



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Friday, March 27, 2020

## RACE 1:

**2 COUNTERSTRIKE** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after the game 1-mile debut in which he lost by a head. Trainer Brendan Walsh has Julien Leparoux in the saddle again. **6 ABSAM** will be outfitted with blinkers recovering from a slow start to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind Counterstrike, and next-out winner Proven Strategies, going the mile last out. Trainer Chad Brown is a whopping 35% with maidens making their 2<sup>nd</sup> start, but only 17% with first-time blinkers.

**8 RHYTHM SECTION** is stepping up, and stretching out after a bumper car debut at the \$50,000 level in which he bumped, steadied, lugged in, and bumped again. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez in the saddle again.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-8**

## RACE 2:

**1 MIZ CHAPLIN** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and faces winners, in the first race since defeating \$20,000 maidens at GP West by 6 widening lengths. **2 CHIT CHAT GIRL** is dropping to the \$12,500 level on the dirt after ending her campaign in Tampa with a stalk-and-fade outing vs \$20,000 claimers going a mile on the turf.

**7 DON'T GET KHOZY** is hoping to stay in closer contact with the field after finishing a wide 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance last out. Tyler Gaffalione rides for Antonio Sano.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-7**

## RACE 3:

**8 GRAN CHAMPAGNE** is returning at the same level and distance after finishing a promising 3<sup>rd</sup> last out. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride. **9 YANKEE EMPIRE** is dropping to the \$50,000 level after facing maiden special weight competition in New York last summer. Trainer John Kimmel has Luis Reyes on the new gelding.

**1 BOURBON STREET** is looking to make amends after making a bid to get the lead and setting for 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – at this level and distance. Trainer Anthony Pecoraro, who claimed him 2 starts back, has Luis Saez handling the inside draw.

**SELECTIONS: 8-9-1**

## RACE 4

**4 FIRST WAVE**, whose lifetime best race thus far was sprinting on the Saratoga turf, is going back to the grass after ending her campaign at Keeneland with a clunker on the main track. Trainer Rusty Arnold has Tyler Gaffalione handling the surface switch.

**9 NOBLE ALMA** should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the 1-year layoff - for trainer Rodolphe Brisset – and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance; Florent Geroux rides. **5 FUDDLED (IRE)** is a 4-year-old daughter of Invincible Spirit debuting for e Five Racing and Saffie Joseph Jr with Lasix, and Joel Rosario named to ride. The tote action should tell us more.

**SELECTIONS: 4-9-5**

## RACE 5:

**2 SABINA PARK** is dropping to the \$6,250 level after following her maiden score sprinting on the turf with a stalk-the-action 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers. The 4-year-old gets in light with 10-pound apprentice Mario Fuentes. **1 COUNTRY STRONG** is cutting back to a sprint distance in the first start since hitting the board in 2 of 3 races going a mile before the layoff. Trainer Dave Kassen has Angel Rodriguez handling the inside post. **5 QUEEN KANTHAROS** is another dropping to this level after surrendering a late lead when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers going 6 furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 2-1-5**

**RACE 6:**

**10 PROPENSITY** is wheeling back after game turf debut in which he set a pressured pace throughout and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> – beaten a half-length. Trainer Bill Mott has Julien Leparoux named on the gelded son of Twirling Candy. **9 FLAME ZAPPER** should take the lions share of the money after returning from the layoff to stalk the pace and finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – a neck in front of the top choice. The rematch sets up another classic clash between speed and stalker. **1 FELIX THE FOX**, who was 4<sup>th</sup> – beaten 1 ¼ lengths – in his 10-furlong turf debut at Belmont last July, is going back to the turf after the useful table setter going a 1-turn mile on the dirt here last out. Trainer Shug McGaughey has John Velazquez handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 10-9-1****RACE 7:**

**6 CHASE RUNNER** is stretching out to is clearly his best distance (4-3-0-0) after making a move for the lead and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> going 7 furlongs last out. Trainer Laura Cazares has Edgard Zayas in the saddle.

**5 KAHRAMANI** moved to the Dan Hurtak barn via the claim, and cuts back to a 1-turn mile, after finishing a hard-trying 2<sup>nd</sup> going a mile and a sixteenth vs \$8,000 claimers last out; cheap, maybe? **4 TWO STEP SLEW** is another stepping up, and turning back, after returning from the layoff to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Kahramani going 8 ½ furlongs last out.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-4****RACE 8:**

**4 CAMP RANDALL** will try to keep his turf record at the distance unblemished after following his \$35,000 maiden breaker with a game allowance score. Trainer Stanley Hough has Luis Saez in the irons.

**3 FRENCHMEN STREET**, 7 for 8 'in the money' sprinting on the grass, is going back to the turf, and moving to the Mike Maker barn, after holding on to defeat \$40,000 claimers going 5 panels on the dirt; Tyler Gaffalione rides for the new connections.

**5 COOP TRIES HARDER**, who showed promise sprinting on the turf at Laurel and Monmouth before the layoff, returns for trainer Jane Cibelli with a steady work tab showing at Palm Meadows; Paco Lopez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-5****RACE 9:**

**7 SILVER RATIO** is stretching out to a mile after following the hard-fought maiden score going three-quarters of a mile with a track-the-pace 3<sup>rd</sup> going 7 furlongs last out. Trainer Todd Pletcher names Javier Castellano to ride the \$320,000 son of Liam's Map, as John Velazquez sticks with **8 SPRAWL**. The latter, trained by Bill Mott, is going back to the main track after returning from the layoff to finish so-so 7<sup>th</sup> on the turf - behind repeat winner Field Pass – in the \$100,000 Dania Beach. **4 OURNATIONONPARADE** is stretching out to a mile for the first time after returning from the layoff to finish a game 3<sup>rd</sup> behind repeat winner With Verve in the 6-furlong \$100,000 Hutcheson Stakes. Trainer Kathy Ritvo has Paco Lopez handling the stretchout.

**SELECTIONS: 7-8-4****RACE 10:**

**5 BACCHANALIA**, a previous winner at the distance, will try to make it 3 wins in a row after returning from the layoff to defeat entry-level allowance runners here going a mile and three-sixteenths. Trainer Chad Brown has Joel Rosario handling the daughter of Union Rags.

**9 SILVER KITTEN** is stretching out to 9 furlongs with the speed needed to steal this race from on or just off the pace. Trainer Danny Gargan has Luis Saez atop the daughter of Kitten's Joy. **7 CASH OUT** is stretching out an additional furlong after returning from the layoff to finish a late-charging 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a length – going a mile at this level. Trainer Rusty Arnold has Javier Castellano at the daughter of Street Cry.

**SELECTIONS: 5-9-7****RACE 11:**

**3 AMENDS**, a son of Uncle Mo, is debuting on the turf for trainer Shug McGaughey in the first start since coming up empty on the dirt in the 9-furlong Grade 2 Remsen at Aqueduct. The Phipps Stable homebred is certainly bred to handle the surface switch. **2 GUFO** is stepping up to face winners in the first start since rallying to break his maiden over a trio of next-out winners going a mile and a sixteenth during December. **5 ASK FOR BODE** is stepping up, and stretching out to 9 furlongs, after dueling early, and drawing clear late, to defeat \$75,000 maidens going a mile. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Tyler Gaffalione up

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-5****BEST BET: RACE 10 – 5 BACCHANALIA****LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 3 AMENDS**