



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Friday, January 3, 2020

RACE 1:

1 LA CARA BONITA will face state-bred competition after dueling for the lead and weakening to finish 4th behind the eventual winner in a \$50,000 open-maiden test. Trainer Efren Loza Jr has Luis Saez handling the always-adventurous inside post.

10 LIVIN AT THE BEACH is turning back to 5 furlongs after returning from the layoff to stalk the pace and weaken in a screw-tightening performance going a mile. Note the daughter of Treasure Beach ran well when trying a sprint distance in her debut on the Belmont turf. **6 OUR FANTASY** is debuting on the turf after vying for the lead and finishing 2nd when facing \$50,000 maidens going 7 furlongs on the GP West main track.

SELECTIONS: 1-10-6

RACE 2:

2 GRAY BEAU is dropping to the \$16,000 level after facing tougher throughout his 2019 campaign in which he was 4-for-8 in the money. Trainer John Vinson has Nik Juarez trying to start the gelding's new year on a winning note. **3 UNDAUNTED** is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after returning from the 2-month layoff to finish a late-closing 2nd vs \$12,500 state-bred optional claimers going 7 furlongs. Trainer Alfredo Lichoa tabs Irad Ortiz Jr to ride. **4 BIG BOY BRUNO** is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after weakening to finish 4th at the distance just 7 days ago. Trainer Peter Walder has Paco Lopez handling the short turnaround.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-4

RACE 3:

1 BACANO is going back to the turf after following the 2nd place finish on the grass vs \$25,000 maidens 2 starts back with a late-closing 3rd going a mile and a sixteenth on the dirt. Trainer Antonio Sano has Irad penciled in for the return assignment. **9 FAYEZ** will break from the outside after dueling for the lead and fading late to finish 4th at the distance last out. The sophomore should find an easier time on or near the front end this time out.

4 KING OF RANCH is dropping a notch on the competition scale after failing to fire vs better last out. Note the speed figure he posted last out (50) puts him right in the hunt in this spot.

SELECTIONS: 1-9-4

RACE 4:

3 BLACK HOPE is dropping to the \$12,500 level on the dirt after failing to show much when facing \$35,000 claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Jorge Delgado has Tyler Gaffalione handling the class relief. **6 BAZOO** is another dropping to this level on the main track after shipping down from Woodbine and finishing a sightseeing 8th vs the \$35,000 claimers going 5 panels on the turf. Trainer Nick Gonzalez has Irad quarterbacking the surface switch. **5 LET'S RUMBLE** is hoping to bounce back at this level after setting the early pace and fading when tussling with \$16,000 claimers last out. Trainer Gilberto Zerpa has Paco Lopez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-5

RACE 5:

7 RHYTHM TREE, a daughter of Tapiture, drops to the \$50,000 level, and debuts on the turf, looking to parlay her stalk/close running style into upset victory in a race stocked with speed; Julien Leparoux rides for Ian Wilkes. **4 HURRICANE BREEZE** is dropping to the \$50,000 level after tracking the pace, encountering traffic at the top of the stretch, when finishing 4th in a maiden special weight test at the distance. The daughter of Summer Front should be a major part of the pace with a clean trip. **9 CHOUCOU DE BOO** is stretching out to a mile with blinkers added after making a middle move and weakening to finish 4th vs New York-state bred competition going 6 furlongs on a good Aqueduct turf. Trainer Tom Bush has Emisael Jaramillo handling the stretchout on this intriguing possibility.

6 ELUSIVE MOLLY, now in the Mike Maker barn, the daughter of Elusive Quality drops to this level after setting the pace and getting nailed late when finishing 2nd vs special weight runners going a mile on the GP West turf.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-9-6

RACE 6:

1 KORCZAK moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and debuts locally at a mile, after tracking the pace and flattening out when facing considerably tougher in a \$20,000 maiden sprint at Churchill; Luis Saez rides. **8 BRAVELY BOLD** will depart from the outside after stalking the pace and finishing an okay 3rd behind a much-the-best winner at this level and distance last out. **7 SWEET GIANT** is dropping to the \$12,500 level on the main track after failing to recover from a restless start when finishing 8th in a \$20,000 maiden test going a mile on the turf just 7 days ago.

SELECTIONS: 1-8-7

RACE 7:

8 RISING BELLA will be outfitted with blinkers after a solid local debut vs \$50,000 starter optional claimers in which she finished 2nd – beaten a neck at the distance; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **4 PATTY HEANEY** is a candidate for a rebound performance after following her \$50,000 maiden victory on the GP West turf with a stalk-the-pace 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

5 LITTLE BIT GOOD departs from an improved post after breaking from Post 11 and closing from almost 20 lengths back to finish 2nd in front of Patty Heaney last out. Trainer Ron Spatz has Paco Lopez handling the rematch.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-5

RACE 8:

6 WORDS OF DEVINE moved to the Steve Klesaris barn via the claim after a trio of solid sprint efforts in which she won her debut here in July, returned from a layoff in October to defeat \$16,000 claimers by 5 lengths, and was 2nd vs \$20,000 claimers in her GP West finale at the distance. **2 NITE BRITE** is debuting locally after shipping into Tampa from Presque Isle and producing a monster 10 ½-length victory vs \$32,000 starter optional claimers. Jose Ortiz rides the daughter of Drill.

7 ALLABOUTTHEDRAMA is stepping up to face winners at three-quarters of a mile after using her speed to defeat \$25,000 maidens here going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Carlos David has Paco Lopez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-7

RACE 9:

4 DREAMS ARE MADE, now in the Mark Casse barn, the \$500,000 daughter of Tapit makes her first start since closing to break her maiden going 5 ½ furlongs on the Elis Park turf during July. She should get more than enough pace needed to compliment her late-running style. **3 MISS MIAMI** will try to make it 4 victories in a row after returning to the turf here last out and defeating \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers at the distance. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr tabs Julien Leparoux to ride, as Irad moves to the top choice.

7 PAYNTDEMBLUESAWAY is stepping up to face allowance competition after posting her 2nd consecutive victory when she defeated \$16,000 conditioned claimers going 5 furlongs on the GP West turf.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-7

RACE 10:

1 GABY'S DREAM will be outfitted with blinkers after recovering from a slow start to finish 3rd when facing similar going a mile on the GP West turf. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Paco Lopez handling the local return.

8 MARIANNA QUEEN, a daughter of Will Take Charge, is dropping to \$16,000 level, and debuting on the turf, after finishing a distant 4th in a \$50,000 maiden race moved from the grass to 7 furlongs on the GP West main track. Trainer Juan Avila has Edgard Zayas handling the surface switch.

2 DEBBIES UTUBE DIVA is dropping to this level after tracking the pace and finishing 5th – beaten 2 lengths – in her local turf debut at the \$25,000 level. Trainer Jena Antonucci has Jeffrey Sanchez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 1-8-2

BEST BET: RACE 9 – 4 DREAMS ARE MADE

LONGSHOT: RACE 5 – 7 RHYTHM TREE