



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, September 28, 2019

RACE 1:

7 FIVE STAR RECRUIT, a sharp maiden winner on the turf 2 starts back, goes back to the grass after setting the pace and finishing 4th going 7 furlongs on the dirt. Trainer Monica McGoey has Jose Batista in the saddle.

1 WHISKEY MOMENT is turning back to a mile after tracking the pace and fading in a productive '2-lifetime' claimer going a mile and a sixteenth that produced a pair of next-out winners. **3 CURIOSO** is dropping to the 10,000 level on the turf after a trio of inconsistent route races at the \$20,000 level.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-3

RACE 2:

4 LOVE TREE is dropping to the \$6,250 level after recovering from a bobbling incident at the start to finish 2nd behind repeat winner To Dare in a \$10,000 starter optional claimer at the distance. **3 NIGHTSTRINGS** is stepping up to face open claimers after the game score vs \$6,250 '3-lifetime' claimers at the distance. **2 NOMINAL DOLLARS** is stretching out to 8 furlongs after rallying 5-wide to finish 2nd vs this level of competition going seven-eighths of a mile.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-2

RACE 3:

9 LONDON WEREWOLF is stretching to 6 ½ furlongs after rallying to come within a nose of exiting the maiden ranks at three-quarters of a mile. **4 HIGH APPROVAL** is another stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 3rd behind London Werewolf last out.

2 OVERWATCH is cutting back to a sprint distance on the dirt after making a middle move and finishing 4th going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf just 6 days ago. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 2 for 4 (50%) with the 1-7 days layoff.

SELECTIONS: 9-4-2

RACE 4: THE OUR DEAR PEGGY

3 ONYX will try to stay undefeated on the turf after following her \$50,000 maiden victory with a late-closing score in the 7 ½-furlong \$100,000-plus Sharp Susan. Trainer Juan Alvarado has Emisael Jaramillo going for 3 in a row.

7 CEDAR HALL, a \$140,000 daughter of Bayren, debuts locally after back-to-back 2nd place finishes in overnight stakes at Louisiana Downs and Retama, respectively.

5 GRAN BRANDY is stepping up, and stretching out, after drawing clear at 5 furlongs to break her maiden by 4 ½ lengths. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Tyler Gaffalione atop the daughter of First Samurai.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-5

RACE 5:

8 NORMA'S LOVE is a \$100,000 daughter of Street Boss debuting for trainer Jorge Navarro with a series of solid stamina enhancing workouts showing at GP West.

10 GREATER PLAN, 2nd in her state-bred special weight debut, will try to parlay her previous experience into a victory in a race replete with first-time starters. **3 BIBIANA** is a daughter of Stay Thirsty debuting for trainer David Fawkes with Lasix, and Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 8-10-3

RACE 6: THE HOLLYWOOD BEACH

8 ABSOLUTE GRIT is turning back to 5 furlongs on the turf after showing speed and weakening when going longer in the Affirmed and Dr Fager Divisions of the Sire Stakes. The son of Kantharos, out of the War Front dam Brown Glaze, is bred to love the turf. **6 SONG RIVER**, a filly vs the boys, is stepping up to face winners after showing a definite fondness for the turf when she drew clear to break her maiden by almost 8 lengths. Trainer Mark Casse has Cristian Torres atop the daughter of Liam's Map. **5 MAN WITH A PLAN** is debuting on the turf after responding to the addition of blinkers with a much the best optional claiming score on the main track. Trainer Jose Pinchin has Edgard Zayas atop the son of Currency Swap.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-5

RACE 7: THE FLORIDA SIRE WILDCAT HEIR

1 EXTRAORDINARY JERRY is turning back to a 1-turn mile after the impressive 9-furlong allowance victory at Saratoga in which he drew clear to win by 7 widening lengths. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Edgard Zayas atop the son of Overdriven.

9 ICE TEA is stretching out to a mile (7-5-1-1) after tracking the pace and finishing 3rd in the 7-furlong Benny the Bull last out. Trainer Mary Eppler has Emisael Jaramillo atop the son of Adios Charlie. **2 GARTER AND TIE** is back home after running into a buzz saw named Shancelot, who won the Grade 2 Amsterdam at Saratoga by 12 ½ lengths. The local stakes winner should be part of the pace scenario at this distance.

SELECTIONS: 1-9-2

RACE 8: THE ARMED FORCES

8 CAPTAIN D is stretching out to a mile after following his debut victory sprinting on the main track with a strong-closing 2nd in the 7 ½-furlong in the \$105,000 Proud Man. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Reylu Gutierrez atop the son of Gary D.



9 GRACEFUL KITTEN will try to keep his record unblemished after following his debut victory on the turf with the hard-fought score over Captain D in the Proud Man. The rematch is a must-see event. **5 JOLTING JOE** is debuting locally at the mile after rallying to finish 2nd in his Kentucky Downs debut going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Mike Maker reunites the son of Mission Impazible with jockey Tyler Gaffalione.

SELECTIONS: 8-9-5

RACE 9:

4 BIG AFFAIR is sitting on a winning performance after chasing the pace and finishing 2nd in her state-bred special weight debut at the distance. Trainer David Fawkes, 23% with maidens making their 2nd start, has Jairo Rendon in the saddle. **12 GO GATOR GIRL GO**, who was 2nd behind Lenzi's Lucky Lady in her 5-furlong debut, is making her first start since finishing 4th behind impressive maiden winner Sound Machine going 5 ½ furlongs during July.

10 BETTER WITH AGE is a daughter of More Than Ready debuting for trainer Elizabeth Dobles with Lasix, and Reylu Gutierrez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-12-10

RACE 10: THE MR. STEELE

9 GRAND JOURNEY is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from a 2-month layoff during May and reeling off 3 consecutive victories going a mile. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Emisael Jaramillo going for 4 in a row.

1 DRIVEN BY THUNDER will try to make it 2 in a row after dueling throughout and holding on gamely to win the mile and a sixteenth James H Kyle last out. Trainer Amador Sanchez has Hector Berrios in the saddle.

8 SECOND MATE is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth (18-5-3-2) after showing some late interest in the \$62,500 optional claimer going 7 furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 9-1-8

RACE 11: THE FLORIDA SIRE MY DEAR GIRL

7 CAJUN DELIGHT is stepping up, and stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth, after the strong first-out maiden victory at 6 furlongs in which she shook off early pressure and drew clear to win by 5 ½ lengths. The daughter of Kantharos has Albin Jimenez trying to spring the upset.

3 CECI VALENTINA is stretching out around 2-turns after rallying to win the 7-furlong \$200,000 Susan's Girl Division of the Sire Stakes. Trainer Angel Rodriguez has Marcos Meneses in the saddle. **12 BAHAMIAN GIRL** is making her first journey around 2-turns after dueling through the stretch and settling for 2nd behind Ceci Valentina in the Susan's Girl. The concern is the tough outside post when going 8 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-12

RACE 12: THE MONROE

4 HOGAN'S HOLIDAY is making her local return for trainer Robert Falcone Jr after finishing an ambitious 6th in the Grade 2 Ballston Spa, a race that has produced 4 next-out winners from 4 starters, including Significant Form, who won the G3 Noble Demoiselle in her next start, and Starship Jubilee, who won the G2 Canadian in her next outing.

5 LUCKY LONG is a consistent daughter of Lookin At Lucky who was freshened after following her victory on the turf in the Mary Todd with a 2nd place showing in \$50,000 starter optional claimer moved from the grass to a mile and a sixteenth on the main track. **12 AMERICAN FROLIC**, beaten 2 lengths in the Ellis Park Turf 2 starts back, is making her local return after drawing clear to defeat \$62,500 optional claimers on the Colonial Downs turf. The local stakes winner has Tyler Gaffalione handing an outside post.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-12

RACE 13: THE FLORIDA SIRE IN REALITY

4 SMASH FACTOR, listed as a gelding, is stretching out around 2 turns, and making his first start since drawing clear to defeat a trio of next-out winners, including Chance It and Poe when they competed in a 5-furlong maiden sprint during June. Trainer Mike Yates has the son of Khozan training sharply for the return. **8 LIAM'S LUCKY CHARM** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after following the 2nd place finish to Chance It in the 6-furlong Dr Fager with a victory in the 7-furlong Affirmed.

3 CHANCE IT is stretching out around 2-turns after losing a tough one to Liam's Lucky Charm in the 7-furlong \$200,000 Affirmed. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione handling the marquee matchup.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-3

RACE 14:

8 SO LONG CHUCK is dropping to the \$10,000 level after showing speed and weakening late when facing considerably tougher on the turf. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Cristian Torres handling the class relief.

1 THE QUEENS JULES, who does his best running in the latter stages of the race, makes his local return for trainer Robert Falcone Jr looking to sit in the catbird seat behind the abundance of speed in the nightcap.

2 COMPLETELY BONKERS is dropping a notch after dueling for the lead and weakening late vs \$12,500 open-claimers last out. Trainer Georgina Baxter has Marcos Meneses in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 8-1-2

BEST BET: RACE 12 – 4 HOGAN'S HOLIDAY

LONGSHOT: RACE 13 – 4 SMASH FACTOR