



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Sunday, April 26, 2020

RACE 1:

8 NEW YORK'S FINEST was freshened after following his victory at this level during January with a stalk-the-pace 4th behind 5-furlong turf specialist Tiger Blood in a \$16,000 starter allowance on February 2nd.

7 I'M CARDINAL, who is 7-2-3-0 over the course, returns after stalking solid early fractions and finishing 3rd in a pair of optional claiming sprints at Tampa. The Georgina Baxter trainee will be on the engine playing 'catch me if you can'. **3 OAK BLUFFS** is dropping to this level after returning from the 2-month freshening to finish a troubled starting 5th behind Tiger Blood in a \$25,000 starter optional claimer last out. Trainer Mary Eppler has Marcos Meneses looking to sit in the catbird seat behind the speed.

SELECTIONS: 8-7-3

RACE 2:

6 BROTHER AARON has his claiming tag cut in half after dueling for the lead and fading when facing \$50,000 maidens – as the favorite – here during January. Trainer Dale Romans has the colt working sharply, and tabs Luis Saez to ride. **3 ISLAND SONG** is going back to the main track after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd behind repeat winner Ohanzee in a \$25,000 maiden sprint going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Tyler Gaffalione handling the surface switch. **7 EL PILLO** moves to the Steve Klesaris barn via the claim, tries sprinting on the dirt, and lures the services of Irad Ortiz Jr, in the first race since facing \$25,000 maidens going a mile on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-7

RACE 3:

6 TOONIE LOONIE may have found the spot when she can stretch her speed to the wire after the series of duel and weaken sprints at this \$12,500 level. Trainer John Vinson has strong finisher Miguel Vazquez named to ride.

5 AZNAVOUR gets the blinkers removed hoping the equipment changes helps spark a wakeup call vs a field that conjures up more questions than answers.

7 SOCIALLY ASTRAY is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after rallying to finish 4th vs similar quality going 5 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-7

RACE 4:

2 BROADWAY PEGGY was parked wide and still managed to make a solid late run to finish 2nd – at 32-1 – vs similar last out. He's worth a flyer at big balloons.

6 HOLLY HILL is stepping up to the next logical level after kicking it into overdrive and defeating \$16,000 maidens at the distance. Trainer Shamir Maragh has Edgard Zayas going for 2 in a row. **10 BELLADONNIA** is dropping into this 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' sprint after returning from the extended layoff to duel for the lead and fade vs \$20,000 state-bred optional claimers. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Irad Ortiz Jr ratioging her speed.

12 MADAME BARRISTER is dropping a notch on the claiming scale after running erratically through the stretch when finishing 4th vs \$20,000 '2-lifetime' foes. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Chris Landeros handling the outside post.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-10-12

RACE 5:

7 STARSHIP VOYAGER was solid in her career debut when she dueled throughout and finished 2nd – beaten a length – at this level and distance. Trainer Steve Dwoskin has Miguel Vazquez in the saddle. **6 JEANA'S GEM** is going back to sprinting on the main track after following her 2nd place finish at this distance 2 starts back with a 3rd place finish going a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer David Fawkes readied the 5-year-old daughter of Big Drama for the surface switch with a bullet half-mile drill in :48 flat.

10 SMOOTH AS GLASS is a daughter of Fort Loudon, and a half-sister to Grade 3 Gulfstream Park Sprint winner C Zee, debuting for trainer Ralph Nicks with Lasix, and Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-10

RACE 6:

7 AZRAEL is stepping up to face winners after returning from the 8-month layoff to break his maiden here going a mile. Trainer Chad Brown, 31% winning consecutive races, has Luis Saez returning on the \$350,000 son of Cross Traffic. **1 WILD MEDAGLIAD'ORO** is making his first start since defeating a trio of next-out winners in a fruitful maiden special weight race going a mile and a sixteenth on the Belmont turf last May. He has speed, the rail, and Tyler Gaffalione handling the inside post.

4 RHYTHMIA, who does his best running from a stalking position, returns to action for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr looking to sit in the catbird seat behind what should be a strong early pace scenario; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-4**RACE 7:**

1 BEYOND GONE, who defeated this familiar competition at this level and distance, on the dirt, 2 starts back, is returning to the main track after chasing the pace and fading to finish 5th vs \$50,000 starter optional claimers going 5 panels on the turf. Trainer Ken McPeck has Luis Saez handling the surface switch.

7 TRAVELIN GAMBLER is eligible to take a positive step forward after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd behind Beyond Gone when they hooked up at this level on April 3rd. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr has Edgard Zayas named to ride.

8 AIN'T WASTING TIME will depart from the outside after breaking from the rail and dueling throughout before settling for 3rd behind the top two. Trainer Guadalupe Preciado has Irad Ortiz Jr trying to reverse the previous outcome.

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

6 SNEER is turning back to 7 furlongs after responding to the surface switch from the turf at Tampa with a duel-for-the-lead 2nd – beaten a half-length - going a 1-turn mile here last out. Trainer Christophe Clement has Luis Saez named to ride. **2 YOU'RE THE BEST** is stretching out an additional half-furlong after rallying to finish 3rd behind impressive repeat winner Boerne going 6 ½ furlongs in what is shaping up to be a solid 'key' race that has already produced a trio of next-out winners. **8 FUNNY FEELING** is going back to the main track, and stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile, after showing promise on both dirt and turf, going 5 furlongs during December & January. Trainer Mark Casse has the \$875,000 daughter of American Pharoah training sharply for the return; Irad rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-8**RACE 9:**

11 BOURBON IN MAY is freefalling to the \$12,500 level after 'hitting the board' in 2 of 3 allowance races on the turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez atop the \$160,000 son of More Than Ready.

12 MORNING STRIDE moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and debuts locally, after ending his campaign in the Crescent City with a 3rd place finish vs \$20,000 claimers going a mile on the Fair Grounds turf; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **1 PROJECTED (GB)** is another dropping to the \$12,500 level after having no where to run when boxed in – as the favorite – in a \$30,000 claimer going a mile. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Tyler Gaffalione handling the 2nd consecutive start from the rail.

SELECTIONS: 11-12-1**RACE 10:**

8 TOMATO BILL, who was 2nd on the dirt in the Grade 3 Sanford at Saratoga last July, makes his first start failing to fire behind next-out Grade 2 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint winner Four Wheel Drive in the Grade 3 Futurity going 6 furlongs on the Belmont turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has Luis Saez atop the \$500,000 son of More Than Ready. **4 MILES AHEAD** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after his 2-race win streak ended when he raced 5-wide and failed to connection in a \$75,000 optional claimer going a 1-turn mile.

7 OURNATIONONPARADE, 1 of 2 entered by trainer Kathy Ritvo, who was 2nd in the 6-furlong \$100,000 Hutcheson 2 starts ago, turns back after the set-the-pace and fade outing vs \$75,000 going a mile; Luca Panici rides.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-7**RACE 11:**

10 QUEEN'SPLATE NOLAN is dropping to the \$16,000 level after failing to show much in back-to-back turf outings under maiden special weight conditions. Trainer Mike Maker, 30% with similar class drops, has Irad named to ride. **5 JACK BEANSTALK** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after setting the pace and finishing 4th – vs \$12,500 maidens going a mile. He can get brave on the front end, especially with Luis Saez at the controls.

9 INCONVEYANCE is dropping to this level after returning from the layoff to make a middle move and weaken to finish 9th vs \$40,000 maidens. Trainer Patrick Biancone has Luca Panici handling the dropdown.

SELECTIONS: 10-5-9**BEST BET: RACE 10 – 8 TOMATO BILL****LONGSHOT: RACE 4 – 2 BROADWAY PEGGY**