



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, June 13, 2020

RACE 1:

2 RATIFY is dropping to the \$25,000 level, and adding blinkers, in the first start since finishing 4th vs \$40,000 maidens during April. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr spots the gelding where he should be effective. **1 SKYRAY**, now in the Kathy Ritvo barn, the sophomore drops to this level after facing tougher before the layoff with spotty success. The new connections have the son of Hard Spun working sharply for this assignment. **8 WORDMAN** moved to the Phil Serpe barn via the claim, and stretches out around 2-turns, after rallying to finish 3rd in consecutive 5-furlong turf sprints at this level. The recent gelding will have Hector Berrios handling the added distance.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-8

RACE 2:

6 CRYSTALINA is turning back to 7 furlongs after finishing 3rd and 2nd, respectively, vs similar going a mile. Trainer Amador Sanchez has Hector Berrios handling the turnback. **8 UPSY DAISY DO** is another cutting back to seven-eighths of a mile after making a move for the lead and settling for 3rd behind the top choice when they competed at a mile last out. **1 NENITA** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after finishing 3rd in back to back sprints going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Antonio Sano has 7-pound apprentice Alberto Burgos handling the tough inside post.

SELECTIONS: 6-8-1

RACE 3:

6 THE GIPPER should take the lion's share of the betting action when he moves to the Jorge Delgado barn, and plunges to the \$8,000 level, after competing in a series of \$25,000 optional claimers before being sent to the sidelines in February. The 6-year-old is working sharply at GP West. **5 SILENT TIGER**, who fits this dated-claimer conditions perfectly, makes his first start since defeating \$6,250 open-claimers here on December 13th. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr removed the blinkers for this assignment. **1 TIP SHEET** is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after returning from the 2-month layoff to finish 2nd vs \$8,000 open-claimers going 6 ½ furlongs. Note the gelding is looking for his first win since 2018.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-1

RACE 4:

8 AVENIDA MANANA was freshened after the stellar campaign in which she reeled off 4 consecutive turf victories, including the victory after moving to the Bob Hess Jr barn via the claim during April; Paco Lopez rides the 6-time turf winner. **10 LA INCONDICIONAL** is making her first start since drawing clear to defeat \$14,000 '3-lifetime' runners going a mile on the turf. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Edgar Prado named to ride, as Paco moves to the top choice. **9 PAINT THE CORNERS** is going back to the turf after following her hard-fought \$16,000 score on the grass with a stalk-and-fade outing in a race moved from the lawn to the main track.

SELECTIONS: 8-10-9

RACE 5:

1 SIR KAHN is turning back to three-quarters of a mile in the first race since stalking the pace and weakening late when finishing 3rd behind next-out \$75,000 Unbridled Stakes winner Dr Post going 7 furlongs. Trainer Daniel Pita, 6 for 21 (29%) at the meeting, has Miguel Vazquez handling the inside post. **2 LOXODROME** is a \$180,000 son of Liam's Map debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and jockey Victor Lebron named to ride. The tote action should help point us in the right direction.

8 FLATTER ME is debuting locally at 6 furlongs after ending his campaign at Aqueduct with a troubled starting (broke thru gate) 4th – as the favorite – going 7 furlongs in a race that has produced a trio of next-out winners, including Montauk Traffic, who won the \$100,000 J Winkfield in his next start.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-8

RACE 6:

3 VIOLENT TRICK, now in the Todd Pletcher barn, daughter of Violence cuts back to a mile in the first start since finishing 2nd behind repeat winner Royal Flag going a mile and a sixteenth during February; Edgard Zayas rides the winner of 3 of 5 races at the distance.

1 SOLITARY GEM is stretching out to a mile after shipping down from New York to defeat \$32,000 starter allowance runners going 7 furlongs. Trainer Peter Walder as Miguel Vazquez going for 2 in a row. **6 JUDY'S WAY** is dropping to the \$25,000 level after shipping down from Tampa and finishing 2nd in a \$75,000 optional claimer going a mile on a sealed sloppy surface.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-6

RACE 7:

6 IMPERIAL MOMENT is debuting locally for trainer Louie Roussel, and making the first start, since setting the pace and finishing 3rd vs special weight company going a mile on the Fair Grounds turf; Emisael Jaramillo guides the speedy son of American Pharoah.

12 LEADING WEST will depart from the tough outside post, and return to the turf, after breaking from the rail and finishing 2nd – beaten a neck – in a race moved from the grass to a mile on a sealed ‘sloppy’ track. Trainer Mike Maker has Edgard Zayas atop the son of Distorted Humor. **3 CONSTITUTIONAL PAL** should have the screws tightened after returning from the almost 8-month layoff to finish a troubled starting (bumped, steadied) 6th at this level and distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Paco named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-12-3

RACE 8:

8 MAN WITH A PLAN moved to the Jose D’Angelo barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, after returning from the layoff to defeat \$8,000 ‘3-lifetime’ claimers going 6 furlongs in the slop. The new connections keep the status quo with Emisael Jaramillo at the controls.

6 VINCENT WILLIAM will face \$12,500 open-claimers after debuting locally for trainer Larry Rivelli and setting the pace before weakening to finish 3rd vs \$25,000 ‘2-lifetime’ foes going 6 panels in the slop. The 2nd outing over the track can be a winning affair. **4 CAPTAIN DUKE** is stepping up to face winners after stalking early, and drawing clear late, to defeat \$16,000 maidens by 2-plus lengths.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-4

RACE 9:

10 MORNING STRIDE moved to the Murat Sancal barn via the claim, and returns to his best surface (17-4-2-3), after drawing clear on the dirt to defeat this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth; Edgard Zayas rides. **4 DONJI** is going back to the turf after his 2-race win streak on the grass ended when he failed to fire in a \$20,000 claimer moved from the lawn to a mile on a sealed sloppy track. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Paco handling the surface switch. **7 COWBOY CULTURE** moved to the Ed Plesa Jr barn via the claim, and returns to the turf, after finishing 2nd behind Morning Stride when they competed on the dirt last out. Cristian Torres rides the 6-time turf winner.

SELECTIONS: 10-4-7

RACE 10:

7 FLAWLESS MOON is dropping to the \$10,000 level after returning from the layoff to finish a stalk-the-pace 3rd vs \$16,000 ‘2-lifetime’ claimers going 6 furlongs on a ‘good’ track. **6 JUST US**, who showed promise vs better, on both dirt and turf here last summer, drops for trainer Leo Gabriel Jr to figure vs this level of competition.

4 WAR ACT is dropping to this level after facing tougher since breaking his maiden at the \$14,000 level during April. Trainer Antonio Cioffi has Joseph Trejos in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-4

RACE 11: THE COALTOWN

4 DIAMOND OOPS is making his first start since following his hard-fought impressive victory in the 7-furlong Grade 3 Mr Prospector with a 4th place finish in the 9-furlong Grade 1 Pegasus World Cup. Trainer Patrick Biancone has Luca Panici handling the turnback to a mile.

9 MATH WIZARD is returning to his favorite racing surface, and dropping to this level, after failing to fire in both the G1 Breeders’ Cup Classic, and the G3 Razorback Handicap. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has the 4-year-old firing bullets for the homecoming.

8 NOBLE DRAMA is stretching out to his most productive distance (4-3-0-0) after finishing 2nd in the 7-furlong \$100,000 Big Drama last out. Trainer David Fawkes has Joe Bravo in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 4-9-8

RACE 12:

1 JUST KIDDING moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, drops to the \$8,000 level, and stretches out to his best distance, after finishing 4th vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers going 6 furlongs last out.

11 COULD BE drops into this \$8,000 dated-claimer after showing speed and fading when facing \$10,500 claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Carlos David has Samy Camacho in the saddle.

6 SO LONG CHUCK moved to the Sandra Matier barn via the claim, and faces non-winners of a race since December 13 competition, after finishing 2nd in a \$6,250 claimer at the distance. The gelding is spotted perfectly in the nightcap.

SELECTIONS: 1-11-6

BEST BET: RACE 5 – 1 SIR KAHN

LONGSHOT: RACE 12 – 11 COULD BE