



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Monday, January 20, 2020

**RACE 1:**

**4 OMI TEN** is stretching out to a mile again after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – vs this level of competition going 7 ½ furlongs on a softened turf listed as good. **5 GEA** is another trying a mile again after making a move to reach the lead before finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> behind repeat winner Wicked Solution going 7 ½ furlongs last out. **12 MARIES MELODY** is stretching out slightly after responding to the addition of blinkers with an improved 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish behind Gea last out. Trainer Ramon Minguet has Edgard Zayas handling the outside draw.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-12**

**RACE 2:**

**6 CROI MOR** is debuting locally for trainer Todd Pletcher, and dropping to the \$25,000 level, after failing to show much in a 'key' maiden special weight test on the Aqueduct main track that produced a trio of next-out winners from as many starters; Luis Saez handles the return to the turf. **2 HAPPY DANZA** has his claiming tag carved in half, and races with the blinkers off, after setting a pressured pace and fading to finish 5<sup>th</sup> vs \$50,000 maidens going a mile on the Aqueduct turf. **1 MY G P S** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile on the turf, after losing all chance when he tossed his head at the start of a 5-furlong sprint moved from the grass to a 'good' main track; Jose Ortiz rides.

**SELECTIONS: 6-2-1**

**RACE 3:**

**8 I'LL DO IT MY WAY** drops, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile on the main track, after setting the pace and retreating to finish 8<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Ron Spatz, 7 for 19 (37%) with the grass to dirt angle, has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **6 LOVELY LADY LEXI** is plunging to the \$16,000 level after following the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs \$50,000 maidens at GP West with a duel-and-fade

performance here vs state-bred maiden special runners. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Jairo Rendon handling the dropdown.

**2 HOLD THE SPENDING** is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks on the dirt after failing to fire vs special weight runners going 5 furlongs on the turf.

**SELECTIONS: 8-6-2**

**RACE 4:**

**3 ZODIAC PRINCESS** is back locally after setting the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in her quest to notch the elusive 2<sup>nd</sup> career victory. Trainer Laura Cazares has strong front running jock Emisael Jaramillo trying to coax to the wire first. **9 FOR KICKS** is turning back to a mile after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar going a mile and a sixteenth last out. She'll be there to pick up the pieces if Zodiac Princess fails to negotiate the distance again. **7 LA INCONDICIONAL** is turning back to her best distance thus far after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind For Kicks last out. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Jeffrey Sanchez in the saddle again.

**SELECTIONS: 3-9-7**

**RACE 5:**

**4 CAT'S J N J** is dropping to the \$25,000 level, and stretching out to a mile with blinkers added, after showing some early interest when facing special weight competition going 7 furlongs. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez named to ride.

**7 IRISH THUNDER** is dropping a notch on the maiden scale, and stretching out to a mile, looking to rebound from the poor showing going 6 furlongs on a wet track listed as 'good'. Trainer David Fawkes has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr handling the added distance. **6 ST. LOUIE ARCH** is debuting locally at a mile, and donning blinkers, after 'hitting the board' in 1 of 2 \$35,000 sprints at GP West. Trainer Scott Becker has Jairo Rendon named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 4-7-6**

**RACE 6:**

**5 OVER THE CHANNEL** will try to make it 2 in a row after shaking off trouble at the top of the stretch to defeat \$50,000 starter allowance runners at the distance. Trainer Dave Fawkes tabs Luis Saez to ride. **10 MOZO BELLO** is going back to the turf after the pair of solid performances in races moved from the lawn to the main track. Note that jockey Paco Lopez rode two previous winners in the field, including my top choice, and has opted to stick with the Armando De La Cerda trained gelding.

**4 MY POINT EXACTLY** will try to make it 2 in a row after dueling from start to finish and holding sway to defeat \$16,000 claimers by a nose. Trainer Carlos David tabs Irad Ortiz Jr to ride, as Paco sticks with Mozo Bello.

**SELECTIONS: 5-10-4**

**RACE 7:**

**3 LOOKING FOR MORE** is turning back to 7 furlongs after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, respectively, when going a mile in her 2 previous races. Trainer Jose Pinchin has Irad at the controls. **5 BULLDAT** is stretching out an additional furlong after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs similar opposition going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Terri Pompay has Rajiv Maragh in the saddle. **6 AURORA NATION** is an inconsistent sort who has hit the board in 3 of her last 4 races vs bottom level foes. Trainer Mohamed Jehaludi has Fanny Olsson atop the zero-for-22 maiden.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-6**

**RACE 8:**

**10 SOMELIKEITHOTBROWN**, who was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf during his freshman season, is returning to the turf after winning back-to-back stakes on the Turfway synthetic, and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the Grade 2 Blue Grass. Trainer Mike Maker has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **6 BALLAGH ROCKS**, a multiple Grade 1 stakes-placed son of Stormy Atlantic, who is a perfect 2 for 2 on the Gulfstream turf, makes his first start since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Opening Verse at Churchill last May. Trainer Bill Mott has John Velazquez in the irons.

**1 PROJECTED** was solid in his local return when he searched for racing room (boxed in) and still managed to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Javier Castellano in the irons.

**SELECTIONS: 10-6-1**

**RACE 9:**

**4 FLAT AWESOME JENNY** moved to the Kelly Breen barn via the claim, and stretches out to 6 ½ furlongs, after rallying to defeat \$35,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going three-quarters of a mile; Paco Lopez rides. **5 SLINGIN SAMMY B** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and turns back to a sprint distance, after tracking the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a \$12,500 open claimer going a 1-turn mile; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **9 SKY CHASER** is stretching out an additional half-furlong after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Flat Awesome Jenny when they hooked up at three-quarters of a mile last out.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-9**

**RACE 10:**

**8 DEVOTED KITTEN** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after a solid campaign vs \$30,000 types up north, which includes the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish behind repeat winner Quality Choice in a \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimer on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Danny Gargan has Irad named to ride.

**3 DING DONG DITCH** is making his 6-year-old debut the first start since getting beat a head here – at this level – last March. Trainer Jorge Navarro, 22% with this type of layoff, has Luis Saez named to ride. **4 QUALITY SPECIAL** is debuting on the turf after responding to a dropdown in competition with a duel-for-the-lead 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers on the dirt. Note the son of Quality Road is bred to love the turf.

**SELECTIONS: 8-3-4**

**BEST BET: RACE 10 – 8 DEVOTED KITTEN**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 10 SOMELIKEITHOTBROWN**