



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, February 8, 2020

RACE 1:

1 QUEEN ABARRIO will depart from the rail after breaking from the outside, getting the lead, and weakening from her earlier efforts to finish 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Juan C Perez has Marcos Meneses in the irons. **7 MARKISTAN** was solid in defeat when she responded to the dropdown in competition with the 2nd place finish in front of the top choice. Trainer Barry Croft has Luis Saez handling the rematch. **5 FLAT OUT COOL** is eligible to take a positive step forward after finishing 2nd in her \$12,500 debut for trainer Henry Collazo.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-5

RACE 2:

5 COMIC KITTEN is dropping to the \$16,000 level after rallying to finish 3rd in her local return vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. Trainer Mike Maker has Luis Saez handling the class relief. **7 RECESS** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd in front of the top choice last out. Trainer Todd Pletcher has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr handling the rematch.

12 REGAL ROMANCE will depart from the outside after closing to finish 2nd – beaten a length – vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile. Trainer Lilli Kurtinecz has Hall of Fame jock Javier Castellano named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-12

RACE 3:

2 DAILY GRACE, 1 of 2 in the field for trainer Ralph Nicks (*3 Don't Eat the Apple*), will be outfitted with blinkers after setting the pace and finishing 2nd in her career debut at this level and distance. The recent 4-furlong bullet workout indicates she's sitting on a winning performance.

1 SHAZZY B will depart from the rail after breaking towards the outside and rallying to come within a neck of exiting the maiden ranks when finishing 2nd at this level and distance. **10 KASHAN** is expected to show more after getting parked wide and finishing 5th behind Shazzy B last out. Trainer Ben Perkins Jr has Luis Saez handling the 2nd consecutive start from Post 10.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-10

RACE 4:

10 GOOD SOLUTION moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile, after dueling for the lead and finishing 3rd – beaten 2 lengths – vs similar going 7 ½ furlongs; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **8 DING DONG DITCH** is cutting back to 8 furlongs after returning from the 10-month layoff to finish 2nd vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Jorge Navarro is 29% with the 2nd start after this type of layoff. **2 SOLAR** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after 'hitting the board' in 1 of 2 recent outings vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. Trainer Kelly Breen has Emisael Jaramillo handling the dropdown.

SELECTIONS: 10-8-2

RACE 5:

5 NORTH DAKOTA, a half-brother to super turf sire War Front, moves to the Robert Medina barn, and returns to the turf, after ending his 3-year-old campaign in New York with a 2nd place finish going 9 furlongs on the Aqueduct main track. **4 BETTERMENT** was well-meant in defeat when he rallied late to finish 3rd in his local return at this level and distance. Trainer Mark Hennig tabs Javier Castellano to ride as Luis Saez shifts to North Dakota.

2 MADE MY DAY (IRE) has lots of upside after making his North American debut for trainer Rodolphe Brisset and finishing 4th here at this level and distance; Emisael Jaramillo handles the Irish-bred.

SELECTIONS: 5-4-2

RACE 6:

2 HEIRESSALL is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs in the first race since finishing 2nd behind nemesis Wildwoods Beauty in the 7-furlong Millions Distaff at GP West. Trainer Terri Pompay reunites the hard-knocking mare with jockey Miguel Vazquez. **3 BLAMED** is hoping to bounce back after returning from the 11-month layoff to show speed and falter when finishing last behind Pink Sands in the Grade 2 Inside Information. Trainer Bill Mott has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle again. **4 CELIA'S SONG** is making her first start since crushing a field of allowance runners at Churchill last June. Trainer Eddie Keneally has the daughter of Distorted Humor training forwardly for this assignment.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-4

RACE 7:

8 SPA CITY is stretching out to 9 furlongs after rallying to finish 2nd to budding superstar Caracaro going a mile here last out. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has Irad atop the Godolphin homebred son of Street Sense.

6 TELEPHONE TALKER is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after shipping in for trainer Chad Brown and finishing 2nd – as the odds-on choice – going a mile; Javier Castellano rides. **9 ALL EYES WEST** is stretching out around 2-turns after returning from the 3-month layoff to finish 2nd – beaten a half-length – going 6 furlongs. Trainer Jason Servis has Joe Bravo handling the added real estate.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-9

RACE 8:

2 CABRE is stepping up to face open competition after cruising through his 'non-winners of 2 and 3-lifetime' conditions in impressive fashion. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has apprentice Cristian Torres going for the hat trick. **7 DR HARLAN**, another from Gustavo Delgado, will try to make it 2 in a row after rallying to score at this level and distance last out. The hard-knocking 8-year-old should see the same pace scenario that afforded him the victory last out. **4 LI'L MEATBALL** moved to the Rohan Crichton barn via the claim, and makes his first start since coming up empty vs \$6,250 claimers going 5 ½ furlongs on December 26. His back class must be respected in this spot.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-4

RACE 9:

10 TWENTY FOUR SEVEN, now in the Danny Gargan barn, the gelding makes his first start since facing tougher at Laurel last summer with some success. The barn, 4 for 9 (44%) with similar layoffs, secures the services of leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr. **11 FLYOFF** is another dropping to the \$16,000 level in the first start since defeating allowance runners on the Aqueduct turf about 15 months ago. Trainer George Weaver has Luis Saez named to ride. **2 TIPSY KITTEN** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and figures on the 'what have you done lately' angle, when he returns to the turf (25-4-2-4) after back-to-back outings going a mile on the dirt; Edgard Zayas rides.

SELECTIONS: 10-11-2

RACE 10:

5 RICKI TICKI TAFFI is stretching out to 7 furlongs after showing speed and weakening late when facing nemesis Shivaree in both the 6-furlong Limestone and Buffalo Man Stakes. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr spots the colt perfectly vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers.

3 CROSS COURT will try to volley into the winner's circle again after drawing clear – as the odds-on choice – to defeat state-bred maiden special weight runners by open lengths. Trainer Jorge Delgado has Irad in the saddle.

4 DECKOLOGY is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile after responding to the surface switch with a 4-wide special weight score going 5 furlongs on the main track.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-4

RACE 11: THE SUWANNEE RIVER (G3)

6 STARSHIP JUBILEE is stretching out to 9 furlongs (4-2-1-1) after highlighting her horse-for-course status when she returned to win the \$150,000 Sunshine Millions F & M Turf, and post her 9th victory in 16 starts on the Gulfstream green. The winner of more than \$1.2 million has Luis Saez at the controls. **3 MAGIC STAR** is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after shipping in for trainer Chad Brown to win the mile and a sixteenth Grade 3 Marshua's River with a perfectly timed ride by Irad Ortiz Jr. **7 TAPIT TODAY**, another from Chad Brown, is back locally after returning from the layoff at Tampa to defeat \$32,000 optional claimers. Jockey Javier Castellano, who rode Starship Jubilee last out, moves to this daughter of Tapit.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-7

RACE 12:

12 FRIENDLY FELLA will depart from the outside, shed the blinkers, and stretch out to 8 furlongs, after taking the scenic route when finishing a wide 3rd behind repeat winner R Boy Evens going 5 panels on the turf. Jairo Rendon rides for Kathleen O'Connell.

3 EIGHT AIN'T ENOUGH is cutting back to a mile, and returning to the turf, after following his 2nd place finish here going 8 ½ furlongs on the grass, with another 2nd place finish going a mile and a sixteenth on a 'good' main track. Trainer Dale Romans has Luis Saez named to ride.

2 MYSTERY GUEST is dropping a notch after returning from the layoff to finish a stalk-and-fade 7th in what should prove to be a screw-tightening performance at the \$20,000 level. Trainer Jason Servis has apprentice Romero Maragh at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 12-3-2

BEST BET: RACE 12 – 12 FRIENDLY FELLA

LONGSHOT: RACE 5 – 5 NORTH DAKOTA