



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Friday, January 11, 2019

## RACE 1:

**1 VINCERO** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and stretches out to 7 furlongs (2-2-0-0), after his 3-race win streak ended when he finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in a state-bred optional claimer contested at three-quarters of a mile. **6 FORTUNE COOKIE** is turning back to a sprint distance after rebounding from a trouble-starting 6<sup>th</sup> place finish behind Vincero with a hard-fought claiming score going a mile here last out. **2 DOC KANE** is debuting locally for trainer Mike Tomlinson after a consistent 3-race sprint campaign in Kentucky; apprentice Romero Maragh rides.

**SELECTIONS: 1-6-2**

## RACE 2:

**2 JO JO AIR** is debuting locally for trainer Wesley Ward after rebounding from an ambitious outing vs stakes competition at Keeneland with a rousing maiden victory going 5 ½ furlongs on the Fair Grounds turf. **1 EYEINTHESKY** should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the 3-month layoff to finish a troubled 3<sup>rd</sup> (steadied repeatedly) at this level and distance. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione handling the inside post. **6 MISS AURAMET** is making the usually fruitful 3<sup>rd</sup> start back from the layoff after following her maiden victory on the GP West turf with a stalk-and-fade 5<sup>th</sup> place finish behind Eyeinthesky last out.

**SELECTIONS: 2-1-6**

## RACE 3:

**1 ROYAL ASSCHER**, the only 6-time winner in the field, who fits the conditions of the race perfectly, breaks from the rail after shipping in from California and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> here vs \$12,500 open-claimers. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has apprentice Romero Maragh looking for the mare's first victory since July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**5 PRETTY DRIVEN** can turn out to be the controlling speed after tracking solid early fractions and settling for 2<sup>nd</sup> behind hard-knocking Nikki Bella last out. Leading jock Luis Saez certainly adds to the appeal. **4 AURORA PRINCESS** is making her 4-year-old debut the first start since her solid sprint campaign here last spring and summer. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez has Miguel Vazquez in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 1-5-4**

## RACE 4:

**6 LOVE MO** is dropping to the \$35,000 level after shipping down from New York, encountering trouble at the start, and finishing a fading 10<sup>th</sup> vs \$50,000 maidens. Trainer Phil Serpe keeps the status quo with Luis Saez in the saddle.

**9 FOR KICKS** is another getting some class relief after following a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs \$40,000 maidens on the Belmont turf with a workman-like 9<sup>th</sup> in front of Love Mo last out. Trainer Michael Matz has John Velazquez returning on the daughter of Exchange Rate. **1 CHILLED MILK** just needs a little help from Lady Luck after the trio of well-meant finishes against this familiar competition.

**SELECTIONS: 6-9-1**

## RACE 5:

**5 BEACOS DISCO PANTS** is stretching out to his best distance thus far after shipping in from Delaware Park and finishing a so-so 6<sup>th</sup> going 7 furlongs. **4 LUCKY FAST** has his claiming tag sliced in half after shipping in from the Windy City and finishing a distant 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 claimers going a mile on a 'good' main track.

**6 DEWEYCHEATEMANHOW** is stepping up to face winners after tracking the pace and drawing clear to defeat \$12,500 maidens at the distance. Trainer Ken McPeck has Brian Hernandez Jr going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 5-4-6**

**RACE 6:**

**6 SAMARA** is returning to the turf after failing to fire when facing \$50,000 starter allowance runners on the Aqueduct main track. The daughter of Hard Spun should be in the first flight playing 'catch me if you can'. **4 LENGTH** is debuting locally for trainer Bill Mott after showing promise sprinting on the New York turf circuit, which includes the 5 ½-furlong maiden victory over the Saratoga course. The daughter of War Front has Jose Ortiz in the irons. **3 REALLY PROUD**, stakes-placed here last April, returns for trainer Christophe Clement looking to sit the 'trip' behind what should be a solid early pace scenario; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

**SELECTIONS: 6-4-3**

**RACE 7:**

**2 SUMMER SPICE** may have found the spot where he can get the 3<sup>rd</sup> lifetime victory after back-to-back 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes at this level and distance. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Luis Saez named to ride. **6 JACKS A WARRIOR** is stepping up, and stretching out, after drawing clear to defeat \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Shamir Maragh has Tony Maragh going for 2 in a row. **5 IL FARAONE**, another from Shamir Maragh, is hoping to bounce back after following a pair of solid outings going a 2-turn mile at GP West with a clunker here going a 1-turn mile last out. Trainer Maragh has apprentice Romero Maragh named to ride, as Tony Maragh sticks with Jacks a Warrior.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-5**

**RACE 8:**

**9 BLACKJACK BABY** is making the 3<sup>rd</sup> start at the meeting after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively, in back-to-back turf sprints at the distance. Trainer Steve Klesaris has John Velazquez handling the late-running gelding.

**2 AMELIA'S WILD RIDE** is stepping up the competition after tracking the pace early, and drawing clear late, to notch his 7<sup>th</sup> career victory at the distance vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Irad Ortiz Jr going for 2 in a row. **7 HIGH HOURS** drops into this \$25,000 optional claimer in the first start since facing stakes competition here last summer. The 8-year-old has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 9-2-7**

**RACE 9:**

**3 EARLY ENTRY** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and wears blinkers, after returning from the layoff at GP West, pressing the pace, before tiring from his earlier efforts to finish 6<sup>th</sup> behind stakes-placed Delta Bluesman in a \$25,000 optional claimer at the distance. The barn, 26% with new claims, has Paco Lopez in the saddle.

**7 MR JOSHUA** should be primed and ready to recapture the form he displayed winning 4 consecutive races here last year after returning from the 7-month layoff to track the pace and finish a screw-tightening 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$30,000 conditioned claimers. Trainer Gilberto Zerpa has Emisael Jaramillo doling out his speed.

**5 STORMING MY WAY** is hoping to take another step forward after responding in the first race after the claim by Marcus Vitali, and the addition of blinkers, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 3-7-5**

**RACE 10:**

**3 TERYN IT UP** is dropping to the \$50,000 level after shaking off a bumping incident at the start to finish 5<sup>th</sup> – beaten 2 ¾ lengths – in his local turf return vs special weight competition. Trainer Brian Lynch has Jose Ortiz handling the dropdown.

**1 CONFIDENCE LEVEL** is a \$160,000 gelded son of Pioneerofthe Nile debuting for trainer Chad Brown, who is 29% with his debut maiden claimers. The 4-year-old gets Lasix, and has Javier Castellano at the controls. **8 A I INITIATIVE** moved to the Pat Reynolds barn via the claim, and debuts locally, in the first race since rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in a \$40,000 maiden race contested at a mile and a sixteenth on a yielding Belmont turf, and prior to finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$40,000 maidens at the Spa.

**SELECTIONS: 3-1-8**

**BEST BET: RACE 6 – 6 SAMARA**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 9 BLACKJACK BABY**