



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, April 18, 2020

RACE 1:

11 MATCHA drops to the \$18,000 level, with blinkers added, after vying for the lead and fading vs \$25,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer John Kimmel, 3 for 7 (43%) with first-time blinkers, has Tyler Gaffalione atop the lightly raced daughter of Macho Uno. **1 TRULY**, 3 for 4 'in the money' vs this caliber of competition on the turf, is going back to the grass after finishing a distant 3rd in a \$25,000 maiden race moved from the lawn to a sloppy main track. Trainer Mike Lerman has Edgard Zayas handling the inside post.

7 RASPBERRY BALLET is dropping to the \$20,000 level after following a 2nd place finish vs similar 2 starts back with stalk-and-fade 4th vs state-bred special weight runners; Leonel Reyes rides.

SELECTIONS: 11-1-7

RACE 2:

3 MYSTIC COMIN HOME is dropping to the \$12,500 level after showing speed and finishing 3rd and 2nd, respectively, in a pair at the \$16,000 level. Trainer Dan Pita has Luis Saez doling out her speed.

10 MARKISTAN, who finished 2nd in front the top choice when rallying 5-wide last out, is breaking from Post 10 again, and hoping to end up in the picture ceremony. Trainer Jorge Delgado has Tyler Gaffalione handling the rematch. **5 CRYSTALINA** moved to the Amador Sanchez barn via the claim, and is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs, after setting the pace and finishing 2nd vs \$16,000 maidens going a 1-turn mile; Hector Berrios rides.

SELECTIONS: 3-10-5

RACE 3:

6 PALACE TWO STEP is dropping to the \$16,000 level in the first start since getting beat a neck – as the favorite – in a \$30,000 claimer at the distance. Trainer Joe Orseno has Cristian Torres handling the dropdown.

3 CAT'S ASTRAY is hoping to finally notch this 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' condition after a trio of 2nd place finishes at this level and distance. Trainer Juan Arias has Miguel Vazquez in the saddle again.

8 BALLIE'S DREAM is hoping to carry her speed to the wire after her 2-race win streak ended when she finished a stalk-the-pace 4th behind Cat's Astray last out.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-8

RACE 4:

2 KRACHENWAGEN will try to make it 3 in a row vs this level of competition after back-to-back open-length victories. Trainer Mike DePaulo has apprentice Mario Fuentes going for the hat trick. **1 CHASE RUNNER** will depart from the rail after surrendering a mid-race lead when finishing 2nd behind the top choice last out. Trainer Laura Cazares has Edgard Zayas handling the inside draw. **6 UNBRIDLED HOLIDAY** is dropping to the \$12,500 level after returning from the extended layoff to finish a stalk-and-fade 7th vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers; Miguel Vazquez rides for Happy Alter.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-6

RACE 5:

11 HOLY MEISTER is looking to make amends after stalking the pace and flattening out when finishing 4th – as the odds-on choice – at this level and distance last out. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride the gelded son of Bodemeister. **5 GRAY'S FABLE** is going back to the grass after following a solid turf outing going 9 furlongs 2 starts back with a set-the-pace 3rd going a 1-turn mile on the dirt last out.

12 COASTAL DEFENSE is a son of Curlin, and a half-brother to Grade 1 winner Free Drop Billy, debuting on the turf after rallying to finish 4th in consecutive races on the main track. He can end up sitting the 'trip' behind the speed, that is if he can handle the turf.

SELECTIONS: 11-5-12

RACE 6:

5 FLAWLESS MOON is stepping it up a notch after finishing 2nd to impressive repeat winner Blue Buff in a \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimer at the distance during January. Trainer Sandra Matier has Dylan Davis in the saddle. **7 BIG SPENDER** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after responding to the surface switch with a distant 2nd place finish vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going 6 furlongs on the main track. Trainer David Fawkes has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride. **8 NOT NOW RAND** is stepping up to face winners after responding to the dropdown in competition with a much the best victory vs \$12,500 maidens. Trainer Stan Hough has Luis Saez going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-8

RACE 7:

7 SEIZE THE HAY is turning back to a mile after the promising 9-furlong debut in which he made a 5-wide bid to finish 2nd. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez atop the son of Carpe Diem. **5 HOLY EMPEROR** is another turning back to 8 furlongs after setting the pace and finishing 3rd behind Seize the Hay going a mile and an eighth last out. Trainer Jimmy Jerkens has apprentice Cristian Torres handling what should be another interesting clash between speed and closer.

6 TURN OF EVENTS is cutting back to a mile after following the 6th place finish vs winners in Grade 3 Palm Beach with a 4th place finish going 8 ½ furlongs vs special weight runners last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Nik Juarez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 7-5-6**RACE 8:**

2 SOUTH SEA, now in the David Fawkes barn, the gelding debuts locally after ending his campaign at Parx with a 2nd place finish vs \$35,000 optional claimers. The new connections tab Luis Saez to ride.

5 FRONT LOADED is dropping to the \$35,000 level after rallying to finish 2nd – beaten a half-length – vs \$50,000 claimers going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Angel Rodriguez named to ride. **1 BRASS COMPASS** is plunging to this level after the consistent 2019 campaign on the Tapeta surface at Woodbine. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione trying get the gelding's first-ever win on a dirt surface.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-1**RACE 9:**

5 ALWAYS SHOPPING is a multiple-stakes winning daughter of Awesome Again debuting on the turf in the first race since finishing 6th in the Grade 2 Black Eyed Susan at Pimlico last May. Trainer Todd Pletcher has the 4-year-old working sharply, on both dirt and turf, in preparation for the return. **8 RIDEFORTHECAUSE** is turning back to a mile after the solid return going 9 furlongs in which she tracked the pace and finished a screw-tightening 4th. Trainer Gail Cox has Dylan Davis named to ride. **4 DARK ARTIST**, a multiple stakes-winning daughter of Paynter, is making her 5-year-old debut for the \$62,500 claiming tag after ending her 2019 campaign by facing a steady dose of stakes competition with limited results.

SELECTIONS: 5-8-4**RACE 10:**

2 BLOOD MOON is stretching out to a mile after responding in the first race after the claim by Danny Gargan with a 4-wide 4th in the 7-furlong \$60,000 American Fabius. The \$450,000 son of Malibu Moon is working sharply for this assignment. **1 LIKE YOU** is stepping up to the \$50,000 level after drawing clear to crush a field of \$25,000 starter optional claimers at the distance by almost 7 lengths. Trainer Ron Spatz has Miguel Vazquez named to ride. **7 CAUSALISTIC** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim after dueling throughout and finishing 2nd vs \$40,000 claimers going a mile. Trainer Maker, who has 2 in the race (5 Dynadriver), has Tyler Gaffalione atop this half of the uncoupled entry.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-7**RACE 11:**

4 CHARMAINE'S MIA, a sharp winner at this level and distance 3 starts back, is hoping for a clean trip after encountering trouble (steadied) in both the \$75,000 Captiva Island, and the \$150,000 Ladies Turf Sprint. She's worth a flyer at a price. **7 LADY GRACE** is making her first start after stalking early, and drawing clear late, to post back-to-back victories at the distance. She should see the same pace scenario that afforded her the recent success. **2 MISS AURAMET** will try to make it 3 in a row after following the 3rd place finish behind Lady Grace during January with a pair speedy victories at the distance. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr has Cristian Torres in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-2**RACE 12:**

4 RYE STREET is plunging to the \$12,500 level on the dirt after failing to show much vs \$75,000 maidens going a mile on the turf. Trainer Mike Maker has Luis Saez named on this shaky proposition. **1 MOHANNA QUEEN** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and turning back to sprint distance on the dirt, in the first start since showing speed and fading vs maiden special weight competition going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf last September. Trainer Howard Mills has Jose Alvarez named to ride. **10 HONEST GAL** is dropping to this level, and turning back to 5 ½ furlongs, after tracking the pace and fading to 5th – as the favorite – vs \$16,000 maidens last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-10**BEST BET: RACE 8 – 2 SOUTH SEA****LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 4 CHARMAINE'S MIA**