

SUNLAND PARK - February 16, 2026 - Race 6

CLAIMING - Thoroughbred

FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NOT WON A RACE SINCE FEBRUARY 16, 2025 OR WHICH HAVE NEVER WON FOUR RACES. Three Year Olds, 121 lbs.; Older, 124 lbs. Claiming Price \$5,000. New Mexico Bred Claiming Price \$8,000. (C) Claiming Price: \$5,000

Distance: One Mile On The Dirt Current Track Record: (Escape Clause - 1:34.00 - March 24, 2019)

Purse: \$10,800


Available Money: \$10,800

Value of Race: \$10,800 1st \$6,480, 2nd \$2,160, 3rd \$1,080, 4th \$540, 5th \$324, 6th \$216

Weather: Cloudy, 74° Track: Fast

Off at: 2:39 Start: Good for all Timing Method: Electronic

EQUIBASE

Video Race Replay

| Last Raced | Pgm | Horse Name (Jockey) | Wgt | M/E | PP | Start | 1/4 | 1/2 | 3/4 | Str | Fin | Odds | Comments |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 19Oct25 ⁶ SA ⁶ | 1 | American Empire (Valenzuela, Luis) | 124 | L | 1 | 6 | 4 ¹ 1/2 | 4 ¹ /2 | 5 ¹ | 4 ² 1/2 | 1 ³ /4 | 0.70* | in tight 1/4, angl'd 4w |
| 5Jan26 ⁴ SUN ³ | 5 | Grifter (Arboleda, Aldo) | 124 | bf | 5 | 5 | 6 ⁶ | 5 ¹ 1/2 | 4 ¹ | 1 ¹ Head | 2 ¹ 1/2 | 20.90 | 4-3w, led, outfinished |
| 5Jan26 ⁴ SUN ⁴ | 7 | Sharp Stick (Jaime, Ricardo) | 124 | L | 7 | 3 | 3 ¹ | 3 ¹ | 2 ¹ Head | 2 ¹ /2 | 3 ¹ 1/2 | 12.30 | stlk 3w, vied, outkicked |
| 12Jan26 ⁴ SUN ² | 4 | Three Martinis (Juarez, Jr., Alfredo) | 124 | L | 4 | 2 | 1 ¹ Head | 1 ¹ /2 | 1 ¹ /2 | 3 ¹ /2 | 4 ¹ 1/2 | 1.20 | pace btw 2w, wknd late |
| 8Feb26 ³ SUN ⁷ | 2 | Pray for Me Ray (Medellin, Erick) | 124 | L | 2 | 4 | 5 ¹ Head | 6 ⁵ | 6 ⁴ | 5 ¹ /2 | 5 ¹ 3/4 | 15.90 | ins, chase 5w, no rally |
| 8Feb26 ³ SUN ⁹ | 3 | Jetfire (Carmona, Kevin) | 124 | L | 3 | 1 | 2 ¹ | 2 ¹ Head | 3 ¹ /2 | 6 ³ 1/2 | 6 ² 3/4 | 28.60 | press ins, faded lane |
| 9Feb26 ⁴ SUN ⁸ | 6 | Farmer Fred R F (Torres, Jose) | 124 | h | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 50.30 | swung widest, no factor |

Fractional Times: 24.64 48.61 1:13.55 1:26.22

Split Times: (23:97) (24:94) (12:67) (12:20)

Run-Up: 30 feet

Final Time: 1:38.42

Winner: American Empire, Chestnut Gelding, by American Pharoah out of Leading Astray, by Belong to Me. Foaled Mar 22, 2020 in Kentucky.

Breeder: Team Block

Owner: Rakoczy Racing LLC

Trainer: Evans, Justin

2 Claimed Horse(s): American Empire

Three Martinis

New Trainer: Sherry Armstrong

New Trainer: Martin Manuel

New Owner: Sherry Armstrong

New Owner: Martin Manuel Valdez-Cabral

Claiming Prices: 1 - American Empire: \$5,000; 5 - Grifter: \$8,000; 7 - Sharp Stick: \$5,000; 4 - Three Martinis: \$8,000; 2 - Pray for Me Ray: \$5,000; 3 - Jetfire: \$5,000; 6 - Farmer Fred R F: \$8,000;

Total WPS Pool: \$20,580

| Pgm | Horse | Win | Place | Show | Wager Type | Winning Numbers | Payoff | Pool |
|-----|-----------------|------|-------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 | American Empire | 3.40 | 3.40 | 4.20 | \$1.00 Exacta | 1-5 | 25.90 | 16,927 |
| 5 | Grifter | | 10.20 | 20.80 | \$1.00 Trifecta | 1-5-7 | 111.70 | 12,167 |
| 7 | Sharp Stick | | | 7.60 | \$0.10 Superfecta | 1-5-7-4 | 20.68 | 9,833 |
| | | | | | \$0.50 Pick 3 | 2-11-1 (3 correct) | 19.30 | 2,025 |

Past Performance Running Line Preview

| Pgm | Horse Name | Start | 1/4 | 1/2 | 3/4 | Str | Fin |
|-----|-----------------|-------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | American Empire | 6 | 4 ² | 4 ¹ 1/2 | 5 ² | 4 ¹ | 1 ³ /4 |
| 5 | Grifter | 5 | 6 ³ 3/4 | 5 ² | 4 ¹ | 1 ¹ Head | 2 ³ /4 |
| 7 | Sharp Stick | 3 | 3 ¹ | 3 ¹ /2 | 2 ¹ /2 | 2 ¹ Head | 3 ² 1/4 |
| 4 | Three Martinis | 2 | 1 ¹ Head | 1 ¹ /2 | 1 ¹ /2 | 3 ¹ /2 | 4 ³ 3/4 |
| 2 | Pray for Me Ray | 4 | 5 ³ 1/2 | 6 ³ 1/2 | 6 ³ | 5 ³ 1/2 | 5 ⁵ 1/4 |
| 3 | Jetfire | 1 | 2 ¹ Head | 2 ¹ /2 | 3 ¹ /2 | 6 ⁴ | 6 ⁷ |
| 6 | Farmer Fred R F | 7 | 7 ⁹ 3/4 | 7 ⁸ 1/2 | 7 ⁷ | 7 ⁷ 1/2 | 7 ⁹ 3/4 |

Trainers: 1 - Evans, Justin; 5 - Rojero, Luis; 7 - Blea III, Anthony; 4 - Cappellucci, Dick; 2 - Trujillo, Jeffrey; 3 - Barrios, Bernadette; 6 - Martinez, Edwin

Owners: 1 - Rakoczy Racing LLC; 5 -Luis C. Rojero; 7 -Juan Rodriguez; 4 -Bob Matney; 2 -Bedelio Trujillo; 3 -Kasey B. Simmons; 6 -Cesar Mendoza;

Footnotes | [View Glossary Of Terms](#)

AMERICAN EMPIRE off step slow, settled off of the early pace while never far back, tracked between foes to the far turn then was bottled up at the quarter pole, angled four wide to upper stretch, responded well in the lane, surged late and was up in time. GRIFTER tracked the early pace from outside, vied three wide upper stretch, led to the final sixteenth, was collared by the winner in deep stretch and bested the rest. SHARP STICK stalked three wide to half, vied between foes to upper stretch, outkicked in the final sixteenth and held for third. THREE MARTINIS set pace between two wide to the half, shifted to the rail nearing the quarter marker then battled into upper stretch, could not hold off foes into the final furlong and weakened late. PRAY FOR ME RAY settled inside, shifted out along the backstretch run, chased five wide to quarter, no late kick. JETFIRE showed speed, pressed inside to quarter, faded stretch. FARMER FRED R F unhurried to half, swung widest upper, no factor.