



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Friday, May 15, 2020

RACE 1:

5 ANIMA D'OR moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and debuts on the turf, after failing to show much sprinting on the dirt before the layoff in January; Luis Saez rides the son of Fast Anna.

3 HERO OF THE FUTURE is debuting locally, and returning to the turf, after following a 4th place finish sprinting vs \$30,000 claimers on the Fair Grounds turf with another distant 4th place finish going 6 furlongs in the dirt in New Orleans. Trainer Louie Roussel spots the gelding perfectly at this \$12,500 level.

10 NINTH OF APRIL is another dropping to this level after facing tougher in a pair 5-furlong turf sprints vs \$50,000 maidens last out, and \$25,000 types 2 starts back.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-10

RACE 2:

3 TAKE CHARGE DUDE is stepping up a notch, and stretching out to three-quarters of a mile, after returning from the layoff to get beat a neck by **6 TRAVY BOY** last out. Saffie Joseph Jr, who trains the Dude, is 26% with the 2nd start after a layoff, while latter, trained Benny Cadahia, stretches in razor-sharp form.

4 KILLA DEE will try to save more for the stretch drive at three-quarters of a mile after setting the pace and getting caught late when finishing 3rd behind the top two, beaten only a half-length for the whole enchilada.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-4

RACE 3:

8 CHEROKEE SOUND should be primed and ready to score after returning on the 3-month layoff to get beat a scant nose at this level and distance. Trainer Wesley Ward has Luis Saez in the saddle again. **1 GAUZY** is dropping to the \$25,000 level, and debuting on the turf, after facing \$40,000 types on the dirt at Laurel while in the Cathal Lynch barn. New trainer Jane Cibelli names Irad Ortiz Jr to guide the son of Tonalist.

11 SUNDAY SCHEMING, another from Wesley Ward, is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the 5-month layoff to finish 3rd vs similar going a mile; Dylan Davis rides.

SELECTIONS: 8-1-11

RACE 4:

2 UNCLE GEORGE, a \$310,000 son of Uncle Mo, debuts for trainer Christophe Clement with a series of sharp workouts showing at Payson Park. The barn, 27% with first-time starters, adds Lasix, and Jockey Irad Ortiz Jr for the debut. **6 CARIBBEAN GOLD** was solid in defeat when he responded to the turnback from 8 to 5 furlongs with a 4-wide 3rd place finish at this level. Trainer Ben Perkins Jr has Luis Saez named to ride.

8 ALLEGEDLY PERFECT has room to improve, in only his 2nd outing sprinting on the grass, after setting a pressured pace and finishing 4th behind Caribbean Gold last out. Trainer David Fawkes tabs Miguel Vazquez to ride.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-8

RACE 5:

1 MYSTIC COMIN HOME is stepping up, and stretching out, with the speed needed to use the inside post to her advantage. Trainer Dan Pita, 4 for 11 at the meeting, has Luis Saez handling the inside gas.

6 TALKTHETALK moved to the Jose Garoffalo barn via the claim after recovering from a troubled start (bobbled) to finish a distant 2nd – as the odds-on choice – vs \$10,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. The new connections tab Irad to ride. **2 NO SE VENDE** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after making a middle move and flattening out when finishing a distant 3rd vs \$25,000 '2-lifetime' foes at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-2

RACE 6:

5 FRIED RICE KING, listed as a gelding, the Bobby Flay homebred drops to the \$35,000 level, and turns back to a mile, after following a 4th place finish at the distance in his special weight debut with a clunker going a mile and a sixteenth under special weight conditions last out.

7 SPEEDY HANS is dropping a notch on the maiden scale after recovering from a rough start (bumped hard) to finish 4th vs \$50,000 maidens going 6 furlongs. Trainer Mark Casse has Irad handling the stretchout to a 1-turn mile. **4 SWING WEST** is dropping to this level in the first start since setting the pace and weakening to finish 3rd vs special weight company going a mile at Ellis Park last August. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Luis Saez atop the son of Tonalist.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-4

RACE 7:

2 LIL BIT DANGEROUS, now in the Patrick Biancone barn, the Cal-bred daughter of Good Journey debuts locally after facing tougher on the turf in California before the layoff. The unknown quantity is training well on the Palm Meadows turf. **6 STRELLA'S WAR** may have found the spot where she can notch the elusive 2nd lifetime victory when she drops to the \$12,500 level after recovering from a mugging at the start to finish 4th vs \$20,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile and a sixteenth. The turn back to 7 ½ furlongs can also produce positive results. **5 ELITE APPEAL** is dropping a notch, and turning back slightly, after tracking the pace and finishing 3rd vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile; Dylan Davis rides for Ed Plesa Jr.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-5

RACE 8:

1 LOVELY LADY LEXI was given some time off after responding in the first race after the claim by Gilberto Zerpa by posting her 2nd consecutive victory when defeating this caliber of competition going 7 furlongs on February 28. The barn readied the daughter of Khozan for the return with a trio of solid half-mile workouts at GP West. **4 CUSTOMEREXPERIENCE** is dropping to the \$30,000 level after debuting locally for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr and failing to show much vs a tough group of \$50,000 starter optional claimers. The barn, 26% with the 2nd start after a 45-180 days layoff, has Nik Juarez named to ride. **6 DANCING DESTROYER** moved to the Enrique Landaeta barn via the claim, and stretches out to three-quarters of a mile, after finishing a well-meant 2nd - as the favorite - vs similar going 5 ½ furlongs; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-6

RACE 9:

3 FRENCH QUARTER moved to the Carlos David barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile (3-2-0-0), after tracking the pace and finishing 4th vs similar going 5 ½ furlongs. The new connections, 6 for 17 (35%) with new claims, have Santiago Gonzalez handling the stretchout. **7 COMETIN** is dropping to the \$6,250 level in the first start defeating \$16,000 conditioned claimers going a mile here last June. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles, who claimed him last out, has Hector Berrios named to ride.

10 SO LONG CHUCK is dropping a notch on the claiming scale after dueling for the lead and finishing 3rd at the distance vs \$8,000 claimers; Emisael Jaramillo rides.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-10

RACE 10: THE HOLLYWOOD WILDCAT

With lots of speed signed on trying to succeed at this mile and a sixteenth distance, **4 MONEY NEVER SLEEPS**, the only starter in the field to 'hit the board' at the distance, should sit a perfect 2nd-flight trip behind the world-class pace expected. Trainer Terri Pompay has Miguel Vazquez in the irons.

3 TONALIST'S SHAPE was a perfect 5 for 5, including back-to-back graded stakes victories, before she failed to negotiate this distance in the Grade 2 GP Oaks. The obvious class of the field will have Irad Ortiz Jr doing out her speed. **6 VIGILANTES WAY** is stepping up to face winners after responding to the addition of Lasix with a sharp maiden special weight victory going 7 furlongs at Tampa. Trainer Shug McGaughey, 24% winning consecutive races, has Edgard Zayas atop the Phipps Stable homebred daughter of Medaglia d'Oro.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-6

RACE 11:

3 NOTHIN BUT NET looks like the one to fear in the nightcap after responding to dropdown in competition with a 2nd place finish – as the favorite – at this level and distance. Trainer Joe Orseno has Irad in the saddle. **9 MAQUIAVELO** will try to turn the tables on the top choice after responding to the surface switch with a 3rd place finish behind him last out.

11 HAPPY DANZA is turning back to 5 furlongs after setting the pace and fading when trying a mile vs \$20,000 maidens last out. Trainer J C Perez has Leonel Reyes handling the turnback.

SELECTIONS: 3-9-11

BEST BET: RACE 11 – 3 NOTHIN BUT NET

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 4 MONEY NEVER SLEEPS