



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Friday, January 31, 2020

## RACE 1:

**3 KHOZY MY BOY** is dropping a notch, and stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs, after rallying to finish an improved 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a neck – vs \$30,000 maidens going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Scott Becker has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

**4 CAPTAIN YENNER** is another dropping to the \$25,000 level after making a middle move and flattening out in a \$32,000 test going three-quarters of a mile. **7 FREE FLAY** is a gelded son of Uncaptured debuting for trainer Sandra Slivka with Lasix, and Luis Saez named to ride. The sophomore's morning work tab should have him ready to compete at first-asking.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-7**

## RACE 2:

**5 GAUGUIN (GER)** is stretching out slightly to a mile & 3/16<sup>th</sup> after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> – beaten a half-length – in his local debut going 9 furlongs. Trainer Bill Mott has Irad Ortiz Jr named on the 7-year-old. **3 BLOCKADE**, bred to relish this distance and beyond, stretches out for trainer Shug McGaughey after rallying 4-wide to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in his local return at a mile. Jose Ortiz rides the lightly raced 5-year-old son of War Front. **1 SHORE MAGIC** is another stretching out to this distance after rallying wide to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind Gauguin when they hooked up at a mile and an eighth last out.

**SELECTIONS: 5-3-1**

## RACE 3:

**7 GREY MANNERS**, who has already shown that she can win after a long layoff, makes her first start since returning from a year long layoff last August to defeat \$12,500 maidens in the slop by almost 10 lengths. Trainer Efren Loza Jr has Paco Lopez named to ride. **4 BLUE BLUE ICE** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after returning from a freshening to finish a wide 5<sup>th</sup> vs this level of competition going 6 ½ furlongs.

Trainer Barry Croft tabs leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr to ride. **3 STORMY BOSS** is looking to make amends at three-quarters of a mile after surrendering a late to finish 6<sup>th</sup> – as the 4-to-5 favorite – behind Blue Ice last out.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-3**

## RACE 4:

**4 QUALITY ON TAP** is turning back to a 1-turn mile after surrendering a late lead when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a length – vs \$35,000 claimers going a mile and a sixteenth in a race moved from turf to dirt. Trainer Kelly Breen has Paco in the irons again.

**5 BAZOO** moved to the Anthony Pecoraro barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile, after drawing clear to defeat \$12,500 claimers going 6 furlongs. The only multiple winner in the field (7-2-2-0) has Irad Ortiz Jr at the controls. **1 MAKABIM** moved to the Dan Hurtak barn after the claim, and stretches out to 8 furlongs, after recovering from a troubled start to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 claimers going seven-eighths of a mile.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-1**

## RACE 5:

**5 LOST TICKET** is making her allowance debut after ending her freshman campaign with a special weight victory over a pair of next-out winners going a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Bill Mott has Jose Ortiz named on the \$400,000 daughter of More Than Ready. **7 ELLA BRILLA** is cutting back to a mile and a sixteenth in the first race since using her speed to break her maiden going 9 furlongs on the Keeneland turf. Trainer Brian Lynch has John Velazquez in the irons. **3 WITEZ**, another daughter of More Than Ready, makes her first start since following her maiden score at Kentucky Downs with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the Grade 2 Jessamine at Keeneland. Trainer Ian Wilkes has Chris Landeros at the controls.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-3**

**RACE 6:**

**1 LEMON DROP TINI** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten three-quarters of a length – going a mile here vs this level of competition. Trainer Michael Matz has Irad in the saddle again. **2 OMNIA** is dropping to the \$50,000 level, and stretching out to 8 ½ furlongs, after stalking the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$75,000 maidens going a mile here last out. Trainer Ian Wilke has Julien Leparoux at the controls.

**5 R V TREASURE** will be outfitted with blinkers when making her first start since getting beat a head when 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$40,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth on a 'good' Aqueduct turf. Trainer Niall Saville has Jose Ortiz returning on the daughter of Treasure Beach.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-5****RACE 7:**

**1 R U LUCKY** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and returns to the main track, after following back-to-back victories on the dirt with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish vs \$35,000 claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. The barn, 29% with the grass to dirt angle, has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle.

**5 FIVE OF HEARTS** is stepping up to tussle with winners after responding to a dropdown in competition with a much the best \$25,000 maiden victory going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Edgard Zayas going for 2 in a row.

**6 BROADWAY PETE** is stepping up to the \$45,000 level after following his \$25,000 maiden score with a set-the-pace-and-yield 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs \$35,000 claimers at this 6 ½-furlong distance.

**SELECTIONS: 1-5-6****RACE 8:**

**6 WAR STAR**, a perfect 2 for 2 on this course, albeit sprinting on the lawn last summer, returns looking to steal this race, at a price, from on or near the front end; Jairo Rendon rides. **5 SWEET YARE N DIRA** wheels back after responding in the first race after the claim by Saffie Joseph Jr with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance. Luis Saez will try to improve on the mare's recent string of 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finishes.

**1 GHOSTLY BEAUTY** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and returns to the turf (8-1-2-1), after prompting the pace and fading to finish 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going 6 ½ furlongs on the Aqueduct main track; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

**4 MISS AURAMET** renews the rivalry with the top choice after returning from the 11-month plus layoff – with blinkers added – and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr has Paco handling the rematch.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-1-4****RACE 9:**

**6 ANGELIA**, who showed promise here during her sophomore season, makes her first start since finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in a \$75,000 optional claimer going a mile in the slop here last April. Trainer Todd Pletcher has the daughter of Curlin training sharply at Palm Beach Downs. **5 SANAABLE** is making her allowance debut for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin after returning from the layoff to break her maiden here at this distance. Joe Bravo rides the Shadwell homebred. **4 R PREROGATIVE** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after prompting the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs state-bred competition at Tampa in the 7-furlong Ocala Sire Stakes. Trainer Georgina Baxter has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-4****RACE 10:**

**4 ROONEY** will give it one more try to get to the winner's circle when dropping to the \$16,000 level and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> at the distance vs \$25,000 maidens last out. **3 FUNNY FEATHER** is another going back to the grass after following a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish on the lawn, at the distance, vs similar quality 2 starts back with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish on the dirt last out.

**6 SAVVY CAIRO** moved to the Linda Rice barn via the claim, and debuts locally on the turf, after finishing a chase-the-pace 5<sup>th</sup> – as the favorite – vs \$20,000 maidens going 6 furlongs on the Aqueduct main track. The \$150,000 daughter of Cairo Prince has Luis Saez at the controls.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-6****BEST BET: RACE 5 – 5 LOST TICKET****LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 6 WAR STAR**