



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Sunday, December 29, 2019

## RACE 1:

**12 STUNTING** will depart from the outside after breaking from Post 10, dueling for the lead, and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> when facing special weight competition in her 6-furlong debut on the Aqueduct turf. She'll be a major part of the pace when stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth. **9 MORE GOOD TIMES** is a regally bred daughter of More Than Ready debuting for trainer Jorge Abreu with Lasix, and a solid morning work tab showing; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **1 TRAPEZIUM** is a daughter of Hard Spun debuting for trainer Bill Mott with Edgard Zayas handling the inside draw. She's bred to relish both the surface and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 12-9-1**

## RACE 2:

**2 GEONOSIS** is making his local return vs 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimers after returning from a layoff at GP West to finish 6<sup>th</sup> vs a solid group of \$25,000 optional claimers at the distance. Trainer Antonio Sano has Jose Ortiz in the irons.

**6 LOUIE'S KINGDOM** is debuting locally vs winners in the first start since using his speed to defeat maiden special weight competition going 6 furlongs on the Hawthorne main track; Irad Ortiz Jr rides for trainer Larry Rivelli. **3 TUNE IN**, now in the Jorge Navarro barn, the sophomore moves to the main track after the so-so 2-race campaign on the turf. Note the barn is 33% with the grass-to-dirt angle.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-3**

## RACE 3:

**5 GUFO** is a son of Declaration of War, and a half-brother to \$1.3 million earner Hogy, making his local debut for trainer Christophe Clement after unleashing a promising 4-wide bid to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in his career debut on the Aqueduct turf. **9 SCANNO** is debuting locally after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in front of Gufo when they competed going a mile and a sixteenth on the Big A turf. Trainer Tom Albertrani has Edgard Zayas handling the rematch.

**4 UNCLE FESTER** is a son of Liam's Map, and half-brother to 10-time turf winning millionaire Morticia, debuting for trainer Rusty Arnold with the breeding needed to be a superstar on the lawn.

**SELECTIONS: 5-9-4**

## RACE 4:

**7 GRAN CAUSEWAY** is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile (1-1-0-0) after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a head – in his local return at 6 furlongs.

**4 SNORING BARTH** is dropping a notch, and moving to the main track, after returning from a 6-month layoff to duel for the lead and finish 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$10,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf.

**3 COWBOY BOB** is turning back to 7 furlongs with blinkers added after showing some early interest and fading vs similar going a mile & 70 yards across town.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-3**

## RACE 5:

**9 TILL THE END** is hoping the current win streak never ends after following a dated-claiming score on the GP West turf with a victory here at this level and distance. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Cristian Torres in the saddle. **2 FLOWMOTION** should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from up north to duel for the lead and finish 4<sup>th</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Paco Lopez named on the 3-time local winner (10-3-1-3). **5 REFLECTED STAR** is another who has license to improve after returning from a 17-month layoff to finish a late-closing 5<sup>th</sup> behind the top choice. Trainer Robert Falcone Jr has Nik Juarez in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 9-2-5**

**RACE 6:**

**5 FRANK FIRST** is dropping to the \$50,000 level after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> to next-out Buffalo Man Stakes winner Shivaree in a 7-furlong special weight sprint. Trainer Ron Spatz has Paco handling the stretchout to a mile. **9 EMBRACE MY UNCLE** will try the Gulfstream main track at a mile after showing promise in a pair of sprints on the Tapeta surface at Woodbine. Trainer Nick Gonzalez has Cristian Torres handling the local bow. **7 AT THE BEACH** is stepping up the competition after pressing the pace, reaching the lead, and getting beat a neck at the distance – as the favorite – vs \$12,500 maidens; cheap, maybe?

**SELECTIONS: 5-9-7****RACE 7:**

**9 CAPTAIN FLINT** is stepping up to face winners after responding to both a surface switch, and the stretchout around 2-turns, with a front-running 12-length maiden victory going a mile on the GP West turf. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Emisael Jaramillo going for 2 in a row.

**11 VINTAGE KITTEN** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> when facing \$35,000 starter optional claimers going 7 ½ furlongs across town. The Mike Maker/Irad Ortiz Jr collaboration will be there to reap the spoils if the top choice fails to handle the class hike. **10 KEEPSAKEKITTEN** is stepping up the competition after returning from the layoff to defeat \$20,000 maidens going a mile on the GP West grass.

**SELECTIONS: 9-11-10****RACE 8:**

**1 FRANK ALONE** is stretching out to a mile for the first time after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> here when facing similar competition going 6 furlongs. Trainer Ron Spatz has Jairo Rendon handling the added distance.

**6 AMEN ALLEY** has been training consistently on the farm for trainer Mark Casse in preparation for his first start since November 2018. The tote action should tell us more about his chances to compete after the long vacation. **7 STARSHIP ARAMIS**, who won his only previous race on the dirt, is shifting back to the main track after facing better on the turf.

**SELECTIONS: 1-6-7****RACE 9:**

**5 ZAP DADDY** moved to the Ruben Gracida barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile, after defeating \$35,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going 6 furlongs on the Belmont turf. The new connections tab Irad Ortiz Jr to guide the gelded son of Scat Daddy.

**11 SOUPER JAGUAR** is making his first start since showing speed and getting nailed late in back-to-back turf routes here during September. Trainer Mark Casse has John Velazquez handling the turnback to a mile.

**4 UNLOCKTHEPOTENTIAL** was visually solid in defeat when he rallied wide to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> - in front of next-out winner My Point Exactly – at this level and distance last out. He's worth a flyer at a price.

**SELECTIONS: 5-11-4****RACE 10:**

**2 KILLA DEE**, who broke his maiden here for \$35,000 in July; the West Virginia-bred returns after facing stakes-caliber state-bred competition at Charles Town. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Wilmer Galviz named to ride. **3 KRAMMY BOY** is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after consecutive 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes going a mile. Trainer Peter Walder has Tyler Gaffalione handling the turnback. **7 SIGHTED** is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after making a move to get the lead before tiring to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 2-3-7****RACE 11:**

**10 SHAHKAAR**, who showed good speed when racing around 2-turns on the turf here last season, is stretching to a mile and a sixteenth after coming up empty in his 2-race sprint campaign at Monmouth during August. He should be part of the pace with Paco at the controls. **11 SPINNING KITTEN** has his claiming tag cut in half after tracking the pace and finishing 6<sup>th</sup> vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Danny Gargan has Tyler handling the dropdown.

**2 UNLIMITED DATA** is a late-striding type who has run well enough in his past 2 turf outings to merit serious consideration on the ticket. The faster they go up front the better for this son of Data Link.

**SELECTIONS: 10-11-2****BEST BET: RACE 7 – 9 CAPTAIN FLINT****LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 10 SHAHKAAR**