



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



Sunday, August 23, 2026

RACE 1:

7 WINE CANDY, who was stakes-placed as a two-year-old, moves to the Sebastian Pulgarin barn via the claim hoping to rekindle his back class when trying a mile on the dirt for the first time. The son of Vino Rosso is bred to love the added distance. **4 WILLING ONE**, a sharp winner at the distance three starts back, is returning to the main track after setting the pace and fading to fourth when going around two turns on Tapeta. Kathleen O'Connell has Miguel Vazquez rationing the gelding's speed in the opener. **3 SURFER'S JOY** is stretching out to this one-turn mile again after following a victory vs cheaper at the distance with a poor showing vs a tough group of sprinters going seven furlongs. Diego Herrera rides for Heather Smullen.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-3

RACE 2:

5 SIX SEVEN BREW is a gelded son of win-early sire Cajun Breeze debuting for trainer Mike Yates with a sharp morning work tab showing. Leonel Reyes will get him interested early. **7 TILOU** merits the moniker of the one to fear after vying for the lead and finishing second in his career turf debut at this level and distance. Heather Smullen has Samy Camacho at the controls again.

1 RIYADH WAY, bred on both sides of the family tree to respond favorably to the turf, is making his first start since finishing fourth on the dirt behind next-out stake's winner Watson and Godfidence, who defeated special weight runners at Colonial.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-1

RACE 3:

3 BAD PARTY GAL is dropping and returning to her best surface thus far (7-3-0-0) after facing better in consecutive sprints on the turf. David Fawkes, 23% with the surface switch, has Samy Camacho named to ride.

1 BOOT'S ON THE MOON will depart from the rail after responding to Tapeta with a rousing two-length-plus score. Ron Spatz has Miguel Vazquez atop the one to beat.

5 DENVER'S ALLEY is dropping to the \$20,000 level with the speed needed to steal this race from on or with the pace. Mike Lerman has Diego Herrera atop the five-time winner on the all-weather surface.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-5

RACE 4:

6 ZOLENE was game in defeat when she dueled for the lead before getting nailed at the wire – as the favorite – at this level and distance. Yolber Torres rides for Jose D'Angelo. **7 UNCAPTURED DOVE** is wheeling back for Dave Fawkes after shaking off traffic at the top of the stretch to finish second, a neck in front of Zolene last out. The rematch will be fun to watch. **1 BREEZEY Z** has speed, the rail and a chance to steal the race with the rail set 45 feet. Mike Yates has Miguel Vazquez managing the always interesting inside post.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-1

RACE 5:

1 JUST MAJESTIC is cutting back to 5 ½ furlongs after finding a competitive spot when dropping to this level and finishing second going six furlongs. Trainer Joel Santiago has Jonathan Ocasio overseeing the inside draw.

6 JADACAQUIVA is hoping to turn the tables on the top choice after dueling with her early before settling for third. The cut back in distance can help her cause.

4 PAPAS COOKIE is a daughter of Brethren debuting for trainer Rohan Crichton in an ideal spot for a first-time starter to grab a share. Rohan's go-to jock Anthony Thomas hops aboard.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-4

RACE 6:

2 SWEETCITY steps up to face winners after drawing clear to defeat a pair of next winners in a competitive maiden sprint where rest of the field all finished second in their next starts.

Saffie Joseph Jr has Rasheed Hughes going for two in a row. **1 GOLDEN VALLEY** became the only five-time winner in the field when she parlayed a sharp move in the stretch to defeat state-bred allowance runners at this six-furlong distance. Armando De La Cerda has Edwin Gonzalez in the saddle. **3 DOMINANT DIVA**, another from Saffie's barn, cuts back to three-quarters of a mile after chasing the pace and weakening vs this level of competition going 6 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-3

RACE 7:

2 WOULD I LIE TO YOU is debuting on the turf after dueling through the stretch and holding sway to defeat a trio of next-out winners in a key \$35,000 maiden sprint on Tapeta. She's worth a flyer at a price.

4 CATALONIA, 3 for 4 in the money on the turf, was freshened after chasing the pace and coming up empty at this level and distance during March. Jose D'Angelo has the daughter of Protonico (Giant's Causeway) working well for the return. **6 CORBET'S CRUSH** is back locally after shipping to Colonial Downs and finishing third vs allowance runners going 5 ½ furlongs on the turf. Heather Smullen has Diego Herrera atop this major player.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-6

RACE 8:

5 EL OREJON, the only three-time winner in the field, drops and cuts back to 6 ½ furlongs in the first start since dueling for the lead and finishing second vs \$25,000 starter optional claimers going seven furlongs. Steve Klesaris has Jose Morelos in the saddle.

3 GUS SWAYZE moves to the Collin Maragh barn via the claim after rallying between horses to defeat \$17,500 two lifetime claimers going seven panels. Rajiv Maragh keeps it a family affair. **1 EZ ORB NOT** drops into this conditioned claimer after tracking the pace and finishing an okay fifth vs state-bred allowance runners going six furlongs. Joe Orseno spots the gelding where he merits attention.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-1

RACE 9:

7 ZIRZOP drops a level and stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after recovering from a poor start from the rail (veered in) and breaking last before righting the ship and finishing fourth vs \$35,000 maidens going five furlongs on the turf. The son of Code of Honor is bred to respond favorably to the added distance.

8 SIR GUINNESS is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks and returning to the grass after making a middle move and fading vs special weight runners in a race moved from the turf to a mile and a sixteenth on Tapeta. Beau Chapman has Diego Herrera overseeing the class relief. **3 APACHE ONE SIX** is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after getting nailed late and finishing second going a mile on the turf last out and a mile and a sixteenth on Tapeta two starts back.

SELECTIONS: 7-8-3

BEST BET: RACE 6 – 2 SWEETCITY

LONGSHOT: RACE 7 2 WOULD I LIE TO YOU