



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

**Saturday, May 23, 2020**

**RACE 1:**

**2 CARDIAC KID** lived up to his name when he looked like the winner before getting nailed at the wire when dropping to this level and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> last out.

**5 LIMETINI** will be outfitted with blinkers after responding to the dropdown in competition with a duel-for-the-lead-and-weaken 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Cardiac Kid last out. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Miguel Vazquez handling the rematch. **10 BUDGET BUSTER** is dropping a notch on the maiden scale after 'hitting the board' in 2 of 3 recent turf outings at the \$32,000 level.

**SELECTIONS: 2-5-10**

**RACE 2:**

**10 VOICESINTHEDARKNEZ**, now in the Brian Lynch barn, the gelding drops to the bottom after setting the early pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the distance, vs \$12,500 maidens; Joe Bravo rides. **2 MACHO D'ORO** is wheeling back after responding to both the dropdown in competition, and the surface switch, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish, in front of the top choice – at 53-1 – last out.

**3 MONEY HOUSE** is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after returning from the 6-month layoff to finish a rallying 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 maidens going three-quarters of a mile.

**SELECTIONS: 10-2-3**

**RACE 3:**

**6 LET'S BE HONEST** is turning back to a sprint distance after pressing the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$40,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile in a race moved from turf to a sealed sloppy track. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Miguel Vazquez up.

**5 WELL BRUSH MYTOOTH**, now in the John Servis barn, the sophomore is dropping to the claiming ranks after facing considerably tougher up north during her Fall and Winter campaign; Emisael Jaramillo rides.

**4 SMITTEN FOR SMITTY** is dropping to the level where she broke her maiden after failing to handle the jump up to the \$50,000 starter optional claiming level last out.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-4**

**RACE 4:**

**10 WITCH HUNTER** moved to the Victor Barboza Jr barn via the claim, and drops a notch to the \$10,000 level, after rallying to come within a neck of the defeating \$12,500 maidens at this 1-mile distance; Edgard Zayas rides. **1 CRYSTALINA** will depart from the rail after surrendering a mid-race lead to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> – at the distance – vs \$12,500 maidens. Trainer Amador Sanchez has Hector Berrios handling the inside draw. **2 UPSY DAISY DO** was solid in defeat when she broke from the rail, stalked the pace, got the lead, and then settled for 2<sup>nd</sup> – at odds of 21-1 – last out. Trainer Ralph Catanese has Cristian Torres in the saddle again.

**SELECTIONS: 10-1-2**

**RACE 5:**

**8 PROJECTED**, now in the Steve Klesaris barn, the gelding drops to the \$12,500 level after responding to a dropdown in competition with a sharp victory vs \$16,000 claimers going a mile on the Tampa turf; Emisael Jaramillo rides. **9 THE MIGHTY JUDGE** is stepping up, and stretching out, after making a sharp 4-wide move to defeat \$12,500 '3-lifetime' claimers going a mile on a 'good' turf. Trainer Jane Cibelli is 18% winning consecutive races. **4 HOT AND HEAVY** is dropping to this level after facing some tough \$16,000 open-claimers during the Championship Meet, including that solid 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish vs \$16,000 claimers here on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

**SELECTIONS: 8-9-4**

**RACE 6:**

**8 IMA PHAROAH**, a half-brother to multiple Grade 1 winner Mor Spirit, is wheeling back after losing a heartbreaker when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – at this level and distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Joe Bravo named to ride. **2 WAR DETONATOR** should be ready to fire a winning salvo after returning from the extended layoff to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind Ima Pharoah last out. Trainer Christophe Clement has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

**3 CURLINGO**, a \$900,000 son of Curlin, and a full-brother to multiple Grade 1 winner Curalina, debuts for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and the breeding needed to be something special; Miguel Vazquez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 8-2-3**

**RACE 7:**

**3 JADES GELLY**, a reclaim by trainer Wesley Ward, is making her first start since defeating \$50,000 maidens – at the distance – on January 17. The new/old connections remove the blinkers when she faces the boys for the first time. **7 MIAMI CROCKETT** will try to make it 3 in a row after proving he could be successful at this level when he followed his \$25,000 optional claiming score with a victory at this level and distance. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Emisael Jaramillo atop the one to fear. **6 REMASTER (IRE)** moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via the claim, and steps up the competition with blinkers added, after rallying to come within a neck of defeating \$25,000 starter optional claimers at the distance. The barn, 21% with new claims, has Samy Camacho named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 3-7-6**

**RACE 8:**

**1 VERDICT IS IN** moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via the claim, and drops into this conditioned claimer, after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$16,000 open claimers going a mile last out. The new connections have Miguel Vazquez handling the inside post. **10 SIR SEAMUS** is dropping to the \$12,500 level after following his front running score vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers - 2 starts back - with a stalk-and-fade outing – as the favorite – vs \$20,000 '3-lifetime' claimers. Trainer Carlos David has Emisael Jaramillo handling the rebound performance. **6 MYSTICAL MOON** moved to the Victor Barboza Jr barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth, after dueling throughout and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs this level of competition going a mile; Edgard Zayas rides.

**SELECTIONS: 1-10-6**

**RACE 9:**

**5 MY FRIEND FLAVIN** is returning to his most productive racing venue (8-3-3-1) after facing tougher at the Fair Grounds in his 3-race winter campaign. Note that the Leo Gabriel Jr trainee returned from a similar layoff here last year and defeated \$25,000 conditioned claimers.

**7 FRONT LOADED**, a 6-time local winner, faces dated claimers after coming within a scant nose of notching his first victory since last August vs \$35,000 claimers last out. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Edgard Zayas named to ride. **1 MALIBU MAX**, now in the Todd Pletcher barn, drops to the \$35,000 level, and stretches out to 7 furlongs, hoping the recent karma changes help produce his first victory since 2018; Victor Lebron rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-1**

**RACE 10:**

**3 MAI TY ONE ON** is cutting back to 5 furlongs after following his 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the Turf Dash at Tampa with a troubled trip (steadied sharply) in a \$100,000 optional claimer going a mile last out, a race that produced next-out stake winner Halladay, and next-out winner Kroy.

The question is simple? If **9 PAY ANY PRICE** returns to form after the clunker in the Turf Dash, he defeats this field in handy fashion. His local record speaks for itself (22-15-2-2). **5 COOP TRIES HARDER** is making the usually fruitful 3<sup>rd</sup> start back from the layoff after chasing the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a neck – at this level and distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Miguel Vazquez up.

**SELECTIONS: 3-9-5**

**RACE 11:**

**9 YOLANDA'S PRIDE** is dropping a notch after the game performance vs state-bred competition when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a neck – vs \$20,000 optional claimers. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Edgard Zayas in the saddle. **3 GHOSTLY BEAUTY** has been knocking on the door in a trio of races vs this caliber of competition, and figures to be right there at the wire again. Trainer Mike Maker has Joe Bravo atop the hard-trying 4-year-old. **4 SUN SUMMERS** has been training consistently on the Palm Meadows turf in preparation for the first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$50,000 starter allowance runners going a mile and a sixteenth on the Belmont turf last June. The tote action should tell us more.

**SELECTIONS: 9-3-4**

**BEST BET: RACE 8 – 1 VERDICT IS IN**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 5 MY FRIEND FLAVIN**