



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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## RACE 1:

**8 GRAN CHIEF** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying strongly to finish a well-meant 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$20,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile on the Gulfstream West turf. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Luis Saez in the saddle. **3 COULD BE** is stepping it up a notch after following his debut victory vs \$10,000 maidens with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place showing vs \$12,500 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimers going a mile across town. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Tyler Gaffalione atop the gelded son of Candy Ride. **4 SOUTHERN CAL** must be respected on his ability to set, or stalk, the pace vs a field that has no true pacesetter signed up in the opener. Trainer Eduardo Azpurua Jr has Juan C Diaz in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 8-3-4**

## RACE 2:

**5 ABBOT** is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and turning back to 5 furlongs, after breaking from the outside (Post 11), stalking the pace, and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$35,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going 7 furlongs on the Belmont turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione atop the gelded son of Langfuhr. **6 TALE OF KANTHAROS** is making his first start since responding to both a surface change, and the addition of blinkers, with back-to-back turf victories at the distance. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Luis Saez trying to keep the gelding's local turf record unblemished. **8 STONE HEART** will try 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' competition after rallying against a speed bias to finish 5<sup>th</sup> in a trio of sprints under optional claiming conditions. Trainer Antonio Sano spots the 3-year-old perfectly for the local return.

**SELECTIONS: 5-6-8**

## RACE 3:

**2 ROUGE PATRIOT** is making his local return after responding to a dropdown in competition by finishing a rallying 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance on a sealed 'sloppy' track at Gulfstream West. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Javier Castellano named to ride. **7 DIAL ONE** is plunging to the \$16,000 level for trainer Todd Pletcher after racing exclusively in stakes company after breaking his maiden on the turf here during May. The Robert La Penta homebred son of Dialed In is a logical choice unless the \$16,000 For Sale sign has you reluctant to commit.

**6 KATANO** is dropping to this level on the main track after showing speed and weakening to finish 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$35,000 optional claimers going 5 furlongs on the Gulfstream West turf. Trainer Armando De la Cerda is 30% with the turf-to-dirt angle.

**SELECTIONS: 2-7-6**

## RACE 4:

**8 ARCELOR** is debuting locally for trainer Brendan Walsh, and turning back to three-quarters of a mile, after following an open-length score at this distance vs \$10,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at Churchill with a duel-and-fade 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish vs \$20,000 open-claimers going 7 furlongs at Keeneland; Luis Saez rides.

**1 GREAT RHYTHM** is stepping up to face winners in the first start since crushing a field of \$16,000 maidens at Monmouth by 13 widening lengths. The Jorge Navarro trainee should take the lion's share of the betting action. **2 COMPETITIVE PLAYER** is returning from her latest layoff looking to recapture the form she displayed when coming within a head of winning at this level and distance on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The concern is the lack of a victory showing on her past performances in the last 15 months.

**SELECTIONS: 8-1-2**

## RACE 5:

**8 SOUPER STRIKING** is debuting locally for trainer Mike Trombetta after the trio of promising sprint performances up north, which includes the solid 2<sup>nd</sup> at the distance on a sealed 'muddy' track at Laurel last out; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **4 ONEBRETHATATIME** will be treated with Lasix in the first start since vying for the lead and flattening out when finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in her state-bred maiden special weight debut at Gulfstream West. Trainer Stanley Gold has Emisael Jaramillo atop the Arindel homebred. **5 PROSPECTIVE DIVA**, 3<sup>rd</sup> behind next-out stakes winner Silver Bay, and next-out maiden winner First Dudette, in her 5-furlong debut, stretches out after closing wide to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> going 5 ½ furlongs in her last. Trainer Joe Catanese III, who has two in the race (9 Nikee Kan), has Miguel Vasquez atop the daughter of Prospective.

**SELECTIONS: 8-4-5**

**RACE 6:**

**6 SHANGHAI JEWEL** is dropping to the \$50,000 level, wearing blinkers, and stretching out to a mile, after dueling for the lead and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in her 6-furlong turf debut vs special weight company at Belmont. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 32% with similar class drops, has Luis Saez named on the \$245,000 daughter of Shanghai Bobby. **5 NEWMANS FAST GIRL**, 2<sup>nd</sup> here at this level and distance in her career debut, drops after returning from the freshening to finish a workman-like 5<sup>th</sup> vs maiden special weight company going a mile on the Gulfstream West turf. **1 APPRECIATE** is a daughter of Tiznow debuting for trainer Christophe Clement, and that should be more than enough to pique your interest. The freshman gets Lasix, and has Tyler Gaffalione handling the demanding inside post.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-1****RACE 7:**

**5 SONIDO** is making the usually fruitful 3<sup>rd</sup> start back from a layoff after dueling for the lead and tiring thru the lane when finishing 4<sup>th</sup> behind red-hot repeat winner Cantaclaro on a wet Gulfstream West surface listed as 'good'. **7 BRAVE ENRIQUE** is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after breaking last in a field of 6 and rallying 6-wide to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$20,000 conditioned claimers going seven-eighths of a mile. The dropdown to the \$12,500 level can help him get the elusive 2<sup>nd</sup> career victory (22-1-7-5). **3 THREE STAR STONE** is another dropping, and turning back, after stalking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Brave Enrique in their across town outing going 7 furlongs. Trainer Peter Walder has Javier Castellano named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-3****RACE 8:**

**3 L.A. HOUSE** is dropping to the \$25,000 level, and stretching out to her best distance thus far (3-1-0-1), after returning from the layoff to finish a sightseeing 5<sup>th</sup> vs \$75,000 optional claimers going 5 furlongs on the Gulfstream West turf. Trainer Antonio Sano reunites the freshman with Jesus Rios, who was aboard for the 7 ½-furlong maiden score here. **4 NIKKI'S CAUSE** is debuting locally for trainer Peter Walder after showing some late interest when rallying between horses to finish 6<sup>th</sup> vs '2-lifetime' allowance runners going a mile on the Keeneland turf; Javier Castellano rides. **8 GUIDONIA**, a troubled 4<sup>th</sup> (lacked room) behind L.A. House when they hooked up on the turf 2 starts back, goes back to the grass after a monster last-to-first move on the dirt produced an open-length maiden victory. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Emisael Jaramillo in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-8****RACE 9:**

**2 EIGHT TOWN**, a \$200,000 son of Speightstown, is stretching out to 7 furlongs after following his maiden victory at Belmont with a sharp outing at Keeneland in which he shook off trouble at the start (tight quarters) to defeat '2-lifetime' allowance runners in impressive fashion. Trainer Brian Lynch has Nik Juarez in the saddle. **7 ABOUNDING LEGACY**, in for the \$50,000 tag in this optional claimer, makes his first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> to Splash Rules in the \$50,000 Alabama Jack here on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Edgard Zayas named on the 6-time local winner.

**3 CATHOLIC COWBOY**, the winner here of the 2015 Sunshine Millions Classic, will try to rekindle that horse-for-course status (9-3-0-3) after failing to fire when facing \$80,000 optional claimers on sealed 'sloppy' Keeneland main track. Trainer Nick Zito has Luis Saez named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 2-7-3****RACE 10:**

**10 TU EXAGERES** is dropping a notch on the claiming scale after shipping from Belmont to Gulfstream West and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – vs \$20,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. Trainer Christophe Clement keeps the status quo with Luca Panici in the saddle. **11 ALL GO** is stepping up the competition for trainer Mike Maker after dueling for the lead and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – vs \$8,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at the distance; Luis Saez rides. **7 WILDCAT SAINT** is eligible to take a positive step forward after returning from the layoff to duel for the lead and finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Tu Exageres last out. Trainer Leo Gabriel Jr is 23% with the 2<sup>nd</sup> start after a 45-180 days layoff.

**SELECTIONS: 10-11-7****BEST BET: RACE 9 – 2 EIGHT TOWN****LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 6 POLICY PORTFOLIO**