



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Friday, March 6, 2020

RACE 1:

2 LUXE DIAMOND figures as the one to fear in the opener after responding to the dropdown to this level and distance with a well-meant 2nd place finish. Trainer Joe Orseno tabs Paco Lopez to ride.

6 TOONIE LOONIE is another eligible to take a positive step forward after responding to the dropdown with set-the-pace and weaken 3rd place finish behind Luxe Diamond last out. Trainer John Vinson secures the services of leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr, as Paco moves to the top choice.

8 DAT HOT MATCH is a 4-year-old daughter of Soldat debuting for trainer Terri Pompay with Lasix, and apprentice Cristian Torres named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-8

RACE 2:

3 SMACK is turning back to 5 furlongs in the first race since setting the pace and getting beat a neck when finishing 2nd here going 7 ½ furlongs on January 2nd. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione handling the turnback. **1 NOBLE ALMA**, now in the Rodolphe Brisset barn, the daughter of Lemon Drop Kid makes her first start since vying for the lead and finishing 2nd here – at this level and distance – 11-plus months ago. The new connections tab Irad Ortiz Jr to handle the inside speed. **8 SO ELUSIVE** is a daughter of Elusive Quality debuting for trainer Gail Cox with Lasix, and a sharp morning work tab showing at Payson Park; Julien Leparoux rides.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-8

RACE 3:

7 GRACE'S DRAMA is hoping to bounce back in this much easier spot after following a trio of 3rd place finishes with a poor showing vs \$8,000 open-claimers going this 1-mile distance.

2 FINAL FLURRY is dropping into this \$8,000 dated-claimer, and stretching out to a mile, after facing considerably tougher going 7 furlongs last out. Trainer Kendall Condie has Rajiv Maragh in the saddle. **4 MARY LEE AND ME** is another getting some substantial class relief when stretching out to what has been her most productive distance thus far (10-2-1-2).

SELECTIONS: 7-2-4

RACE 4:

2 ROYAL MEGHAN is back vs state-bred maidens after showing a fondness for sprinting on the main track when she finished 2nd here – at this level and distance – vs open special weight competition.

1 AVUNCULAR is a \$250,000 daughter of Uncle Mo making her sophomore debut with Lasix added the first start since finishing 2nd going 5 ½ furlongs at Belmont last July, which was her only start as a 2-year-old. Trainer Christophe Clement has Paco Lopez handling the inside draw. **5 KASHAN** is expected to take another positive step forward after breaking from Post 10 again and finishing an improved 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Ben Perkins Jr has Luis Saez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-5

RACE 5:

1 TAKE TEN will depart from the rail after a sharp local return at this level and distance in which she rallied to finish 2nd behind repeat winner Elizabeth's Way. Trainer Mark Hennig has Javier Castellano in the saddle again. **2 TAPIT TO RIDE** is wheeling back for trainer Todd Pletcher after encountering some traffic problems and finishing 5th behind Take Ten last out; Luis Saez rides.

3 PARDON MY HEART is an obvious choice to be on the ticket after rallying to finish only a neck behind the top choice last out. Trainer Mark Casse has Irad handling the rematch with the top two choices.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-3

RACE 6:

5 KAHRAMANI is dropping to the \$8,000 level after getting parked wide when finishing 3rd going a mile vs \$12,500 claimers. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Cristian Torres handling the stretchout to a mile and a sixteenth (7-1-3-2). **7 ICONIC** is stepping up, and stretching out, after drawing clear – as the odd-on choice – to defeat \$8,000 ‘non-winners of 3-lifetime’ competition going a mile. Trainer Mike Maker has Paco in the irons. **3 STARSHIP ARAMIS** is dropping to this level after responding in the first race after the claim by trainer Jorge Navarro with a stalk-and-fade outing vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-3

RACE 7:

2 REAL MONEY is debuting locally after the pair of sharp 5-furlong turf sprints north of the border when he followed his maiden victory with set-the-pace 4th vs money-allowance competition at Woodbine. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione atop the \$675,000 son of Real Solution.

6 BY THE SEY SHORE proved he could compete at this level when he followed his \$30,000 ‘2-lifetime’ victory with a well-meant 2nd vs allowance company at the distance. Trainer Mike Trombetta has Luis Saez in the saddle again. **3 MACHO BLUE** was solid in defeat when he followed his \$25,000 starter optional claiming victory with a 3rd place finish behind By the Sey Shore last out.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-3

RACE 8:

7 ZIPPY is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after splitting a pair of next-out winners when finishing 2nd going 6 ½ furlongs last out. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Tyler Gaffalione handling the mini-turnback. **2 GAME BOY BUNNY** is stepping up to face ‘non-winners of 3-lifetime’ competition after drawing clear late to defeat \$25,000 ‘2-lifetime’ runners at the distance last out. Trainer George Weaver has Luis Saez going for 2 in a row.

1 NACHO PAPA is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd vs \$8,000 ‘3-lifetime’ foes going 6 ½ furlongs; Edgard Zayas rides for Juan Alvarado.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-1

RACE 9:

7 AWSUM ROAR moved to the Elizabeth Dobles barn via the claim, and steps up to face allowance competition, after drawing clear to win her 6th local turf sprint when defeating \$16,000 claimers last out. The new connections keep the status quo with Luis Saez at the controls. **4 MISS AURAMET** will try to make it 2 in a row at the distance after using her speed to defeat \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers by 3 widening lengths. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr has Paco Lopez in the irons again.

5 DEALER’S GIRL will try entry-level allowance competition after encountering double-trouble when lacking room and finishing 4th at the distance vs \$35,000 claimers. Trainer Kelly Breen has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-5

RACE 10:

4 SISTER OTOOLE, a daughter of Amira’s Prince, is debuting on the turf for trainer Graham Motion after finishing a 5-wide 3rd in her maiden special weight debut going 6 furlongs on the Tampa main track. The barn, 26% with the dirt to turf angle, has Hall of Fame jock Javier Castellano handling the surface switch. **6 MO OF THE WEST** is a \$300,000 daughter of Uncle Mo debuting for trainer Christophe Clement with Lasix, and a string of solid workouts showing on the Payson Park turf; Julien Leparoux rides. **9 TYAN** has the potent combination of speed, and strong front running jockey Emisael Jaramillo, named to handle the outside draw. The \$225,000 daughter of Liam’s Map should be running and gunning as soon as the pop the gate latch.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-9

BEST BET: RACE 8 – 7 ZIPPY

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 4 SISTER OTOOLE

