



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Friday, April 17, 2020

**RACE 1:**

**10 HARMONIC THUNDER** is wheeling back after responding to a dropdown in competition, a return to the turf, and the removal of the blinkers, with a well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **9 WONDER BLONDY** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after returning from the layoff, with both Lasix and blinkers added, and rallying to finish 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 maiden at the distance.

**3 BUSINESSINDUBAI** will try to carry her speed to the wire after setting the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> when stretching out from 5 to 8 furlongs last out. Trainer Phil Serpe has Dylan Davis named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 10-9-3**

**RACE 2:**

**5 JUST RIGHT MILE** is a son of win-early sire Cajun Breeze debuting for trainer Mike Yates with a 3-furlong bullet workout showing in preparation for this assignment. Note that Mike Yates also has **4 PEPPY** entered to run with the same 3-furlong bullet in showing in 35 flat. The tote action should help point us in the right direction. **7 GOLDEN PAL** is a son of Uncle Mo debuting for trainer Wesley Ward, and that should be more than enough to pique your interest; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **8 FIRST NAVY ADMIRAL** is a son of Fort Loudon, and a half-brother to Awesome Feather, who was 6 for 6 as a 2-year-old, which includes a sweep of the Florida Sire Stakes series. He's bred to win early for trainer Ralph Nicks.

**SELECTIONS: 5-4-7-8**

**RACE 3:**

**3 LOVE NEST**, now in the Rasharn Creque barn, the gelding drops to the \$6,250 level after hitting the board in 1 of 2 races vs better before the layoff, including the 'key' race last out that produced a pair of next-out winners.

**4 SUMMER MISCHIEF** is debuting locally after setting the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> - before being placed first - vs this level of competition going a mile & 40 yards at Tampa. Trainer Kelly Breen has Dylan Davis doling out his speed.

**8 MILLIONAIRE RUNNER** is dropping a notch after rallying late to finish 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively, in a pair vs \$8,000 claimers.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-8**

**RACE 4:**

**5 FAST FRACTION** is dropping to the \$14,000 level after responding to the addition of blinkers with a 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish vs \$25,000 maidens going a mile here in December. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 27% with the 61-180 days layoff. **7 GARNER STATE PARK** is hoping to get away from the starting gate in a timely fashion after breaking a step slow prior to running a 4-wide 3<sup>rd</sup> in her career debut at this level and distance. Owner/trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez in the saddle. **8 A BEAUTIFUL DAY** is dropping to this level after setting the pace and tiring late when facing \$25-30,000 maidens on the grass. The turnback from 8 ½ to 8 furlongs looks like a positive move for the logical pacesetter.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-8**

**RACE 5:**

**2 PHILLY SPECIAL** has her maiden tag sliced in half after returning from the 2-month freshening – with blinkers added – and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> – beaten three-quarters of a length – vs \$50,000 maidens. Trainer Todd Pletcher has go-to jock Luis Saez at the controls. **4 MARIES MELODY** is making her first start since a solid effort at this level and distance, in which she broke from Post 12, dueled for the lead, and was beaten only a neck for the whole enchilada. **9 LAKE PARIMA** is dropping to the \$25,000 level after dueling for the lead and weakening to finish 6<sup>th</sup> behind Philly Special when they hooked up at the \$50,000 level last out. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione handling the rematch.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-9**

**RACE 6:**

**6 SNIPER SHOT** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after drawing clear to defeat \$35,000 optional claimers – as the odds-on choice – going three-quarters of a mile – here during January. Trainer Todd Pletcher has the \$175,000 gelded son of Shackleford firing bullets in preparation for the return. **8 MIHOS** is stretching out an additional furlong after returning from the 6-month layoff to finish a late-closing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs this level of competition going 6 furlongs. Trainer Jimmy Jerkens has Tyler named on the \$320,000 son of Cairo Prince. **5 DO SHARE**, drops, and turns back, after tilting windmills when taking the overland route and failing to fire in the Grade 2 Gulfstream Mile last out. Trainer Norm Casse spots the previous winner at the distance perfectly today.

**SELECTIONS: 6-8-5****RACE 7:**

**6 SOUPER SHENANIGAN**, who faced special weight competition in his previous turf sprints, is going back to the grass after showing speed and weakening when facing similar quality going longer on the Tapeta surface at Woodbine. Trainer Mark Casse has Luis Saez handling the surface switch. **11 SOVEREIGN WARRIOR** is dropping a notch after chasing the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$25,000 2-lifetime' claimers at the distance. Trainer Juan Avila has Edgard Zayas named to ride.

**12 OHANZEE** is stepping up to face winners after drawing clear to defeat \$25,000 maidens at the distance last out. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Paco Lopez going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 6-11-12****RACE 8:**

**4 JADES GELLY**, a rare reclaim by trainer Wesley Ward, steps up to face winners after the driving \$50,000 maiden victory at the distance during January; blinkers off today. **5 SHIPPY**, now in the George Weaver barn, the daughter of Midshipman, out of the Speightstown mare Lead Me Not, debuts on the turf after ending her 2019 campaign with a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Grade 1 Spinaway at Saratoga. She's beautifully bred for the turf, and spotted perfectly today.

**3 POSEIDON'S PASSION** is debuting locally after showing a fondness for sprinting on the turf when she defeated \$75,000 optional claimers at Tampa, despite the fact she got loose in the post parade.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-3****RACE 9:**

**6 FORTIN HILL**, a \$575,000 son of Mucho Macho Man, is making his 4-year-old debut after following his debut victory during October 2018 with a \$80,000 optional claiming victory at Belmont during June 2019. Trainer Chad Brown has Tyler Gaffalione handling the undefeated colt's first race in 10 months. **7 MOONVERSEBA** was give some time to regroup after pressing the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance during February. Trainer Eddie Kenneally, 23% with this type of layoff, has Luis Saez in the saddle. **2 YODEL E. A. WHO** is turning back to 6 furlongs after back-to-back 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes going a mile, which includes the recent nose defeat in the \$50,000 Rough and Ready. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 25% with the route to sprint angle.

**SELECTIONS: 6-7-2****RACE 10:**

**1 KING OF ROCK** drops into the maiden claiming ranks, and stretches out around 2-turns on the turf, after encountering trouble at the start and failing to fire in a special weight sprint moved from the grass to 5 furlongs on a wet main track listed as good. Trainer Danny Gargan, 24% with the surface switch, has Paco guiding the upset special. **3 COWTOWN** is dropping to the \$65,000 level, and debuting on the turf, after 'hitting the board' in 4 consecutive maiden special races on the dirt in New York. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez atop the son of Tonalist.

**10 MAVERICK KITTEN** is dropping a notch on the maiden scale after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$75,000 maiden going a mile here during February. Trainer Mike Maker has Tyler named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 1-3-10****BEST BET: RACE 8 – 4 JADES GELLY****LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 1 KING OF ROCK**