



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Sunday, January 13, 2019

RACE 1:

7 NASQ is a \$350,000 4-year-old daughter of Malibu Moon debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. The steady morning work tab at Payson park adds to the appeal.

6 DADDY'S MELODY is stretching out to a mile in the first start since setting the pace and weakening to finish 3rd when going 6 furlongs on the Belmont turf. Trainer Brian Lynch has Javier Castellano handling this pace factor. **3 BLAME THE GODS** will face special weight competition after shipping in from Keeneland and running a well-meant 2nd vs \$50,000 maidens. Trainer Brian Lynch, who also trains Daddy's Melody, has Luis Saez riding this half of the uncoupled entry.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-3

RACE 2:

8 MIA'S BOBTAIL is stretching out to a 1-turn mile, and dropping to the \$12,500 level, after showing some late interest when she finished 4th behind a pair of next-out winners in a \$25,000 maiden contested at 5 furlongs. **9 GLORIOUS MYSTERY** is another dropping to the bottom of the maiden scale after returning from the layoff to finish a chase-and-tire 6th vs \$25,000 maidens going 6 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track. **6 POESIA** is 2 for 3 'in the money' going a mile, and that can turn out to be the winning angle in a race where her main competition is untested at 8 furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 8-9-6

RACE 3:

6 W W SPRINGTIME should be primed and ready to score again after following the maiden victory at GP West with a 2nd place finish here at this level and distance. Trainer Scott Becker has Carlos Hernandez named to ride. **1 STEADY EARNER** is returning to the allowance optional claiming ranks after breaking slowly and never getting untracked when finishing a well-beaten 6th in the \$75,000 Buffalo Man.

2 OURBESTFRIEND D L should show progress in his 2nd outing over the local surface after shipping in from Churchill and finishing an even 4th behind the top choice. Trainer Scooter Dickey has Chris Landeros in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-2

RACE 4:

4 AL TAWEEL was visually impressive in defeat when he made a late 4-wide charge to finish 2nd in his local debut at this level and distance. Trainer Brendan Walsh keeps the status quo with Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **7 BOUND BI LUCK** is hoping for a trouble-free stretch drive after the jock dropped the whip and was out-moved and had to settle for 5th behind Al Taweel. **3 SOMETHING BIRD** is a must-use on the ticket after rallying to finish in a dead heat for 3rd only a nose behind the top choice last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-3

RACE 5:

4 HOUSE OF COMMONS is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs, and dropping to the \$6,250 level, after setting the pace and getting caught late vs \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers going 6 furlongs on a wet track listed as 'good'. **8 CANDY MAX** is cutting back to 6 ½ furlongs after recovering from a troubled start (stumbled) to press the pace and weaken to finish 3rd vs similar quality at seven-eighths of a mile.

7 BULLROARER is stretching out an additional furlong hoping to stalk early and pounce late. Trainer Ralph Nicks tabs Tyler Gaffalione to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-7

RACE 6:

7 DON'T MAKE FUN should be ready to visit the winner's circle after the solid career debut at this level and distance in which she made a middle move before yielding late to finish 4th – beaten 1 ¾ lengths. **3 READY TO TANGO** is \$150,000 daughter of More Than Ready debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and Javier Castellano named to ride.

2 MIAHSOLOMIAH is a daughter of Strong Mandate debuting for trainer Jorge Navarro with Lasix, and Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. The sophomore is working sharply at Palm Meadows, which includes the recent 5-furlong bullet on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-2

RACE 7:

10 DIZZY GILLESPIE moved to the Danny Gargan barn via the claim after drawing clear to defeat similar at the distance by 5 widening lengths. The new connections keep leading jock Luis Saez at the controls. **9 SILVER DEFENSE** moved to the Alexis Camano barn after the claim, and stretches out to a mile, after using his speed to defeat \$6,250 dated claimers going 7 furlongs on fast track.

4 W W CONCERTO is cutting back to a 1-turn mile after setting a pressured pace and yielding late when finishing 2nd vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. He should be playing 'catch me if you can' with Chucky Lopez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 10-9-4

RACE 8:

9 LADY GRACE should be ready to get her picture taken after shipping down from Aqueduct and finishing a game 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Mark Casse has Jose Ortiz in the saddle.

4 EAST AND UNION is a \$200,000 daughter of Into Mischief debuting for trainer Jeremiah Englehart with Lasix, and Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. The barn, 19% with their turf sprinters, has the sophomore working consistently at the Palm Meadows training facility.

1 EASTERN PRINCESS is a daughter of Temple City debuting on the turf for trainer Brian Lynch after tracking the pace and fading in her 5 ½-furlong career debut here on the main track; Javier Castellano rides.

SELECTIONS: 9-4-1

RACE 9:

1 COLONEL MOORHEAD is stretching out to a mile after shipping in from Parx with blinkers, being rank early, and then settling to finish a workman-like 8th. Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard has Brian Hernandez Jr in the saddle.

8 VARIANT PERCEPTION is making his 4-year-old debut the first start since breaking his maiden here last February. Trainer Chad Brown has the son of Curlin working consistently at Payson Park in preparation for the return.

2 LEMONIST will try to make it 2 in a row at the distance after returning from Belmont, shaking off a slow start, and rallying to defeat \$50,000 starter/allowance runners; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

4 BANTU is stretching out to a mile after shipping in from Kentucky Downs and finishing a late-charging 3rd – beaten a length – at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Brendan Walsh has Jamie Spencer named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 1-9-2-4

RACE 10:

1 ASTRO EMPIRE is dropping a notch after returning from the 5-month layoff to notch his 2nd consecutive victory here when he defeated \$16,000 open-claimers. **4 DEEP FIRE** moved to the David Fawkes barn via the claim, and renews the rivalry with Astro Empire, after finishing 3rd behind when they hooked up at the \$16,000 level last out. **8 CRAZED** is dropping to the \$12,500 level in the first outing since showing speed and fading in a \$25,000 optional claimer at Laurel.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-8

RACE 11:

2 AMERICAN NINJA is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after shipping in from Belmont, breaking from a demanding outside post (12), and finishing a wide 5th going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Pat Reynolds has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **11 ELECTRO** is making his local return the first start since he demolished a field of \$16,000 maidens at Laurel by almost 12 lengths. Trainer Mike Trombetta has Jose Ortiz named on the son of Ghostzapper.

9 GOOD OLD BOY is dropping to the \$16,000 level after shipping down from Belmont and finishing a troubled 7th (traffic) vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. Trainer Mike Maker has Julien Leparoux named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 2-11-9

BEST BET: RACE 11 – 2 AMERICAN NINJA

LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 1 COLONEL MOORHEAD