



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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## RACE 1:

**5 KARENINA** moved to the Rohan Crichton barn via the claim, and steps up to the \$35,000 level, after rallying to finish a well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> when facing \$25,000 maidens at the distance; Miguel Vasquez rides. **9 BEAUTIFUL CHAOS** is debuting locally, and stretching out around 2-turns, after talking the overland route when rallying 8-wide to finish 5<sup>th</sup> vs New York state-bred runners going 6 furlongs on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Phil Serpe has leading jock Luis Saez in the saddle. **8 GREEN PARK** is a daughter of Majestic Warrior debuting for trainer Bill Mott with Lasix, and jockey Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. The sophomore is working consistently at Payson Park in preparation for this assignment.

**SELECTIONS: 5-9-8**

## RACE 2:

**6 JAI BLUE** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after shipping in from Parx and defeating this level of competition going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Anthony Pecoraro is 32% with horses winning back-to-back races. **3 U S SOLDIER** is dropping to the \$12,500 level after returning from the freshening to duel for the lead and fade vs \$25,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has apprentice Aby Medina named to ride.

**5 TO JOE** is dropping back to a level where he reeled off a pair of 'come-from-behind' victories after getting bumped back at the start prior to finishing 7<sup>th</sup> at the \$25,000 level last out.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-5**

## RACE 3:

**3 SHAFT OF LIGHT**, an 8-time winner, looking for this 1<sup>st</sup> score since April, drops into this spot after coming up empty – as the favorite – in the 7-furlong Claiming Crown Rapid Transit. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle.

**7 MOON OVER MONTANA** is debuting locally for trainer Larry Rivelli after responding to the addition of blinkers with a money-allowance score going a

mile & 70 yards at Hawthorne; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **6 TOUGH CUSTOMER**, another 8-time winner, which includes a pair locally (4-2-0-0), will face conditioned claiming competition after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$25,000 open-claimers at the distance. Trainer Jorge Delgado has Miguel Vasquez in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 3-7-6**

## RACE 4:

**1 R SWEET EXCHANGE** will depart from the rail after losing all chance when she hopped at the start, broke last, and was forced to race wide when leaving from Post 12 in her last.

**3 MAJESTIC MIST** is stepping up to face open competition after posting her 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive victory at the distance when she defeated a field of 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' competition, which includes next-out winner Meant Tobe Mine. **9 CORDELE** is debuting locally for trainer Brendan Walsh, and returning to the turf, after her 2-race win streak at the distance on the Arlington grass ended when she broke slowly in 5-furlong allowance moved from the lawn to the main track.

**SELECTIONS: 1-3-9**

## RACE 5:

**11 HERESURLAMAMAMA** moved to the Yvon Belsoeur barn via the claim, and cuts back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs, after stalking the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> – as the even-money favorite – when going a mile here on the grass last out. The barn, 23% with new claims, has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride.

**9 HONEY HEARTS** is stretching out around 2-turns after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, respectively, in her 2 previous turf outings at 5 furlongs. The daughter of Gone Astray should play a part in the pace scenario at this distance.

**7 HALO'S FOR DUDE** is a 1-one type who should be along to grab a share of the exotic wagers. Trainer John Assimakopoulos has Tyler Gaffalione at the controls.

**SELECTIONS: 11-9-7**

**RACE 6:**

**1 TALK LOGISTICS**, a multiple grade stakes-placed son of High Cotton, who is still looking for the first victory since breaking his maiden in 2016, will try to remedy the situation when he drops into this \$12,500 state-bred optional claimer going a mile. **5 ACES FOR JOHN** is making his first start since he was disqualified from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, when facing this level of competition going a 2-turn mile at Gulfstream West. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr, who claimed the gelding last out, has Luis Saez named on the 4-time local winner. **8 RUPP** should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> behind 'much the best' winner Souper Catch at this level and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 1-5-8****RACE 7:**

**5 GRACEFUL HEART** is hoping for a clean trip after being fractious in the gate, breaking slowly, and getting stuck behind a wall of horses turning for home when finishing 6<sup>th</sup> this caliber of competition last out. Trainer Marty Wolfson, 4 for 10 (40%) with the 2<sup>nd</sup> start after a 45-180 days layoff, has Hall of Fame jock Javier Castellano in the saddle.

**6 NOBLE READY**, a multiple stakes-placed daughter of More Than Ready, which includes a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish here in the Honey Ryder, returns after rallying to defeat \$25,000 optional claimers on the Gulfstream West turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle.

**7 CONQUEST HARDCANDY** is turning back slightly after returning from the 6-month layoff, moving to the Antonio Sano barn, setting the pace, and getting caught at the wire when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> going a mile at this level and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 5-6-7****RACE 8:**

**10 BLINDING** moved to the Gilberto Zerpa barn via the claim, and returns to the main track with blinkers added, when making his first start since August 31. Trainer Barboza, 32% with new claims, 25% with this type of layoff, and 5 for 8 with the turf-to-dirt angle, has Emisael Jaramillo in the saddle. **9 SPINTALK** is wheeling back after responding to the dropdown from the \$50,000 level with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Ralph Nicks tabs Edgard Zayas to ride as Tyler Gaffalione sticks with **2 THIRD MAN IN**. The gelded son of Adios Charlie moved to the Bobby

Dibona barn via the claim after drawing away – as the odds-on choice – to defeat \$12,500 maidens by 2 ½ lengths. Note that trainer Dibona is 5 for 11 (45%) with recent claims.

**SELECTIONS: 10-9-2****RACE 9:**

**4 NOBLE INDY** is stepping up, and stretching out, after recovering from some nervous energy at the start to win his 7-furlong career debut by almost 9 lengths. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez in the saddle. **5 TAP RAP STRIKE**, an \$875,000 son of Tapit, is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after stumbling badly at the start, making a solid move on the far turn, and then tiring from his earlier exploits to finish a distant 5<sup>th</sup> in the 9-furlong Grad 2 Remsen at Aqueduct. **2 MISSISSIPPI**, a \$700,000 son of Pioneerofthe Nile, is stepping up to face winners after using his tactical speed to break his maiden going a mile on the Churchill main track. Trainer Mark Casse has Julien Leparoux going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-2****RACE 10:**

**3 NO DRINKING RULES** is stretching out to a mile after responding to a dropdown in competition with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs this level of opposition going 7 furlongs. **6 BEE QUIET** is debuting locally, and stretching out to a mile, after responding in the first start after the claim by trainer Kevin Attard with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish going 6 furlongs on the Woodbine Tapeta surface. **1 TWEETER IN CHIEF** will depart from the rail again hoping to improve on the recent 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Ian Wilkes has Chris Landeros in the saddle again.

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-1****BEST BET: RACE 7 – 5 GRACEFUL HEART****LONGSHOT: RACE 5 – 4 RETURN**