



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Friday, February 14, 2020

RACE 1:

4 LASKA is making her first start since finishing 2nd here, in front of a pair of next-out winners, at this level and distance on December 6. Trainer Michael Matz has Jose Ortiz in the saddle again.

8 AERODYNAMIC is dropping to the \$40,000 level, and stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth, after finishing 3rd vs maiden special weight competition going 7 ½ furlongs on the GP West turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 35% with similar class drops, has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the outside draw. **1 MATCHA** is making her 5-year-old debut the first start since finishing 4th vs \$40,000 maidens going a mile on the Belmont turf last May. Trainer John Kimmel has Tyler Gaffalione atop the daughter of Macho Uno.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-1

RACE 2:

6 LUXE DIAMOND is dropping to the \$12,500 level after returning from the 10-month layoff to finish a chase-the-pace 4th at the \$32,000 level. Trainer Joe Orseno has Fanny Olsson named to ride.

2 SNAKE N SHAKE is making the usually positive 3rd start back from the layoff after rallying to finish 2nd at this level and distance last out.

7 IMPRESSION GIVEN is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after setting the pace and fading to finish 3rd behind Snake N Shake at this 6 ½-furlong distance.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-7

RACE 3:

4 ZIPPY is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs with blinkers added after stalking the pace and finishing 3rd – as the odds-on choice – going a mile last out. Trainer Dave Fawkes, who claimed him 2 starts back, has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle again.

3 COMBINATION is stepping up, and stretching out, after responding to both a dropdown, and surface switch, with an open-length victory vs \$6,250 claimers going three-quarters of a mile.

5 MILLIONAIRE RUNNER, listed as a gelding, the hard-knocking 5-year-old stretches out an additional half-furlong after finishing 2nd and 3rd, respectively, vs \$8,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going 6 furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-5

RACE 4:

1 MAVERICK KITTEN finds an ideal spot to step up to the \$75,000 level after rallying to finish 2nd – beaten a head – vs \$50,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad Ortiz Jr returning on the son of Kitten's Joy.

2 ASK FOR BODE is a son of Bodemeister debuting for trainer Eddie Kenneally, who has a solid 23%-win average with 1st time starters on the turf; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **10 STRONG ENDING** is stretching out to a mile, and receiving Lasix, after shipping in from Churchill and finishing a late-running 5th going 5 furlongs vs maiden special weight competition. Jockey Julien Leparoux should have the son of Strong Mandate closer to the pace when stretching out to a mile.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-10

RACE 5:

8 KRSTO SKYE moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and wheels back, after dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd at this level and distance last out. The new connections tab Luis Saez to ride.

2 WHAT'S INSIDE is stepping up vs open-competition after edging away to defeat \$16,000 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' runners at the distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Irad going for 2 in a row.

4 NEVER HAVE I EVER (IRE) moved to the Larry Rivelli barn via the claim, and drops to the \$16,000 level, after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 5th behind hard-knocking sprint specialist Tiger Blood in a \$25,000 optional claimer at the distance; Marcos Meneses rides.

SELECTIONS: 8-2-4

RACE 6:

6 QUALITY SPECIAL, who was 2nd on the main track – at this level and distance – 2 starts back, is returning to the dirt after vying for the lead and tiring when facing \$16,000 ‘2-lifetime’ claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Gustavo Delgado, 23% with the grass to dirt angle, reunites the gelding with Luis Saez, who rode him 2 starts back. **2 I STAND CORRECTED**, who was 2nd vs a notch tougher the last time he was on the main track, is going back to the dirt after back-to-back clunkers on the turf. Trainer John Vinson has Paco handling the surface switch. **5 UNCLE GREGORY** is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after returning from the 2-month freshening to finish 4th going 6 furlongs last out. Note that his best finish to date was a 2nd on the dirt vs \$20,000 maidens last September.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-5**RACE 7:**

2 MUSIC OF LIFE, now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, the daughter of Bodemeister drops to the \$40,000 level after facing allowance level competition up north with mixed results. The barn, 33% with new additions to the shedrow, has the 4-year-old working sharply for this assignment. **5 KITTEN BY THE SEA** is stepping up to face winners after drawing clear to defeat \$25,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad returning on the lightly raced daughter of Kitten’s Joy.

9 STRELLA’S WAR is debuting locally at the \$40,000 level after ‘hitting the board’ in 1 of 2 allowance races on the Tampa turf. Trainer Rodolphe Brisset has Jose Ortiz named on the daughter of Declaration of War (War Front).

SELECTIONS: 2-5-9**RACE 8:**

1 FRANK’S LEGACY moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and drops to the \$12,500 level, in the first start since posting his 2nd consecutive victory when he defeated \$16,000 claimers here on December 6th. The new connections have Paco Lopez going for 3 straight victories. **6 MY MAE DAY** has his claiming tag sliced in half when he makes the first start since finishing 4th vs \$25,000 ‘2-lifetime’ claimers going 6 furlongs on the Presque Isle synthetic surface. Trainer Larry Rivelli has Irad named on the gelded son of Race Day.

5 BLACK HOPE moved to the Francisco D’Angelo barn via the claim after setting the pace and finishing 2nd – as the 3-to-5 favorite – at this level and distance; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-5**RACE 9:**

5 CLAMOR is stepping up to face winner after responding to the addition of blinkers with a front running \$35,000 maiden score at the distance. Trainer Tom Bush has Emisael Jaramillo going for 2 in a row on the upset special.

2 STURGEON is back vs allowance competition after following the well-meant 2nd at this level 2 starts back, with a chase-the-pace 2nd behind hard-knocking repeat winner Tiger Blood in a \$16,000 starter optional claimer at the distance.

4 WHAT’S TO BLAME moved to the Elizabeth Dobles barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, looking sit in the garden spot behind what is sure to be a hot and heavy pace scenario; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-4**RACE 10:**

4 BIG BOSS LADY is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and returning to the turf, after following a 2nd vs \$32,000 maidens on the grass with a stalk-and-fade outing vs \$32,000 types going a mile and a sixteenth on a wet-fast main track. **5 RUTHYLA** is stretching out a mile and a sixteenth after dueling throughout and finishing 3rd vs this level of competition going a mile last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz penciled in for the return riding assignment.

6 BETTER BEGIN is dropping to the \$16,000 level after getting carried out wide when finishing 4th going 7 ½ furlongs at the \$25,000 level. Trainer Ralph Nicks tabs leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-6**BEST BET: RACE 7 – 2 MUSIC OF LIFE****LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 5 CLAMOR**