



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, January 4, 2020

RACE 1:

3 BUDGET BUSTER, listed as a gelding, the son of Paynter turns back to a mile after the solid local return at 8 ½ furlongs in which he prompted the pace and finished 3rd. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz in the saddle. **8 PLAN OF ATTACK** has a new plan of attack when the recent gelding drops to the \$50,000 level, gets blinkers, and turns back to a mile, after coming up empty vs special weight competition going a mile and a sixteenth on a good Aqueduct turf.

1 COSMIC TREASURE is stretching out to a mile after rallying to finish 2nd vs \$35,000 maidens here going 7 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-1

RACE 2:

5 TAKE CHARGE AGAIN is making her local return the first start since vying for the lead and finishing 2nd vs \$20,000 maidens going 6 furlongs on the GP West main track. She looks like the controlling speed with Paco Lopez at the controls. **1 TIME TO TWO STEP** has her maiden tag carved in half after shaking off early trouble to finish 3rd at the distance vs \$40,000 maidens at GP West. **3 LUXE DIAMOND** is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks in the first start since facing state-bred special weight company here last winter.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-3

RACE 3:

4 HURRICANE HILL is turning back to five-eighths of a mile after shipping into Aqueduct and finishing a rallying 3rd going 6 furlongs on the grass. Trainer Linda Rice has Jose Ortiz handling the turnback.

6 SEVEN GEMS should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the layoff to finish a 6-wide 4th – beaten 1 ½ lengths as the favorite – at this level and distance last out. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Luis Saez in the irons. **5 INTIMIDATION** is debuting locally for trainer Jason Servis, and returning to the turf, after rallying to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a 5 ½-furlong special weight sprint contested on the Monmouth main track; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-5

RACE 4:

5 ABOVE PAR is a \$75,000 daughter of Street Boss debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher in a good spot for a first-time starter to succeed. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Luis Saez at the controls.

2 HONEST GAL is turning back to three-quarters of a mile, and adding blinkers, after dueling throughout and finishing 2nd here vs \$25,000 maidens going 6 ½ furlongs. **4 DOMINEER** is dropping a notch after chasing the pace and finishing 3rd here vs \$35,000 maidens.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-4

RACE 5:

1 VERDICT IS IN is stretching out to a mile again after his 2-race win streak ended when he finished a 4-wide 2nd vs this level of competition going 7 ½ furlongs on the GP West turf. The consistent son of Lea is reunited with Paco Lopez, who was aboard for the 2 previous victories. **8 VINTAGE KITTEN** is stretching out slightly after finishing a neck behind Verdict Is In when they hooked up at GP West last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz handling the rematch. **2 QUICK ENOUGH** is stepping up to face winners after responding to a dropdown in competition with a \$25,000 maiden victory at the distance. Todd Pletcher tabs Luis Saez to ride.

SELECTIONS: 1-8-2

RACE 6: THE LIMEHOUSE

6 ZAINO BOYZ, now in the Bobby Dibona barn, the colt returns to South Florida after shipping up to Tampa and springing the 28-1 upset in the \$50,000 Inaugural; Paco Lopez rides the improving son of Daaher.

1 SHIVAREE proved his maiden special weight victory going 7 furlongs at GP West wasn't a 1-shot deal when he wheeled right back to win the \$75,000 Buffalo Man by a game neck. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Emisael Jaramillo going for the hat trick. **5 CAJUN CASANOVA** is looking to get back to his winning ways locally after finishing 3rd behind Zaino Boyz in the Inaugural at Tampa. Trainer Mike Yates sweetens the deal with Irad in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-5

RACE 7: THE KITTEN'S JOY (G3)

2 IRISH MIAS is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after rallying to finish 2nd here going a mile in the \$75,000 Pulpit. Trainer Graham Motion has Rajiv Maragh atop the previous stake winner. **8 ISLAND COMMISH** will try to make it 3 in a row at the distance after back-to-back \$35,000 starter optional claiming victories on the GP West turf. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Paco Lopez going for 3 in a row.

3 YESTERDAYONCEMORE (IRE), now in the Patrick Biancone barn, the daughter of No Nay Never is debuting locally after a solid campaign in California in which she won her North American debut at Delmar in the \$100,000 Juvenile Turf, and was a stalk-and-fade 6th in the \$100,000 Surfer Gal at Santa Anita; Julien Leparoux rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-3

RACE 8: THE GLITTER WOMAN

8 SOUND MACHINE, a \$500,000 daughter of Into Mischief, is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after making a strong 3-wide bid to finish 2nd behind Spanish Point in the 6-furlong House Party last out. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

6 SPANISH POINT proved her impressive \$50,000 debut victory at Belmont wasn't a fluke when she used her tactical speed to win the House Party here in game fashion. The rematch with Sound Machine is must-see racing. **1 TALE OF SUCCESS** will be tested for class when she steps up to face winners after edging away to defeat state-bred special weight runners at this 6 ½-furlong distance. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has John Velazquez trying to spring the upset.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-1

RACE 9: THE GINGER BREW

4 ABSCOND, a Grade 1 winner at Woodbine, is debuting locally for trainer Eddie Kenneally in the first start since dueling for the lead and fading to finish 7th behind logical Eclipse winner Sharing in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. The classy daughter of Blame has Irad in the saddle again.

1 CHEERMEISTER comes off the front running victory in the 1-mile \$75,000 Wait A While to figure prominently when breaking from the inside on a course that has shown a kindness to speed recently.

2 AMERICAN GIANT is hoping to sit in the catbird seat behind the speed, especially if Cheermeister gets hounded early. Trainer Mike Trombetta has strong finisher Luis Saez at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-2

RACE 10: THE MUCHO MACHO MAN

1 SOUTH BEND is turning back to a 1-turn mile after his 3-race win streak ended when he showed speed and weakened on a sealed 'sloppy' track in the Grade 2 Kentucky Juvenile last out. Trainer Stanley Hough has Julien Leparoux atop the son of Algorithms.

2 CHANCE IT is facing open competition for the first time after using his speed to dominate state-bred competition throughout his 5-race campaign. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has the colt firing bullets for this assignment. **4 AS SEEN ON TV** is stretching out to a mile for the first time after shipping down from Monmouth to win the 6 ½-furlong Juvenile Sprint here with a strong late charge. Trainer Kelly Breen has Paco Lopez handling the added distance.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-4

RACE 11:

6 PRINCE OF ARABIA, who has tons of back class, debuts locally, and makes his first start since facing graded stakes level competition at Santa Anita. He's worth a flyer at double-digit odds. **4 KRAMPUS**, who won the Grade 3 Canadian here last year when racing without blinkers, will remove the shades trying to rebound from an inconsistent campaign vs stakes-caliber competition, which does include a 3rd-place finish in the G3 Poker during June.

1 MUSTAAQEEM (AUS) is stretching out around 2-turns for the first time after failing to fire in both North American turf sprints for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin. The lightly raced 6-year-old, who should be closer to the pace at this distance, will have Julien Leparoux at the helm. **9 EPIC BROMANCE** is debuting locally for trainer Kelly Breen after a solid campaign up north in which he won back-to-back races at Monmouth and was 4th in an overnight stake at Parx; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-1-9

BEST BET: RACE 9 – 4 ABSCOND

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 6 PRINCE OF ARABIA