



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Friday, August 7, 2020

RACE 1:

6 SURPRISE ARRIVAL is cutting back to seven-eighths of a mile after showing speed and weakening to finish 6th behind repeat winner Gran Etiqueta going a mile. Trainer Jeff Engler has Samy Camacho atop what looks like a major piece of the pace puzzle. **5 GRAVEL GERTIE** is dropping to the bottom in the first race since finishing 3rd vs \$16,000 maidens going a mile in the slop during May. **7 AUBURN** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after showing some late interest when hitting the board in 2 of 4 recent sprints at 6 to 6 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-7

RACE 2:

6 BLUE PAYNT is stretching out to 5 ½ furlongs, and removing the blinkers, after shaking off trouble at the start to finish 3rd in her 5-furlong career debut at this level. Trainer Ken McPeck tabs Edgard Zayas to ride. **2 DOMINEERING** will look to take charge early when this daughter of Dominus debuts for trainer Rohan Crichton, who is 27% with his freshman runners; Miguel Vazquez rides. **7 STREET EXCHANGE** is a daughter of Street Sense debuting for trainer Ralph Nicks with 5 local workouts showing. The barn, 23% with their 2-year-olds, has go-to jock Emisael Jaramillo handling the positive outside draw.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-7

RACE 3:

6 GENGHIS, popular in the claim box, moves to the Elizabeth Dobles barn, and returns to the turf, after the consistent campaign on the dirt vs similar quality. Note in his only previous turf race he's was 3rd in the \$75,000 Juvenile Turf at GP West.

3 JUSTINTHENICKOTIME is wheeling back after finishing in a dead-heat for 2nd – beaten less than a length – at this level and distance. Trainer Mike Maker has Edgard Zayas named to ride.

8 REMASTER (IRE) is making his first journey around 2-turns after the consistent sprint campaign, which includes the recent 2nd place finish vs \$75,000 optional claimers. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Samy Camacho atop this major piece of the pace makeup.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-8

RACE 4:

7 INDEPENDENT MISS is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after dueling throughout and finishing 2nd – beaten a ½-length as the 3-to-5 favorite – going 7 furlongs on a good track.

8 MIRACULOUSBLESSING is dropping to the \$25,000 level in the first start since finishing 4th vs maiden special weight competition here in late May. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Emisael Jaramillo atop the lightly raced daughter of Rattlesnake Bridge. **2 SEAPORT STORM** is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks on the dirt after failing to show much in her special weight debut going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Marcos Meneses handling both karma changes.

SELECTIONS: 7-8-2

RACE 5:

2 PONT DU GARD is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after solid outing vs similar going 9 furlongs in which he dueled early, and reached the lead, before getting outkicked and finishing 2nd – beaten a length. Trainer Louie Roussel has Angel Arroyo named to ride.

4 DONJI moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via the claim, and steps up to the \$20,000 level, after coming within a head – as the favorite – of defeating \$12,500 claimers last out. Note the hard-knocking 8-year-old is a solid 7-3-0-0 at the distance. **3 PROJECTED (GB)** moved to the Carlos David barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, in the first start since finishing a late-running 5th vs \$12,500 foes during May. The barn, 42% with new claims, has Santiago Gonzalez handling the return to action.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-3

RACE 6:

2 BOURBON IN MAY is cutting back to 8 ½ furlongs after rallying to defeat my 5th race selection Pont Du Gard in a \$20,000 open-claimer contested at a mile and an eighth. Use that earlier race as a handicapping guide before you plunk your money down on this Maker/Zayas collaboration. **7 SOUPER JAGUAR** is returning from the layoff, and returning to the turf, will the great equalizer on his side – Speed. Trainer Mark Casse, who has 2 in the field (King Ottokar), has Cristian Torres atop this half of the uncoupled entry. **8 ROCKET JOE COPPER** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after responding in the first race locally for trainer Ron Spatz with a 2nd place finish vs \$35,000 conditioned claimers going a mile.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-8

RACE 7:

5 ARRIVEDERLA moves to the Victor Barboza barn via the claim, and steps up to the \$10,500 level, after drawing clear to defeat \$8,000 claimers by almost 5 lengths. The barn, 51% with new claims, tabs Edgard Zayas to ride.

7 WHYRUAWESOME will try to make it 3 in a row after responding in the first race after the claim by Marcial Navarro with a victory vs similar quality going 6 furlongs in the slop.

1 KILLA DEE moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via the claim, and departs from the rail, after dueling throughout and finishing 2nd – a half-length behind Arrivederla - going 6 panels in the slop. The rematch should be fun to watch and wager on.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-1

RACE 8:

5 FRENCHMEN STREET is plunging to the \$25,000 level, and turning back to 5 furlongs, after facing \$62,500 optional claimers – at the distance – with inconsistent results. Trainer Mike Maker has Edgard Zayas handling the class relief.

2 GO GONE GONE is returning to the turf after leading from start to finish when defeating similar in race moved from the grass to 5 furlongs on the main track. Trainer Georgina Baxter has Emisael Jaramillo going for 2 in a row.

10 SOVEREIGN WARRIOR, who does his best running in the latter stages of the race, can sit the 'trip' when he returns to the claiming ranks after finishing 4th in the \$75,000 Turf Sprint.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-10

RACE 9:

6 MOZANO is wheeling back after rallying on a sealed 'sloppy' track to finish 2nd – as the favorite – at this level and distance. Note he was beaten a nose at this level on a 'fast' track 2 starts back.

9 TONY SMALL is stretching out to a mile for the first time after rallying to finish 2nd – as the favorite - in back-to-back outings at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Edgard Zayas handling the stretchout. **8 AYCAPOTE** is hoping to find more for the stretch drive after rallying to finish 3rd in a \$10,000 maiden affair - at the distance – that's produced a trio of next-out winners from 8 starters.

SELECTIONS: 6-9-8

BEST BET: RACE 5 – 2 PONT DU GARD

LONGSHOT: RACE 3 – 6 GENGHIS