



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Saturday, August 8, 2018

## RACE 1:

**9 ON CRUISE CONTROL** is making his first start since finishing a troubled 4<sup>th</sup> in a fruitful \$10,000 conditioned claimer during May that produced a pair of next-out winners, including repeat winner Porter Street. He's the upset special. **3 WAKE ME UP AT NOON** is stepping up to the next level after sitting behind the pace and drawing clear late to defeat \$10,000 '2-lifetime' claimers by 5 ½ lengths. Trainer Norm Casse has Nik Juarez going for 2 in a row. **2 CHANGING LEADS** is changing barns, and surfaces, after following a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish on the turf 2-back with a troubled (bumped start) 6<sup>th</sup> on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Armando De la Cerda has Samy Camacho named on the new addition to the shedrow.

**SELECTIONS: 9-3-2**

## RACE 2:

**6 TWO DIAMONDS** moved to the Mario Maver barn via the claim, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile, after surrendering a late lead when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs. **5 WITHOUT GEMS** will race with blinkers on after returning from the layoff to finish a slow starting 4<sup>th</sup> behind Two Diamonds last out. **8 MONJA** is cutting back to a sprint distance after clipping heels early and failing to mount a rally when beaten double-digit lengths vs bottom level maidens going a 1-turn mile.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-8**

## RACE 3:

**4 COUSIN NEWYORK FAY**, beaten a neck at this distance 2 starts back, stretches out after making a middle move and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> – as the favorite – going 6 ½ furlongs in her last. **6 QUEEN OF SWAG** is stretching out to a mile after rallying to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in back-to-back sprints going 7 furlongs. Trainer Joe Orseno has apprentice Romero Maragh in the saddle. **7 ANGRY CAT** is dropping to the \$10,000 level on the main track with blinkers added after disputing the pace and fading to finish last when facing \$20,000 maidens going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf.

**SELECTIONS: 4-6-7**

## RACE 4:

**9 FEED ME CARATS**, a winner of 5 of 9 races on this turf course, moves to the Georgina Baxter barn via the claim after rallying to win her 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive turf race with her patented stalk-and-pounce move. She should get more than enough pace needed to compliment her running style. **10 SCATNAP** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn after the claim, and steps up the competition, after making a strong 3-wide move to defeat \$10,000 claimers at the distance; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **4 MI CUAIMA** is hoping to bounce back after following a well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$25,000 optional claimers 2 starts back with a press-the-pace-and-fade outing – as the favorite – at this level and distance last out.

**SELECTIONS: 9-10-4**

## RACE 5:

**6 NIGHT RYTHM** is dropping to the \$6,250 level on the main track, and cutting back to a sprint distance, after finishing a disappointing 7<sup>th</sup> vs \$10,000 open-claimers going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf. Trainer Peter Walder, who claimed him 2 starts back, is 33% with the turf-to-dirt angle. **5 SOUND OF THE TAP** will try to make it two in a row after rallying to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a \$6,250 conditioned claimer at the distance. **9 JOURNEY'S END** is stretching out slightly with the tactical speed needed to grab a share of the tri or super in this wide-open affair.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-9**

## RACE 6:

**6 ZAYA** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after the promising 6-furlong debut in which he rallied to finish 2<sup>nd</sup>. Trainer Kathy Ritvo has Luca Panici returning on the son of Cairo Prince. **2 VEGAS TYCOON**, is 1 of 2 in the field from trainer Todd Pletcher, is stretching after failing to show much when finishing a sightseeing 5<sup>th</sup> in his 4 ½-furlong debut; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **3 UNION'S DESTINY**, the other entrant from the Pletcher barn, the \$400,000 son of Curlin makes his debut with Lasix and Edgard Zayas named to ride. The half-brother to Grade 3 winner Beyond Blame is working well for the debut.

**SELECTIONS: 6-2-3**

**RACE 7:**

**3 TROPICAL COGNAC** has been knocking on the door in consecutive races vs similar quality on the turf and just needs a little push from Lady Luck to get his picture taken. Trainer Michelle Nihei tabs Luca Panici to ride. **11 NOT QUITE READY** is a son of More Than Ready debuting for trainer Ralph Nicks with Lasix and Tyler Gaffalione named to handle the outside post.

**7 TOUPHA** was solid in defeat when he changed running tactics and went up to duel for the lead and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a neck – vs \$25,000 maidens.

**SELECTIONS: 3-11-7**

**RACE 8:**

**1 GLOBAL HERO** has his claiming tag sliced in half after finishing a distant 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 conditioned claimers going this 1-turn mile. Trainer Yvon Belsoeur has Edgard Zayas handling the inside post.

**3 K K'S REVOLVER** moved to the Gilberto Zerpa barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile (6-0-1-2) after a rough outing going 6 ½ furlongs in which he lacked room and steadied prior to finishing 4<sup>th</sup>. **2 EL CHAVAL** is wheeling back at the same level and distance after taking the overland route when coming within three-quarters of a length of notching this condition.

**SELECTIONS: 1-3-2**

**RACE 9: THE PANAMA CITY**

**9 UNBRIDLED COURAGE** will try to make it two in a row after following a rough outing (steadied late) when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the \$100,000 Ginger Punch with a game victory in the \$75,000 Treasure Coast last out.

**2 MADAME UNO** is turning back to a mile in the first race since she duelled for the lead and was caught at the wire when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind **1 BITACORA**. The daughter of Dominus, trained by Peter Walder, who does her best running in the latter stages of the race, is cutting back to a mile after closing late to defeat Unbridled Courage in the mile and a sixteenth Ginger Punch, despite drifting inward in deep stretch.

**SELECTIONS: 9-2-1**

**RACE 10:**

**5 SOLDOLLIE** moved to the Aubrey Maragh barn via the claim, and will be tested for class, after drawing clear like an international 'good' thing to defeat \$20,000 maidens by 12 dominating lengths. It's a family affair when jockey Ton Maragh gets the riding assignment.

**1 IT'S A NEW YEAR** made the long trek across the U.S. to face state-bred allowance runners after ending his campaign at Santa Anita with a \$30,000 maiden victory. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione handling the West Coast invader. **3 STAR JUANCHO** has been knocking on the door in 5 consecutive races vs this caliber of competition. I have the son of Kantharos penciled in for another minor award.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-3**

**RACE 11:**

**4 STRAIGHTAWAY MAY** is making his local return for trainer Jose Gallegos the first start since chasing the pace and weakening when facing \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at Belmont during June; 2<sup>nd</sup>-time blinkers for this assignment. **6 MASTER RORY** is looking for a clean trip after getting bopped around at the start, and getting parked 5-wide, when finishing up the track at this level and distance last out. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez, who claimed him 2 starts back, has Jesus Rios back at the controls. **3 FORECASTING** is dropping to the \$6,250 level, and cutting back to three-quarters of a mile, after rallying to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind repeat winner Richest Gifts in a \$12,500 conditioned claimer going 6 ½ furlongs in the 'slop'.

**SELECTIONS: 4-6-3**

**RACE 12:**

**7 NONNO NINO** is going back to the grass after following the maiden victory on the turf with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish vs this level of competition going a 1-turn mile on a 'fast' main track. **9 GUNSHIP** is dropping to the \$10,000 level after facing tougher on the turf with limited success before the layoff. Trainer Larry Bates has Luca Panici named to ride. **2 ARISTTELES** will give the turf another try after a steady campaign on the dirt in which he has 'hit the board' in 3 of 5 races vs similar quality.

**SELECTIONS: 7-9-2**

**BEST BET: RACE 9 – 9 UNBRIDLED COURAGE**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 1: 9 ON CRUISE CONTROL**