



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



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## RACE 1:

**7 SIMPLY THE BEST**, a solid 3<sup>rd</sup> at this distance 2 starts back, will try 5 furlongs again after dueling for the lead and finishing in a dead heat for 3<sup>rd</sup> when facing state-bred special weight competition going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Danny Gargan has Luis Saez handling the turnback. **6 LIME** will get the blinkers removed after returning from the layoff to duel for the lead and finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$50,000 maidens last out. Trainer Wesley Ward has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the bump up to special weight company.

**1 LADIES' CHOICE** is another stepping up to face state-bred special maidens after finishing 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$50,000 maidens. Trainer Mike Yates has Miguel Vazquez atop the full-sister to stakes winner Cajun Casanova.

**SELECTIONS: 7-6-1**

## RACE 2:

**9 DECKOLOGY** moved to the Jose D'Angelo barn via the claim, and cuts back to 5 ½ furlongs, after fighting on gamely to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar going three-quarters of a mile. **8 I KICKN** is stepping up the competition after responding in the first race after the claim by Victor Barboza Jr with a popular 3-to-5 victory vs \$6,250 '2-lifetime' runners: Irad Ortiz Jr handles the turnback to 5 ½ furlongs.

**4 NICHOLAS ROSE** drops to the lowest level in his 10-race campaign after breaking from a tough post (10) when finishing a stalk-the-pace 6<sup>th</sup> vs \$12,500 conditioned claimers.

**SELECTIONS: 9-8-4**

## RACE 3:

**3 BLAKENSTEIN** is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after responding to both the dropdown, and surface switch, with a 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish going 6 furlongs vs this level of competition. Trainer Jorge Delgado has Luis Saez up. **7 HERE COMES BULLET** hasn't fired since showing speed here vs maiden special weight competition last February. The recent gelding has Rajiv Maragh handing the turnback from 9 to 6 ½ furlongs.

**1 TRINNI JOHN** is dropping to the bottom after facing tougher before layoff with limited success. Trainer Jehaludi has Miguel Vazquez handling the return to action.

**SELECTIONS: 3-7-1**

## RACE 4:

**2 MALIBU MAX** takes the 'Calabrese-drop' when trainer Saffie Joseph Jr drops him to the \$16,000 level in the first race after he was claimed when defeating \$35,000 conditioned claimers here last May. The 8-year-old son of Malibu Moon has Irad in the saddle. **4 VINNIE VAN GO**, reclaim by Victor Barboza Jr, the gelding hopes to rebound after the uncharacteristically bad performance last out. Trainer Barboza, 34% with recent claims, has Edgard Zayas atop the 7-time local winner.

**5 PUTTHEGLASSDOWN** moved to the Joe Catanese barn via the claim, and steps up to the \$16,000 level again, after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$6,250 open-claimers last out: Emisael Jaramillo rides.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-5**

## RACE 5:

**1 BEAR ALLEY**, a half-brother to \$2.6 million earner Arklow, returns to action, and breaks from the rail, with the speed needed to use the inside paths to his advantage. Trainer Dale Romans has go-to jock Corey Lanerie in the irons. **9 VODOO ZIP** should be primed and ready to score after debuting locally for trainer Christophe Clement, setting the pace, and yielding late, when finishing a close-up 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance: Tyler Gaffalione rides.

**7 ABSAM**, a gelded son of Hard Spun, is hoping to finally get back on the turf when dodging raindrops in 3 races moved from turf to wet tracks at the Fair Grounds. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 1-9-7**



**RACE 6:**

**3 RESERVENOTATTAINED** is heading to uncharted territory when he puts his 3-race win streak on the line at a distance (7-furlongs) he's never tried in the past. Trainer Mike Yates has Paco Lopez going for 4 in a row. **6 WELL DEFINED**, a previous winner this distance, turns back after his 2-race streak going a mile ended when he showed speed before tiring to finish 5<sup>th</sup> behind rejuvenated Quenane in a \$30,000 starter allowance, also going a mile. **2 JOE DI BAGGIO**, a sharp winner at this level and distance 2 starts back, drops after coming up empty in the slop vs \$62,500 optional claimers going 6 furlongs last out. Trainer Carlos David has Irad named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-2**

**RACE 7:**

**1 GOLOVKIN** has his claiming tag carved in half after the poor showing – as the favorite – vs \$35,000 claimers going a mile last out. Trainer Carlos David has Corey Lanerie handling the class relief.

**8 COWARDLY ACT** is stepping up to face winners, and getting Lasix, after ending his 2-year-old campaign with a wire-to-wire victory vs \$25,000 maidens going a mile on the grass. Trainer Anthony Quartarolo has Angel Arroyo going for 2 in a row.

**6 MY MAXAMILLION** will be treated with Lasix after tracking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs similar going a mile last out. Trainer Terri Pompay has Edgard Zayas handling the stretchout to a mile and a sixteenth.

**SELECTIONS: 1-8-6**

**RACE 8:**

**5 WELL DONE WEST** is stepping up to face winners after responding in the first race after the \$50,000 claim by Danny Gargan with a rousing maiden special weight victory going a mile here during December. The son of Awesome Again turns back to 6 ½ furlongs for a barn that's 30% winning consecutive races. **4 AUGUSTA MELODY** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim after splashing through the slop to defeat \$35,000 maidens by 9-plus lengths. The new connections keep the status quo with Jose Ortiz in the saddle.

**7 MY MAN FLINTSTONE** is debuting locally, and stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs, after ending his campaign at Churchill with a duel-and-fade performance behind hard-knocking allowance runner Girolamo's Attack going 6 furlongs there last September. Trainer Ken McPeek has Corey Lanerie in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 5-4-7**

**RACE 9:**

**8 EXCHANGE DAY** will try to make it 2 in a row, and his 3<sup>rd</sup> sprint victory in 4 starts, after drawing clear to defeat \$35,000 claimers last out in driving fashion. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr has Luis Saez in the saddle.

**5 ENSIGN PARKER** is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after getting collared late when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$50,000 starter optional claimers. The drop to the \$25,000 level can turn out to be the winning move. **6 DEPUTY INDY** is stepping up to face winners after a solid \$25,000 maiden score at the distance in which he broke from a tough outside post before rallying to score by 1 ½ lengths. Trainer Angel Rodriguez has Paco going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 8-5-6**

**RACE 10:**

**9 CALL BROS** is turning back to a mile after setting the pace and fading to 3<sup>rd</sup> when facing this level of opposition going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Joe Orseno has Irad handling the turnback.

**5 SHINNING THROUGH** is another turning back to 8 furlongs after rallying along the inside to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in front of Call Bros in their recent clash at 8 ½ furlongs. Trainer Kent Sweezey has Paco handling the rematch. **12 ALWAYS MISBEHAVING** is stepping up to face winners in the first start since using his speed to defeat \$20,000 maidens here – as the odds-on choice – going a mile during December. Trainer Danny Gargan is 30% with this type of layoff.

**SELECTIONS: 9-5-12**

**BEST BET: RACE 10 – 9 CALL BROS**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 5 – 1 BEAR ALLEY**