

**SUNLAND PAR K - 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 <sup>6</sup>	1	American Empire (Valenzuela, Luis)	124	L	1 6	4 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	4 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	5 <sup>1</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup> 1/2	1 <sup>3</sup> 1/4	0.70* in tight 1/4,angld 4w
5Jan26	4	SUN <sup>3</sup>	5	Grifter (Arboleda, Aldo)	124	bf	5 5	6 <sup>6</sup>	5 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	4 <sup>1</sup>	1Head	2 1 1/2	20.90 4-3w,led,outfinished
5Jan26	4	SUN <sup>4</sup>	7	Sharp Stick (Jaime, Ricardo)	124	L	7 3	3 <sup>1</sup>	3 <sup>1</sup>	2Head	2 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	3 1 1/2	12.30 stlk 3w,vied,outkicked
12Jan26	4	SUN <sup>2</sup>	4	Three Martinis (Juarez, Jr., Alfredo)	124	L	4 2	1Head	1 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	1 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	3 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	4 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	1.20 pace btw 2w,wknd late
8Feb26	9	SUN <sup>7</sup>	2	Pray for Me Ray (Medellin, Erick)	124	L	2 4	5Head	6 <sup>5</sup>	6 <sup>4</sup>	5 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	5 <sup>1</sup> 3/4	15.90 ins,chase 5w,no rally
8Feb26	9	SUN <sup>9</sup>	3	Jetfire (Carmona, Kevin)	124	L	3 1	2 <sup>1</sup>	2Head	3 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	6 <sup>3</sup> 1/2	6 <sup>2</sup> 3/4	28.60 press ins,faded lane
9Feb26	6	SUN <sup>8</sup>	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**Final Time:** 1:38.42**Split Times:** (23:97) (24:94) (12:67) (12:20)**Run-Up:** 30 feet**Winner:** American Empire, Chestnut Gelding, by American Pharaoh 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  
Valdez-CabralNew 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 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	5 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>1</sup>	1 <sup>3</sup> 1/4
5	Grifter	5	6 <sup>3</sup> 3/4	5 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>1</sup>	1Head	2 <sup>3</sup> 1/4
7	Sharp Stick	3	3 <sup>1</sup>	3 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	2 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	2Head	3 <sup>2</sup> 1/4
4	Three Martinis	2	1Head	1 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	1 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	3 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	4 <sup>3</sup> 3/4
2	Pray for Me Ray	4	5 <sup>3</sup> 1/2	6 <sup>3</sup> 1/2	6 <sup>3</sup>	5 <sup>3</sup> 1/2	5 <sup>5</sup> 1/4
3	Jetfire	1	2Head	2 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	3 <sup>1</sup> 1/2	6 <sup>4</sup>	6 <sup>7</sup>
6	Farmer Fred R F	7	7 <sup>9</sup> 3/4	7 <sup>8</sup> 1/2	7 <sup>7</sup>	7 <sup>7</sup> 1/2	7 <sup>9</sup> 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. GRIFFTER 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.