



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, February 29, 2020

**RACE 1:**

**1 FARLEY** has his claiming tag cut in half after prompting the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$35,000 claimers going a mile here during December. Trainer Antonio Sano has Manny Franco named to ride. **3 THE QUEENS JULES** was solid in defeat when he broke from an outside post and rallied to come within three-quarters of a length of spring the 53-1 upset; Fanny Olsson rides. **7 PHILO** wheels back for trainer Rohan Crichton after making a bid for the lead and coming up less than a length short when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 1-3-7**

**RACE 2:**

**5 CANDY MACHINE** is a \$475,000 son of Candy Ride debuting for trainer Chad Brown, who has a 21%-win average with his first-time starters; Javier Castellano rides.

**1 I'LL FIGHT DEMPSEY** is looking to post a knockout in his debut for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and John Velazquez named to handle the inside post. **10 ASHIHAM** is an \$800,000 son of Tapit debuting for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin with Lasix, and Joe Bravo deputized to handle the outside post.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-10**

**RACE 3: THE HUTCHESON**

**5 SHIVAREE** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after his 3-race win streak, which included victories in the 6-furlong Limehouse and Buffalo Man Stakes ended when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 7-furlong Grade 3 Swale Stakes in his last.

**7 SMASH FACTOR** is turning back to 6 furlongs after drawing clear to defeat \$75,000 optional claimers going seven-eighths of a mile last out. The multiple stakes-placed son of Khozan has Miguel Vazquez at the controls. **6 JOURNATIONONPARADE** is making his local debut after the pair of impressive victories at Laurel, which included defeating a pair of next-out winners in the Maryland Millions Nursery; Paco Lopez rides for Kathy Ritvo.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-6**

**RACE 4: THE PALM BEACH (G3)**

**12 VITALOGY (GB)**, who was Grade 1 stakes-placed in his North American debut in the Summer at Woodbine, and an impressive late-running 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Grade 3 Bourbon at Keeneland in October, debuts locally for Brendan Walsh with Javier Castellano named to handle the outside draw.

**5 FANCY LIQUOR** is stepping up to face graded stakes competition after the game career debut in which he dueled from start to finish and held sway to defeat maiden special weight runners going a mile. Trainer Mike Maker has Florent Geroux named to ride.

**7 SOUTH BEND** will be outfitted with blinkers after coming up a neck short when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 1-mile \$100,000 Dania Beach last out.

**SELECTIONS: 12-5-7**

**RACE 5: THE HONEY FOX (G3)**

**10 MUNCHKIN MONEY** is turning back to a mile after game performance in the Grade 3 Marshua's River in which she split rivals to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a half-length – going 8 ½ furlongs. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle again. **2 ATOMIC BLONDE** will try to make it 2 in a row, and her 4<sup>th</sup> victory in 6 races, after rallying to win the 7 ½-furlong South Beach in her last. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Javier Castellano returning on the consistent daughter of Scat Daddy. **11 VALEDICTORIAN**, a multiple Grade 3 stakes-placed runner at the distance, which includes a victory here last year in the Sands Springs, returns for trainer Kelly Breen looking to add to her horse-for-course status. Her victories here also include a score in the Grade 3 Suwannee River.

**SELECTIONS: 10-2-11**

**RACE 6:**

**2 JUST WHISTLE**, who runs well fresh, makes his first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in an overnight stake at Delaware last July. Trainer Michael Matz has Manny Franco atop the lightly raced 5-year-old. **4 SQUEEZEADIOS** is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to come within three-quarters of a length of winning the 9-furlong \$200,000 Sunshine Millions Classic last out. Trainer Terri Pompay has Rajiv Maragh atop the hard-knocking gelding. **7 McERIN** is turning back to 8 ½ furlongs after responding to the surface switch from turf to dirt with a set-the-pace 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Trophy Chaser and Scars are Cool going 9 furlongs last out. It's Pletcher and Velazquez.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-7**

**RACE 7: THE VERY ONE (G3)**

**2 TOURIGA (BRZ)**, a sharp winner at the distance in the Via Borghese 2 starts back, shortens up after rallying late to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 12-furlong Grade 3 La Prevoyante last out. Trainer Graham Motion has John Velazquez atop the daughter of Put It Back. **5 CAP DE CREUS** is making her stakes debut the first start since rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> beaten a half-length – vs allowance competition going this mile & three-sixteenth distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Flavien Prat named to ride. **10 EMPRESSOF THE NILE**, a 3-time winner at the distance, makes her first start since finishing a rallying 5<sup>th</sup> – beaten three-quarters of a length – in the 11-furlong Grade 3 Long Island at Aqueduct during November. Trainer Graham Motion has Javier Castellano on this half of his uncoupled entry.

**SELECTIONS: 2-5-10**

**RACE 8:**

**6 MISTER CANDY RIDE** was game in defeat when he recovered from a slow start to come within a nose of winning his career debut at the distance. Trainer Ken McPeek has Corey Lanerie named to ride. **11 HERO D'ORO** is a \$1.2 million-dollar son of Medaglia d'Oro debuting for Chad Brown with Lasix, and a strong workout patten showing at Payson Park. The regally bred sophomore gets Lasix, and has Javier Castellano named to ride. **2 PRECISE DANCER** is stretching out to a mile after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in a fruitful special weight 7-furlong sprint that's produced a pair of impressive next-out winners; Manny Franco rides for Jorge Navarro.

**SELECTIONS: 6-11-2**

**RACE 9: THE HERCOMESTHEBRIDE (G3)**

**7 ABSCOND**, a Grade 1 winner at Woodbine going a mile, stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after rebounding from the 7<sup>th</sup>-place finish in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf with a late-closing 3<sup>rd</sup> here in the 7 ½-furlong Ginger Brew last out. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Tyler named to ride.

**6 IN A HURRY** is making her stakes debut the first start since returning from the layoff to defeat \$50,000 optional claimers here at the distance. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Julien Leparoux returning on the daughter of Blame.

**5 CHEERMEISTER** is stretching out an additional 16<sup>th</sup> of a mile after using her speed to win the 1-mile Grade 3 Sweetest Chant here last out; Emisael Jaramillo rides.

**SELECTIONS: 7-6-5**

**RACE 10: THE DAVONA DALE (G2)**

**6 SPICE IS NICE** is stepping up the competition after the impressive career debut for trainer Todd Pletcher in which the million-dollar daughter of Curlin drew clear to score - at this 1-mile distance - by 12 widening lengths. **9 TONALIST'S SHAPE** is definitely the one to fear after posting her 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive victory when she returned from the layoff to win the 7-furlong Grade 3 Forward Gal like an international good thing. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler named to ride. **7 BAYERNESS** is making her sophomore debut for trainer Cherie DeVaux after posting back-to-back victories during her 2-year-old campaign in Kentucky. The daughter of Bayren will have Florent Geroux in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 6-9-7**

**RACE 11: THE CANADIAN TURF (G3)**

**7 MR DUMAS** is debuting locally for trainer Mike Maker after his 2-race win streak, which includes a victory in the Grade 3 Commonwealth, ended when he came up empty behind multiple graded stakes winner Mo Forza in the Grade 1 Hollywood Derby; Manny Franco rides. **5 SOMBEYAY**, a Grade 2 stakes-placed son of Into Mischief, is stretching out to a mile after returning from the layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> - beaten three-quarters of a length - in his local debut for trainer Todd Pletcher; Flavien Prat rides. **1 HAY DAKOTA** is making his return to graded stakes competition after drawing clear to defeat \$62,500 optional claimers in his local return for trainer Jason Servis; Paco Lopez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 7-5-1**

**RACE 12: THE GULFSTREAM PARK MILE (G2)**

**1 BODEXPRESS** is turning back to a mile after shaking off his keyed-up antics at the start to duel for the lead and fade to finish 5<sup>th</sup> in the 9-furlong Grade 1 Pegasus World Cup. He's the inside speed with a chance to play 'catch me if you can'. **3 PHAT MAN** will try to make it 2 in a row locally after following the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 3 Harlan's Holiday with a solid victory in the 1-mile Grade 3 Fred Hooper. Trainer Kent Sweezy has Javier Castellano named to ride. **9 MR FREEZE** is turning back to 8 furlongs after setting the pace in front of Bodexpress and holding on to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Pegasus. Trainer Dale Romans has Manny Franco atop the 5-year-old.

**SELECTIONS: 1-3-9**

**RACE 13: THE MAC DIARMIDA (G2)**

**6 ZULU ALPHA** is stretching out to 11 furlongs after the impressive come-from-behind 11-1 upset in the Grade 1 Pegasus World Cup Turf. Trainer Mike Maker has Tyler going for 2 in a row. **5 CHANNEL MAKER** is cutting back to a mile and three-eighths (4-2-0-0) after breaking from Post 12, and stalking the pace, before fading behind Horse of the Year Bricks and Mortar in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Turf.

**4 SADLER'S JOY** is hoping for a clean trip after getting mugged at the start, and forced to race wide, when finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the Pegasus Turf. Trainer Tom Albertrani has Javier Castellano returning on the winner of more than \$2.4 million.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-4**

**RACE 14: THE FASIG-TIPTON FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH (G2)**

**6 AS SEEN ON TV** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after following his victory in the Juvenile Sprint at GP West with a game 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish - beaten a head - by Chance It in the 1-mile \$100,000 Mucho Macho Man. Trainer Kelly Breen has Paco Lopez named to ride. **5 DENNIS' MOMENT** is making his 3-year-old debut for trainer Dale Romans the first start since losing all chance when he stumbled badly at the start - as the 4-to-5 favorite - in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

**12 CHANCE IT** will break from the ultra-tough outside post after the hard-fought victory over the top choice in the Mucho Macho Man. The colt is training beautifully, and would move to the top of the list with a better post.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-12**

**BEST BET: RACE 14 - 6 AS SEEN ON TV**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 11 - 7 MR DUMAS**

