



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

RACE 1:

7 ALPHA ORIONIS is plummeting to the \$12,500 level after breaking slowing and never getting untracked when facing maiden special weight competition at Tampa. Trainer Todd Pletcher has leading jock Luis Saez atop the \$325,000 son of Bernardini. **1 CURLIN'S KNIGHT** is eligible to show more after shipping down from Canada into the Happy Alter shedrow, showing speed, and fading to finish 4th behind this familiar competition. **4 DAZZLING PROSE** is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after changing running tactics when setting the pace and finishing 2nd at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-4

RACE 2:

2 QUEEN'S BIRD is dropping to the \$50,000 level, and stretching out to a 1-turn mile, after facing maiden special weight sprinters in Kentucky, which includes the 'key' 7-furlong sprint at Churchill that produced a trio of next-out winners from 7 starters.

6 CLIPBOARD MONEY, 2nd at this level 2 starts back, drops after setting the pace and getting steadied at the ¼-pole in his Churchill finale going a mile on a sealed sloppy track.

3 CURLIN GREY is another dropping into this high-priced maiden claimer after facing special weight competition with some success in Kentucky.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-3

RACE 3:

8 PAINT THE CORNERS is turning back to her most accomplished distance (13-4-1-3) after following the 1-mile victory on the GP West turf with a 3rd place finish – beaten a half-length – going a mile and a sixteenth.

7 STAY SAFE KITTEN is another turning back to a mile after getting beat a head when finishing 2nd in front of Paint the Corners when they hooked up at 8 ½ furlongs last out. **2 SCATNAP** moved to the Robert Falcone Jr barn via the claim, and stretches out slightly, after rallying 7-wide to finish 4th vs similar quality going 7 ½ furlongs; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 8-7-2

RACE 4:

3 MY OWN MO moved to the Aubrey Maragh barn via the claim, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile, tracking the pace and finishing 4th vs this level of opposition going 7 furlongs. Trainer Maragh, 5 for 11 (45%) with new claims, has apprentice Romero Maragh named to ride.

7 CAPPY HOUR is another cutting back to 6 furlongs after making a middle move and flattening out when 5th behind My Own Mo last out. **1 WATCH CAIRO** makes a trio coming out of the same race eligible to show more at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Brian Lynch has red-hot Irad Ortiz Jr handling the inside draw.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-1

RACE 5:

6 BLUESKY KITTEN is dropping to the \$20,000 level, and stretching out to a mile, in the first race since he was sprinting vs special weight runners on the grass last Spring, which includes the 4th-place finish behind stakes-placed Swamp Rat going 6 panels at Belmont. **3 CYRUS** is a gelded son of Bodemeister debuting on the turf for trainer Stanley Gold after returning from the layoff to finish a late-closing 3rd going 7 furlongs on the main track.

1 THE KID IN SYD is debuting on the turf with blinkers added after rallying to finish 3rd going a 1-turn mile on the dirt here last out. The son of Sidney's Candy is bred to respond favorably to the turf.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-1

RACE 6:

4 PEGGITY is sitting on a winning performance after responding to both the dropdown in competition, and the surface switch, with a well-meant 2nd place finish at this level and distance.

5 JORDY'S READY is stepping to face winners after drawing clear at 7 furlongs to wallop a field of \$16,000 maidens by 13 widening lengths.

6 IS THAT MAGIC is hoping to bounce back after shipping back from GP West and posting a chase-and-fade outing at this level and distance. Trainer John Vinson has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-6

RACE 7:

4 MEDINA RIDGE is a son of War Front debuting locally for trainer Shug McGaughey with Lasix added after stalking the pace and fading to finish 7th behind next-out Grade 3 Bourbon Stakes winner Current going a mile on a 'good' Belmont turf; John Velazquez rides.

10 SOCIAL CURRENCY (KOR), a Korean-bred son of Tiz Wonderful, races with blinkers added, after rallying to finish 3rd in front of a pair of next-out winners going a mile on a 'good' Churchill turf; Javier Castellano rides. **6 EXULT** is a \$150,000 son of Noble Mission debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and jockey Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. The half-brother to Grade 2 winner Azar is working well for the debut.

SELECTIONS: 4-10-6

RACE 8:

3 DAWN LIGHTNING is stepping up to the next level after responding the first race after the claim by Victor Barboza Jr with a driving victory vs \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers.

1 SPECIAL COUNSEL is another stepping up to the next logical level after shaking clear to defeat '2-lifetime' competition here at the distance.

8 DANCING STARLET is stretching out to a mile after tracking the pace and weakening when facing this level of competition going 7 furlongs. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Luis Saez handling the added distance.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-8

RACE 9:

7 ESCAPADE, who broke her maiden sprinting over this course, returns after coming within a neck of winning vs this level of competition going 5 panels on the GP West turf. Trainer Jonathan Thomas, who 2 in the race (3 Dominance), has Javier Castellano atop the daughter of More Than Ready. **2 FAIRYLAND** is debuting locally for trainer Wesley Ward at 5 furlongs after stalking throughout and finishing 2nd behind next-out stakes-placed She's All Skeet going 6 ½ furlongs on the Kentucky Downs turf.

1 FACTOROFWON, a stakes-placed daughter of The Factor, is debuting locally for trainer Christophe Clement after ending her sprint campaign in Kentucky with a 5th place finish vs '2 other-than' allowance runners at Keeneland.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-1

RACE 10:

7 SUBTLE HOPE is going back to the turf after responding to the turnback in distance with a set-the-pace 2nd going 6 furlongs here on a sealed 'sloppy' track. **2 MATZO BELLA** has her claiming tag sliced in half, and turns back to 5 furlongs, after getting mugged on the first turn and finishing 9th vs \$50,000 maidens going 7 ½ furlongs on the GP West turf. Trainer Jena Antonucci has Romero Maragh up.

9 INFINITY SKY, 3rd when sprinting vs similar quality on the GP West turf, is turning back after making a 4-wide bid when finishing 5th going a mile here last out. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Paco Lopez handling the classic turnback move.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-9

BEST BET: RACE 7- 4 MEDINA RIDGE

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 7 SUBTLE HOPE