



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



Saturday, August 15, 2026

RACE 1:

6 LOU THE BODY flaunted his muscles when he returned from the layoff and used his speed to notch his second consecutive victory, his most recent at this level and distance. Diego Herrera rides for Victor Barboza Jr. **5 NICE TRY RILEY** is stepping up the competition after living up to his name when he put together nice back to back victories at the distance, albeit vs cheaper. Beau Chapman has Miguel Vazquez going for the hat trick. **7 AWESOME TRAIN**, who defeated the top choice back in December, drops in the first race back from the layoff for Antonio Sano. His late running style can be a plus in a race stocked with early speed.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-7

RACE 2:

3 BABY PRINCESS is stretching out around two turns after making a middle move into swift fractions before fading in what should prove to a solid turf debut at five furlongs. Ron Spatz keeps in light with apprentice Pedro Pena in the saddle.

1 STRAIGHT TO JAIL can go straight to the winner's circle when she drops to the \$35,000 level after closing to finish a workman fourth vs maiden special weight competition going this 7 ½-furlong distance on the grass. Heather Smullen has Yolber Torres managing the always interesting inside post. **2 STELLA RUNNER** is a daughter of Battalion Runner (Unbridled's Song) debuting for Kathleen O'Connell with the breeding needed to make a positive impression on the turf. Diego Herrera rides.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-2

RACE 3:

4 ROCKINGHAM JOE drops and stretches out around two turns in the first start since finishing third behind a pair of next-out winners in \$17,500 two lifetime claimer going five furlongs during June. Jena Antonucci has Jose Morelos atop the son of Adios Charlie. **7 FINEST GAMBLE** is stepping up to face winners after parlaying a stalking trip into a \$12,500 maiden score at the distance.

The stalker should sit in the catbird seat behind the oodles of speed signed on in this race.

1 ONE MORE DUKE is dropping to the \$10,000 level after setting the pace and weakening to finish third behind \$17,500 two lifetime foes going a mile and a sixteenth on turf. Mike Yates is 18% with the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-1

RACE 4:

1 PARTY MIX, bred on both sides of the family tree to love the turf, the daughter of Golden Pal debuts for trainer Nolan Ramsey with a string of solid workouts showing. Miguel Vazquez guides this intriguing first-time starter. **2 AMERICAN REIGN** is hoping to save more firepower for the stretch run after setting swift early fractions before finishing second in her career turf debut at this five-furlong distance. Carlos David has Rajiv Maragh returning on the one to fear. **7 GODDESS OF BEAUTY**, who showed the ability to rate off the pace when finishing third behind American Reign last out, can reap the spoils if a few of the first-time starters try to duel with logical pacesetter American Reign. Note that Joe Orseno and Edwin Conzalez are 21% together.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-7

RACE 5:

3 ALL TO WIN, who showed promise vs state-bred stakes competition during his freshman season and ran well at this level and distance in his three-year-old debut in January, returns for trainer Rohan Crichton with a string of solid workouts showing. The barn, 25% with the longer than 180 days layoff, has Diego Herrera named to ride. **8 DEMOLITION** is stretching out to seven furlongs after a solid pair at three-quarters of a mile in which he won his special weight debut by open lengths and followed it with a third-place finish behind snakebit **10 STICKY MCSCHNICKENS**. The latter, who has turned finishing second or third into an art form, will try to remedy the situation when stretching out to seven furlongs on the dirt for the first time.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-10

RACE 6:

2 EMPRESS ELLIE, a five-time winner on turf vs better, drops into this \$17,500 conditioned claimer after returning locally and finishing fourth vs \$20,000 open claimers going a mile on the turf. Trainer Larry Sterling Jr has Anthony Thomas named to ride. **6 SHOW OFF** drops after returning from the three-month layoff to show speed and weaken when finishing a stamina enhancing sixth in a \$25,000 optional claimer going a mile on the lawn. Fausto Gutierrez has Leonel Reyes at the controls. **5 THUNDER PRINCESS**, 5 for 6 in the money on the turf, stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to finish a good third going a mile at this level. Fernando Abreu has Diego Herrera atop the previous winner at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-5

RACE 7:

3 MESSI'S MAGIC is a \$165,000 son of Maclean's Music debuting for Saffie Joseph Jr, who is 22% with this freshman runners. The goal is to win at first asking, and the sharp morning tab indicates a top performance is expected. **7 MITZMAN** is a \$100,000 son of Cross Traffic debuting for owner Mike Dubb and trainer Jose D'Angelo with some solid morning workouts showing, including the recent five-furlong bullet. Leonel Reyes rides. **5 NEW FRIEND**, another from Jose D'Angelo, the son of Charlatan, who worked the same five-furlong bullet as Mitzman might be a little faster in the morning than his stablemate. Watch the tote action on both and bet accordingly.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-5

RACE 8:

4 REDLAND REBELS is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after closing stoutly to finish third – beaten a length – vs open \$75,000 optional claimers going 7 ½ furlongs on turf. The gelded son of Uncle Chuck faces state-bred allowance runners with the moniker of the one to beat. **6 JACK KEROUAC** gets fitted with second-time blinkers after showing improved tactical speed with the shades added for the first time. Trainer Ron Spatz has Leonel Reyes rationing the gelding's early interest.

5 JUSTIN SMILES tries 8 ½ furlongs again after rallying gamely to finish second \$50,000 starter optional claimers going a mile on the lawn. The gelded son of the Big Beast is spotted well vs state-bred competition.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-5

RACE 9: *THE SHEER DRAMA HANDICAP.*

5 KERRY'S KISS couldn't have been more impressive when moving into the Saffie Joseph Jr barn and drawing clear to win the 6 ½-furlong Musical Romance Handicap by open lengths. Her biggest challenge will come from stablemate **6 INDY BAY**. The daughter of Take Charge Indy stretches out to her most accomplished distance (4-3-0-0) hoping the additional half-furlong will help her turn the tables on the top choice. Edwin Gonzalez goes for two in a row on the former, while Micha Husbands returns on the latter.

3 DOMINO VITALI is cutting back to seven furlongs in the first start since setting the pace and finishing second in the mile and seventy-yard Serena's Song at Monmouth during May. The lightly raced \$600,000 daughter of Uncle Mo, trained by Jorge Delgado, has a touch of class.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-3

RACE 10:

1 NAME IT is cutting back to a mile after making a solid middle move before settling for fifth – beaten a couple of lengths – as the favorite - going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Jimmy Toner has Diego Herrea atop the gelded son of Candy Ride.

2 NICKEL C is dropping to the \$35,000 level after failing to launch a winning bid when facing considerably tougher competition in a \$75,000 optional claimer going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf. Trainer Dave Fawkes spots him well in the nightcap. **6 MALCOLM X (PER)** is turning back to a mile after proving he could compete at this level when he stepped off the \$17,500 two lifetime victory with a good third-place finish at this level. Dante Zanelli has Edwin Gonzaelez up.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-6

BEST BET: RACE 8 – 4 REDLAND REBELS

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 1 NAME IT