



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, April 25, 2020

RACE 1:

5 IMPERIAL GUARD is dropping to the \$12,500 level after chasing the pace and finishing 9th behind repeat winner Ohanzee in a \$25,000 maiden sprint at the distance. **1 TOOK A CAB** is turning back to 5 furlongs after setting the pace and weaken late to finish 4th going a mile vs better last out. **3 R NINJA J K** is a son of Uncaptured debuting for Georgina Baxter with a series of 5-furlong workouts showing in preparation for this assignment. The 4-year-old gets Lasix, and has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-3

RACE 2:

1 WICKED SOLUTION will depart from the rail after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 2nd place finish – beaten a nose – at this level and distance. **3 VICKYTHEBEST** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and removing the blinkers, after setting a pressured pace and tiring vs \$20,000 claimers going a mile last out. **2 FIAMMA MAMMA** should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the 3-month layoff to duel for the lead prior to weakening and finishing 4th behind Wicked Solution last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-2

RACE 3:

9 STORM THE BRIDGE, a game 2nd sprinting on the dirt in his career debut, drops, and goes back to the main track, after dueling for the lead and fading when facing \$20,000 maidens going a mile on the turf.

10 LANSE MITAN is dropping to the \$12,500 level after shipping up to Tampa and finishing 2nd – as the favorite – in a \$25,000 maiden sprint at the distance. Trainer Rodolphe Brisset has Luis Saez handling the outside draw. **6 NEWYORK GIANT** is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after returning from the layoff to stalk the pace and finish 4th vs similar going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 26% with 2nd start after a layoff.

SELECTIONS: 9-10-6

RACE 4:

5 THE MIGHTY JUDGE is dropping to the \$12,500 level after the eventful outing last out in which he had trouble at the start, and was forced to race wide, when finishing 4th at the \$16,000 level last out. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **9 PEACOCK KITTEN** should have the screws tightened after returning from the freshening to set the pace before weakening to finish 5th - right behind The Mighty Judge last out. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Edgard Zayas handling the rematch.

3 MYSTICAL MOON was solid in defeat when following his 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' victory with a well-meant 2nd place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Brian Lynch has Dylan Davis in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-9-3

RACE 5:

4 ASHIHAM, now in the Todd Pletcher barn, the \$800,000 son of Tapit stretches out to 7 furlongs after getting parked wide when finishing 4th in a 'key' 6-furlong sprint that's already produced a pair of next-out winners; Luis Saez rides. **8 BASQUIAT** is a son of American Pharoah debuting for trainer Chad Brown with a series of solid workouts showing over the Payson Park training surface. The beautifully bred sophomore gets Lasix, and has Irad Ortiz Jr at the controls. **2 FUGITIVE** is turning back to seven-eighths of a mile after breaking from the outside, pressing the pace, and finish 3rd in a screw-tightening performance going a mile. Trainer Mike Maker has Nik Juarez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-2

RACE 6:

6 CATCH A THRILL, stakes-placed sprinting on the turf here last year, in only her 2nd career race, makes her first start since facing allowance competition at Saratoga last summer. Trainer Mark Casse has Edgard Zayas handling the return. **4 SMACK** is making the 3rd start of her current form cycle, and hoping to show more at this level, after following her maiden special weight victory with a troubled (lacked room) 5th place finish vs allowance competition last out. Trainer Christophe Clement has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

11 AWESOME ROAR, a 6-time local turf winner, will try to parlay that horse-for-course status into a victory after chasing the pace and finishing 3rd behind next-out winners Miss Auramet and Dixieincandyland in an allowance test at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-11

RACE 7:

5 SHAMROCKET is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after posting back-to-back 2nd place finishes going a mile. Trainer Christophe Clement has Irad Ortiz Jr atop the son of Tonalist. **8 FREEDOM FORCE**, a \$600,000 son of American Pharoah, is debuting on the turf after hitting the board in consecutive sprints vs state-bred competition on the main track. Trainer Rodolphe Brisset has Chris Landeros handling the surface switch. **4 VENEZUELAN HUG** moved to the Danny Gargan barn via the claim, and stretches out to 8 ½ furlongs, after rallying 6-wide to finish 3rd vs \$40,000 maidens going a mile on the turf. Trainer Gargan, 9 for 18 (50%) with recent claims, Luis Saez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-8-4

RACE 8:

8 LEGIT is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the extended layoff to finish a fast-closing 3rd going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Irad named on the lightly raced 5-year-old son of Curlin. **4 NOBLE THOUGHT** drops in for the \$50,000 tag in this optional claimer after following a \$62,500 victory at Churchill with a 2nd place finish in the \$190,000 Claiming Crown Jewel here during December. The gelding class up nicely for Mike Maker. **1 WAR GIANT** is stepping up, and breaking from the rail, after setting the pace and drawing clear to defeat \$25,000 optional claimers at the distance. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Emisael Jaramillo handling the inside speed.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-1

RACE 9: THE UNBRIDLED

7 ATTACHMENT RATE is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth in the first start since chasing the pace and finishing 3rd in the 1-mile Grade 3 Gotham at Aqueduct. Trainer Dale Romans has Luis Saez atop the son of Hard Spun. **3 DR POST**, a \$400,000 son of Quality Road, is stepping up to face winners after returning from the 8-month plus layoff to defeat a maiden special weight field at 7 furlongs. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Irad handling the stretchout. **1 NECKER ISLAND**, 1 of 2 in the field for trainer Stanley Hough, is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after chasing the pace and finishing behind current nemesis Mischievous Alex in both the Grade 3 Swale and Gotham Stakes. This son of Hard Spun should appreciate the added distance.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-1

RACE 10:

10 VEGAS KITTEN is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after following his '2-lifetime' victory at this distance with a stalk-the-pace 5th in a \$25,000 optional claimer contested at a marathon 12-furlong distance.

6 CRYPTO GOLD is stepping up to the next level after following his \$16,000 maiden score with a game victory vs \$20,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at the distance. The rejuvenated gelding, also trained by Mike Maker, has Luis Saez in the saddle. **4 STOCK TRADE** is making his first start since tracking the pace and finishing 3rd vs this level of opposition going a mile on the Belmont turf. Trainer Bill Mott has Irad named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 10-6-4

RACE 11:

5 GLOBAL CAMPAIGN, who broke his maiden going 7 furlongs in his career debut, turns back, and makes his first start since finishing 3rd behind Tax in the Grade 2 Jim Dandy at Saratoga. Trainer Stan Hough has the classy son of Curlin training sharply for the return. **2 SOLDADO** is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile after posting back-to-back optional claiming victories going 6 furlongs. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez going for the hat trick. **4 SPINOFF**, another from trainer Todd Pletcher, is making his first start since crushing a field of \$62,500 optional claimers going 9 furlongs at Saratoga. The son of Hard Spun is training sharply for the return.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-4

RACE 12:

9 ANNUALIZED is dropping to the \$10,500 level on the main track after rallying to finish 4th behind repeat winner Ohanzee in a \$25,000 maiden sprint on the turf. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Irad handling the combo surface switch/dropdown. **7 W W ARCHIE** is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after rallying to finish 3rd in back-to-back sprints going 6 ½ furlongs vs better. Trainer Scott Becker has Luis Saez in the irons. **4 MONEY HOUSE**, now in the Herbert Miller barn, the colt makes his first start since finishing 3rd vs \$25,000 maidens going 5 ½ furlongs at GP West. The tote action should tell us more.

SELECTIONS: 9-7-4

BEST BET: RACE 11 – 5 GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 4 NOBLE THOUGHT