



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

**Saturday, January 25, 2020**

**RACE 1:**

**10 UNA LUNA** is turning back to her best distance after setting a pressured early pace and fading vs \$35,000 optional claimers going 9 furlongs. The 5-time local winner can spring the upset with Paco Lopez at the controls. **5 LOVELY QUEEN (IRE)** is making her North American debut for trainer Chad Brown, with Lasix added, after winning 1 of 2 races in France during 2018. The barn, 30% with this type of layoff, has the filly working well on the Palm Meadows training surfaces.

**1 EQUAL MEASURE**, who runs well fresh, turns back to a mile after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs allowance company going 9 furlongs on the Churchill turf. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Mike Smith handling the inside draw.

**SELECTIONS: 10-5-1**

**RACE 2:**

**3 CANDY TYCOON** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after dueling throughout and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the odds-on choice – going a mile here last out. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez atop the son of Twirling Candy. **8 HOLY EMPEROR** is a son of Street Sense debuting for trainer Jimmy Jerkens with a solid work tab showing at Palm Meadows. Javier Castellano guides the Stronach Stables homebred.

**4 EXTREME FORCE**, a half-brother to Breeders' Cup Mile winner Spun to Run, is stretching out around 2-turns after back-to-back 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes sprinting up north. The son of Constitution should appreciate the added distance.

**SELECTIONS: 3-8-4**

**RACE 3: THE WORLD OF TROUBLE SPRINT**

**1 SHEKKY SHEBAZ** will try to make it 2 in a row locally after following his 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint with a hard-fought victory over speedball Rocket Heat in the Claiming Crown Canterbury; Paco Lopez rides for Jason Servis. **2 TEXAS WEDGE**, who does his best running when stalking the pace, should sit the 'trip' behind what is sure to be a world-class early pace duel. Trainer Peter Miller has Flavien Pratt in the irons.

**6 PAY ANY PRICE** was ultra-game in his 10-year-old debut when he held on gamely to notch his 15<sup>th</sup> race over the Gulfstream turf.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-6**

**RACE 4:**

**9 UNCONQUERED LEA** is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile after the promising 6-furlong debut in which he dueled for the lead and finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. Trainer Ben Perkins Jr has Luis Saez in the saddle.

**10 MARKET ANALYSIS** is a \$250,000 son of Honor Code debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and a steady workout pattern showing at Palm Beach Downs; John Velazquez rides. **8 SPEIGHTSTOWN AGAIN** is debuting locally after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in his Churchill finale going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Ken McPeck has Tyler Gaffalione atop the \$675,000 son of Speightstown.

**SELECTIONS: 9-10-8**

**RACE 5: THE LADIES TURF SPRINT**

**5 JEAN ELIZABETH** is making her career turf debut after a stellar 2019 campaign on synthetic and dirt in which she won 6 of 7 races, including the Abundantia here on the dirt, and the Grade 3 Ontario Fashion Stakes on the Woodbine Tapeta surface. Trainer Larry Rivelli has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. **8 KEOTA** is making her stakes debut for trainer Jason Servis after a strong local victory, at the distance, vs \$35,000 open-claimers; Paco Lopez rides. **2 GIRLS KNOW BEST** is going back her best surface after setting the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind the top choice on the main track.

**SELECTIONS: 5-8-2**

**RACE 6: THE SOUTH BEACH**

**1 LA FEVE (FR)**, now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, the late-striding 4-year-old, who finished a 7-wide 4<sup>th</sup> in the Tropical Park Oaks, should sit in the catbird seat behind the abundance of speed in the field; Tyler Gaffalione rides this upset possibility. **6 MITCHELL ROAD** is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after setting the pace and drawing clear to win the 1-mile \$100,000 My Charmer here last out. Trainer Bill Mott has Jose Ortiz atop strictly the one to beat. **3 ATOMIC BLONDE** is debuting locally for trainer Todd Pletcher after returning from the freshening at Aqueduct to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>, on a yielding course, in the mile and a sixteenth Winter Memories; Javier Castellano rides.

**SELECTIONS: 1-6-3**

**RACE 7: THE FRED HOOPER (G3)**

**8 FREE ENTERPRISE** is making his stakes debut at a mile after the pair of impressive sprints up north in which he followed his maiden victory at Belmont with a sharp 7-furlong allowance victory at Aqueduct. Trainer Chad Brown has Javier Castellano atop the lightly raced 5-year-old son of Curlin. **2 ZENDEN** is stretching out to 8 furlongs after recovering from a bumping incident at the start to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in the 7-furlong Grade 3 Mr Prospector. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez atop the graded stakes-placed son of Fed Biz. **5 PHAT MAN** is turning back to a mile after returning from the layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> behind War Story in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 3 Harlan's Holiday; Irad Ortiz Jr rides for Kent Sweezy.

**SELECTIONS: 8-2-5****RACE 8: THE LA PREVOYANTE (G3)**

**6 LADY PANAME (FR)** is making her first start since arriving into the Chad Brown barn during 2018 and winning back-to-back turf routes, including the 11-furlong Grade 3 Long Island about 14 months ago. The mare, working well at Palm Meadows, has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. **2 SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL (IRE)** is making her North American debut for trainer Aidan O'Brien with Lasix added, and brings a pair 'in the money' finishes at the distance vs Group 3 competition in France. Ryan Moore guides the distance specialist. **5 TOURIGA (BRZ)** is stretching out to 1 ½ miles, and has the recency angle on her side, after rallying to win the mile & three-sixteenth Via Borghese here last out.

**SELECTIONS: 6-2-5****RACE 9: THE INSIDE INFORMATION (G2)**

**7 SPICED PERFECTION**, a multiple Grade 1 winner at the distance, turns back after using her speed to win the 1-mile Grade 3 Go For Wand at Aqueduct. Trainer Peter Miller has Javier Castellano in the saddle.

**11 PINK SANDS**, who does her best running from 'off the pace', and loves the local surroundings (4-3-0-0), turns back to 7 furlongs after rallying to win the 1-mile Grade 3 Rampart here last out. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Jose Ortiz going for 2 in a row. **5 BLAMED**, a winner of 7 of 10 career races, turns back to 7 panels after leading every step of the way to win the Grade 3 Royal Delta here last February. Trainer Bill Mott has her firing bullets for the return.

**SELECTIONS: 7-11-5****RACE 10: THE W. L. MCKNIGHT (G3)**

**1 RED KNIGHT**, a stakes winner at this 12-furlong distance, stretches out after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 11-furlong Grade 3 Red Smith in his last. Trainer Bill Mott has the gelding training sharply at Payson Park.

**12 AMERICAN TATTOO (ARG)** is making his career turf debut for trainer Todd Pletcher after a solid 3-race 2019 campaign on the dirt in which he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Grade 2 Marathon, contested at a mile & three-quarters, and won the 10-furlong H Allen Jerkens here last out.

**3 APRECIADO**, 1 of 4 entered in the race for trainer Mike Maker, stretches out after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 8 ½-furlong Claiming Crown Emerald. Note the gelding has finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at this distance in the past.

**SELECTIONS: 1-12-3****RACE 11: THE PEGASUS WORLD CUP TURF (G1)**

**10 MO FORZA** is debuting locally for trainer Peter Miller after reeling off 4 consecutive victories, which includes 3 consecutive graded stakes scores; Joel Rosario guides the son of Uncle Mo. **12 MAGIC WAND (IRE)**, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Bricks and Mortar in this race last year, returns for trainer Aidan O'Brien after coming within a scant nose of beating the boys in the Group 1 Hong Kong Cup in her last; Ryan Moore guides the winner of more than \$4 million dollars. **3 WITHOUT PAROLE (GB)**, a Group 1 winner going a mile at Ascot, is stretching out to a mile & three-sixteenths after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the G1 Breeders' Cup Mile last out. Trainer Chad Brown has Frankie Dettori handling the added distance.

**SELECTIONS: 10-12-3****RACE 12: THE PEGASUS WORLD CUP (G1)**

**9 SPUN TO RUN** is stretching out to 9 furlongs after following his impressive victory in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Mile with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish to Maximum Security in the G1 Cigar Mile. The speedy son of Hard Spun will have Javier Castellano rationing his speed. **5 OMAHA BEACH** makes the final start of his brilliant career after drawing clear under a hand ride to defeat 4 rivals in the 7-furlong Grade 1 Malibu last out. The son of War Front has trained well over the track, and is reunited with Hall of Fame jock Mike Smith. **10 MUCHO GUSTO** is debuting locally for trainer Bob Baffert, and makes his first start since finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the Grade 3 Oklahoma Derby. The multiple Grade 1 stakes-placed son of Mucho Macho Man lures the services of leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr.

**SELECTIONS: 9-5-10****BEST BET: RACE 11 – 10 MO FORZA****LONGSHOT: RACE 6 – 1 LA FEVE (FR)**