Date: August 8th, 2020   **Track:** Monmouth Park

By Mary Rampellini

BEST BET: Hey Leocadia (8th race)

First Race

1. Golden Pal	2. Fauci	3. County Final

Monmouth Park card includes the Tyro and an appearance by a 3-year-old half-sister to champion Songbird. The Tyro is the opener, with 2-year-olds going five-eighths on the grass. **GOLDEN PAL** is a maiden facing winners, but on the flip side he is Group 2-placed and he's the first foal from turf sprint queen Lady Shipman, a Grade 3 winner of $902K who ran second in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. **FAUCI** is a logical choice off the sharp maiden score on the grass. The Beyer Figures he has earned are the best numbers in the field. He will be first Lasix, as will GOLDEN PAL. **COUNTY FINAL** was Grade 3-placed on dirt last out and before that was a maiden winner on the grass at Churchill.

Second Race

1. Charge Ahead	2. The Exception	3. Sour Kicks

Belmont Park invader **CHARGE AHEAD** is a class play as one who has been facing higher-priced claiming foes. **THE EXCEPTION** owns the field's best last-race Beyer Figure. **SOUR KICKS** faced steeper last time and will be first Lasix.

Third Race

1. Backshot	2. Sagamore Mischief	3. Our Destiny

BACKSHOT shortens up to six furlongs and in his lone start at the distance he popped a career-high Beyer Figure of 80. As for the race he exits, the runner-up came back to win a maiden allowance at Kee with a Beyer of 80 and the eighth-place finisher, Wartime Hero, a $50K maiden claiming race at Kee, with a Beyer of 78. BACKSHOT is a half-brother to multiple stakes winner The Money Monster ($156K). **SAGAMORE MISCHIEF** is a half-brother to Grade 2 winner Bern Identity ($877K). Both are from a Grade 3-winning mare who ran out $250K. **OUR DESTINY** adds blinkers and moves back to the main track. MR. MAZZA is a half-brother to Grade 2 winner Ruby's Reception ($365K).

Fourth Race

1. Creative Genius	2. Purchasing Power	3. Ricardito

CREATIVE GENIUS moves back to two turns and the last time he raced at the configuration he was a winner over seven-eighths at Charles Town. **PURCHASING POWER** has class appeal as one who has been facing steeper. **RICARDITO** stretches back out around two turns and gets in lighter than these under "seven-pound bug" Peterson.

Fifth Race

1. Hannah's Smile	2. Tracy Ann's Legacy	3. Liana Susquehanna

The five and a half furlong trip might be a tad less than optimum for **HANNAH'S SMILE**, but she is appealing for her consistent nature. She also ran well shortening up in distance last time and might be sitting on a peak race here, in her third out since November. **TRACY ANN'S LEGACY** brings excellent speed to the table and owns the field's best last-race Beyer Figure. **LIANA SUSQUEHANNA** us 4-for-7 and a fresh horse as this marks her first out since February.

Sixth Race

1. America's Surprise	2. Restraint of Trade	3. Asyena

AMERICA'S SURPRISE is racing royalty as a daughter to Triple Crown winner American Pharoah and a half-sister to champion Songbird ($4.6M). She's shown speed in her races and has a chance to steal away in this spot for Hollendorfer, who trained Songbird. **RESTRAINT OF TRADE** moves to dirt for her second start and she worked a bullet half-mile over the local main track in her final prep for Saturday. **ASYENA** has an age edge on top two as she is 4.

Seventh Race

| 1. Tuesday's Rose | 2. Princess Janet | 3. Special Risk |

TUESDAY'S ROSE shortens up some to six furlongs and she is a multiple winner at the trip. **PRINCESS JANET** has speed and a post that might give Hernandez options. **SPECIAL RISK** cuts back to one turn, site of her best recent Beyer Figure.

Eighth Race

| 1. Hey Leocadia | 2. Aiken to Belong | 3. Big Looker |

HEY LEOCADIA has fired her strongest races on the grass and like that both of those efforts have come over the course at Monmouth. She also owns the field's best last-race Beyer Figure. **AIKEN TO BELONG** ran a very credible race off the bench last time and has reason to move forward in her second out since October. **BIG LOOKER** tries turf for a sire who was a stakes winner on the grass and who is getting 9 percent winners from his first-time turfers and 11 percent winners overall on the grass.

Ninth Race

| 1. Noon Time Gem | 2. Visionary Ruler | 3. Mooji Moo Jr. |

NOON TIME GEM is a three-time winner facing some less-experienced rivals. For this trip he adds blinkers. **VISIONARY RULER** also has experience on these, as he is looking for career win No. 15. Hickory. **MOOJI MOO JR.** is from a multiple stakes-winning mare who ran out $500K. This one captured the Tyro in 2018. As for the race MOOJI MOO JR. exits, it has produced two next-out winners. Another of interest is sharp maiden winner PIANZI.

Tenth Race

| 1. Beach Traffic | 2. Indian Buzz | 3. Fly Nightly |

BEACH TRAFFIC was second over some of these last out and draws a useful kind of post. **INDIAN BUZZ** exits same race as top choice, setting the pace and finishing third. **FLY NIGHTLY** draws a wide post, but is moving back to the distance of his maiden win.

Eleventh Race

| 1. Our Man Luke | 2. Target Tales | 3. Booj |

OUR MAN LUKE owns the field's best last-race and career Beyer Speed Figure. He draws the rail again in this spot and note the winner from the race he exits was to run earlier on the card. On a pedigree point, OUR MAN LUKE is from a multiple stakes-winning mare who ran out $372K and who has produced a stakes winner in Predimi ($267K). **TARGET TALES** ran a credible second in his career debut. **BOOJ** exits same race as top choice.

Twelfth Race

| 1. Sycamore Lane | 2. Animal Trick | 3. Postino's Vow |

SYCAMORE LANE gives up recency to some of these as this marks his first start since March, but like that he has seen steeper and that he owns a strong series of Beyer Figures. **ANIMAL TRICK** was beaten less than a length for everything last out in his first race in two and a half months. He would seem to have reason to move forward. The race **POSTINO'S VOW** exits has produced three next-out winners, with the fourth, fifth and ninth-place finishers returning to win claiming races at GP in the $6,250 to $8K range, with Beyers of 77, 86 and 66.