



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

7 SHIP DISTURBER will face \$12,500 claimers, and stretch out to his most productive distance (4-3-0-0), after rallying to finish 4th vs a solid group of \$10,000 optional claimers going three-quarters of a mile. **1 GENTRIFY** is dropping to this level, and stretching out to 7 furlongs (7-3-0-0) after returning from the extended layoff to finish 6th vs \$25,000 claimers going 6 furlongs last out. **2 CHISELED** is cutting back to a sprint distance hoping to spark an improved performance after getting beat double-digit lengths going a mile vs \$10,000 optional claimers. Trainer Peter Walder has Luis Saez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-2

RACE 2:

4 UNTRUTHFUL SONNET is turning back to 5 furlongs after returning from the layoff to make a middle move and fade vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Armando De la Cerda, 21% with the route to sprint angle, has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle.

7 SUGARSUGARSUGAR is a logical choice to score after shipping in from the Midwest and finishing a late-closing 2nd at this level and distance. **9 TAKE A STROLL**, 4 for 6 'in the money' at the distance, is turning back after dueling for the early lead and fading to finish 7th going 7 ½ furlongs last out. Trainer Kathy Ritvo has Luis Saez handling the outside post.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-9

RACE 3:

6 FLASHY JEWEL is turning back to 7 furlongs after breaking from an outside post (11), tracking the pace, and finishing 2nd in the 9-furlong Claiming Crown Jewel. **2 DREAM SATURDAY**, 7 for 9 'in the money' at the distance, turns back after stalking the pace and finishing 6th in the mile and an eighth Jewel last out. Trainer Peter Walder has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the turnback.

1 AZTEC SENSE should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the layoff to finish a late-closing 4th in the 7-furlong Claiming Crown Rapid Transit. Trainer Jorge Navarro has go-to jock Emisael Jaramillo handling the demanding inside post.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-1

RACE 4:

4 LEROIDS MOMMIE is stepping up to the next level after a solid local return in which she rallied 5-wide to defeat \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at the distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Tyler Gaffalione going for 2 in a row. **3 FEED ME CARATS** is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after shipping in from Belmont and defeating \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile and a sixteenth. **2 BOSSYATTA** is turning back slightly after re-rallying to finish 3rd going a mile at this '3-lifetime' level last out. Trainer Leo Gabriel Jr has Luca Panici in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-2

RACE 5:

4 GRAN FORTRESS moved to the Gary Gullo barn via the claim after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Gullo, 27% with new claims, has Jose Ortiz in the saddle.

3 BANNON is plunging to the \$12,500 level after finishing 6th in his \$50,000 career debut going a mile at Aqueduct. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez atop the \$65,000 son of Tiznow.

1 BULLROARER will break from the rail after returning from Gulfstream West to finish a distant 3rd behind Gran Fortress last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-1

RACE 6:

7 DIAMOND MINT is stepping up to the next level after the pair of game outings at the \$16,000 '2-lifetime' level, which includes the nose victory last out. His biggest challenge will surely come from

5 TU EXAGERES. The gelded son of Elusive Quality is stepping up after closing to defeat Diamond Mint by a half-length on December 7th. Trainer Christophe Clement has Luca Panici in the irons. **9 STONE HEART** is hoping to reap the spoils of the early pace after closing to finish 2nd at this level and distance last out. Trainer Antonio Sano has Miguel Vasquez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 7-5-9

RACE 7:

5 SUMNER is freefalling to the \$12,500 level on the main track after showing speed and fading when facing \$50,000 maidens in his 1-mile career debut on the grass. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez atop the \$120,000 son of Union Rags.

1 DINO DUDE, beaten a half-length on the dirt at this level and distance 2 starts back, is going back to the main track after stalking the pace and weakening late when finishing 4th vs \$20,000 maidens going a 2-turn mile on the turf.

7 STONEHART PARK is another dropping to the bottom on the main track hoping to ignite an improved performance. Trainer Marcus Vitali, 6 for 18 (33%) at the meeting, has apprentice Carlos Jimenez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-7

RACE 8:

10 RAINING LEMONS will be outfitted with blinkers after debuting locally and finishing late-closing 3rd vs \$50,000 claimers at the distance. The daughter of Lemon Drop Kid departs towards the outside (Post 10) with the running style needed to reel in the speed that breaks to her inside.

1 BLAME IT ON DIXIE will break from the rail after making a 5-wide bid to finish 2nd in front of Raining Lemons last out. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Javier Castellano handling the rematch.

3 ULTIMATE CAUSE moved to Mike Maker barn via the claim, and turns back to a mile, after tracking the pace 6-wide and finishing 3rd in a \$35,000 '3-lifetime' claimer going a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf. The only 2-time turf winner in the field has Tyler Gaffalione in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 10-1-3

RACE 9:

1 ABOUNDING LEGACY is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after returning from the layoff to vie for the lead and finish 2nd to impressive winner Eight Town going 7 furlongs. The gelded son of Flashstorm, in for the \$50,000 tag in this optional claimer, has Edgard Zayas in the saddle.

6 DELTA BLUESMAN, who runs well fresh, is making his 1st start since dueling for the lead and fading to finish 4th in the Grade 3 Smile Sprint here last July. Trainer Jorge Navarro, 4 for 8 (50%) with the longer than 180 days layoff, has the gelding training sharply for the return.

5 UNBRIDLED OUTLAW is turning back to three-quarters of a mile in the first race since encountering double-trouble (steadied twice) when 6th in a \$62,500 optional claimer at Churchill. Trainer Dale Romans has Luis Saez named on the son of Unbridled's Song.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-5

RACE 10:

9 BAKELITE is dropping to the \$35,000 level after stalking the pace and flattening out when finishing 4th in his local turf debut going a mile at the \$50,000 level. Trainer Christophe Clement adds 2nd-time Lasix for this assignment. **1 CABIN JOHN** moved to the Larry Rivelli barn via the claim after dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd vs this caliber of competition going a mile and a sixteenth; Javier Castellano rides. **12 ELK CAMP**, a son of City Zip, is debuting on the turf after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 5th vs state-bred maiden special weight runners going 7 furlongs on the main track. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 9-1-12

BEST BET: RACE 10 – 9 BAKELITE

LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 10 RAINING LEMONS