



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by Ron Nicoletti

Thursday, October 11, 2018

RACE 1:

4 ITSMYLUCKYCHARM is stepping up to face winners after returning from the layoff to defeat \$25,000 maidens in driving fashion. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr, 23% with 2-year-old maiden winners last out, has Luca Panici in the saddle.

1 PONTE REAL will tussle with \$16,000 open-claimers after stalking early and drawing clear late to defeat \$50,000 state-bred maidens -as the favorite – going 5 ½ furlongs on a sealed sloppy track. Trainer Gilberto Zerpa has Emisael Jaramillo atop the daughter of Gio Ponti.

6 DISTINCTLY BLUE is dropping into a competitive situation after following her \$12,500 maiden victory in August with a stalk-and-fade outing vs \$35,000 optional claimers. Trainer Dennis Ward has Carlos Montalvo handling the outside draw.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-6

RACE 2:

2 GABRIELLEELIZABETH is stepping up, and stretching out to 6 furlongs, after returning the 5-month layoff to crush a field of \$10,000 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimers by almost 10 lengths. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez has Ron Ordonez going for 2 in a row.

3 TRAPPED AT SEA will be making her first start since rallying to come within a nose of defeating \$30,000 claimers in a race moved from the turf to 5 furlongs on a fast track.

4 BRISTOL'S BROOKE moved to the Peter Walder barn via the claim, and cuts back to a sprint on the dirt, after failing to fire when facing similar quality going 7 ½ furlongs on the Gulfstream turf. Trainer Walder is 4 for 12 (33%) with claimers making the turf-to-dirt move.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-4

RACE 3:

6 DOUBLE METAL, 1 of the 4 fillies in the field, is making her first journey around 2-turns after showing promise sprinting on the Gulfstream turf, which includes the narrow defeat when 3rd on August 19th. Trainer Jonathan Thomas has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

4 VOW TO RECOVER is debuting on the turf in the first start since she finished in the middle of the pack when 5th behind a trio of next-out winners in a 'key' 5 ½-furlong state-bred maiden special weight on the main track. The daughter of Broken Vow is bred to respond favorably to both the surface and the distance. **3 SHREW GRIT** is turning back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs, and wearing blinkers, after tracking the pace and fading to finish 5th going a mile on the Gulfstream green.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-3

RACE 4:

5 PLAYERS LUCK is dropping to the \$6,250 level after following his \$12,500 conditioned claiming score 2 starts back with a head defeat in a \$10,000 open-claimer moved from the turf to 5 furlongs on a sealed sloppy surface. Trainer Georgina Baxter has Edgard Zayas at the controls. **7 SCOTUSCARE** is stepping up to face open competition after posting his 2nd consecutive victory when defeating \$10,000 conditioned claimers in the first race after the claim by Armando De la Cerda; Paco Lopez goes for 2 in a row. **3 STARSHIP APOLLO** is dropping to this level in the first start since showing speed and fading late vs allowance level competition before the layoff. The last time the gelding faced this level of opposition he won by 4 ½ lengths (March 24th).

SELECTIONS: 5-7-3



RACE 5:

5 BLUE WHALE is stretching out to 7 furlongs after shipping in from across town to finish a 5-wide 2nd going three-quarters of a mile here last Wednesday. Trainer Jamie Mejia has Hector Berrios handling the short turnaround.

3 SILVER THREADS moved to the Larry Bates barn via the claim, and returns to the main track, after rearing at the start and being pulled up in a \$16,000 claimer going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf. The daughter of Union Rags clearly does her best running when sprinting on the dirt. **4 MEMORIZE** will be outfitted with blinkers after rallying to just miss finishing 2nd when 3rd going 6 ½ furlongs on a sealed 'good' track across town.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-4

RACE 6:

5 LOVE CONQUERS, a stakes-placed son of Salute the Sarge, who finished a respectable 4th in the \$75,000 Showing Up here last November, is returning from the 7-month plus layoff looking to recapture the turf form he displayed during 2017. Trainer Ron Spatz has Miguel Vazquez named to ride. **6 BLUE HARBOR** is making his local return the first start since rallying to finish 3rd behind speedy repeat winner Give to U. K. Cats going a mile on the Gulfstream turf. The David Fawkes trainee should sit in the catbird seat behind the speed, which includes his uncoupled stablemate 2 Don't Over Look. **3 AREYOUTALKINGTOME**, who was disqualified from the maiden victory on the turf here last October, is going back to the grass after coming within a neck of defeating \$16,000 claimers on the Gulfstream dirt. Trainer Juan Arriagada, a perfect 3 for 3 at the meeting thus far, has Leonel Reyes in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-3

RACE 7:

8 MANOLETE moved to the Steve Klesaris barn via the claim, and makes his first start since failing to fire in a monster 'key' race during July that's produced 4 next-out winners from 7 starters, including Hookup, who won a \$16,000 claimer here last Friday; Paco Lopez rides.

5 ROYAL HOLIDAY is shifting back to the main track in the first start since he returned from a layoff to stalk-the-pace-and-weaken on the turf in the \$75,000 Bears Den. Trainer Oscar Gonzales is 12-58 (21%) with the turf-to-dirt angle.

3 HY KODIAK WARRIOR is back in the starter allowance optional claiming ranks after closing to finish a distant 3rd in the 1-mile \$75,000 Mo Exception on a sealed 'sloppy' Gulfstream main track.

SELECTIONS: 8-5-3

RACE 8:

6 COMPLETELY BONKERS is making his local return for trainer Georgina Baxter after returning from an 11-month layoff to duel for the lead and fade to finish 5th behind repeat winner Escape Velocity in a \$10,000 open-claimer.

2 J R'S HOLIDAY, still looking for his first victory since 2016 (13 races), is dropping to the \$12,500 level in the first start since finishing 3rd in a \$16,000 conditioned claimer at Gulfstream during August. This is the easiest spot in his 27-race career. **10 MODERN TALE** is making his Gulfstream West return (3-1-1-0) the first start since returning from a layoff to finish 5th – beaten 4 lengths – vs tougher in a \$16,000 optional claimer. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles is 3 for 16 (19%) with the horse making the 2nd start back from the layoff on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-10

BEST BET: RACE 8 – 6 COMPLETELY BONKERS

LONGSHOT: RACE 6 – 5 LOVE CONQUERS

