



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, January 24, 2026

RACE 1:

8 BEING BETTY, who has won in the past when stretching from a sprint to a route, stretches out after stalking the pace and finishing fourth behind a next out winner going 6 furlongs on the Aqueduct turf, Luis Saez will get her interested early. **6 LA CANTERA (IRE)**, who has more winners on the local turf than the rest of the field combined, will try to parlay the horse for course angle into her fourth local victory. Red hot trainer Carlos David has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride. **4 MAGGIE GO (ARG)**, who is Grade 3 stakes-placed on the grass, goes back to the turf for the formidable connections of Brown and Prat. She'll take the lion's share of the action.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-4

RACE 2:

5 PARADISE STREET, a half-sister to turf star Reef Runner, will get both Lasix and blinkers after consecutive second place finishes at the distance on the dirt. Brian Lynch has Luis Saez at the controls. **2 SWING VOTE** will get Lasix after breaking slowly from the rail and closing to finish a promising third in her debut. Bill Mott has go-to rider Junior Alvarado in the saddle. **3 BENEFICENCE** is a beautifully bred daughter of super sire Into Mischief debuting for the winning trio of Saint Elias Stable, Todd Pletcher, and Irad Ortiz Jr. Works say she's ready.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-3

RACE 3:

5 MI BAGO, a double stakes winner on the local turf, returns for trainer Mark Casse, as a gelding, looking to parlay his speed into victory, especially with the rail set at 66 feet, Irad rides. **2 BATTLE OF NORMANDY** is making his first start since he failed to fire in last year's Pegasus World Cup Turf. Shug McGaughey, solid with the longer than 180 days layoff, has him working well for the return. **3 RISK TOLERANCE (IRE)** is debuting locally after returning from an extended layoff to finish second in an allowance at Aqueduct during October and following that with an allowance score on the Tampa turf last out. Chad Brown, 21% winning consecutive races, has Flavien Prat in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-3

RACE 4: THE SOUTH BEACH

11 AWESOME CZECH is debuting on the Tapeta after a solid stakes campaign vs both open and New York-bred competition. Trainer Horacio De Paz, a sharp 38% with the surface switch, has regular jockey Ricardo Santana Jr named to ride. **9 FOR FLYING (BRZ)** is cutting back to a mile and a sixteenth after finishing a solid third in a 9-furlong overnight handicap here last out, which was his first ever outing on the local Tapeta. Graham Motion has John Velazquez in the saddle again. **5 LEO TORO**, who won the Ginger Punch Handicap on the Tapeta in September, is going back to the all-weather surface after showing speed and fading on the turf in the Swanee River Handicap last out. Saffie has Irad quarterbacking the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 11-9-5

RACE 5: THE CHRISTOPHE CLEMENT (G3)

7 AYRA STARK (ARG), who won a 12-furlong allowance race on turf at Keeneland by 4-plus lengths in October, is going back to the grass after getting beat a half-length in the 10-furlong Florence B on the Turfway Tapeta. Horacio De Paz has Ricardo Santana Jr atop the proven commodity at the distance. **4 NO SHOW SAMMY JO (GB)** showed she loved the local surroundings when she shipped in to win the 11-furlong Via Borghese by almost six lengths. The late striding mare should get the needed pace to compliment her running style, especially with the zero-rail setting. **5 FIONN**, a winner of two recent graded stakes going long on the turf, debuts locally for the dynamic duo of Brad Cox and Flavien Prat to merit serious consideration, however I wish she had more early speed.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-5

RACE 6: THE CAROUSEL CLUB

5 PRIVATE THOUGHTS is a consistent gelded son of Neolithic going for his second straight \$100,000 overnight handicap victory on Tapeta and his fifth victory in seven starts on either the all-weather surface or turf. Ron Spatz has Tyler in the irons again. **11 CLASSIC MO TOWN** comes out of five consecutive graded stakes outings on the Woodbine Tapeta looking to flaunt class over a surface where he has posted a 9-3-1-2 record. Marty Drexler has Junior Alvarado atop the son of Mo Town. **4 JOKESTAR** is cutting back to a mile and 70 yards after finishing second in back-to-back Grade 3 events going 12 and 9 furlongs, respectively at Woodbine. Kevin Attard has Flavien Prat atop the 3-time winner at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 5-11-4

RACE 7: THE GP TURF SPRINT

11 COPPOLA has blinding early speed and should be able to clear from an outside post and dictate the pace with the turf rail set at 66 feet. The screws should be tightened in his second start back from a 5-month-plus layoff.

6 INCANTO (IRE), who won the Texas Glitter here last March with a strong late run, returns for trainer Peter Eurton after getting beat a neck in a five-furlong \$80,000 optional claimer at Delmar. Flavien Prat is the man you want aboard. **8 UNCONQUERABLE KEEN (IRE)** is a late striding type from trainer Phil D'Amato looking to sit in the garden spot behind what looks like a torrid early pace setup. Umberto Rispoli will try to make it two in a row from out the back.

SELECTIONS: 11-6-8
RACE 8: THE FRED W. HOOPER (G3)

6 KNIGHTSBRIDGE is stretching out to a mile again after drawing off like an international good thing to win the seven-furlong Grade 3 Mr Prospector by almost five lengths. Junior rides for Bill Mott. **1 LIFE AND TIMES** is eligible to take the lion's share of the betting action after posting back-to-back triple digit speed figures in both lifetime victories at the distance. Todd Pletcher has jockey Jose Lezcano going for the hat trick. **9 NELSON AVENUE** is debuting locally after finishing second to Bishops Bay in the \$300,000 Parx Mile, a race that's produced a trio of next-out winners from four starters, including the winner, who came back to win the Grade 2 Cigar Mile in his next start.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-9
RACE 9: THE W. L. MCKNIGHT (G3)

3 OHANA HONOR, a previous winner at 12 furlongs, stretches out after drawing clear to win the 9-furlong Knickerbocker with a sharp late run. Shug McGaughey has the son of Honor Code working up a storm at Payson Park. **10 SUMMER CAUSE**, who wants to run all day, is cutting back to a mile and a half after using his speed to win the two-mile H Allen Jerkens here last out. Miguel Clement has Tyler going for two in a row. **9 BALNIKHOV (IRE)** is returning locally for trainer Phil D'Amato after following a handy 11-furlong \$100,000 optional claiming score on the Delmar turf with a troubled trip – as the favorite – in the 12-furlong Grade 2 Hollywood Turf Cup last out. Jockey Umberto Rispoli is in to ride.

SELECTIONS: 3-10-9
RACE 10: THE PEGASUS F & M TURF (G2)

5 CLASSIC Q is making her local return after setting a pressured pace and yielding late when finishing a game third in the Grade 2 Mrs. Revere at Churchill last out. Mark Casse has Jose Ortiz atop the consistent daughter of Classic Empire. **8 PROCTOR STREET** is cutting back to a mile and a sixteenth after notching her second consecutive victory when she won the 9-furlong Cardinal at Churchill last out. Brendan Walsh has Tyler going for the hat trick.

7 WHISKEY DECISION, the morning line favorite, makes her first start since winning the 9-furlong Athenia for the potent connections of Brown and Prat. Note that the barn is 26% with the 61-180 days layoff.

SELECTIONS: 5-8-7
RACE 11: THE INSIDE INFORMATION (G2)

3 JODY'S PRIDE is cutting back to 7 furlongs on the main track after showing speed and fading when going a mile on the turf in the Grade 1 First Lady at Keeneland. Trainer Jorge Abreu, 31% with the surface switch, has Flavien Prat trying to spring the upset. **8 STERLING SILVER**, a four-time winner at the distance, turns back after drawing clear late to win the one-mile Rampart here last out. Anthony Margotta has Javier Castellano going for two in a row.

6 BEYOND BELIEF certainly lived up to his name when he followed his \$25,000 optional claiming victory at the distance with an even better score vs \$62,000 optional claimer at the distance last out. Kelly Breen has Joe Bravo atop this intriguing possibility.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-6
RACE 12: THE PEGASUS WORLD CUP TURF (G1)

10 CUGINO makes the fruitful third start of the form cycle for Shug after coming within a neck of winning the Grade 2 Ft Lauderdale last out. John Velazquez rides. **2 PROGRAM TRADING (GB)** is a classy son of Lope de Vega who was coming off a couple of well-meant outings, including a second-place finish in the Grade 1 Turf Mile, before the rough trip in the Breeders' Cup Mile in which he was blocked and steadied. Chad Brown hopes for clear sailing with Flavien Prat up. **1 TEST SCORE** will depart from the rail after top-notch performances on the West Coast, including a troubled outing in the Grade 1 Hollywood Derby. He faces older horses with Manny Franco in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 10-2-1
RACE 13: THE PEGASUS WORLD CUP (G1)

7 TAPPAN STREET, the only horse to defeat probable Horse of the Year Sovereignty, will face his biggest task to date when he steps up to face these seasoned veterans in his fifth career start. I'm a believer, so he goes on top of my ticket. **1 DISCO TIME** is the obvious choice when he goes for sixth consecutive victory. However, the undefeated son of Not This Time still needs to prove he can handle 9 furlongs. **10 MIKA** is stretching out after running a bang up second – beaten a neck – by classy repeat winner Bishops Bay in the Grade 1 Cigar Mile. Manny Franco rides for Mike Maker.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-10
BEST BET: RACE 8 – 6 KNIGHTSBRIDGE
LONGSHOT: RACE 5 – 7 AYRA STARK