



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Thursday, January 3, 2019

RACE 1:

9 FUTURE TREASURE is sitting on a winning performance after responding to addition of Lasix, and the removal of the blinkers, with an improved 2nd place finish at this level and distance.

4 CHANNELED BY THE WIND moved to the Dave Kassen barn via the claim looking to rebound from the chase-and-fade performance vs \$20,000 maidens at this 1-mile distance. The newly turned 3-year-old finds the perfect spot to get back on track. **2 KNOCKE BY THE SEA** is a gelded son of solid turf sire Kantharos who finds an ideal spot for a 1st-time starter to succeed.

SELECTIONS: 9-4-2

RACE 2:

4 BRYZZO is dropping into this 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimer after returning from the layoff at Churchill and failing to fire when facing allowance competition at this 1-mile distance. Trainer Dale Romans has Luis Saez handling the class relief.

5 BE GONE DADDY is dropping to the \$30,000 level on the main track after following a pair of 'in the money' finishes on the dirt with a clunker vs \$50,000 types on the turf. **3 HAIL TO THE KING** is stepping up to face winners after drawing clear to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a \$35,000 maiden sprint contested at 6 furlongs here last May. Trainer John Servis is 24% with the longer than 180 days layoff.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-3

RACE 3:

5 PERSONAL TIME is making his local return with blinkers added the first start since finishing 2nd going a mile on a sealed sloppy track at Aqueduct. Trainer Shug McGaughey has the son of Malibu Moon working sharply at Payson Park.

1 ROAD TO MEATH is debuting locally for trainer Chad Brown after threatening to break his maiden at Aqueduct before the lengthy layoff. Trainer Brown, 27% with this type of layoff, has the colt working consistently at Payson Park.

4 SIR SENESCAL is stretching out to 7 furlongs after the pair of well-meant 2nd place finishes going 6 furlongs at GP West.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-4

RACE 4:

10 FROZEN HANNAH is stretching out to a mile after shipping in from Arlington Park and rallying from an outside post (11) to finish 2nd here going 7 ½ furlongs. **5 FEED ME CARATS** was given some time off after dueling along the inside and coming up a couple of lengths short when finishing 4th at this level and distance on the GP West turf.

8 ATHERA is a late-striding, hard-knocking, 5-year-old mare who is a 5-time winner over this course (14-5-1-1). She's a perfect candidate to be on the tri or super ticket.

SELECTIONS: 10-5-8

RACE 5:

1 PASS THE BUTTER is hoping to make amends at 6 ½ furlongs after setting the pace and yielding late when finishing 2nd vs this caliber of competition going a mile as the odds-on choice. Trainer Kathy Ritvo has Luis Saez handling the turnback in distance. **5 DR HARLAN** is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after returning from GP West to dispute the pace and finish 2nd going a 1-turn mile.

6 FRENCH ACCENT, who won at this 6 ½-furlong distance 2 starts ago, is turning back after taking the overland route when finishing a 5-wide 4th behind Pass the Butter last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-6

RACE 6:

5 BORANDA is dropping to the \$16,000 level in the first start since her 2-race streak vs this caliber of competition ended when chased the pace and flattened out in a \$25,000 optional claimer at the distance. **11 GRACIAS ADIOS** prove she could compete at this level when she followed back-to-back victories vs cheaper with a driving 2nd place finish here at this level and distance. Trainer Aubrey Maragh has apprentice Romero Maragh at the controls. **8 TRUE HEIRESS** will break from an improved post after departing from an outside slot (Post 10), vying for the lead, and finishing in a dead heat for 2nd with Gracias Adios.

SELECTIONS: 5-11-8

RACE 7:

7 GUNS OF STEEL is dropping into this \$30,000 conditioned claimer after responding in the first start after the claim by trainer Jorge Navarro with a set-the-pace-and-fade performance – as the favorite - in the mile and a sixteenth Claiming Crown Iron Horse. **6 ROYAL HOLIDAY** is wheeling back after responding in the first race after the claim by Peter Walder with a duel-for-the-lead 3rd place finish at his 1-mile distance; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **4 INHIBITION** should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the freshening to finish a ‘track the pace’ 4th behind Royal Holiday last out.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-4

RACE 8:

2 WAR PIPE is returning to what is definitely his preferred surface after losing all chance when he stumbled badly at the start of a \$16,000 ‘2-lifetime’ moved from the grass to 5 furlongs on a ‘good’ main track. **9 THORPE D’OR**, now in the Antonio Sano barn, the gelded son of Medaglia d’Oro debuts locally after facing better on both turf and dirt during his 2017 campaign in California. The tote action should tell us more about his chances to win after the extended time on the shelf. **12 TOWNIE** is making his local return for trainer Jane Cibelli the first start since finishing 2nd going 5 furlongs on the Monmouth turf on Independence Day; Chris Landeros rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-9-12

RACE 9:

5 TIZ MISCHIEF makes his 4-year-old debut after returning from the layoff at Churchill to defeat entry-level allowance runners at this mile and a sixteenth distance. Trainer Dale Romans has the multiple graded stakes-placed son of Into Mischief working well over the track. **8 SHAREHOLDER VALUE** is making the first start since responding in the first race after the \$40,000 claim by trainer Eddie Kenneally with a duel for the lead 3rd vs \$62,500 optional claimers going a mile on a ‘good’ Churchill main track. **2 BRASS TOWN** steps up the competition for leading trainer Jorge Navarro after notching his 2nd consecutive victory when going wire-to-wire to defeat \$25,000 optional claimers at this mile and a sixteenth distance.

SELECTIONS: 5-8-2

RACE 10:

9 VENEZUELA is dropping to the \$20,000 level on the turf after returning from the extended layoff to track the pace and finish 4th in a maiden special weight race here that was moved from the turf to 7 furlongs on a ‘good’ main track. Trainer Jonathan Thomas has Javier Castellano in the saddle again. **2 INDURATE**, listed as a gelding, the son of Kitten’s Joy drops to this level in the first start since stalking the pace and failing to fire vs \$40,000 maidens at the Spa. Trainer Jimmy Toner has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **5 DING DONG DITCH**, who was 2nd on a ‘yielding’ turf at Saratoga during July, is getting back to the grass after dodging inclement weather when finishing 4th and 2nd, respectively, in races moved from the lawn to main track.

SELECTIONS: 9-2-5

BEST BET: RACE 10 – 9 VENEZUELA

LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 2 WAR PIPE