



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Friday, May 1, 2020

RACE 1:

10 STARSHIP BUBBA is cutting back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs after setting the pace and finishing a solid 2nd going a mile on the grass last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **5 PUNCHLINE** is hoping for clear sailing after encountering some traffic problems at the ¼-pole when finishing 3rd vs similar quality going a mile last out. Trainer Jimmy Jerkens has Tyler Gaffalione in the irons. **3 WORDMAN** moved to the Phil Serpe barn via the claim, and is stretching out around 2-turns, after rallying to finish 3rd in back-to-back 5-furlong sprints while in the Todd Pletcher barn. The sophomore should be closer to the pace at this longer distance; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 10-5-3

RACE 2:

2 LUCKY AS SEVEN is a son of Tale of the Cat debuting for trainer Wesley Ward with a half-mile gate work showing at GP West, which should have the colt acclimated to the South Florida conditions. Trainer Ward, 26% with his 2-year-olds, has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **5 HIGHLY NOTED** is a son of Wrote debuting for trainer Gilberto Zepa, who boasts a 27%-win average with his 2-year-olds; Edgard Zayas rides. **7 EXCHANGE DAY** is a son of Itsmyluckyday debuting for trainer Ed Plesa Jr with a series of sharp 3-furlong drills showing, including the recent bullet gate work in 35 & 4; Cristian Torres rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-7

RACE 3:

5 VERDICT IS IN moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via the claim, and drops a notch, after tracking the pace and finishing 3rd in a \$16,000 claimer at the distance. The barn 21% with new claims, tabs Luis Saez to ride. **10 UNCLE ANDREW** moved to the Mike Maker barn after the claim, and drops to the \$12,500 level, in the first race since facing \$30,000 maidens on the Fair Grounds turf; Tyler Gaffalione handles the class relief.

9 DRAMA IN DIXIE is eligible to offer more after responding to the dropdown in competition with an even 4th place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Hector Berrios named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-10-9

RACE 4:

11 HAIL MICHIGAN was sharp in defeat when he returned from the layoff, dueled for the lead, and finished 2nd – beaten three-quarters of a length – at this level and distance. Trainer Barclay Tagg has Dylan Davis handling the outside draw. **1 BRAND** plummets to the \$12,500 level after facing maiden special weight competition in his 2 previous races. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Cristian Torres named on this shaky proposition. **2 SEE THE PYRAMIDS** is dropping to this level, and moving to the main track, hoping both karma changes help get this \$190,000 son of Cairo Prince on the right track; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

SELECTIONS: 11-1-2

RACE 5:

9 AWESOME ACTION moved to the Gilberto Zepa barn via the claim, and adds blinkers, after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 2nd place finish at this level and distance. The barn, 33% with new claims, has Edgard Zayas in the irons.

8 LOUIE'S KINGDOM moved to the Larry Rivelli barn via the claim, and drops to the \$6,250 level on the main track, after the chase-and-fade outing vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. The new connections tab Irad Ortiz Jr to guide the speedy son of Animal Kingdom. **12 STARSHIP TAXI** has been knocking on the door in consecutive races at this level and distance, and merits a spot on the exotic wager tickets.

SELECTIONS: 9-8-12

RACE 6:

1 MO OF THE WEST is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after the promising debut going a mile in which she rallied to finish 5th in a 'key' race that has already produced a trio of next-out winners from 5 starters. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione named on the \$300,000 daughter of Uncle Mo. **6 KEY BISCAYNE** is stretching out an additional 16th of a mile after returning from the 8-month layoff to rally 6-wide and finish 3rd – beaten a half-length – going a mile. Trainer Juan Alvarado has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride. **2 AIZU** is stretching out to 8 ½ furlongs after prompting the pace and finishing a well-meant 2nd going a mile. Trainer Michelle Nihei has Chris Landeros atop the daughter of Japan.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-2**RACE 7:**

1 CHASING THE CANDY drops to the \$12,500 level on the main track with the speed needed to use the inside post to his advantage. Trainer David Fawkes has Luis Saez handling the inside gas.

3 AWESOME PARTY is dropping to this level after making a middle move and tiring to finish 4th vs \$25,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at the distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Irad atop the \$700,000 son of Curlin!

7 SHANGHAI MOON, a solid 'come-from-behind' winner on the dirt – at the distance – 2 starts back, returns to the main track after the clunker on the turf. The \$180,000 son of Shanghai Bobby should it the 'trip' behind the speed.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-7**RACE 8:**

1 DALARNA is hoping to bounce back after his impressive 3-race win streak ended when he got nailed at the wire when finishing 2nd behind **4 HIGH NOON RIDER** last out. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Luis Saez named to ride. The latter, trained Saffie Joseph Jr, will try to make it 2 in a row after a top-notch ride by Tyler Gaffalione turned the tables nemesis Dalarna, who had beaten him in his 2 previous races. The rematch should be fun to watch. **10 JAKARTA** is stretching out around 2 turns after a showing a definite fondness for the turf when she drew clear to defeat \$62,500 optional claimers – going 5 furlongs – her first-ever race on the grass. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad atop the speedy daughter of Bustin Stones, who will try to defeat the boys this afternoon.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-10**RACE 9:**

1 SNAP HOOK 2nd on the dirt vs \$16,000 '3-lifetime' claimers 2 starts back, is going back to the main track after rallying to finish 4th vs \$12,500 claimers going a mile on the turf. He's a major player at the \$8,000 level.

2 COWBOY BOB is stepping up to the next level after using his speed to spring the 40-1 upset vs \$7,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going this 1-mile distance.

3 CONGRATS THIS will face 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' foes after finishing 2nd and being placed 1st – via a steward's decision - in a \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimer at the distance. Trainer Mike Yates has Luis Saez up.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-3**RACE 10:**

10 SONG RIVER is dropping a notch after opening and surrendering a late 6-length lead when finishing 2nd vs \$20,000 state-bred optional claimers. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione rationing her speed.

7 OVER GATORS merits respect in this wide-open affair on her ability to set the pace on a course that has been favoring just this type of runner. Trainer Robert Smith has Miguel Vazquez named to ride.

9 HEIR BALL is a consistent daughter of Wildcat Heir who can sit the 'trip' behind what is sure to be a rumble for the early lead. Trainer Larry Rivelli has Victor Lebron named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 10-7-9**RACE 11:**

9 LADY NOGUEZ moved to the Bob Hess Jr barn via the claim after rallying to finish a 5-wide 3rd at this level and distance. The new connections have Tyler Gaffalione named on the consistent sophomore. She can sit the 'trip' at a price. **1 REITERATE**, who faced considerably tougher in her previous turf races, returns to the grass at the \$20,000 level after stalking the pace and finishing 4th vs \$30,000 claimers going 5 ½ furlongs on the dirt. Trainer Mark Casse adds blinkers, and tabs Irad to ride. **2 BEASAICHI** moved to the Mary Eppler barn via the claim after pressing the pace and finishing 4th at this level and distance. The sophomore, claimed in 3 consecutive races, has Miguel Vazquez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 9-1-2**BEST BET: RACE 6 – 1 MO OF THE WEST****LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – LADY NOGUEZ**