



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Friday, February 21, 2020

RACE 1:

1 SIR CHUBBY, listed as a gelding, is returning from the 11-month layoff, and dropping to the \$32,000 level, in the first start since tussling with maiden special weight competition here last year with some success. Trainer Tom Bush has Emisael Jaramillo trying to spring the upset in the opener.

6 PALACE KITTEN is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks, and turning back to a mile, after stalking the pace and flattening out when finishing 5th vs special weight competition going 9 furlongs. Trainer Mike Maker, 29% with similar class drops, has Jose Ortiz in the saddle. **2 BEBEAU** is cutting back 8 furlongs after prompting the pace and finishing 2nd vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Kelly Breen has Luis Saez atop the one to fear.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-2

RACE 2:

1 ISLE OF MAN is \$850,000 gelded son of Tapit debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and a series of consistent workouts showing at Palm Beach Downs; Luis Saez rides. **7 BLIP** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after shipping in from Churchill and finishing 2nd vs this level of opposition going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Ken McPeck has Jose Ortiz atop the son of Carpe Diem. **6 FRANK FIRST** is hoping to save some fire power for the stretch drive after tracking the pace and finishing a distant 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Ron Spatz has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr returning on the beaten favorite last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-6

RACE 3:

10 LA RUSIA, who broke her maiden when departing from Post 10, moves to the outside again after leaving from the rail, setting the pace, and getting beat a half-length at this level and distance; Edgard Zayas rides. **5 R SEA SMOKE** is dropping to the \$20,000 level, and stretching out to a mile, after returning from the layoff to finish a late-charging 5th – beaten 3 lengths – going 5 furlongs vs \$35,000 optional claimers. Trainer Mary Eppler has Jairo Rendon handling the added distance.

1 BEASAICHI will depart from the rail again after tracking the pace early and finishing a solid 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Terri Pompay has apprentice Cristian Torres in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 10-5-1

RACE 4:

2 NOT NOW RAND is making his first start since vying for the lead and finishing 2nd – at this level and distance – during December. Trainer Stan Hough, 19% with similar layoffs, has Luis Saez in the saddle.

5 FOUR OF SWORDS has his claiming tag sliced in half after chasing the pace, and flattening out on the turn, when finishing a distant 4th at the \$50,000 level. Trainer Bryan Lynch tabs Jose Ortiz to ride.

3 THREE DEEP is dropping to the \$25,000 level on the main track, and turning back to 6 ½ furlongs with blinkers added, after following a 4th place finish vs \$50,000 maidens sprinting on the dirt with a clunker vs \$32,000 maidens going 8 ½ furlongs on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-3

RACE 5:

9 MISS LORETTA is wheeling back after responding to the dropdown in competition by coming within a nose of exiting the maiden ranks at this level and distance. Trainer Sarah Nagle tabs Edgard Zayas to ride.

10 SABINA PARK was game in defeat when she rebounded from a troubled start to rally up the rail and finish 3rd – a length behind by Miss Loretta last out. **2 BELLA GIANNA** is eligible to show more after tracking the pace and finishing 4th in her first-ever sprint effort on the turf; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 9-10-2

RACE 6:

6 STORMY BOSS may have finally found the spot where she can notch her 2nd career victory after tracking the pace and finishing 3rd at this level and distance last out. Trainer Juan Avila has Emisael Jaramillo in the saddle again.

1 SHANGHAI MISTRESS is dropping to the \$12,500 level on the main track after vying for the lead and tiring vs \$16,000 ‘non-winners of 2-lifetime’ claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Kathleen O’Connell, who claimed her 2 starts back, has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the surface switch.

5 BLUE BLUE ICE merits serious consideration on the ticket after rallying to finish 2nd – a nose in front of Stormy Boss – last out. Trainer Barry Croft has Luis Saez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-5

RACE 7:

8 GIOIELLI, who showed speed the last time she raced around 2-turns on the turf, stretches out to a mile after returning from the layoff to finish a rallying 3rd going 5 furlongs. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez returning on the lightly raced 5-year-old daughter of Macho Uno. **4 TRIBLY** moved to the Bob Hess Jr barn via the claim, and turns back to a mile, after posting back-to-back turf victories going a mile and a sixteenth. The new connections tab Hall of Fame jock Edgar Prado to ride.

6 GHOSTLY BEAUTY is stretching out to a mile after responding in the first race after the claim by red-hot trainer Mike Maker with a 5th place finish behind Gioielli going 5 panels last out; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-6

RACE 8:

2 MINTZ, who broke his maiden on the dirt when returning from a 10-month layoff last January, now returns from a 9-month layoff, and cuts back to a sprint on the dirt, after coming up empty vs

allowance competition on the turf last May. Trainer Jimmy Jerkens has Irad in the irons.

1 ATTHEPEARLYGATES is an obvious choice to score after vying for the lead and finishing 2nd at this level and distance last out. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Rajiv Maragh handling the 2nd consecutive start from the rail. **3 WONDER IN** is going back to the main track after rallying to finish 3rd behind free-running R Boy Evens going 5 furlongs on the grass. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Javier Castellano handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-3

RACE 9:

4 VILARO was solid in defeat when she disputed glib early fractions before settling for 2nd at this level and distance. The hard-knocking 7-year-old mare has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **7 HEIR BALL** is making the usually fruitful 3rd start back from an extended layoff after following her comeback victory vs \$16,000 claimers with a well-meant 2nd place finish vs this level of competition.

8 BELLS IRISH FANCY is dropping to the \$20,000 level after shipping in for trainer Ben Perkins Jr and finishing 5th vs \$30,000 claimers. Paco Lopez will guide the daughter of Dunkirk.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-8

RACE 10:

1 GEA is wheeling back at the same level and distance after rallying late to finish 5th – beaten 2 lengths – at this level and distance. The daughter of Animal Kingdom should sit the ‘trip’ behind the suspect pace scenario. **8 POLISHED COPPER** is hoping to shine at the \$25,000 level after returning from the layoff for trainer Stanley Hough and finishing a track-and-fade 7th vs \$50,000 maidens; Luis Saez rides. **4 KAYSERI** will be outfitted with blinkers after shipping in from Woodbine, dueling for the lead, and fading to finish 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 1-8-4

BEST BET: RACE 3 – 10 LA RUSIA

LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 8 GIOIELLI