

# ROAD TO THE MEADOWLANDS PACE

Week 10 (Final) – Thursday, July 4

The Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace is on Saturday, July 13

RANK	HORSE (EARNINGS – MARK)	DRIVER, TRAINER OWNER(S)	DAVE LITTLE'S COMMENTS
1	<b>CAPTAIN CRUNCH</b> (\$1,050,806 – 1:47.2)	S. ZERON, N. JOHANSSON 3 BROTHERS STABLES, CHRISTINA TAKTER, ROJAN STABLES, CAVIART FARMS	ONLY A JUMPED SHADOW IN HIS NA CUP ELIMINATION KEPT HIM FROM GOING WIRE-TO-WIRE ATOP THE RTTCFMP TOP 10. THE TOP DOG OF THE 3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACING DIVISION IS LISTED AT 8-5 FROM THE RAIL IN THE FIRST OF TWO MEADOWLANDS PACE ELIMINATIONS SATURDAY NIGHT. JOHANSSON: "HE'S BEEN DOING VERY WELL AND WE HAVE KEPT HIM IN HIS ROUTINE." SINCE A GOOD POST IS GUARANTEED WITH AN ELIMINATION WIN, WILL CRUNCH BE HANDLED MORE AGGRESSIVELY? "I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO DO THAT. HE'S THE ONE WITH THE TARGET ON HIS BACK." <b>LAST RACE: 6/15 – WMP – NORTH AMERICA CUP FINAL – 1<sup>ST</sup> (1:47.2)</b>
2	<b>BETTOR'S WISH</b> (\$639,556 – 1:49.3)	D. DUNN, C. RYDER CHRIS RYDER, BELLA RACING, FAIR ISLAND FARM, KENNETH SOLOMON	OPTED TO QUALIFY AT THE MEADOWLANDS SATURDAY, COMPLETING THE MILE IN 1:51.3 AFTER DEUCE-POPPING AT THE HEAD OF THE STRETCH. DREW POST 6 IN ELIM 2 AND WILL START OUT AT 9-5. RYDER: "I FIGURED A QUALIFIER WOULD SUIT HIM JUST FINE. HE'S A BIG EATER AND GETS A LITTLE CHUBBY." CAN CAPTAIN CRUNCH BE BEATEN? "IF BETTOR'S WISH SHOWS UP, YES." <b>LAST RACE: 6/29 – M1 – QUALIFIER – 1<sup>ST</sup> (1:51.3)</b>
3	<b>WORKIN ONA MYSTERY</b> (\$258,567 – 1:49)	T. TETRICK, B. BROWN DIAMOND CREEK RACING, STAMBAUGH LEEMAN STABLE, ALAN KEITH, WINGFIELD BROTHERS	THE LAST TIME THE "BIG THREE" MET, HE WAS THE 7-5 NA CUP FAVORITE. FIRST THINGS FIRST. HE AND CAPTAIN CRUNCH AND BETTOR'S WISH NOW ALL NEED TO QUALIFY TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN. HE'S DRAWN POST 4 IN ELIM 1 AND IS 5-2. BROWN: "HE TRAINED WELL TUESDAY AND SCOPED VERY WELL AFTER. I THINK HE'LL BE PRETTY GOOD SATURDAY." <b>LAST RACE: 6/15 – WMP – NORTH AMERICA CUP FINAL – 3<sup>RD</sup> (1:47.3)</b>
4	<b>BEST IN SHOW</b> (\$126,487 – 1:50.3)	B. MCCLURE, L. TOSCANO RICHARD P YOUNG, JOANNE YOUNG, CRAIG W HENDERSON	WENT WELL FOR SECOND IN ONTARIO SIRE STAKES GOLD ACTION SATURDAY AT MOHAWK. WITH 10 LIFETIME STARTS UNDER HIS BELT, IS HE NOW READY TO TAKE ON THIS KIND OF STOCK? HE'S DRAWN POST 3 IN ELIM 2 AND IS 12-1. TOSCANO: "I THINK HE WAS GOOD NOT GREAT SATURDAY (AT MOHAWK). I JUST WANT TO SEE HIM CONTINUE TO PROGRESS. HE'S STARTING TO GET A LITTLE BIT SMARTER." <b>LAST RACE: 6/29 – WMP – ONTARIO SIRE STAKES GOLD – 2<sup>ND</sup> (1:49.4)</b>
5	<b>HURRIKANE EMPEROR</b> (\$356,650 – 1:49.3)	D. DUBE, J. McDERMOTT JONATHAN KLEE RACING, KUHEN RACING, PEGASIS INVESTMENT GROUP, WILLIAM GAROFALO	MADE A BIG BID IN THE HEMPT AT THREE-QUARTERS BUT HAD TO SETTLE FOR FIFTH. STARTED HIS CAREER 10-FOR-12 BUT HAS LOST FOUR IN A ROW SINCE. IS LISTED AT 8-1 FROM POST 5 IN ELIM 2. McDERMOTT: "DANNY WANTED TO MAKE A BIG RUSH (IN THE HEMPT) BUT HE GOT ROUGH ON THE TURNS. TO PICK UP A FIFTH WAS GREAT BUT I'M STILL TINKERING WITH HIM. IT MEANS A LOT TO WIN THE ELIM AND GUARANTEE A GOOD POST FOR THE FINAL." <b>LAST RACE: 6/29 – PCD – HEMPT FINAL – 5<sup>TH</sup> (1:50.2)</b>
6	<b>LOVE ME SOME LOU</b> (\$213,599 – 1:50.4)	D. MILLER, T. CANCELLIERE JOHN CANCELLIERE	REAPPEARS IN THE TOP 10 OFF A WIN AGAINST OLDER FOES AT PHILADELPHIA IN 1:51.4. WILL THAT EFFORT PROVE TO BE ENOUGH TO GET HIM BACK TO A HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL TO COMPETE WITH THESE AFTER BEING AWAY FROM THE RACES FOR SIX WEEKS? IN THE SOFTER SECOND ELIM, HE'S DRAWN POST 1 AND IS 10-1. <b>LAST RACE: 6/30 – PHL – WINNERS OF 5 BUT NOT 7 – 1<sup>ST</sup> (1:51.4)</b>
7	<b>U S CAPTAIN</b> (\$55,957 – 1:50.1)	D. DUNN, T. ALAGNA BRITTANY FARMS LLC, BRADLEY J GRANT, JOSEPH BARBERA, U S CAPTAIN RACING	PERFECT IN FOUR STARTS IN 2019, TWO OF THEM OVERNIGHTS, WITH THE OTHER TWO AT THE BIG M. DOES THAT PREPARE ONE FOR THE MEADOWLANDS PACE? WE'LL FIND OUT. HE'LL BEGIN FROM POST 2 IN ELIM 1 AT 5-1. ALAGNA: "I DON'T KNOW THAT HE'S READY FOR (THIS CALIBER OF HORSES) BUT HE HAS SHOWN PROGRESSION. HE'S PRETTY VERSATILE AND WILL HAVE TO DO IT FROM OFF OF A HELMET." <b>LAST RACE: 6/29 – M1 – QUALIFIER – 5<sup>TH</sup> (1:52.3)</b>
8	<b>CAVIART ROCKLAND</b> (\$93,265 – 1:50.3)	Y. GINGRAS, N. JOHANSSON CAVIART FARMS	ONLY 2-FOR-16 LIFETIME YET COMES INTO THE PACE IN GOOD SHAPE, HAVING FINISHED SECOND IN THE NA CUP CONSOLATION. HE HAS POST 7 IN ELIM 2 AND IS LISTED AT 8-1. JOHANSSON: "HE'S COMING INTO THE RACE IN GOOD FORM. HE STAYS WITH CRUNCH WHEN THEY TRAIN TOGETHER. I DON'T THINK HE'S ANY BETTER OR WORSE THAN (THE SECOND-TIER HORSES)." <b>LAST RACE: 6/15 – WMP – NORTH AMERICA CUP CONSOLATION – 2<sup>ND</sup> (1:49.1)</b>
9	<b>DE LOS CIELOS DEO</b> (\$217,758 – 1:48.4Q)	D. MILLER, R. BURKE BURKE RACING STABLE LLC, LAWRENCE R KARR, J&T SILVA-PURNEL & LIBBY, WEAVER BRUSCEMI LLC	BURKE THINKS HIGHLY OF THIS SON OF CAPTAINREACHEROUS, BUT THINGS DID NOT GO HIS WAY IN THE NA CUP FINAL. HE'LL LOOK TO REBOUND IN ELIM 2 AT 4-1 FROM POST 8. BURKE: "I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE NA CUP FINAL. EVERY TIME HE RACES POORLY, I'M SHOCKED BY IT. I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR HIM AND WILL GET HIM RIGHT." <b>LAST RACE: 6/15 – WMP – NORTH AMERICA CUP FINAL – 7<sup>TH</sup> (1:49.3)</b>
10	<b>ESCAPETOTHEBEACH</b> (\$163,392 – 1:50.1)	Y. GINGRAS, T. ALAGNA ALAGNA AND INTHEGYM, JOE SBROCCO, ROBERT J LEBLANC, W J DONOVAN	OFF A PAIR OF TOUGH MILES IN THE HEMPT, WILL DEPART FROM POST 2 AT 10-1 IN ELIM 2. HE IS THE HORSE WHO PUSHED CAPTAIN VICTORIOUS TO THE HALF IN :53.2 WHILE FIRST-OVER IN HIS HEMPT ELIM. ALAGNA: "HE'S GOT A BETTER RESUME AT THIS POINT THAN U S CAPTAIN. AFTER HE WENT PARKED THE ENTIRE MILE (IN HIS HEMPT ELIM) I WAS VERY HAPPY HE HUNG IN THERE AS WELL AS HE DID. HE'S HAD A GOOD WEEK AND SHOULD BOUNCE RIGHT BACK." <b>LAST RACE: 6/29 – PCD – HEMPT CONSOLATION – 3<sup>RD</sup> (1:50.2)</b>