

The Wizard's Spotlight Play

December 6, 2008

Fair Grounds, Race 5

Fair Grounds, Race 5, \$17,000, claiming, 3yos & up, fillies/mares, state-breds, 5 1/2 furlongs.

Princess Wilma (#4) makes her second start off a layoff for the high-percentage trainer Troy Young. She raced evenly in her debut at Evangeline Downs over a sloppy track. Despite an outside post in a field of nine, run over a sloppy course, Princess Wilma ran a respectable fourth as the 2-1 favorite racing wide throughout. Following that effort, she was a game winner as the 7-5 choice in her return off a two month layoff. Princess Wilma was dropping in class from a maiden special weight race into a maiden \$20,000 claimer, which is equivalent to a maiden \$12,500 at the Fair Grounds.

What I liked about her effort was that she chased a loose-on-the-lead runner, took the lead turning for home, and held off the fast closing I'm Wild, who returned in her next start to break her maiden at Delta Downs in a maiden special. Princess Wilma was given almost three months off following that hard fought victory. She resurfaced Nov 16 at the Fair Grounds in a \$20,000 claimer restricted to Louisiana-breds. For the third straight time, Princess Wilma was the 5-2 favorite. She broke from a tough outside post in a field of 10. Right from the outset she was hung out very wide the entire trip. In deep stretch she was forced out and steadied losing all chance. The third place finisher was disqualified as a result of that infraction.

For the first time in her short career, Princess Wilma will return on Saturday off a 20-day rest. She is only one of three horses entered here who has a recent race over the track, which is a strong angle early in the meet. She also takes a realistic drop to a \$12,500 claimer, a spot where she will be facing much weaker foes. The Young/Bourque trainer and rider combination wins at a huge 28% over a large sample. Young also has great stats second start off a layoff with a drop in class. She will be in perfect striking position turning for home and should prevail to win this condition.