



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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## RACE 1:

**5 FIRST IN LINE** is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and gets blinkers, after failing to fire in his \$50,000 career debut. Trainer George Weaver has Joe Bravo atop the gelded son of Uncle Mo. **8 STILL SCHEMIN** is turning back to a mile after breaking from the outside (Post 12), tracking the pace, and finishing 5<sup>th</sup> going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Jesus Lander tabs leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr to ride. **3 SHANGASSAH** is a late-striding type who cuts back to 8 furlongs after rallying to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind Still Schemin last out. Trainer Kevin Attard has strong finisher Luis Saez at the controls.

**6 RAPSTOREROCKS** wheels back after encountering double-trouble (steadied twice) when 6<sup>th</sup> last out. Trainer Kelly Breen has Paco Lopez in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 5-8-3-6**

## RACE 2:

**6 BLUE BUFF** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after keeping his local record unblemished (3-3-0-0) when proving he could handle the jump up in competition when he followed a 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' victory with a dominating score vs \$25,000 starter optional claimers going a mile last out.

**1 GRAY BEAU**, a 3-time winner at the distance, stretches out after taking the overland route when rallying wide to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers going a mile; Irad Ortiz Jr rides for trainer John Vinson. **4 ANIMAL TRICK** is stepping up, and stretching out, with the great equalizer on his side – speed! Trainer Rasharn Creque has Hector Berrios named on the 2-time winner at the distance (5-2-1-1).

**SELECTIONS: 6-1-4**

## RACE 3:

**8 TRAFFIC TROUBLE** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and turning back to a mile, after encountering early trouble (steadied) when checking in 5<sup>th</sup> vs \$16,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Pino has Irad Ortiz Jr at the controls.

**7 BEACH TRAFFIC** is dropping to this level on the turf after making a 3-wide bid and flattening out when finishing 4<sup>th</sup> – as the 3-to-5 favorite – going a mile on the main track. Trainer Tim Hills has Angel Rodriguez named to ride. **5 BARBIE'S KING** is getting some class relief after tracking the action and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$20,000 maidens going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Eddie Broome has Jairo Rendon named on the 0-for-18 maiden.

**SELECTIONS: 8-7-5**

## RACE 4:

**5 CONQUER** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after an interesting turf debut vs \$25,000 optional claimers in which he opened an early 15-length lead before getting caught at the 1/8<sup>th</sup>-pole and finishing 4<sup>th</sup>. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Jose Ortiz named to ride. **1 VERDICT IS IN** is dropping a notch on the claiming scale after dueling through the stretch and getting beat a neck when 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$20,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr has Paco Lopez handling the inside post.

**7 BEINFUN**, drops, and returns to the grass, after failing to fire when facing \$25,000 starter optional claimers going a 1-turn mile on the dirt.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-7**

## RACE 5:

**9 DAILY GRACE** is dropping to the \$50,000 level, and stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs, after following her well-meant debut with a 4-wide 4<sup>th</sup> – as the favorite – behind repeat winner Up in Smoke going three-quarters of a mile. It's old bounce/rebound angle. **3 TARA**, the most experienced runner in the field, was solid in defeat when she was dropped to this level and finished a 6-wide 2<sup>nd</sup>. The additional ½-furlong can be just what she needs to shed the maiden moniker. **1 SIMPLE STORY** is making her sophomore debut for trainer Stan Hough the first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in her 2-year-old debut going 6 furlongs on sealed sloppy Churchill main track. The daughter of Take Charge Indy is working well, and has Luis Saez in the irons.

**SELECTIONS: 9-3-1**

**RACE 6:**

**4 WESTERLAND (GB)** is dropping to the \$50,000 level after shipping in from Turfway and getting beat 4 lengths in a solid \$62,500 optional claimer that produced next-out G3 Canadian Turf winner Sombeyay, and next-out \$60,000 Old Man Eloquence winner Aquaphobia. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad in the saddle. **5 FARAWAY KITTEN** moved to the Bill Tharrenos barn via the claim after encountering traffic at the top of the stretch and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$40,000 claimers while in the Mike Maker barn.

**6 AMBASSADOR JIM** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the 5-month layoff to finish a 5-wide 5<sup>th</sup> behind Faraway Kitten going 8 furlongs last out; John Velazquez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-6**

**RACE 7:**

**4 DAY BY DAY** is looking to make amends after responding to the jump up in competition with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish – as the 4-to-5 favorite – at this level and distance last out. Trainer Jorge Delgado has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **1 FLAT AWESOME JENNY** is stepping up to the \$62,500 level after notching her 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive victory when defeating \$35,000 optional claimers at the distance. Trainer Kelly Breen has Paco Lopez in the saddle again. **5 LIZA STAR** is turning back to her most accomplished distance (15-5-0-2) after dueling throughout and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 7-furlong \$50,000 Lady Bird. Trainer Peter Walder has Miguel Vazquez atop the speedy 8-time local winner.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-5**

**RACE 8:**

**6 TOO MUCH WAR** is cutting back to a mile after returning from the 14-month layoff to finish a screw-tightening 7<sup>th</sup> vs this caliber of competition going 8 ½ furlongs. Trainer Danny Gargan is 3 for 7 (43%) with the 2<sup>nd</sup> start back from a longer than 180-day layoff.

**5 ELITE APPEAL** will give it one more shot at trying to notch this 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' condition after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> – beaten a length – at the distance last out. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr has Paco Lopez atop the daughter of Uncaptured. **2 KARENINA** comes off her 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level hoping to finally notch the elusive 2<sup>nd</sup> career victory (28-1-8-9). Trainer Rohan Crichton secures the services on leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-2**

**RACE 9:**

**5 WHYRUAWESOME**, in for the \$100,000 tag in this optional claimer, wheels back after dueling through the stretch and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a neck – in the \$50,000 Trust Buster last out. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Jose Ortiz returning on the hard-knocking 9-year-old. **6 THE TABULATOR** has been training sharply in preparation for his first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a 5 ½-furlong allowance sprint at Thistledown last September. Trainer Larry Rivelli, a whopping 62% with the longer than 180 days layoff, has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **4 FAST PASS**, who likes to come from the clouds with his late run, should sit in the catbird seat behind what looks like is setting up to be a glib early pace. Trainer Peter Walder has apprentice Cristian Torres at the controls.

**SELECTIONS: 5-6-4**

**RACE 10:**

**2 HERO UP** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after showing speed and fading when facing tougher at the distance. Trainer Laura Cazares has Ademar Santos named to handle the son of Hero of Order. **9 FAYEZ** is turning back to a mile after rallying along the inside to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> – beaten three-quarters of a length – going a mile and a sixteenth last out. The gelding is a logical choice to pick up the pieces of the top choice fails to stretch his speed to the wire. **1 CUY** goes from an outside post to the rail after responding to the addition of blinkers with a slow starting 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a half-length – vs similar going a mile and a sixteenth last out. He's another poised to reap the spoils in the speed backs up.

**SELECTIONS: 2-9-1**

**BEST BET: RACE 6 – 4 WESTERLAND (GB)**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 6 TOO MUCH WAR**

