



Sunday, June 29 By Brian Nadeau (check @Brian_J_Nadeau for OFF turf updates)

Royal Palm Meet Statistics (through 6/22):

GP Meet: 455-117-93-69 (\$1.69/\$5.01) **Best Bet:** 42-16-7-2 (\$1.90/\$5.66) **Longshot:** 42-7-2-5 (\$3.12/\$6.63)

Race 1: It's Best Bet time in the opener with **5 FEAR** off a strong 3rd on debut at Kee, and he meets a very modest group of locals too. The experience that **7 RAMMAAS** got when 6th in his bow should tighten him up for this, and blinkers go on today too, so he may show some more early speed. Tab the tote on firster **4 MEGACLES**, a homebred who has worked well and often for this.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-4-6

Race 2: A wide-open group of 2yos with several firsters will try two turns on the turf, so this is a real guessing game, though **2 DAVID PEPPERMAN** figures live for David off the 6/22 drill, and this inside draw gives him an edge too. Both **8 MY FOOLISH NOTION** and **3 RAASIL** are playable, with the former owning a nice two-turn pedigree and the latter luring Zayas, and any tote action on either would be a plus.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-3-5

Race 3: The speed of **4 MAXIMUS CAT** will make him tough to catch after a much-improved 2nd last time, and his style often wins Tapeta sprints too. They figure to bet with both hands on **6 POSEIDON'S LAW**, a Tiz the Law firster that cost 375k, though D'Angelo is just 9% with firsters, so he could need this. It's tough to think a son of Curlin

is going to win at 5Fs on debut, so let's watch one from **5 AVENTUS** before firing.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-5-3

Race 4: It was good to see **6 MURABEH** show a new dimension when he stalked last time in winning his second in a row, which gives him options here, en route to the hat trick. Don't sleep on Tampa invader **7 MISCHIEVOUS HAN**, who didn't fire on Tapeta but has solid turf form, and he'll offer value too. You won't get 12-1 today, but **4 CHILL THE J** tried hard to wire the pick last time and did well to hold 2nd, though he walked early and still couldn't hold, which doesn't bolster his chances today.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-4-1

Race 5: The Mandatory Rainbow 6 kicks off with a short price, as **2 FULLY ENTITLED** will be tough after a solid 2nd off a 15-month layoff, while meeting a suspect group of rivals today. The post and speed of **5 SKY BABY**, along with the slight class drop, says she could be the main danger, though she comes in off a real dud. No knocks on **1 AREACODEFIVEOONE**, who is consistent, though upside isn't part of the package.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-1-3

Race 6: With David winning everything these days, and hitting at 32% off-the-claim as well, you have to think **4 SMART STRIKER** is poised to fire a big shot getting back to turf, which may be enough in a real scramble. Facing older horses for the first time is never easy, so while **1 BLUFF** looks tough on paper, this is a step up for him, and he'll be overbet for a struggling Casse barn, though he still looks like a must-use with his strong form. The last two times **3 JACK KEROUAC** was in with state bred he ran huge, so maybe that will signal a better result off two flat runs of late.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-3-6

Race 7: It's Longshot time with **10 CURLING ROSE**, who has run well against better at big odds in her two Tapeta runs, and now drops to the bottom from a good draw. They all have to beat **8 FLUFFY** off that solid 2nd last time, and she's another with the speed to lay close. That turf route comeback should have **4 BUBBLES UP** tightened for this, and her only two Tapeta runs were against MSW foes, so she could breakthrough here.

SELECTIONS: 10-8-4-5

Race 8: Lasix and a class drop could perk up **2 ANNIE GOODBODY**, as all of her turf runs have come against comfortably better, and she should get an honest pace up front too. The race goes through **5 BELLAVININO** for Saffie and Zayas, though she'll be overbet on the drop, and doesn't own much of an edge on paper either. A stalking style will put **3 LE TOUCHE** in the right spot on the far turn, and she didn't run poorly trying winners last time.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-3-4

Race 9: He may be 0-for-7 on Tapeta, but **4 OLD FLAG** takes a big drop off some solid turf runs, and he has run OK in a few starts over the surface, which may be enough over this suspect group. Both **8 LOOKIN FOR ROSES** and **9 BATTLE OF DOVER** would be no surprise on top, with the former a re-claim for Saffie and the latter a slight dropper with solid form.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-9-1

Race 10: The finale goes to **2 QUEREME PASS** off a speedy 2nd in his turf/two-turn bow, which says he can build on that and see it out to the line today. The post isn't ideal for **10 IRIDEO**, nor is a 12/28 layoff, but if the money shows he'll be tough to deny, as his Ca. form is way better than these, and it came against way better too. A troubled trip cost **5 SAMBURU** last time, though he rises today and faces much tougher, so demand value if he's for you.

SELECTIONS: 2-10-5-1

Best Bet: R1: #5 Fear (6-5)

- * Solid 3rd against better in debut at Kee
- * Meets what looks like some iffy locals
- * Has the speed to be close throughout

Longshot: R7: #10 Curling Rose (8-1)

- * Underrated runs against better
- * Good post for her pressing style
- * Fits nicely with these on figures

