



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

## RACE 1:

**5 GIRL DAD** is dropping to the \$50,000 level, and getting Lasix, after tracking the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> behind next-out stakes' winner Kentucky Pharoah going a mile last out. The stretchout to 8 ½ furlongs can prove to be the winning move. **11 PROVEN INNOCENT** drops in the maiden claiming ranks, and turns back to this distance, after finishing a useful 6<sup>th</sup> vs special weight foes going 9 furlongs on the Tampa turf. Trainer Shug McGaughey, 36% with the 2<sup>nd</sup> start back from 45-180 days layoff, has Jose Ortiz up. **2 PUBLIC INFORMATION** is another dropping, and turning back with Lasix added, after finishing 7<sup>th</sup> behind Kentucky Pharoah. Trainer Chad Brown has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 5-11-2**

## RACE 2:

**2 HARD GAME** moved to the Greg Sacco barn via the claim, and steps up to face winners, after crushing a field of \$12,500 maidens going this mile distance: Irad Ortiz Jr goes for 2 in a row. **1 CUATE** is dropping to the \$20,000 level again after following the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at this level with a clunker vs \$50,000 starter optional claimers last out. The red-hot Antonio Sano barn has Jose Ortiz handling the class relief. **6 GREYZER** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and wheels back, after pressing the pace and fading to finish 4<sup>th</sup> at this level and distance: Joe Bravo rides.

**SELECTIONS: 2-1-6**

## RACE 3:

**3 NOBLE EMPIRE** is stepping up to the next level after responding to the major drop in competition with a 6-length maiden score at the \$12,500 level. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Irad going for 2 in a row.

**1 NEW YORK STYLE** is dropping to this level on the main track after following a narrow defeat on the GP West main track with a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish vs \$20,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going 9 furlongs on the grass. Trainer Happy Alter, 3 for 6 (50%) with the grass to dirt angle, has Jose Ortiz named to ride. **2 TIZ LIGHT THE WAY** will get the blinkers back after responding to the dropdown with a 3<sup>rd</sup> placed finish at this level and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 3-1-2**

## RACE 4:

**11 BOURBON IN MAY**, a 3-time local turf winner, and a previous winner at the distance, returns for trainer Mike Maker after ending his campaign in Kentucky with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish vs better on the dirt: Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

**2 RIJEKA (IRE)** is turning back to 11 furlongs after the hard-fought \$25,000 starter allowance victory at a mile and a half. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Jose Ortiz going for 2 in a row. **4 THEREGOESJOJO**, a consistent distance specialist, was game in defeat when he just got nailed at the wire by Rijeka (Ire) last out. Trainer Mike DePaulo has Luis Saez in the irons.

**SELECTIONS: 11-2-4**

## RACE 5:

**1 AUGUSTA MELODY**, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in his \$50,000 debut on the Churchill main track, is going back to the dirt after stalking the pace and fading going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf here last out. Trainer Brian Lynch has Jose Ortiz handling the dropdown to the \$35,000 level.

**2 COMMISSIONER G** is debuting locally at this level after ending his summer campaign up north with a poor showing vs special weight competition at Parx. Trainer Steve Klesaris has red-hot jock Edgard Zayas handling the class relief. **3 LIAM'S BOY** will try \$35,000 claimers on the dirt in the first start since finishing 4<sup>th</sup> – beaten a length – vs New York state-bred runners going 6 furlongs on the Belmont turf. Trainer Tim Hills is 31% with the grass-to-dirt angle.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-3**

## RACE 6: THE SUWANNEE RIVER (G3)

**3 LA SIGNARE (FR)**, a Grade 3 winner at the distance, makes her local return the first start since finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the 10-furlong Grade 1 Flower Bowl at Belmont during October. Trainer Brian Walsh has the 6-year-old working consistently at Palm Meadows, and tabs Tyler Gaffalione to ride. **2 GREAT ISLAND** is cutting back slightly after debuting locally for trainer Chad Brown and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>, before being placed 3<sup>rd</sup> – via a disqualification - behind repeat stakes winner Always Shopping, in the mile and three-sixteenth Via Borghese last out. Irad Ortiz Jr rides, as Tyler moves to the top choice. **4 LOGIC N REASON** is stepping up, and stretching out, after shipping up to Tampa and defeating \$32,000 optional claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has Luis Saez named on the daughter of Declaration of War.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-4**


**RACE 7:**

**5 DEMOCRACY** is a \$400,000 son of Quality Road debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with a consistent morning work tab showing at Palm Beach Downs. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Irad Ortiz Jr in the irons. **12 BEARS WATCHING**, a half-brother to \$2.6 million earner Code of Honor, debuts for trainer Shug McGaughey with Lasix, and 6 Payson Park workouts showing. The W S Farish homebred will have Jose Ortiz handling the outside draw. **10 COLLABORATE** is a \$600,000 son of Into Mischief debuting for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr with Lasix, and 12 local workouts showing in preparation for the long-awaited debut: Tyler Gaffalione rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-12-10**

**RACE 8:**

**1 YODEL E. A. WHO** moved to the Brittany Russell barn via the high-priced claim after setting a pressured pace and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance. The new connections keep the status quo with Tyler Gaffalione atop the speedy 5-year-old gelding. **4 WITH VERVE** is a consistent son of Kantharos who has been knocking on the door in a trio of 6-furlongs sprints vs this caliber of competition, which includes the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish behind Cajun Brother on the \$100,000 Sunshine Sprint last out. Trainer Larry Bates has Irad in the saddle. **6 JOE DI BAGGIO** is stepping up, and turning back, after the impressive \$16,000 starter allowance score in which he received a 93 Beyer for his performance at 7 furlongs. Trainer Carlos David has Jose Ortiz named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 1-4-6**

**RACE 9:**

**9 R MERCEDES BOY** will give the turf another try after the consistent campaign sprinting on the main track. Trainer Georgina Baxter, 32% with the dirt to turf angle, has Irad named on the gelded son of Overdriven. **5 LIVING VICARIOUSLY** was solid in defeat when he returned from Keeneland and finished a duel-for-the-lead 4<sup>th</sup> – beaten a length at 30-1 – at this level and distance. Trainer Mike Tomlinson has Emisael Jaramillo in the irons again. **1 WHISKEY SUNRISE**, a gelded son of Cajun Breeze, is debuting on the turf in the first start since a solid campaign sprinting on the dirt last April and May. Trainer Mike Yates has Luis Saez handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 9-5-1**

**RACE 10:**

**7 BOURBON HIGHWAY** is turning back to a 1-turn mile, and getting both Lasix and blinkers, after finishing 4<sup>th</sup> behind Grade 3 Holy Bull winner Greatest Honour going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Ian Wilkes has Luca Panici named to ride. **2 TALLIS** is a beautifully bred son of Uncle Mo debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with a series of sharp workouts showing at Palm Beach Downs. The Siena Farms homebred gets Lasix, and Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. **10 HIGHER QUALITY** is a \$600,000 son of Tiznow debuting at a mile for trainer Chad Brown with 10 Palm Meadows workouts showing in preparation for this assignment. The regally bred colt gets Lasix, and has Tyler Gaffalione at the helm.

**SELECTIONS: 7-2-10**

**RACE 11: THE LADIES' TURF SPRINT**

**7 LADY'S ISLAND**, who hasn't tried the turf since she defeated \$40,000 optional claimers here in 2019, is back on the grass after the hard-fought score in the 6-furlong Grade 3 Sugar Swirl. Trainer Georgina Baxter has Emisael Jaramillo atop the multiple graded stakes winner. **8 HEAR MY PRAYER** will try to make it 2 in a row after winning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 4 races on the Gulfstream turf when she rallied to win the Abundantia last out. Trainer David Fisher has Irad in the irons. **1 VICTORY KINGDOM (AUS)** is definitely eligible to offer more after shipping in for trainer Rodolphe Brisset and finishing a well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Hear My Prayer. The daughter of Animal Kingdom will have Tyler Gaffalione handling the inside draw.

**SELECTIONS: 7-8-1**

**RACE 12:**

**4 SIMPLE STORY** was given some time off after the unfortunate outing in December in which the jock lost the irons and she had to wait for another day. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has Edgard Zayas handling the turnback from 8 to 6 furlongs. **3 LALALI** will be outfitted with blinkers after surrendering a late lead when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance last out. Trainer Amador Sanchez has Hector Berrios trying to win the nightcap. **11 GRAVEL GERTIE** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after stalking early, getting the lead, and then fading to 4<sup>th</sup> vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs last out.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-11**

**BEST BET: RACE 8 – 1 YODEL E. A. WHO**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 7 BOURBON HIGHWAY**