



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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## RACE 1:

**5 TALE OF FIRE** is debuting locally at a mile after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$16,000 optional claimers in his North American return going 6 furlongs on the Delaware main track. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luca Panici named to ride. **2 POWER WALKER**, now in the Armando De La Cerda barn, the gelding returns to the main track after facing tougher in a pair of turf races at Arlington last summer; Tyler Gaffalione handles the previous winner at the distance. **7 DISCREET HEAT** moved to the Murat Sancal barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, after drawing clear to defeat a field of \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers at the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 5-2-7**

## RACE 2:

**4 TWISTED LICORICE** is returning to the main track after tracking sizzling early fractions of 20 & 4 and 44 flat when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$50,000 maidens going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer David Fawkes is 29% with the turf-to-dirt angle.

**1 QUIZZICAL CAJUN** will depart from the rail after dueling for the lead and weakening late to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind repeat winner He's Smokin Hot at this level and distance last out. **3 KONG STYLE** is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks, and wearing blinkers, after encountering trouble at the start in a pair of state-bred maiden special weight sprints. Trainer Henry Collazo has John Velazquez handling the dropdown.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-3**

## RACE 3:

**1 COUNTRY HOUSE** is making his 3-year-old debut the first start since posting a monster 83 Beyer figure when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a half-length at 49-1 – going a mile on the Aqueduct main track. Trainer Bill Mott has the son of Lookin At Lucky firing bullets at Payson Park.

**5 BEBEAU** is a \$400,000 son of Bernardini making his 2<sup>nd</sup> career start after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> best here in his career debut here going a mile on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 29% with maidens making their 2<sup>nd</sup> start, has Javier Castellano in the saddle again.

**3 THETRASHMANS COMING** is turning back to a 1-turn mile after stalking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in his local debut going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Scooter Dickie has Tyler Gaffalione handling the turnback.

**SELECTIONS: 1-5-3**

## RACE 4:

**1 REAGAN'S ODYSSEY**, whose last trouble line reads like a small novel (edgy gate, boxed in, just missed) departs from the rail after coming within a neck of winning at this level and distance last out. Trainer Marcus Vitali has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **8 SUPERCOMMITTE**, now in the Chad Brown barn, the daughter of The Factor faces state-bred competition on the turf after ending her campaign up north in an \$80,000 optional claimer going 7 furlongs on the Belmont main track. Trainer Brown, 28% with new additions to the shedrow, has Javier Castellano handling the outside post (8).

**2 ANNABELLA QUEEN** is another looking for a clean trip after getting mired in a traffic jam when finishing 4<sup>th</sup> behind Reagan's Odyssey last out.

**SELECTIONS: 1-8-2**

## RACE 5:

**6 DYNA PASSER**, a half-sister to \$2.1 million earner Sadler's Joy, is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after the promising 6-furlong debut here in which she finished 3<sup>rd</sup> behind next-out winner Queen of Beas. The daughter of Lemon Drop Kid is bred to love this distance and beyond.

**8 WEB O' GOLD** will be outfitted with blinkers after recovering from a bumping incident at the start to finish a rail-skimming 3<sup>rd</sup> in her local debut at this level and distance. Trainer Ken McPeck has Brian Hernandez Jr atop the \$260,000 daughter of Hard Spun. **4 MAKEALITTLEMISCHIEF** was solid in defeat when she set a pressured pace, was sawed off in the stretch, and finished 4<sup>th</sup> before being elevated to 3<sup>rd</sup> via a steward's decision.

**SELECTIONS: 6-8-4**

**RACE 6:**

**3 GO GO JAK** moved to the Angel Rodriguez barn via the claim, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile, after setting a pressured pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar going 7 furlongs; Luis Saez rides.

**4 RETHINKME** is hoping to find more for the stretch drive after making a 4-wide bid to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance; Miguel Vazquez rides.

**6 BLUE WHALE** is stepping up to the next level after drawing clear to defeat \$6,250 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimers at the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-6**

**RACE 7:**

**9 VEHEMENT**, a son of super turf sire War Front, is turning back to 5 furlongs after getting sandwiched between horses at a critical point of his stretch run when fading to finish 4<sup>th</sup> – as the favorite – going 6 ½ furlongs on the Kentucky Downs turf. Trainer Bill Mott has Jose Ortiz named to ride. **5 STANDUP**, a \$280,000 son of Into Mischief, and a half-brother to multiple graded stakes winner Kobe's Back, debuts for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and Javier Castellano named to ride. **2 GRENADIER** gets the call on the 'what have you done lately' angle after shipping in from Churchill, and vying for the lead, before weakening to finish 5<sup>th</sup> in what should prove to be a useful outing over the course.

**SELECTIONS: 9-5-2**

**RACE 8:**

**6 ORGANIC JENNY** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after following his sprint victory at GP West with a track-the-pace 2<sup>nd</sup> going a mile here vs \$25,000 claimers. **5 OUR PRIDE** is eligible to show more after responding to the addition of blinkers by showing improved speed prior to settling for 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Organic Jenny; Emisael Jaramillo rides for trainer Oscar Gonzalez.

**9 FLAT OUT FLYING**, listed as a gelding, is stepping up, and stretching out, after making a 5-wide sweep to defeat \$12,500 claimers here going 7 furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-9**

**RACE 9:**

**10 END PLAY**, who defeated \$62,500 optional claimers sprinting on the Aqueduct turf 2 starts back, is dropping to the \$35,000 level after failing to fire when facing \$75,000 optional claimers in his local return for trainer Tom Bush. The gelded son of Cape Blanco, who has the speed needed to clear from the outside post, has Hall of Fame jock Javier Castellano at the controls. **4 SYCAMORE LANE**, who was in the Bill Mott barn during 2017, and was reclaimed by him at Saratoga last September, makes his first start since drawing clear to defeat \$25,000 claimers going mile and a sixteenth on a yielding Aqueduct turf. **9 NIGHT PROWLER** should take the lion's share of the betting action after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> – beaten a neck – his local return vs \$50,000 optional claimers.

**SELECTIONS: 10-4-9**

**RACE 10:**

**3 SECRET O'LIFE** is a logical choice in the nightcap when she returns locally after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – going 7 ½ furlongs on the GP West turf. **2 SECRET ALCHEMY**, a daughter of Sky Mesa, is dropping to the \$20,000 level on the turf after showing speed and retreating when facing maiden special weight competition going 7 furlongs on the Belmont main track. Trainer Jeremiah Englehart has Jose Ortiz handling the combo dropdown/surface switch. **11 QUICK POINT** is dropping to this level after failing to show much in her \$35,000 career debut in a 'key' \$35,000 turf outing at GP West, a race that produced a trio of next-out winners from 9 starters. Trainer Todd Pletcher has leading jock Luis Saez at the controls.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-11**

**BEST BET: RACE 7 – 9 VEHEMENT**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 10 END PLAY**