



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Saturday, January 12, 2019

RACE 1:

7 DASH OF DAZZLE, a popular gelding, claimed in 8 of his last 9 races, wheels back for new trainer Saffie Joseph Jr looking for his 4th consecutive victory at this level and distance. **3 OUR SARGE** is dropping to the \$6,250 level after his 2-race win streak ended when he finished a 5-wide 5th vs \$10,000 claimers going 7 furlongs at GP West. **2 BE A HERO** is hoping to turn the tables on Dash of Dazzle after shipping down from Delaware and finishing 2nd to him – as the favorite – last out.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-2

RACE 2:

3 WINDJAMMER (GER) is turning back to a mile after shipping in from across town to finish a troubled 2nd (tight quarters) – beaten a neck going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Danny Gargan has Tyler Gaffalione returning on the popular mare. **10 OUR CLOSURE** moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via the claim, and turns back to a mile, after breaking near the back of the pack before rallying to finish 5th – beaten a little of a length – going a mile and a sixteenth; Javier Castellano rides.

11 REILTIN OIR is an improving daughter of Paynter who cuts back to 8 furlongs after stalking the pace and finishing 3rd behind the top choice when going a mile and a sixteenth last out.

SELECTIONS: 3-10-11

RACE 3:

4 FIRM freefalls to the \$12,500 level after tracking the pace and finishing 4th in his maiden special weight debut going a mile & 40-yards at Tampa. Trainer Todd Pletcher has the colt working well at Palm Beach Downs in preparation for the major class relief.

8 WATCH YOUR STEP is an obvious choice to be on the ticket after showing improved early interest when dueling throughout and finishing 2nd at this level and distance. The 3rd start at the meeting can be the charm. **7 WINK AND A NOD** has his claiming tag carved in half after showing improved early interest when dropping from special weight to the \$25,000 level last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-7

RACE 4:

5 GO GONE GONE is wheeling back at the same level and distance, hoping the 3rd time is the charm, after dueling through swift early fractions before weakening in back-to-back sprints at this level and distance.

7 BLACK JET should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the 9-month layoff to press the pace and falter to finish 6th behind the top choice. Trainer Georgina Baxter, 33% with her turf sprinters, has leading jock Luis Saez in the saddle. **3 KANTHAROS' IMAGE** will be outfitted with blinkers after showing some late interest when closing to finish 6th vs a solid group of \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-3

RACE 5:

6 AWESOME HILLS is dropping to the \$12,500 level after returning from GP West to finish a track-the-pace 4th vs \$16,000 open-claimers at the distance.

8 BOBBY LEE is debuting locally for trainer Dale Romans in the first start since breaking her maiden for a \$15,000 tag at Churchill. **2 WICKED MANDATE** is stepping up, and stretching out, after returning from the 3-month layoff to use her speed to defeat \$12,500 maidens going 5 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 6-8-2

RACE 6:

8 OVER SENSUAL moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim after cruising away at a mile on a 'good' main track to crush a field of \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers by 8-plus lengths. **1 TREV** is making his first start since reeling off back-to-back victories here before the layoff. The gelding, who runs well fresh, has Paco Lopez named on the 6-time local winner.

7 COOP TRIES HARDER is wheeling back after tracking swift fractions of 21 & 4 and 44 & 3 before rallying to finish 2nd at this level and distance. He should see a similar pace scenario today.

SELECTIONS: 8-1-7

RACE 7:

9 HIGH ROAD is debuting locally for trainer Rusty Arnold after showing promise in her 6-furlong debut on a sloppy Keeneland main track. Javier Castellano rides the daughter of Quality Road. **10 LAVISH** will depart from the outside, and make her first start since coming within a head of winning her 6-furlong career debut here last July. The daughter of Malibu Moon, ridden by John Velazquez, is working well at Palm Beach Downs.

1 SAINT MOON will depart from the rail after the promising debut here in which she dueled for the lead before weakening to finish 4th at this distance. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Emisael Jaramillo atop the daughter of The Factor.

SELECTIONS: 9-10-1

RACE 8:

7 HIDDEN FACTS is stretching out to a mile after the solid local debut for trainer Brian Lynch in which she came up only a neck short – as the favorite – going 7 ½ furlongs. The barn 25% with the 2nd start after a 45-180 days layoff, has Julien Leparoux in the irons.

2 CONNECTIVITY, 1 of 2 first-time starters in the field for trainer Chad Brown, the daughter of Midshipman shows almost the identical workout pattern as her stablemate **1 BEAUTIFUL LOVER** as they prepare for their respective debuts. Irad Ortiz Jr rides the former, while Javier Castellano handles the \$475,000 daughter of Arch.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-1

RACE 9: THE TROPICAL TURF (G3)

6 HEART TO HEART is returning to one of his favorite courses looking to recapture the front running form he displayed winning the Grade 1 GP Turf here last February. Trainer Brian Lynch has the winner of more than \$2-million dollars training sharply on the Palm Meadows turf; Julien Leparoux rides. **2 WHITE FLAG** is debuting locally for trainer Christophe Clement fresh off his victory in the Turf Sprint Championship going 6 furlongs on the Aqueduct turf. The 5-year-old son of War Front stretches out with the speed needed to keep Heart to Heart right off his flank. **4 DOCTOR MOUNTY**, who does his best running from a stalk/close position, can end up sitting a dream trip behind the speed, especially if Heart to Heart gets hounded on the front end. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Javier Castellano named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-4

RACE 10:

5 BRAINSTORM is a son of Tapit debuting for trainer Jason Servis with a Lasix, and Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. The barn, 32% with first-time starters, has the colt working consistently for the debut.

1 CAMGO is making his 3-year-old debut the first start since setting a pressured pace and finishing 2nd - in front of a pair of next-out winners – going 6 furlongs on the Parx main track. **8 NO RULES** is a \$330,000 son of Union Rags debuting for trainer Chad Brown, and that should be more than enough to pique your interest; Javier Castellano rides.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-8

RACE 11: THE MARSHUA'S RIVER

7 LA SIGNARE (FR) is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after following her victory in the 9-furlong Grade 3 Wonder Again at Belmont last June with a set-the-pace-and-fade outing in the 10-furlong Grade 1 Belmont Park Oaks Invitational. Trainer Brian Lynch has Jose Ortiz atop the lightly raced 4-year-old.

1 BELLAVAIS is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth, and breaking from the rail again, after tracking the pace and finishing 4th in the 1-mile Grade 3 My Charmer here last out. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Javier Castellano in the saddle. **4 VALEDICTORIAN** will be tested for class vs graded stakes competition after shipping from Laurel and finishing a well-meant 2nd in the Claiming Crown Tiara. Trainer Kelly Breen has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-4

RACE 12:

9 BLUE COLLAR is stretching out after leading every step of the way to defeat \$40,000 claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on the Churchill turf. She can steal the nightcap at a price. **2 WAR CABINET** is returning to the turf in the first start since chasing the pace and fading on the dirt in the Grade 3 Comely at Aqueduct. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Jose Ortiz handling the combo dropdown/surface switch. **7 SWEET STING**, who broke her maiden on this course last February, returns after ending her grass campaign up north with a 3rd place finish vs entry-level allowance competition.

8 NANTUCKET RED is stretching out to 9 furlongs after returning from the freshening to finish a late closing 3rd going a mile and a sixteenth here last out. Trainer Bill Mott has John Velazquez atop the daughter of Get Stormy.

SELECTIONS: 9-2-7-8

BEST BET: RACE 11 – 7 LA SIGNARE (FR)

LONGSHOT: RACE 12 – 9 BLUE COLLAR