



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Sunday, December 22, 2019

RACE 1:

1 MYFIRSTXWIFE should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the layoff, making a middle move, and finishing 5th in her local debut for trainer Jorge Abreu. The half-sister to G1 stakes-placed Home Run Kitten gets blinkers for this assignment. **3 PHILLY SPECIAL** is a \$300,000 daughter of Blame debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and Luis Saez named to ride. The freshman is bred to love both the surface and the distance.

11 TIME FOR FUN is eligible to take a step forward after a solid outing on the turf in which she set a pressured pace and weakened late to finish 3rd at 46-1.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-11

RACE 2:

3 MR DAVE is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after the solid 6 ½-furlong debut during September in which he set the pace and finished 2nd – beaten a half-length. **5 FEARLESS** is a \$725,000 son of Ghostzapper debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and 12 Palm Beach Downs workouts showing in preparation for this long-awaited assignment.

1 ISLAND BOY, who was 2nd here going 7 furlongs last March, returns, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile with blinkers added, after tracking the pace and tiring when trying a mile in his Churchill finale.

SELECTIONS: 3-5-1

RACE 3:

8 MORELIKELYTHANNOT is making her local return after ending her campaign in New York with a 3rd place finish vs 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' competition going a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Chad Brown has Irad Ortiz Jr named on the \$150,000 daughter of Scat Daddy. **4 AUGUSTA MOON** moved to the Linda Rice barn via the claim, and debuts locally, after setting the pace and weakening to finish 4th behind the top choice when they hooked up at this level and distance at the Big A last out; Edgar Prado rides.

5 TAKE CHARGE TINA will try this caliber of opposition locally after setting a pressured pace and fading at the 16th pole to finish 6th vs \$50,000 starter allowance runners going a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-5

RACE 4:

3 EMPIRE POWER is stretching out to a mile after rallying to finish 2nd behind hard-knocking Royal Squeeze in the 7-furlong Claiming Crown Rapid Transit. Trainer Antonio Sano has Irad atop the 2-time winner at the distance. **4 LIL COMMISSIONER** is debuting locally after highlighting his versatility when he followed his open-length victory on the Delaware turf with a 6-length score vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers going a mile on a muddy GP West main track. **5 WINKING AT THE DUDE** is shortening up to a 1-turn mile after rallying to finish 2nd when facing similar quality going a mile & 70 yards at GP West.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-5

RACE 5:

7 QUEEN OF SHADES is debuting locally for trainer Jason Servis after a solid sprint campaign on the turf up north, which includes the 2nd place finish behind multiple stakes-placed Miss J McKay in the \$100,000 Anne Arundel County Stakes; Irad Ortiz rides.

2 SONG RIVER is turning back to 5 furlongs (2-1-0-1) after setting the pace and finishing 3rd in the 1-mile \$75,000 Juvenile Fillies Turf at GP West. Trainer Mark Casse has Julien Leparoux named to ride. **6 AKOR** is stepping up to face winners after the successful debut at Indiana Grand in which she drew clear to defeat maiden special weight foes by almost 5 lengths. Trainer Cherie DeVaux has Luis Saez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-6

RACE 6:

3 MS. MALEVOLENCE is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile with blinkers added after rallying to finish 4th in her local debut going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer David Fawkes has Irad Ortiz Jr atop the daughter of Violence. **5 AUNT NADINE** is making her 2nd start after the solid debut at GP West in which she rallied 3-wide to finish 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Jorge Navarro is 28% with maidens making their 2nd start.

12 BITE THE STARS, a half-sister to \$1.2 million earner Stanford, will be outfitted with blinkers after chasing the pace and weakening in her career debut here going 5 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 3-5-12**RACE 7:**

4 SISTER HANAN is debuting locally at a mile and a sixteenth after the promising 1-mile turf debut at Churchill in which she rallied to finish a well-meant 2nd. Trainer Ben Colebrook has Joe Bravo atop the daughter of Orb. **8 LADY ROSALIE (IRE)** is another trying 8 ½ furlongs locally after ending her campaign in Kentucky with a troubled (blocked, altered course) 4th going a mile on a softened turf listed as good. Trainer Rodolphe Brisset has Luis Saez in the saddle.

6 PERFECT VIEW is hoping to see herself clear on the front end when she turns back to a mile and a sixteenth after setting the pace and fading when facing special weight company going 9 furlongs on the Keeneland turf. Trainer Jorge Abreu has apprentice Cristian Torres in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-6**RACE 8:**

7 TANGIBLE is making his local return after a pair of sharp efforts across town in which he followed his \$10,000 '2-lifetime' victory going 7 furlongs with a tough neck defeat when 2nd at this level and distance in his last. **1 GENERAL OBVIOUS** should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from an extended layoff to finish 4th here at this level and distance. Trainer Juan Alvarado has Tony Maragh handling the inside post. **2 FALSE ACCUSATION** is hoping to find a little more firepower for the stretch drive after rallying wide to finish 3rd at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-2**RACE 9:**

12 ASPEN SUMMER is turning back to a mile and an eighth after rallying in the stretch to finish 2nd – as the tepid favorite – when going 11 furlongs on the Churchill turf. Trainer Bill Mott has Rajiv Maragh handling the outside draw.

5 MEAN MARY is debuting locally, and stretching out to 9 furlongs, after following her wire-to-wire score going a mile and a sixteenth on the Keeneland turf with a duel-for-lead 2nd – as the favorite – going a mile on the Aqueduct turf. The daughter of Scat Daddy should respond favorably to the added distance.

1 UNA LUNA is stretching out to 9 furlongs after the pair of sharp efforts going shorter in which she was 2nd in the 7 ½-furlong Million's Turf Preview 2 starts back, and 2nd in the mile and a sixteenth Claiming Crown Tiara in her last.

SELECTIONS: 12-5-1**RACE 10:**

6 BOURBON WAR is dropping into the optional claiming ranks on the main track after 'hitting the board' in 1 of 3 stakes on the turf. The son of Tapit, who was 2nd to Code of Honor in the G2 Fountain of Youth here last year, has Luis Saez named to ride.

8 GREEN MANSIONS is wheeling back after rallying 5-wide to finish 2nd – beaten a half-length – at this level and distance last out. Trainer Stanley Gold has Jairo Rendon named to ride. **7 SCARS ARE COOL** is turning back to this 1-turn mile after the pair of solid outings going longer at Churchill in which he defeated entry-level allowance runners going 9 furlongs in the slop, and was 4th vs this level of opposition going a mile and a sixteenth last out.

SELECTIONS: 6-8-7**RACE 11:**

4 ALGODONAL is stepping up to the next level after following her \$20,000 maiden victory on the GP West turf with a 'much the best' score here vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. Trainer Jose D'Angelo has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **6 ENLISTING** is dropping into a competitive situation after failing to fire in back to back \$75,000 stakes. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has Nik Juarez handling the class relief. **1 SAMIS CAR**, who has shown speed on this turf course in the past, is shifting back to the grass after ending her summer campaign in the Windy City with a front running '2-lifetime' victory on the Arlington main track. Trainer Cheryl Winebaugh has Edgar Prado handling in the inside speed.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-1**BEST BET: RACE 5 – 7 QUEEN OF SHADES****LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 12 ASPEN SUMMER**