



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Saturday, January 3, 2019

RACE 1:

8 SONG OF MELODY moved to the Antonio Sano barn via the claim, and turns back to 6 furlongs, after setting the pace and coming within a nose of defeating similar at a mile. **9 SUPER WITCH** has her claiming tag sliced in half after her 2-race win streak vs \$6,250 conditioned claimers ended when she got mugged at the half-mile pole and finished last in a \$12,500 open claimer. **6 PRINCESS KNOLL** was solid in defeat when she chased the pace and finished 2nd at this level and distance in her last.

SELECTIONS: 8-9-6

RACE 2: THE LIMEHOUSE

6 FINAL JEOPARDY is stepping up to face winners after the stunning first-out victory in which he drew clear at the distance to win by 5-plus lengths. Trainer Jason Servis has Nik Juarez in the saddle.

3 MERCUSIO is back in South Florida after following his maiden score at GP West with a 2nd-place finish – as the favorite – in the Inaugural at Tampa.

2 COMBINATION should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the freshening to finish 3rd in the \$75,000 Buffalo Man.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-2

RACE 3:

6 GLOBAL CAMPAIGN is a son of Curlin debuting for trainer Stanley Hough with a series of swift workouts showing at the Palm Meadows Training Center. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Luis Saez in the saddle. **5 GROWTH ENGINE**, a son of Tapit, and a half-brother to \$1.6 million earner Pyro, debuts for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix and Hall of Fame jockey Javier Castellano at the controls.

3 THROW DOWN is cutting back to 7 furlongs on the main track after failing to show much in his mile and a sixteenth career debut on the Belmont turf. Trainer Shug McGaughey adds Lasix for the colt's 3-year-old debut.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-3

RACE 4:

5 MARINA VIEW is dropping a notch on the claiming scale after ending her 3-race sprint campaign in New York with a stalk-the-pace 4th in a 'key' \$60,000 maiden test at Aqueduct that produced a trio of next-out winners from 5 starters. **7 SHE LOVES IT** is a \$60,000 daughter of Union Rags debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with 12 morning workouts showing in preparation for her long-awaited debut; Luis Saez rides. **9 PURPLE GIRL** is dropping to the \$50,000 level after breaking slowly and failing to get untracked in her maiden special weight debut for trainer Angel Quiroz.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-9

RACE 5: THE GINGER BREW

2 BOXWOOD, who broke her maiden sprinting on the grass, is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs on the turf after ending her 2-year-old campaign with a rousing allowance victory going a mile and a sixteenth on a sealed 'sloppy' Churchill main track. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Brian Hernandez Jr atop the daughter of English Channel. **1 PIVOTTINA (Fr)** is making her local debut the first start since rallying to finish 3rd in the 1-mile Grade 3 Jimmy Durante at Delmar. The classy daughter of Vision d'Etat, trained by Graham Motion, has Javier Castellano handling the inside post. **6 FORTUNATE GIRL** is turning back slightly after breaking from Post 10, setting the pace, and coming within a neck of winning the 1-mile \$75,000 Wait A While here last out.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-6

RACE 6:

7 BIRD HUMOR is dropping to the \$16,000 level after following his \$20,000 optional claiming score at GP West with a stalk-and-fade performance last out vs \$32,000 optional claimers. **2 ERASMO'S DREAM** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and cuts back to a mile, after making a 5-wide move to defeat this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. The new connections keep the status quo with Luis Saez at the controls.

8 SECOND STREET, a 4-time local turf winner, now in the Marcus Vitali barn, returns to the turf after 6 consecutive races on the Tapeta surface at Woodbine; Javier Castellano rides the horse-for-course play.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-8

RACE 7: THE GLITTER WOMAN

8 MIDTOWN ROSE is making her 3-year-old debut after reeling off impressive back-to-back starter optional claiming victories at the distance. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has jockey Romero Maragh going for the hat trick. **3 FANCY PARTY DRESS** is making her local debut after the pair of solid victories on sloppy tracks at Keeneland and Churchill. Trainer Ben Colebrook has Luis Saez handling this unknown quantity on a fast track. **1 BRUNETTE PRINCESS** is making her stakes debut for trainer Gustavo Delgado after drawing clear to break her maiden here by 3 ½ lengths. The daughter of Bodemeister will have John Velazquez handling the inside draw.

SELECTIONS: 8-3-1

RACE 8:

9 INCHESKY (IRE) is turning back to a mile after the useful return from the 6-month layoff in which he tracked the pace and finished a screw-tightening 6th – beaten 3 ½ lengths – at a mile and a sixteenth; John Velazquez rides. **3 THE MAN BEHIND THE MAN** is another cutting back to a mile after responding in the first race after the claim by Marcus Vitali with a 4th place finish in front of Inchesky last out; Javier Castellano rides. **5 GET THE FACTS**, a son of Tapit, now in the Danny Gargan barn, drops into this \$30,000 ‘non-winners of 2-lifetime’ claimer after failing to handle allowance competition in Kentucky and Canada; Hector Berrios rides.

SELECTIONS: 9-3-5

RACE 9: THE KITTEN’S JOY

9 HENLEY’S JOY is cutting back a tad to 7 ½ furlongs after rebounding from his poor showing in the Grade 1 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf with a victory here in the 1-mile \$75,000 Pulpit Stakes. The multiple stakes winner has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle.

3 MOON COLONY, a \$400,000 son of Uncle Mo, is making his stakes debut after drawing clear on the Fair Grounds turf to defeat \$50,000 optional claimers going about a mile. Trainer Mark Casse has Jose Ortiz in the saddle.

7 LOUDER THAN BOMBS is hoping to turn the tables on the top choice after finishing a rallying 3rd behind him last out. The Proud Man Stakes winner has Paco Lopez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 9-3-7

RACE 10: THE MUCHO MACHO MAN

4 CODE OF HONOR is debuting locally for trainer Shug McGaughey after following his debut maiden victory with a troubled 2nd place finish (stumbled start) in the Grade 1 Champagne at Belmont. The son of Noble Mission has John Velazquez in the saddle.

2 WELL DEFINED is back on his favorite surface after following his commanding victory here in the \$400,000 In Reality with a poor showing in the Grade 1 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile. **1 GARTER AND TIE** will try to make it two in a row after following the 2nd place finish to Well Defined in the In Reality with a victory in the \$75,000 Smooth Air.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-1

RACE 11:

10 BEE KEEPER is a beautifully bred son of English Channel debuting for Hall of Fame jock Bill Mott with a series of stamina enhancing workouts showing at Payson Park; Luis Saez rides. **4 SAMBACER** is gelded son of First Samurai debuting for trainer Shug McGaughey with Lasix, and a string of solid workouts showing over the Payson Park training track; Jose Ortiz rides. **12 VALID POINT** is a \$140,000 son of Scat Daddy debuting for trainer Chad Brown with 11 workouts showing in preparation for his career debut; Javier Castellano rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-10-12

BEST BET: RACE 9 – 9 HENLEY’S JOY

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 10 BEE KEEPER