Beholder.
7. **America (15-1)** – Chef Bobby Flay bred and owns this gal who is making her ninth consecutive start in a graded stakes event. Her last victory came three races back when she went right to the lead, a move never attempted in prior races or since. Seems up against it in here as she's was well beaten in her last two races by today's Morning Line favorite, #4 – Mei Ling.
8. **Joint Return (12-1)** – Has been stuck at Parx unable to race outside of that venue due to the quarantine situation the past two months which was just lifted this past Tuesday. She has put in a couple nice works but her current form is a shell of her former self when hitting the board regularly in graded stakes events.
9. **Super Majesty (15-1)** – There's little doubt where she'll be early in this contest after showing the need to be on lead when sprinting. This will be her first attempt at two turns and it will be interesting to see if either of the two other gals with early speed will just let her go or hook up

THE PICKS

1. #10 – Tiger Ride (8-1): *A pattern seems to be emerging from this gals past performances... she's 2 for 2 in dirt races when coming off a turf race. The third time is a charm?!*

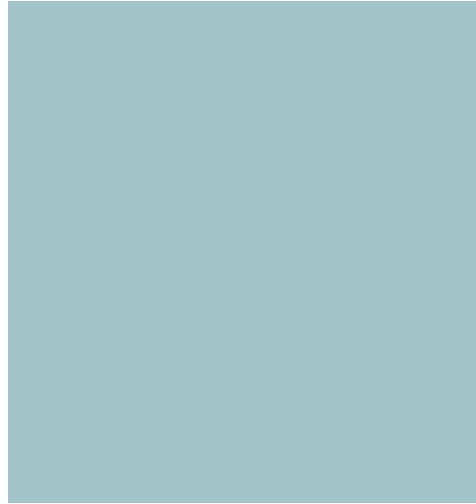
2. #5 – Ahh Chocolate (5-1): *Ran a creditable third in last years Black-Eyed Susan; gives her best every time she breaks from the Starting Gate; third race after a layoff angle is in play here*

3. #9 – Super Majesty (15-1): *First time going two turns will surely be on the lead without too much pressure. If the Old Hilltop dirt oval favors early speed, then this gal has a fighting chance to go gate-to-wire or at least hit the board.*

4. #6 – Savings Account (7-2): *Been away from the track in the afternoon since mid-March but trainer Tom Proctor has had her on an evenly spaced training schedule; especially like the 7 and 6 furlong works to wrap it up.*

with her to set suicidal fractions. Buried in her last two outings at 7 furlongs against G1 competition because she couldn't get to the lead, this daughter of Super Saver has the pedigree to be successful at today's 1 1/8 miles.

10. **Tiger Ride (8-1)** – Versatile runner has won on turf, dirt and an off track. Surprisingly gets the top BRIS Prime Power number in this group. Making her third start of the year but just second on dirt; performed credibly in last despite being thrashed by turf superstar Tepin in the G1 Jenny Wiley at Keeneland.



GRADE 2 BLACK-EYED SUSAN STAKES

THE FIELD

1. **A P Majestic (30-1)** – One of three local fillies willing to take on a nationally tested and proved group. She earned entry into this contest via “Win And You’re In” \$100,000 Weber City Miss at Laurel Park in her last start, albeit via DQ when (#11 in here) In the Navy Now “herded” her out in the final 50 yards. That was her first two-turn race and with A.P. Indy in her bloodlines, at least she’ll have no problem going another 1/16th.
2. **Dothraki Queen (15-1)** – Unable to draw into the KY Oaks two weeks ago, trainer Ken McPeck shipped this gal to Pimlico for the next best thing. After winning her debut by 7 lengths on the turf at Ellis Park last July, she jumped into graded stakes company and won the G2 Pocahontas at Churchill two months later. Winless in four starts since, her best effort came in the G1 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies finishing third behind superfilly Songbird.
3. **Land Over Sea (2-1)** – Speaking of Songbird, this gal chased her in five consecutive races, being bridesmaid three times... there’s no shame in that, which is why she’s the prohibitive Morning Line favorite. The BES will be her eighth straight graded stakes while her 13 foes combined have only competed in 18 of them. Owned, trained and ridden by the same trio who has KY Derby winner Nyquist, she gets her fair share of attention in the morning... and likely will from the bettors as well.
4. **Ma Can Do It (30-1)** – It’s an oddity in this sport to have a maiden (i.e. non-winner) entered in a \$250,000 graded stakes race, especially with six races under her belt, but she’s no ordinary maiden. She earned black-type when finishing third in the G1 Alcibiades last October at Keeneland, then didn’t embarrass herself when

RACE DATA

- Race 11 (4:50pm EDT)
- For fillies, three-years-old
- 1 1/8 miles (dirt), \$250,000 guaranteed purse
- 92nd running
- 2015 winner: Keen Pauline
- Stakes record: 1:47.83 – Silverbulletday (1999)

fifth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies.

Unfortunately when her connections decided to race her with other maidens to get that initial win, she's failed to do so in both '16 starts, turning in the two worst races of her career. One has to think why here?!

5. **Go Maggie Go (5-2)** – A potential superstar from the barn of Dale Romans who won this race with Keen Pauline last year, came up 3 lengths short in her bid to win her third race without a defeat when fourth in the KY Oaks two weeks ago. She's bred top and bottom to have the stamina to win at these longer distances. The only question: is she mature and physically fit to put in a top effort in her fourth career race just 67 days after her debut?
6. **She's a Warrior (6-1)** – Fits the same "maiden mold" as #4 – Ma Can Do It. Six races, no wins, 3 seconds and 3 thirds. Two of the latter coming in graded stakes races at Santa Anita and both at the hands of Songbird, while 3¾ lengths behind #3 – Land Over Sea in one. Some young thoroughbreds just don't figure out until later that their job is to pass their rivals, not just be happy to let others lead the way to the Finish Line.
7. **Downdraft (30-1)** – One of the local runners whose form turned around bigtime after being transferred to the James Lawrence II barn. Fresh off her maiden win, a 9 length romp which followed a strong third place showing to a next out winner, in her debut for Lawrence, she'll need to take another huge step forward to compete against this assembled group.
8. **Double Entendre (30-1)** – After destroying her competition by 8-lengths in her racing debut at Sam Houston, Looch Racing Stables privately purchased her and turned over the training duties to Peter Walder in Florida. She got dusted by 10-lengths over a sloppy track by *Go Maggie Go* in the GP Oaks. Blame the surface or maybe she's just not graded stakes caliber. She adds

THE PICKS

1. #3 – Land Over Sea (2-1): *Typically avoid KY Oaks participants because three-year-old fillies require more than two weeks to bounce back from the toughest test of their young career, but after seeing her in the A.M. at Pimlico this week, she looks no worse for wear*

2. #6 – She's a Warrior (6-1): *Here's a maiden that has a legitimate shot at capturing the Susans; regardless that Songbird was geared down in the G1 SA Oaks; this gal made up ground in the stretch just missing the runner-up spot*

3. #2 – Dothraki Queen (15-1): *Earned the Show purse last Fall in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile yet got shut out from starting in the KY Oaks; might have been a blessing in disguise getting additional time off after getting spanked in on the Keeneland turf by Catch a Glimpse*

4. #12 – Flora Dora (30-1): *Not buying into what most cappers will surmise that she was outclassed in G2 Gazelle, instead I'm thinking it was the off track or the fact she ran behind three who next ran in the KY Oaks; has a shot to upset at a big price*

blinkers in here for just her third lifetime start but at least the track should be “fast.”

9. **Midnight on Oconee (15-1)** – Trained by Delaware Park-based Larry Jones who has had his share of quality fillies, this gal spent the winter at Fair Grounds (NOLA) successfully stepping through the conditions through before her runner-up effort in the G2 Rachel Alexandra. Then something must have gone amiss in her next start, the G2 Fair Grounds Oaks where after taking her customary lead, she faded badly. Don't underestimate Jones's ability to have found the issue and resolved it in time to be a factor in here as she's been working steadily the past month.
10. **Kinsley Kisses (6-1)** – A late-blooming filly who made her professional debut just four months ago, but trainer Todd Pletcher's patience paid off. She easily won her first two starts in gate to wire fashion. Her perfect record ended when she could only manage a third place effort against just four rivals in the G3 Beaumont at Keeneland in her most recent outing a month ago. All three starts have been one-turn affairs at 7 furlongs. It's asking a lot to give her best effort to date the first time stretching out to two turns.
11. **In The Navy Now (30-1)** – Victim of a disqualification, but rightly so in the Weber City Miss at Laurel Park in her most recent start as the 6-5 favorite. Having run all seven of her career races at Laurel, it took her five tries to get to the Winners' Circle. It appears that in spite of the DQ that cost her the victory, her trainer Michael Trombetta learned that the further the race the better she likes it. Her lack of speed mixed with stamina will be her Achilles Heel when this field breaks from the starting gate.
12. **Flora Dora (30-1)** – Other than the Morning Line favorite and second-choice, this First Dude filly is only one to have raced at this 1 1/8 mile distance. Testing the distance on two occasions, both in G2 events losing to the same filly, Lewis Bay who ran third in the KY Oaks, she came up just 3-lengths short in the Demoiselle last November at

Aqueduct but a disappointing fifth by 13-lengths over the same Aqueduct oval, but in the mud. The talent is there, but she may not be in top form at this time.

13. **Cced (15-1)** – This Steve Asmussen trainee fired a pair of impressive BRIS speed figures versus maidens in her first two starts at Fairgrounds. It was another story when racing moved to Oaklawn Park as has she hated its sloppy surface but rebounded ever so slightly in her next outing, an N1X victory. She’s likely biting off more than she can chew in here.
14. **Mom’s On Strike (15-1)** – Made her career debut just 64 days ago for Mr. Rosie Napravnik, aka trainer Joe Sharp. Broke her maiden in her last/second start going two turns at Oaklawn Park. Fillies with her so-so speed figures simply don’t step up into graded stakes competition and win.

GRADE 3 ADENA SPRINGS MISS PREAKNESS STAKES

THE FIELD

1. **She's All Ready (6-1)** – This NY-bred chestnut has never been off the board in five career starts, all within the state of New York. She's enjoyed success in part due to competing in restricted company. The one exception in the one mile G1 Frizette last October where she faded to third over a sloppy Belmont surface.
2. **Ultra Brat (20-1)** – Graham Motion trains this daughter of first year super-stud Uncle Mo who just broke her maiden last month at Keeneland in her second career start, travelling 7 furlongs. Her debut going 6 furlongs was forgettable last November at Churchill Downs when she broke slow and was distanced, officially finishing 67 lengths behind the winner.
3. **Right There (12-1)** – Only mount on the card for jockey Kent Desormeaux as he's ridden this filly in eight of her ten starts for his brother, trainer Keith Desormeaux. Oddly she has never raced at this 6 furlongs distance, racing two turns in her past six outings. Still eligible for non-winners of two lifetime (N2L), she's not as good at age 3 as she was at age 2 when chasing super filly Songbird and Black-Eyed Susan Stakes favorite Land Over Sea.
4. **Lost Raven (5-1)** – One of 13 stakes winners to date from the first crop of youngsters sired by Uncle Mo. Bred and owned by high profile horse racing New Yorker Mike Repole, Lost Raven comes off a victory in Aqueduct's \$125,000 Cicada Stakes, the third of her career from seven starts. No worse than second in three 6 furlong efforts. Trained by Todd Pletcher and ridden by

RACE DATA

- Race 13 (5:54pm EDT)
- For fillies, three-years-old
- 6 furlongs (dirt), \$150,000 guaranteed purse
- 31st running
- 2015 winner: Irish Jasper
- Stakes record: 1:10.00 – Lucky Livi (2000)

John R. Velazquez for the first time, have teamed up getting 25% of their runners to the Winners' Circle over the past year.

5. **Quick Release (10-1)** – 2 for 2 on a fast track, which should be the case at Pimlico on Friday. Will be among the early pace-setters as she fell just a half-length short in her debut, otherwise she'd be perfect at today's contest 6 furlong distance. Exits gate-to-wire win at Keeneland in a non-winners of two lifetime (N2L) sprint with Javier Castellano in the irons, assigned to ride her here and has been her pilot in both career victories.
6. **Moment Is Right (5-1)** – The speed of the speed as only once has she failed to be on the lead at the First Call in her five career outings... all at different racing venues and Pimlico will be the sixth. Somehow this daughter of Medaglia d'Oro who won multiple graded stakes at classic distances, out of a dam produced by FL Derby winner Vicar, doesn't seem to have the stamina to carry her speed to win beyond 5½ furlongs.
7. **One True Kiss (15-1)** – One of two entered here by racing's newest Hall of Famer, trainer Steve Asmussen, who took over conditioning duties from SoCal based trainer Peter Miller last Fall. This daughter of Warrior's Reward has since struggled through five races, one at Churchill and four at Oaklawn Park, against non-winners of two lifetime (N2L) finally earning that elusive second career victory, coming from way off the pace at 13-1. Will need a complete pace meltdown to have any shot v. these gals.
8. **R Girls a Charmer (4-1)** – Got cooked on the front end in the 7 furlong G3 Beaumont at Keeneland when facing just four rivals, setting fractions of 22.20, 44.60, 1:09.60 then fading to finish fourth. She was hot stuff in south Florida until she ran into eventual KY Oaks winner Cathryn Sophia in the one mile G2 Davona Dale at Gulfstream Park in February. It was then that trainer Mark Casse must have decided that no

THE PICKS

1. #10 – Simple Surprise (12-1):

Has the tactical speed and outside run to get a clean trip, something she hasn't had in her past two outings; addition of blinkers should help as well

2. #9 – Banree (7-2):

Overmatched in G1 Ashland first time going two turns; gets back to sprinting where she's won and been runner-up from two starts

3. #8 – R Girls a Charmer (4-1):

Got caught up in a speed duel in the G3 Beaumont and it cost her; jockey L. Saez won't let that happen again even though there's plenty of other early speed to challenge her

4. #6 – Moment Is Right (5-1):

Ships in from Santa Anita just for this event and is trainer Simon Callaghan's only entry on the 14-race card; speed figures and final 1/16th time is among the top 3 in here : Has the tactical speed and outside run to get a clean trip, something she hasn't had in her past two outings; addition of blinkers should help as well

more than 7 furlongs would be her future earning power.

9. **Banree (7-2)** – This lukewarm Morning Line favorite has had an interesting eight race career so far, taking on her male counterparts in three outings, two of them in her first two races, winning her debut. Both wins have come at Keeneland but her best effort BRIS Speed figure-wise was a runner-up effort in the Saratoga opening day G3 Schuylerville Stakes. Only gal in this field to have hit the board in multiple graded stakes events. Local jock Trevor McCarthy gets the call as he did when guiding her to a third place finish in the one mile G3 Tempted Stakes at Aqueduct in November.
10. **Simple Surprise (12-1)** Trainer Steve Asmussen's other runner in here won her first two career races, both going 5½ furlongs, first over a sloppy Churchill Downs oval then winning the \$100,000 Bolton Landing Stakes on the turf at Saratoga last summer. That was the last time she visited the Winners' Circle, failing to carry her speed 6 furlongs or more in her next three starts, but hasn't had clean trips in her only two starts as a three-year-old. Adds blinkers and gets Florent Geroux (28% w/ Asmussen) as her pilot for the first time

