



Monday, August 3 By Brian Nadeau (check @Brian_J_Nadeau for OFF turf updates)

Royal Palm Meet Statistics (through 7/27):

GP Meet: 535-135-86-94 (\$1.69/\$4.96)

Race 1: The opener may bring about a breakthrough for **5 VANISH**, who moves to Saffie, who is 28% with newcomers, and gets back to a GP turf course where his lone career win came over. A class drop means **2 OXAR** can have a big say, as she's been holding her own against tons better, yet may be overlooked for a winless barn. Speed plays on the turf, so if **6 QUEEN KONG** gets loose, she could take them a long way in her grass debut, while going off-the-claim for Crichton, a big 34% move.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-6-9

Race 2: MSW droppers **1 CULTURE** and **2 JUST MAJESTIC** look poised to battle this one out after they hit the line together 7/12 while well behind the winner, as this is the biggest drop in all of racing, and they are best on figures as it is. There's upside with **4 RAE'S CREEK**, who finished behind a pair she meets again today, but that was her career debut, so she can move forward.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-4-7

Race 3: The big figure Tapeta 2nd from **4 I'M SAM** two-back would be too much for these, especially since it came against better, and many of these are rising in class today. A list that includes **3 ENCHANTING TALE**, who looked good breaking his maiden

over the course, but has to improve open lengths to get to the chalk. If **6 CAMIGOL** classes up then he may be the biggest threat, as that was a very fast 2nd last time, though it came against much easier.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-6-1

Race 4: Getting out of a pair of salty stakes will agree with **2 TO THE EASTSIDE**, who was a neck away from winning three in a row against similar, before trying tons better in both the Big Drama and Smile. It's tough to go against Fawkes these days, so **6 NESHUME** figures live off-the-claim, for a barn that hits at a whopping 42% with this move. The main track form of **1 ADIOS NOW** is as good as anyone's in here, though the rail draw isn't ideal.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-1-3

Race 5: It's Best Bet time with **4 NAVY CROSS**, who won the battle but lost the war in a big 2nd last time, and shouldn't have to work as hard up front this time. Both **8 SPACE LAUNCH** and **7 CORTA FUEGO**, who 3rd and 4th to 'Navy, respectively, took advantage of a dream race flow last time, and yet still couldn't beat him, and the splits won't favor them as much today.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-7-9

Race 6: The lone time **1 HEIR TO THE ROAR** ran on turf she ran everyone down, so in a race loaded with speed, she may roll over them all in the lane again. A hot pace will aid the late run of **8 ROYALLY BLUE** as well, though a wide draw with the rails at 66' lessens her appeal a bit. That was a sharp turf win over state bred from **2 LAILA BELLA GIRL**, and she'll be well ahead of the top-2 when they hit the far turn, though all the other speed may still zap her late.

SELECTIONS: 1-8-2-5

Race 7: The Monday feature goes to **5 GUNS LOADED**, who has a right to improve second-time for Saffie after (finally) showing some life when 6th in the Smile last time. The pick needs to improve too, because **6 CLASSIC OF COURSE** was 2 ½ lengths ahead of him when 2nd in the Smile, which continued a long streak of solid stakes efforts, albeit with all underneath finishes too. The three starts off the Fawkes claim from **3 PURE CLASS** have been dynamite, so he hits hard right back after an easy win at shorts odds against lesser.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-3-1

Race 8: It's Longshot time in the finale with **6 SIR GUINNESS**, who wasn't too far behind a trio he meets again today, but now moves to Chapman, who has shown a penchant for moving them up. The wildcard is **4 STAN THEMAN MUSIAL**, as he's now with Saffie off two no shows at SA, and may like this group a lot better. Not inspired with **1 CASH BONUS** at an underlaid price off a meek 3rd, when just 1 ¼ lengths ahead of the pick.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-1-2

Best Bet: R5: #4 Navy Cross (9-5)

- * Held 2nd after dueling throughout
- * Two rivals still couldn't beat him
- * Early splits look a lot softer today

Longshot: R8: #6 Sir Guinness (8-1)

- * Moves to Chapman, 24% with newbies
- * Was only 1 ¼ behind ML favorite (#1)
- * Blinks-off and a weight break with Pena

