



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Thursday, August 15, 2019

## RACE 1:

**5 VENEZUELAN FOREVER** will face \$10,000 open-claimers after making a mid-race bid and finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in a fruitful \$16,000 state-bred optional claimer that's produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Reylu Gutierrez named to ride. **6 FAITHFUL SUE** is stretching out a mile, and dropping a notch, after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>, then being place 1<sup>st</sup>, when he was pushed inward by **2 VINYARDNINA**. The latter trained by Joe Catanese, is looking to make amend at this level after the tough disqualification at the \$12,500 level.

**SELECTIONS: 5-6-2**

## RACE 2:

**2 I IDOLIZE YOU** is dropping into this \$6,250 dated claimer, and stretching out to 7 furlongs, after stalking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> when facing \$10,000 claimers going 5 ½ furlongs. The 3<sup>rd</sup> start back from the layoff can be the charm.

**3 KING WILDCAT**, a previous winner at the distance, drops, and turns back, after failing to fire when facing \$12,500 conditioned claimers in a trio of 1-mile races at the \$12,500 level.

**1 ROYALSTON** is another dropping into this 'non-winners of a race since February 28' dated claimer after facing better, on both dirt and turf, since returning from the layoff during May.

**SELECTIONS: 2-3-1**

## RACE 3:

**1 TIGER BLOOD** will try to make it 2 in a row, and 3<sup>rd</sup> straight victory sprinting on the turf, when he breaks from the rail again, after leading every step of the way to defeat similar by almost 7 lengths.

**2 GRAN MALBEC** is making his first start since using his speed to win at this level and distance during February. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr, 15% with turf sprinters returning from a 61-180 days layoff, has go-to jock Emisael Jaramillo in the irons. **5 GRAN SAMAN** can end up sitting the trip behind stablemate Tiger Blood after his 2-race win streak ended when he finished a troubled 3<sup>rd</sup> (steadied 3/8<sup>th</sup>) behind him last out. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Miguel Vazquez atop this half of the uncoupled entry.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-5**

## RACE 4:

**1 SWEET GIANT** will depart from the rail after the promising debut at the distance in which he stalked the pace and finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. Over the past year trainer Juan Avila is a perfect 2 for 2 with maiden special weight runner making their 2<sup>nd</sup> start. **3 ARMANDO R**, trained by Agustin Bezara, proved he could handle the jump up from a \$20,000 maiden race moved from turf to dirt when making a 4-wide bid to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in front of Sweet Giant. **2 MANICOMIO**, another from trainer Agustin Bezara, will try to recreate what his stablemate did when he steps up to maiden special weight after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> when facing \$40,000 maidens going a 1-turn mile on the main track.

**SELECTIONS: 1-3-2**

## RACE 5:

**6 LABHAY (IRE)** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after responding to the dropdown with a well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish – as the favorite – going a mile. Trainer Pat Biancone has Reylu Gutierrez named to ride.

**5 ZAO'S DREAMS** is returning to her best surface (8-2-1-0), and dropping to the \$16,000 level, after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, respectively, in a pair of \$20-25,000 claimers going a mile on the main track.

**8 ANNABELLA QUEEN** is dropping to this level, and stretching out to 8 ½ furlongs, after making a move for the lead and settling for 4<sup>th</sup> – as the favorite – in a \$35,000 conditioned claimer going a mile. Trainer Francisco D'Angelo has Jairo Rendon in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-8**

**RACE 6:**

**1 ROSEPATH**, the only 4-time winner in the field, will face \$6,250 conditioned claimers, after notching her 4<sup>th</sup> victory when defeating \$10,000 claimers going 6 furlongs last out.

**7 ROLLING BOBBY** is dropping to this level, and turning back to 6 ½ furlongs, after the pair of double-digit length defeats vs better going a 1-turn mile. Trainer Peter Walder, 31% with the 50% drop in claiming price, has Miguel Vazquez at the controls. **2 BIRD OF PEACE** is cutting back to a sprint distance after failing to fire when trying a mile in the 1<sup>st</sup> race after the claim by Elizabeth Dobles. The 4-year-old definitely does her best work when sprinting.

**SELECTIONS: 1-7-2**

**RACE 7:**

**6 JESSICA**, who showed promise in her freshman season, and was an okay 4<sup>th</sup> behind a pair of next-out stakes quality runners in her only race thus far as a 3-year-old, makes her turf debut with the breeding needed to handle the surface switch, and score at a price. **3 SUGAR BOLT**, 4 for 4 'in the money' sprinting on the turf (4-1-1-2), is returning to the grass after chasing the pace and fading – as the favorite – in a race moved to 5 panels on a sealed sloppy track. **5 NIKEE KAN** proved she can run well sprinting on the grass when she closed to come within a neck of scoring at this level and distance 2 starts back. Trainer Joe Catanese has Miguel Vazquez in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-5**

**RACE 8:**

**6 MR ATILA**, now in the Victor Barboza Jr barn, the 5-year-old turns back to a sprint distance in the first start since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind hard-knocking repeat winner Fortune Cookie going a mile during March. **5 BLINGS EXPRESS** is making the usually fruitful 3<sup>rd</sup> start back from a layoff, and stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs (6-1-3-0), after dueling for the lead and finishing a distant 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – when going three-quarters of a mile last out. **4 DROP KICK** is cutting back to a sprint after returning from the 2-month layoff to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind repeat winner Empire Power going a mile last out. Trainer Yvon Belsoeur has leading jock Edgard Zayas at the controls.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-4**

**RACE 9:**

**9 STRAND DE ORO** is returning to the turf with the speed needed to clear from an outside post (9) and play 'catch me if you can' in the nightcap. Trainer Rory Miller has apprentice Cristian Torres at the controls. **1 GRAN BRANDY** is a daughter of First Samurai debuting for trainer Victor Barboza Jr with jockey Emisael Jaramillo named to handle the pitfalls associated when a first-time starter breaks from the rail.

**2 REMARKABLE SILVER** is dropping a notch, and hoping for a clean trip, after having to steady along the inside when 6<sup>th</sup> in her \$35,000 debut on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Trainer Joe Orseno has Jairo Rendon in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 9-1-2**

**BEST BET: RACE 9 – 9 STRAND DE ORO**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 6 JESSICA**