



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, March 28, 2020

**RACE 1:**

**5 ZABAVA** is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after tracking the pace and finishing a sharp 2<sup>nd</sup> going a mile and three-sixteenths last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Florent Geroux handling the turnback. **12 ENJOYITWHILEWECAN** is debuting on the turf for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin after returning from the layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a head – in race moved to a sloppy main track. The daughter of Quality Road is bred to love the grass. **7 CODRINGTON** is going back to the grass after following the \$35,000 starter allowance victory on the turf with a narrow defeat vs similar quality going 8 ½ furlongs in the slop.

**SELECTIONS: 5-12-7**

**RACE 2:**

**5 BEAU LUMINAIRE** is cutting back to 7 furlongs after the head-swirling maiden victory at a mile in which he drew clear to win by 7 widening lengths. **6 TRAVELING MIDAS** is stretching out to seven-eighths after the valiant 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish behind much-the-best winner Soldaro in a \$25,000 optional claimer contested at 6 furlongs. **11 TOP SEED** is stepping up to face winners after edging away to break his maiden going 6 furlongs. Trainer Shug McGaughey has the son of Orb firing bullets for this assignment.

**SELECTIONS: 5-6-11**

**RACE 3:**

**3 LARGENT** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth again after following his impressive maiden score at the distance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish – beaten a head – going a mile last out. Leading trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez at the controls. **8 UNLEVERAGED** is cutting back to 8 ½ furlongs after ending his 2019 campaign with consecutive defeats – as the odds-on choice – going 10 and 8 furlongs, respectively. Trainer Chad Brown, 27% with this type of layoff, has Javier Castellano named to ride. **5 TEMPLE** is a late-striding type who should get the pace needed to compliment his patient running style. Trainer Mike Maker has strong finisher Tyler Gaffalione at the controls.

**SELECTIONS: 3-8-5**

**RACE 4: THE CUTLER BAY**

**6 VITALOGY (GB)** is turning back to a mile after the hard-fought victory in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 3 Palm Beach in which he broke from Post 11, stalked early, and held on gamely.

**10 DECORATED INVADER**, a Grade 1 winner in Canada as a 2-year-old, makes his first start since finishing a 5-wide 4<sup>th</sup> in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has Joel Rosario named on the classy son of Declaration of War. **3 GET SMOKIN** is hoping to stretch his speed to the wire after setting the pace and getting beat a neck, by repeat stakes winner Field Pass, in the \$100,000 Dania Beach.

**SELECTIONS: 6-10-3**

**RACE 5:**

**3 NETWORK EFFECT** is returning to the allowance optional claiming ranks after taking the overland route and never getting untracked in the Grade 1 Cigar Mile. Trainer Chad Brown has Javier Castellano atop the multiple graded stakes-placed 4-year-old. **5 CHEWING GUM** is another getting some class relief after returning from a 2-month layoff to finish a late-running 4<sup>th</sup> in the Grade 3 Fred Hooper. Trainer Bill Mott has the son of Candy Ride working up a storm at Payson Park. **11 ALMASHRIQ**, a \$1.2 million-dollar son of War Front, must be respected on his ability to set or stalk the pace in a race where the main players doing the best running from 'off the pace'.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-11**

**RACE 6: THE HAL'S HOPE (G3)**

**11 PROMPT** is stretching out to his most accomplished distance (4-3-0-0) after returning from the extended layoff to finish a distant 3<sup>rd</sup> behind classy Trophy Chaser in the mile and a sixteenth G3 Challenger at Tampa. Trainer Bill Mott has Edgar Zayas atop the 9-furlong specialist. **9 REALM**, a stakes winner at the distance, stretches out in the first start since finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the 8 ½-furlong Harlan's Holiday. Trainer Barclay Tagg has Paco Lopez named to ride.

**6 AMERICAN TATTOO (ARG)**, who is Grade 2 stakes-placed on the dirt, is going back to the main track after showing little on the turf in the 12-furlong Grade 3 McKnight. Trainer Todd Pletcher is 29% with the turf-to-dirt angle.

**SELECTIONS: 11-9-6**

**RACE 7: THE SANIBEL ISLAND**

**8 SHE'S MY TYPE (FR)** is hoping for a clean trip after getting bogged down in traffic when finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the Grade 3 Sweetest Chant. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **5 CHEERMEISTER**, who defeated She's my Type in the Sweetest Chant, turns back to a mile after posting her 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive stakes victory when she wired the field in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 3 Herecomesthebride. She's definitely the one to fear.

**7 WALK IN MARRAKESH (IRE)** is debuting locally after a sharp performance in which she stalked the pace and was beaten a head when 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Grade 3 Fla Oaks at Tampa. The Grade 1 stakes-placed sophomore should sit the 'trip' while stalking the speed.

**SELECTIONS: 8-5-7**

**RACE 8: THE SHACKLETON**

**8 VERKOMA** is making his 4-year-old debut after ending what was up until the Kentucky Derby a solid campaign with victories in the G3 Nashua and G2 Bluegrass, and a 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish in the G2 Fountain of Youth. Trainer George Weaver has the son of Candy Ride training forwardly for the return. **3 LAST JUDGEMENT** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after returning from the layoff to defeat \$62,500 optional claimers going three-quarters of a mile. The \$300,000 son of Congrats will get a class check today. **7 JACKSON** is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile (5-2-1-1) after dueling throughout and holding on to win the 6-furlong G3 World of Trouble Sprint; don't ignore.

**SELECTIONS: 8-3-7**

**RACE 9: THE SAND SPRINGS**

**5 NEWSPAPEROFRECORD (IRE)**, the 2018 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf winner, is kicking off her 4-year-old campaign after the inconsistent sophomore season in which she finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in consecutive Grade 3 stakes before the coming up empty in the 10-furlong G1 Belmont Oaks. Trainer Chad Brown has her working sharply for the return. **10 JAKARTA** is stretching out to a mile for the first time after the impressive victory going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Mike Maker will have the speedy mare trying to steal it up front.

**2 ZOFELLE (IRE)**, who likes to come from the clouds with her late move, can end up sitting in the catbird seat behind the hot pace expected.

**SELECTIONS: 5-10-2**

**RACE 10: THE ORCHID (G3)**

**6 MEAN MARY** is turning back to 11 furlongs after proving her impressive allowance victories weren't a fluke when she drew clear to win the 12-furlong G3 La Prevoyante by 5 widening lengths. Trainer Graham Motion has Luis Saez returning on the lightly raced daughter of Scat Daddy.

**5 GENTLE RULER**, 3-2-0-1 at 11 furlongs, turns back after ending her 2019 campaign with consecutive stakes victories, including the 12-furlong G3 Dowager at Keeneland.

**12 ELIZABETH WAY (IRE)** has been a force to reckon with since arriving here from Ireland. She followed her maiden victory with a driving score in the G3 The Very One. Trainer Roger Attfield has Paco going for 3 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-12**

**RACE 11: THE GULFSTREAM PARK OAKS (G2)**

**9 TONALIST'S SHAPE** is making her first journey around 2-turns after notching her 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive stakes victory when she won the 1-mile G2 Davona Dale.

Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler in the irons.

**5 SPICE IS NICE** will try to turn the tables on the top choice at 8 ½ furlongs after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> to her going a 1-turn mile in the Davona Dale, which was only her 2<sup>nd</sup> lifetime start. Expect continued improvement for the Pletcher/Castellano collaboration. **6 SWISS SKYDIVER** can end up landing in an ideal spot, stalking what should be a solid early pace. Trainer Ken McPeck has Paco named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 9-5-6**

**RACE 12: THE KITTEN'S JOY PAN AMERICAN (G2)**

**9 ZULU ALPHA** is stretching out to 12 furlongs (8-3-1-1) after adding to his horse-for-course status when he followed his victory in the G1 Pegasus World Cup with a win in the 11-furlong G2 Mac Diarmida. Trainer Mike Maker has Tyler going for 3 in a row. **10 FOCUS GROUP**, the defending champ in the Pan Am, returned from a similar layoff to win this race last year while in the Chad Brown barn. New trainer Christophe Clement will try to do the same with Luis Saez up. **2 BEMMA'S BOY**, another from Mike Maker, is debuting locally after the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 12-furlong G3 Conolly at Houston. Florent Geroux adds to the appeal.

**SELECTIONS: 9-10-2**

**RACE 13: THE APPLETON (G3)**

**12 EL TORMENTA**, who was impressive winning the G1 Woodbine Mile, is making his first start since stalking the pace and finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the G1 Breeders' Cup Mile. The gelding, working well at Payson for trainer Gail Cox, can flaunt his class at a price. **10 SOMBEYAY** will try to make it 2 in a row after rallying to win the G3 Canadian Turf here with a perfectly timed move. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez up. **1 ENGLISH BEE**, who was flying late when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Canadian Turf, should see the same pace scenario that almost landed him in the winner's circle last out. Trainer Graham Motion has Manny Franco atop the mile specialist.

**SELECTIONS: 12-10-1**

**RACE 14: THE CURLIN FLORIDA DERBY (G1)**

**7 TIZ THE LAW** is stretching out to 9 furlongs after drawing clear with authority to win the mile and a sixteenth G3 Holy Bull. Trainer Barclay Tagg has Manny Franco returning on the one to beat. **12 ETE INDIEN** will need another Barbaro-like performance when he breaks from Post 12 after breaking from the outside and winning the mile and a sixteenth G2 Fountain of Youth in front running fashion.

**5 GOUVERNEUR MORRIS**, who is bred to love this 9-furlong distance, will get his first serious class check when shipping in off his victory going a mile & 40-yards at Tampa. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Hall of Fame jock John Velazquez up.

**SELECTIONS: 7-12-5**

**BEST BET: RACE 12 – 9 ZULU ALPHA**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 13 – 12 EL TORMENTA**