



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, August 1, 2020

## RACE 1:

**9 BEE MAJOR** is dropping, and turning back, after setting the pace and weakening to finish 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$16,000 maidens going 9 furlongs. **11 IAMBUTTER** is turning back to a mile after setting the pace and fading through the lane when finishing 6<sup>th</sup> vs similar going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Juan Avila has Leonel Reyes in the saddle. **7 ALPERES** is cutting back to a mile hoping the latest distance switch helps produce the elusive maiden victory (21-0-6-3). Trainer Rohan Crichton has Hector Berrios up.

**SELECTIONS: 9-11-7**

## RACE 2:

**5 STARSHIP VOYAGER** is returning from the layoff hoping to recapture the form she displayed threatening to break her maiden vs state-bred competition in 3 consecutive 6-furlong sprints. Trainer Steve Dwoskin has Samy Camacho in the saddle. **7 TARA**, who was 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Starship Voyager when they hooked up at this distance during May, turns back after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 4<sup>th</sup> vs open special weight competition going 7 furlongs last out. **1 TIZ ENOUGH** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after following the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish behind the top two on May 31, with a narrow neck defeat going 7 furlongs last out.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-1**

## RACE 3:

**8 CHEROKEE SOUND** is stepping up to face winners after returning from the layoff to defeat \$12,500 maidens – as the favorite – going a mile. Trainer Wesley Ward has Angel Rodriguez named to ride. **12 ZANDREA'S** will try '2-lifetime' competition after rallying to defeat \$12,500 maidens at this mile and a sixteenth distance. Trainer Peter Walder has Miguel Vazquez handling the tough outside draw.

**7 CAPELINE** makes it a trio stepping up to the next logical level after leading every step of the way to defeat \$12,500 maidens at this distance. Trainer Monica McGoey has Edgar Prado rationing the 4-year-olds speed.

**SELECTIONS: 8-12-7**

## RACE 4:

**6 SEAZAN** is stepping up, and stretching out, after the promising \$50,000 debut going 4 ½ furlongs. The Khozan gelding raced greenly before rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a half-length. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Emisael Jaramillo handling the stretchout to 7 furlongs. **3 ANOTHER DUKE** is stretching out an additional furlong after tracking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in his 6-furlong debut. Trainer Mike Yates has Leonel Reyes handling the added real estate. **5 IMPERIAL KING** is another eligible to improve at seven-eighths of a mile after shaking off early traffic problems to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in his 6-furlong debut. Victor Lebron rides for Tim Hamm.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-5**

## RACE 5:

**7 HERO OF THE HOUR** will face \$20,000 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' competition after shipping in from the Fair Grounds and finishing a useful set-the-pace-and-fade 8<sup>th</sup> vs \$20,000 state-bred optional claimers going a mile on a good turf. Trainer Louie Roussel, winning races here at a 31% rate, has Angel Arroyo handling the 2<sup>nd</sup> outing over the course.

**8 MIGHTY GHOST**, now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, the gelding returns to the conditioned claiming ranks after ending his campaign at Tampa with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish vs first-level allowance competition.

**11 SPEED FRANCO** will break towards the outside after returning locally - for trainer Francisco D'Angelo - to press the pace and finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a neck – vs \$25,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going 8 ½ furlongs. Emisael Jaramillo rides strictly the one to fear.

**SELECTIONS: 7-8-11**

**RACE 6:**

**5 EASY DAY** is making his sophomore debut the first start since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in what turned out to be a monster 'key' race, albeit in 2019, that produced 6 winners from 11 starters. Trainer Juan Arriagada has the son of Daaher working sharply for the return.

**2 SIR KAHN** is cutting back to 6 furlongs again after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs this level of competition going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Dan Pita has Miguel Vazquez handling the turnback. **4 DEFEATSNOTANOPTION** is a \$400,000 son of Honor Code debuting for trainer John Servis with Lasix, and a consistent morning work tab showing at Palm Meadows. Tab the tote action for more clues about his readiness to win at first asking.

**SELECTIONS: 5-2-4****RACE 7:**

**7 TEXTPECTATION** is stretching out to a mile after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in back-to-back sprints vs this level of competition. Trainer Armando De La Cerda is 20% with the stretchout move. **4 SLIPPY** was solid in defeat when dropped to this level last out. The 4-year-old, trained by Gustavo Delgado, was just outdueled in the stretch when beat three-quarters of a length at the distance. **9 EXATLON** is hoping to find more firepower for the stretch run after closing to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Slippy last out.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-9****RACE 8:**

**9 BLAME THE THIEF** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and drops to the \$6,250 level, in the first start since coming up empty vs \$8,000 claimers going a mile in the slop on May 24<sup>th</sup>; Edgard Zayas rides. **6 MILLIONAIRE RUNNER** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth, and will try to make it 2 in a row, after rallying on a sealed sloppy track to defeat similar going a mile. Trainer Alfredo Velazquez has apprentice Alberto Burgos in the saddle again. **2 JAY'S WAY**, now in the Armando De La Cerda barn, the 7-year-old drops to this level after showing speed and calling it a day when fading vs \$25,000 optional claimers going a mile on a good main track; Emisael Jaramillo rides.

**SELECTIONS: 9-6-2****RACE 9: THE DESERT VIXEN**

**9 PRINCESS SECRET** is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after following her impressive 4 ½-furlong debut victory with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs the boys in a \$62,500 '2-lifetime' optional claimer going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Dan Pita has Miguel Vazquez in the irons.

**1 FREAK** will depart from the rail after breaking towards the outside (Post 11) and rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> going 6 furlongs on a sealed sloppy track. Trainer Juan Alvarado has Hector Berrios at the controls.

**5 TAMIAMI** is stretching out to 6 furlongs after rallying to defeat state-bred special weight runners going 5 furlongs. Trainer Todd Pletcher has leading jock Edgard Zayas returning on the daughter of Rattlesnake Bridge.

**SELECTIONS: 9-1-5****RACE 10: THE DR. FAGER**

**2 BREEZE ON BY** will try to make it 2 in a row after living up to his name when he breezed by the competition and won his 6-furlong career debut by 6 lengths. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Emisael Jaramillo returning on the gelded son of Cajun Breeze.

**6 VALIANT THOR** is debuting locally for trainer Dennis Ward after drawing clear to win his 5-furlong career debut at Tampa by 8-plus lengths. The son of Two Step Salsa has journeyman Ronnie Allen Jr at the controls.

**12 SON OF A BEAST** will depart from the outside after fighting throughout and holding sway to win his 5-furlong debut – as the favorite. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Edgard Zayas in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-12****RACE 11:**

**2 SMOOCHIN KITTEN** is a son of Kitten's Joy debuting for trainer Mike Maker with Lasix, and leading jock Edgard Zayas at the controls. Need we say more?

**5 O DRISCOLL** is a son of Twirling Candy debuting on the turf at a mile after rallying to 'hit the board' in a trio of sprints on the main track vs this caliber of competition. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Miguel Vazquez in the saddle. **8 SEAGAR** is plunging to the \$12,500 level on the turf after failing to get untracked in his \$32,000 career debut going 5 furlongs on a sealed sloppy track. The son of Unusual Heatwave is bred to respond favorably to both the surface and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 2-5-8****BEST BET: RACE 5 – 7 HERO OF THE HOUR****LONGSHOT: RACE 6 – 5 EASY DAY**