



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, January 11, 2020

## RACE 1:

**7 MR. PHILLY DILLY** has been firing bullets at Palm Meadows in preparation for his first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a 'key' \$40,000 maiden sprint that produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Ben Perkins Jr has Paco Lopez named to ride. **4 GUACO** is a \$105,000 son of Maclean's Music debuting for trainer Gustavo Delgado with a string of sharp workouts showing over the GP West training track; Luis Saez rides. **3 SILVER RATIO** is a \$320,000 son of Liam's Map debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and John Velazquez named to ride. The consistent morning workout pattern at Palm Beach Downs indicates the colt is ready to roll.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-3**

## RACE 2:

**3 PERFECT REVENGE** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and wheels back after encountering traffic (lacked room) when finishing 5<sup>th</sup> – beaten 2 lengths – at this level and distance last out. **2 PLATO** is eligible to show more after brushing in the stretch and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in front of the top choice last out. Juan Alvarado takes over the training and keeps Jairo Rendon in the saddle. **7 NEVERSTOPDREAMING** is stretching out to a mile vs winners after drawing clear to defeat \$25,000 maidens going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Alexis Delgado has Luis Saez going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-7**

## RACE 3:

**2 TELEPHONE TALKER**, a sharp 2<sup>nd</sup> sprinting on the dirt at Keeneland, is going back to the main track after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> – beaten three-quarters of a length – vs special weight company going a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Chad Brown is 27% with the grass to dirt angle. **1 KINGMEISTER** is debuting locally for trainer Mark Hennig after finishing a well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> when going a mile at Aqueduct; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **7 AWESOME PARTY** is a \$700,000 son of Curlin debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and John Velazquez named to ride. The tote action should tell us more.

**SELECTIONS: 2-1-7**

## RACE 4:

**1 PALM SPRINGS** is a million-dollar son of Uncle Mo debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and series of solid workouts at Palm Beach Downs; Javier Castellano rides. **4 EPIC WEST** is a son of Bernardini debuting for trainer Jason Servis with Lasix, with leading jockey Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **5 ALFATEI** is a \$475,000 son of Pioneerofthe Nile debuting for trainer Kieran McLaughlin with Lasix, and Luis Saez named to ride. Tab the tote for more clues about his readiness to win at first asking.

**SELECTIONS: 1-4-5**

## RACE 5:

**6 WICKED SOLUTION** is stepping up to face winners after shipping in from Keeneland to defeat \$25,000 maidens going 7 ½ furlongs on a 'good' turf course. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad Ortiz Jr going for 2 in a row. **4 LOVELY BROWN** is stretching out to a mile after making a 4-wide bid to finish 5<sup>th</sup> in her local debut vs \$35,000 claimers going 5 furlongs. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Jairo Rendon handling the added distance. **3 LEMONCITA** moved to the Ed Plesa Jr barn via the claim, and steps up to tussle with winners, after getting up under the shadow of the wire to defeat \$25,000 maidens at this 1-mile distance; Paco Lopez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 6-4-3**

## RACE 6:

**9 DON BOURBON** is turning back to a mile after ending his campaign in the Bluegrass State with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish – beaten a head – vs special weight competition going a mile and a sixteenth on a sealed 'sloppy' track at Churchill. **3 SPA CITY**, a half-brother to Grade 2 stakes-placed Sara Street, is stretching out to this 1-turn mile after showing some solid late interest when finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in his local debut going 6 furlongs. Trainer Kieran McLaughlin has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the stretchout. **10 CARACARO** is stretching out to a mile after the promising 7-furlong debut in which he dueled for the lead and finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has Emisael Jaramillo atop the son of Uncle Mo.

**SELECTIONS: 9-3-10**

**RACE 7:**

**8 MOON OVER MIAMI** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after responding to a stretchout in distance with a much-the-best maiden special weight victory going a mile at Aqueduct. Trainer Bill Mott has John Velazquez handling the outside draw. **4 SOUNION**, beaten a neck at this distance 2 starts back, stretches out after dueling from start-to-finish to break his maiden going a mile on a sealed 'sloppy' surface at Churchill. Trainer Brian Lynch has Irad atop the \$360,000 son of Liam's Map.

**5 NY TRAFFIC**, now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, the son of Cross Traffic stretches out around 2-turns after showing speed and fading vs stakes competition in a pair of sprints up north. The new connections readied him for this assignment with a bullet 5-furlong drill in 59 & 2.

**SELECTIONS: 8-4-5**

**RACE 8: THE MARSHUA'S RIVER (G3)**

**5 ANDRINA DEL SUR** is making her local return after a stellar campaign up north in which she won of \$100,000 Violet at Monmouth, was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Grade 3 Athenia at Belmont, and won the Forever Together Stakes at Aqueduct in her last. Trainer Tom Albertrani has Javier Castellano going for 2 in a row.

**4 SWEET BYE AND BYE**, one tough Pennsylvania-bred, renews the rivalry with the top choice after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind her in the Forever Together last out, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in front of her in the Grade 3 Athenia. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Luis Saez handling the rematch. **3 MAGIC STAR**, a lightly raced \$500,000 daughter of Scat Daddy, makes her stakes debut for trainer Chad Brown, and that should be more than enough to pique your interest; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-4-3**

**RACE 9:**

**2 ENDORSED** has been training at a steady clip at Palm Meadows in preparation for the first race since finishing a late-closing 4<sup>th</sup> in the Grade 1 Travers Stakes at Saratoga. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has Luis Saez atop the son of Medaglia d'Oro. **10 CUTTING HUMOR**, a Grade 3 winning son of First Samurai, is making his first start since failing to fire in the Grade 1 Kentucky Derby. Trainer Todd Pletcher has the newly turned 4-year-old training forwardly at Palm Beach Downs; John Velazquez rides. **8 MCERIN**, another from trainer Todd Pletcher, is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth on the main track after showing speed in a string of turf sprints. The gelding, who should be part of the pace at this distance, has Javier Castellano trying to spring the main track upset.

**SELECTIONS: 2-10-8**

**RACE 10: THE TROPICAL TURF (G3)**

**8 A THREAD OF BLUE**, a perfect 3 for 3 on the Gulfstream turf, is cutting back to a mile after setting the pace and just getting nailed at the wire when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 9-furlong Grade 2 Hill Prince at Belmont. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has Luis Saez atop the speedy multiple graded stakes winner here. **2 MARAUD**, now in the Joe Orseno barn, the son of Blame, who won the Grade 3 Palm Beach here in 2018, makes his first start since finishing a stalk-the-pace 3<sup>rd</sup> behind classy Divisidero in the Grade 3 Red Bank at Monmouth in his last; Paco Lopez rides. **9 EXULTING** is cutting back to a mile after making a move for the lead and settling for 5<sup>th</sup> – beaten 2 ¼ lengths – the 9-furlong Grade 2 Ft Lauderdale last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad handling the turnback.

**SELECTIONS: 8-2-9**

**RACE 11:**

**4 KING LEONARDO**, who always runs well over this course (9-2-3-1), is stepping up to next level after dueling throughout and holding on gamely to defeat \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. He's worth a look at a price.

**1 SARATOGA COLONEL** will depart from the rail again after stalking the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a length – at this level and distance. Trainer George Weaver has Luis Saez in the irons. **10 HONEY DONT** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> – beaten a neck – vs similar going a mile last out. Trainer Tim Hills has Nik Juarez named to ride. **9 PAWNBROKER** is stepping up to the next level after taking the overland route when rallying wide to defeat \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad handling the added distance.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-10-9**

**BEST BET: RACE 10 – 8 A THREAD OF BLUE**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 11: 4 – KING LEONARDO**

