



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

6 COUPLE OF NIKKIS is turning back to a mile after surrendering a late lead to finish a game 2nd vs similar quality going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Joe Orseno has Emisael Jaramillo trying to get the sophomore out of 2nd gear.

10 ALL ABOUT KATHERN is daughter of Bodemeister debuting for trainer Mike Maker with Lasix and a string of consistent workouts showing over the track. Leading jock Edgard Zayas rides.

3 MARIANNA QUEEN is moving in the right direction after responding to the dropdown in competition with an improved 4th place finish at this level.

SELECTIONS: 6-10-3

RACE 2:

2 TATWEEJ, a \$2,500,000 son of Tapit, is expected to improve after stalking the pace and finishing 3rd in his career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher is 23% with maidens making their 2nd start.

6 EL SAMURO proved he could compete at this level when the son of Commissioner followed his \$65,000 turf debut with a 2nd place finish in front of Tatweej last out. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Emisael Jaramillo handling the rematch. **1 PASSING LANE** is gelded son of Cross Traffic debuting for owner Joe Imbesi, and trainer Steve Klesaris, with Lasix, and a steady workout tab showing over the track; Angel Arroyo rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-1

RACE 3:

7 PAINT THE CORNERS, who has defeated this level of competition in the past, will try to do it again after following a \$16,000 victory on the turf 3 starts back, and a poor outing on the dirt, with a game 2nd place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Murat Sancal has Emisael Jaramillo up. **3 DANCE TILL DAWN** is stretching out slightly to a mile after returning from the 2-month layoff to defeat this level of competition going about 7 ½ furlongs on a good turf. Cristian Torres rides, as Jaramillo moves to the top choice.

10 SAND DRIFT returns from the layoff, for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr, and makes her first start since rallying to defeat \$16,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going a mile on May 9th. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 26% with this type of layoff.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-10

RACE 4:

6 ASSERTIKO is stepping up the competition after proving he could handle this mile distance when he followed a pair of sprint victories with a strong front running victory vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers. Trainer Ron Spatz has apprentice Joseph Trejos in the irons again. **1 REBELDE** is another stepping up into this \$75,000 optional claimer after couple of solid efforts at the distance in which he defeated \$25,000 claimers 2 starts back, and was 3rd in a \$40,000 off-the-turf affair on a good track last out. **3 TONS OF GOLD** is wheeling back after finishing 2nd and 3rd, respectively, at the distance, at the \$30-40,000 levels.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-3

RACE 5:

6 JOE BENJAMIN will be trying to win all the \$ Benjamins when he stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd going a mile vs special weight competition last out. Trainer Murat Sancal has Emisael Jaramillo in the saddle. **1 MR MATUSCHEK** will be outfitted with blinkers after returning from the almost 9-month layoff to finish 3rd behind Joe Benjamin going a mile last out. Trainer Kelsey Danner is 18% with the 2nd start after a 6-month plus layoff. **3 AVENTINUS** is a son of Union Rags debuting for trainer Mike Maker with Lasix, and Edgard Zayas named to ride. The tote action should tell us more.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-3

RACE 6:

1 DESCENTE moved to the Juan Arriagada barn via the claim, and drops a notch, after her 3-race win streak ended when she finished 2nd – going a mile – vs \$8,000 claimers last out. The barn, 21% with recent claims, has Luca Panici named to ride.

9 BELIEVE INDEED is plunging to the \$6,250 level on the main track after failing to show much vs better in back-to-back route races on the turf. Trainer Peter Walder, 25% with a limited sampling of horses going from the grass to dirt, has Miguel Vazquez handling the surface switch. **8 PAYNTER FEST** is looking to make amends after following her \$6,250 ‘3-lifetime’ victory at the distance with a 2nd place finish – as the odds-on choice – at this level and distance last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-9-8**RACE 7:**

3 CURTIN’S UP is a gelded son of Big Drama debuting for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr with a string of consistent workouts showing over the stamina-tweaking GP West training track. The gelding gets Lasix, and has Edgard Zayas at the controls. **6 GIROLAMO’S ATTACK** is dropping to the \$32,000 level after ‘hitting the board’ in 1 of 2 sprints at the \$50,000 level. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Cristian Torres handling the dropdown.

1 APACHE is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after rallying to come within a head of defeating this level of competition when finishing 2nd in a race moved from turf to 5 furlongs on a sealed sloppy track.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-1**RACE 8:**

12 CHIEF WHITE SOX, a 2-time winner at the distance, stretches out with the speed needed to overcome the pitfalls associated with the outside post. The gelding is worth a look at big odds. **3 DONJI** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and turning back to 7 ½ furlongs, after stalking the pace and finishing 4th vs \$16,000 starter optional claimers going 9 furlongs last out. Trainer Liz Dobles has Samy Camacho returning on the son of Big Brown. **11 REMEMBER THE MAINE** is another sinking to this level after following the victory vs this caliber of competition 2 start back with so-so performance behind Donji last out. Trainer Sandra Matier has Hector Berrios handling the rematch.

SELECTIONS: 12-3-11**RACE 9: THE ANA T.**

3 LADY’S ISLAND is making her first start since drawing clear to win the 7-furlong \$100,000 Musical Romance here during May. The daughter of Greatness, a 7-time local winner, is strictly the one to beat. **8 HEIRESSALL**, a sharp winner at this distance 2 starts ago, is turning back after tracking the pace and finishing a distant 4th in the 1-mile \$60,000 Added Elegance last out. Trainer Terri Pompay has Miguel Vazquez handling the turnback. **2 VIOLENT TIMES** was freshened after a couple of solid sprint efforts vs \$75,000 optional claimers at the distance, which includes the 3rd place finish behind Heiressall in May

SELECTIONS: 3-8-2**RACE 10: THE MECKE**

5 GALLEON MAST is turning back to a mile after returning from the layoff to get nailed late when finishing 2nd in the mile and a sixteenth \$100,000 Soldiers Dancer last out. Trainer David Fawkes has Emisael Jaramillo atop the multiple stake’s winner.

1 SAILING SOLO will depart from the rail after setting comfortable early fractions on route to a front running \$100,000 optional claiming victory, when getting a heady ride by Hall of Fame jock Edgar Prado.

12 FOREVER MO, who will break from Post 9 when the main track only horses scratch, returns to stakes competition after rallying to finish 2nd behind free-running Sailing Solo last out. Trainer Juan Avila has Edgard in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-12**RACE 11:**

10 SUNDAY SCHEMING will try to win the Saturday nightcap when she drops to the \$12,500 level after encountering early trouble before circling wide to finish 5th – as the favorite – vs \$16,000 maidens going 8 ½ furlongs. Trainer Wesley Ward has Angel Rodriguez named to ride. **11 ALL AMERICAN JEWEL** is turning back to a mile after rallying to finish a workman-like 3rd vs similar quality going a mile and a sixteenth. The concern is her penchant for finishing 3rd thus far (12-0-6-0). **2 BUXOM BEAST** is debuting on the turf, and having her claiming tag sliced in half, after getting beat double-digit lengths vs better sprinting on the dirt. Trainer Ken McPeek has Edgar Prado handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 101102**BEST BET: RACE 10 – 5 GALLEON MAST****LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 12 CHIEF WHITE SOX**