



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Friday, February 7, 2020

## RACE 1:

**12 ROMARIO** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and cutting back to 6 furlongs, after setting the pace and fading – as the favorite – in a \$40,000 maiden test going a mile. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez handling both the suspicious dropdown, and the tough outside post. **5 PURECRAZIDUDE** is dropping a notch on the maiden scale after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$16,000 maidens at the distance; Fanny Olsson rides. **6 TOOK A CAB** has been knocking on the door with back-to-back 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes vs this caliber of competition, and merits a spot on the ticket. Cristian Torres rides for Dave Braddy.

**SELECTIONS: 12-5-6**

## RACE 2:

**6 LA CHAUFFER** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile, after surrendering a late lead when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs this level of competition going 7 ½ furlongs; Luis Saez rides.

**2 MATCHA** is dropping to the \$25,000 level after facing tougher both here and at Belmont before going to the sidelines last May. Trainer John Kimmel has Tyler Gaffalione named on the lightly raced daughter of Macho Uno. **4 TRULY** is cutting back to 8 furlongs after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs this level of opposition going a mile and a sixteenth last out, and 3<sup>rd</sup> going 7 ½ furlongs 2 starts back.

**SELECTIONS: 6-2-4**

## RACE 3:

**1 HILLTOP HARMONY** moved to the Carlos David barn via the claim, and cuts back to a 1-turn mile, after setting the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar going a mile and a sixteenth for the previous connections.

**8 DESCENTE** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn after the claim, and steps up to the next level, after drawing clear to defeat \$8,000 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' competition by 6 widening lengths. Trainer Navarro, 17% with new claims, has Luis Saez atop his new acquisition.

**3 LAPIS STORM** is dropping to the \$8,000 level, and stretching out to a mile for the first time, after showing lots of speed when sprinting on the Hawthorne main track. Trainer Larry Rivelli has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr trying to steal this race on the point.

**SELECTIONS: 1-8-3**

## RACE 4:

**7 SUMMER IN THE CITY** is a daughter of Summer Front (War Front) debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and a solid workout pattern showing at Palm Beach Downs; Luis Saez rides. **6 GOTTA GO MO**, a set-the-pace 3<sup>rd</sup> when sprinting on the Aqueduct turf, cuts back to 5 furlongs after showing speed and weakening when trying a mile here last out. Trainer John Kimmel has John Velazquez handling the turnback. **1 TAPITLIKEITSHOT** is a beautifully bred daughter of Tapit debuting for trainer Mark Casse off a slew of solid workouts on the farm in Ocala. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Tyler Gaffalione handling the inside draw.

**SELECTIONS: 7-6-1**

## RACE 5:

**8 HEALY'S HOPE** is wheeling back after recovering from a slow start to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in his career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 22% with maidens making their 2<sup>nd</sup> start, has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle again. **4 LUXURY SUITE**, 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$50,000 maidens in his 6-furlong career debut, drops to the \$32,000 level, turns back, and removes the blinkers, after failing to fire when facing maiden special weight competition going a mile last out. Trainer Robert Falcone Jr has Luis Saez handling the recent changes. **6 BOMOSEEN** is dropping into the claiming ranks after following a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishing going 6 furlongs at Monmouth with a troubled starting (stumbled badly at start), and eased up performance, behind impressive winner Untitled in a state-bred maiden special weight sprint at the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 8-4-6**

**RACE 6:**

**2 OLD DOMINION**, now in the Niall Saville barn, the gelding stretches out to a mile on the turf with the speed need to steal this \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimer on the front end; Joe Bravo rides. **10 SKY D** is stretching out to a mile again after tracking the pace and finishing an okay 4<sup>th</sup> going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jane Cibelli tabs Jose Ortiz to ride. **1 MON CHEVALIER**, who was solid breaking his maiden here vs similar quality during April, makes his first start since showing speed, having to steady at the 1/8<sup>th</sup> pole, and finishing 8<sup>th</sup> before being sent to the sidelines during November.

**SELECTIONS: 2-10-1**

**RACE 7:**

**1 VERY AMUSING** is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after dueling throughout and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a neck – going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Jorge Delgado has Tyler Gaffalione handling the inside draw. **8 ARRIVEDERLA** is dropping to the \$8,000 level in the first start since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 '3-lifetime' claimers here during December. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr, 32% with the 61-180 days layoff, has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr at the controls. **3 GRAN CAUSEWAY** moved to the Kelly Breen barn via the claim, and cuts back to three-quarters of a mile, after drawing clear to defeat \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers – as the odds-on choice - going 7 furlongs last out; Paco Lopez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 1-8-3**

**RACE 8:**

**7 ROYAL FLAG**, a full-sister to Grade 2 stakes-placed Eagle, and Catalina Cruise, debuts locally for trainer Chad Brown after drawing clear to break her maiden on a sealed muddy track at Aqueduct by 8 widening lengths. The daughter of Candy Ride has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. **4 VIOLENT TRICK** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after the rough outing in the first race after the claim by Jorge Navarro, in which she expended valuable energy when breaking through the gate prior to finishing 4<sup>th</sup> at a mile here last out. **2 BIG TINA** will be tested for class when she steps up after responding to the surface switch from turf to dirt with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish – at the distance – vs \$40,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. Paco Lopez rides for trainer Armando De La Cerda.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-2**

**RACE 9:**

**6 WHERE PARADISE LAY** is making his local return the first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a head – in a \$100,000 optional claimer – at the distance – at Churchill. Trainer Stanley Hough has Tyler Gaffalione atop the son of Into Mischief. **8 COOL ARROW** is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after parlaying a 5-wide charge into a victory vs this level of competition going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jorge Navarro, who claimed him for \$62,500 last out, tabs Luis Saez to ride. **7 MOONOVERSEBA** is turning back to 6 furlongs after rallying late to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Cool Arrow when they hooked up going 6 ½ furlongs last out. Note the son of Malibu Moon is 7-2-1-2 at the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 6-8-7**

**RACE 10:**

**5 ZALZA**, a 2-time winner at the distance (7-2-0-2), stretches out after finishing a so-so 6<sup>th</sup> when facing \$8,000 claimers going 6 furlongs. You have to like the fact that Irad Ortiz Jr will be handling the stretchout on the longshot special. **7 CHIRPING** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and makes his first start since posting his 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive victory when defeating \$6,250 claimers going a 2-turn mile at GP West; Paco Lopez rides the 6-time winner. **9 FRENCH QUARTER** moved to the Gary Jackson barn after the hard-knocking 9-year-old posted his 11<sup>th</sup> career victory when he defeated \$6,250 claimers here at the distance; Marcos Meneses rides. **10 SMOKE 'N' GLOAT** moved to the Antonio Sano barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile, after finishing a game 2<sup>nd</sup> beaten a neck as the favorite – vs similar quality going 7 furlongs: Jose Ortiz hops aboard.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-9-10**

**BEST BET: RACE 6 – 2 OLD DOMINION**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 5 ZALZA**

