



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by Ron Nicoletti

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## RACE 1:

**5 IN HIS IMAGE** moved to the Juan Arriagada barn via the claim, and makes his local return (2-1-1-0), after setting the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar quality in his Gulfstream turf finale at the distance. **7 DIAMOND MINT**, who does his best running from a stalk/close position, can end up sitting the catbird seat behind the hot pace expected. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Miguel Vasquez at the controls. **4 ARCHITECTURAL** is hoping to build on his recent pair of 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes behind Diamond Mint last out, and In His Image 2 starts back. It can déjà vu all over again.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-4**

## RACE 2:

**7 SHE NAILED IT** moved to the Gilberto Zepa barn via the claim, and steps up to the next level, after parlaying a stalking trip into a \$6,250 '2-lifetime' victory going a 1-turn mile across town. **5 SARA'S DAY** is dropping to this level after following a pair of solid outings at the \$12,500 level with a clunker at the \$16,000 level. Trainer Antonio Sano, 14% with similar class drops, has Edgard Zayas at the controls.

**2 OPTIMISTIC SHOT** will try a 2-turn mile locally after surrendering a late lead when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs this caliber of opposition going a 1-turn mile at Gulfstream.

**SELECTIONS: 7-5-2**

## RACE 3:

**4 MAMBO DANCER** is plunging to the \$35,000 level after failing to 'hit the board' in back-to-back \$75,000 maiden outings on the Saratoga turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Edgard Zayas handling the turnback to a mile.

**8 SPITEFUL** is debuting locally at this level after setting a pressured pace and finishing a game 3<sup>rd</sup> in a maiden special weight test at the distance. Trainer Mike Yates is 12% with similar class drops. **5 EXPECT AN ENTRY** is dropping a notch on the maiden scale after ending his summer campaign across town with a stalk-and-weaken 5<sup>th</sup> place finish behind a pair of next winners in a \$40,000 maiden test at the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 4-8-5**

## RACE 4:

**5 AWESOME CLUE** will try a 2-turn mile locally after rallying 5-wide to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind next-out winner Tapete Claire going a 1-turn mile across town. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Edgard Zayas at the controls. **3 DIVINE DIVA** is stretching out around 2-turns for the first time after dueling for the lead and settling for 2<sup>nd</sup> when facing similar quality going 6 ½ furlongs on a sealed sloppy track. **7 IS THAT MAGIC** has her claiming tag sliced in half after returning from the 3-month layoff to come up empty – as the favorite – in \$20,000 maiden sprint contested at 6 furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 5-3-7**

## RACE 5:

**7 PROMONTORY**, a half-brother to stakes winners Keyed Entry, Justin Phillip, Algorithms, and Greenpoint Crusader, debuts locally for trainer Jena Antonucci after an inconsistent 4-race campaign up north while in the Christophe Clement and Arnaud Delacour barns.



**4 C MAJOR** is a son of Shanghai Bobby debuting on the turf for trainer Todd Pletcher, who is 5 for 12 (42%), with a \$3.00 return of investment, with first-time turf starters on the Gulfstream West lawn. **1 WATSCHEN**, a \$210,000 son of Tapit, will try to the turf again, and add the blinkers back, after failing to show much in 5 consecutive route races on the main track. Trainer Patrick Biancone has Romero Maragh atop the regally bred 3-year-old.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-1**

**RACE 6:**

**7 EVOLUTION**, the only 7-time winner in the field, who fits the conditions of the race perfectly, makes his first start setting the pace and weakening in a \$16,000 starter optional claimer at Gulfstream on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Trainer Georgina Baxter has Paco Lopez named to ride.

**4 EKHLAAS** is making his first start since rallying wide to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in a \$12,500 conditioned claimer at the distance. Trainer Antonio Sano has Edgard Zayas trying to get the 6-year-old his 3<sup>rd</sup> lifetime victory.

**5 GAME DAY DRAMA** is stepping up to the next level after using his pushbutton speed to stalk early and draw clear late to defeat \$10,000 '2-lifetime' claimers last out.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-5**

**RACE 7:**

**6 FEED ME CARATS** is stretching out to a mile after her 2-race win streak ended when she was blocked behind horses and had to steady when finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in a \$20,000 optional claimer across town. **8 MI CUAIMA** was given some time off after pressing the pace and weakening to finish 5<sup>th</sup> behind Balada and Final Flurry when they competed in a \$20,000 optional claimer on Independence Day. She's fresh, and hails from a barn that is 38% with this type of layoff.

**4 CONQUEST DYNASTY**, in for the \$20,000 tag in this optional claimer, drops after finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in a solid \$35,000 optional claimer going a mile and a sixteenth.

**SELECTIONS: 6-8-4**

**RACE 8:**

**8 BRILLIANT SCHEME**, now in the David Fawkes barn, the gelding returns to the turf, and makes his first since finishing a distant 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Finger Lakes main track. Trainer Fawkes, 18% with the first start after a trainer switch on the turf, has Romeo Maragh in the irons.

**9 LITTLE TEQUILA**, now in the Juan Rodriguez barn, the gelding debuts locally after making a bid to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> when facing \$12,500 maidens on the Gulfstream turf. The new connections keep Leonel Reyes at the controls.

**4 TERQUITO** is debuting locally after showing steady progress since returning to the turf with blinkers added. Trainer Antonio Sano keeps it light with 7-pound apprentice Kevin Carmona in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 8-9-4**

**BEST BET: RACE 6 – 7 EVOLUTION**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 8 BRILLIANT SCHEME**

