



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Sunday, February 16, 2020

## RACE 1:

**9 UNION MAIDEN** is a \$425,000 daughter of Union Rags debuting for trainer Chad Brown with a series of sharp workouts showing at the Palm Meadows training facility; Javier Castellano rides. **3 BE PRESENT** is a \$400,000 daughter of Bernardini debuting for trainer Jorge Duarte Jr with a string of fast workouts showing a Palm Meadows. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Luis Saez at the controls. **6 REMANDED** is a daughter of Elusive Quality debuting for trainer Cherie DeVaux with a string of bullet workouts showing over the stamina enhancing Payson Park training track, Tyler Gaffalione rides.

**SELECTIONS: 9-3-6**

## RACE 2:

**4 GAMBIT** may have finally found the level and distance where he can get the elusive maiden victory after setting the pace and getting beat a head when 2<sup>nd</sup> going a mile last out. **1 VINESTONE** will depart from the rail after stalking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Gambit last out. Trainer Joe Catanese has Rajiv Maragh atop the gelded son of Grindstone. **7 TITERE** is wheeling back after responding to the stretchout in distance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-7**

## RACE 3:

**6 FRENCHMEN STREET** is dropping to the \$40,000 level after his 2-race win streak ended when he finished 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$62,500 optional claimers here on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 30% with this type of layoff. **2 END PLAY** is making his local return after ending his sprint campaign in New York with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish – beaten a nose – going 6 furlongs vs \$62,500 optional claimers. Trainer Jason Servis has Irad Ortiz Jr trying to notch the gelding's first local turf victory (8-0-1-1).

**5 XY SPEED** is stepping up to the next level after following his \$16,000 '3-lifetime' score with a driving victory at the \$30,000 level. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez going for 3 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 6-2-5**

## RACE 4:

**1 SIZZLING ROMA** is stepping up to the next level, and departing from the rail again, after putting into overdrive when defeating \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers by 7 widening lengths. **7 SHES ONE MAD MOMMA** stamped herself as a major player when she shipped down from Tampa to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance for trainer Kathleen O'Connell; Jairo Rendon rides.

**2 STRONGER KAT** is dropping to the \$8,000 level after chasing the pace and finishing a distant 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$16,000 '3-lifetime' claimers at the distance; Irad Ortiz Jr is penciled in for the return riding assignment.

**SELECTIONS: 1-7-2**

## RACE 5:

**8 MIMINA'S TEAM** is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after the pair of sharp outings going shorter, in which she rallied to finish 4<sup>th</sup> – beaten a half-length – going 8 ½ furlongs 2 starts back, and 2<sup>nd</sup> going a mile last out. The daughter of Uncle Mo is bred to love this distance and beyond. **1 MRS. S** is stretching out to 9 furlongs after promising turf debut for trainer Todd Pletcher in which she rallied 4-wide to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> – in front of a pair of next-out winners - going a mile and a sixteenth. **11 CAT LADY**, another from Todd Pletcher, the \$300,000 daughter of Kitten's Joy stretches out after breaking from Post 11 and finishing a wide 3<sup>rd</sup> in her career debut going a mile on the turf.

**SELECTIONS: 8-1-11**

**RACE 6:**

**10 PHILLY SPECIAL** is dropping to the \$75,000 level, and adding blinkers, after tracking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in her career turf debut going a mile. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Paco Lopez named on the \$300,000 daughter of Blame. **11 WICKED MERCURY** is returning to the claiming ranks for trainer Jane Cibelli, and cutting back to a mile, after stepping up the competition last out and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> going a mile and a sixteenth vs special weight competition.

**12 ACT LIKE ARTIE** drops, and breaks from the outside, after finishing a workman-like 6<sup>th</sup> in her maiden special weight debut for trainer Mike Maker. Note that the trainer/jock combo of Maker/Irad is winning races here at a 33% rate!

**SELECTIONS: 10-11-12**

**RACE 7:**

**7 NEVERSTOPDREAMING** is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after following his debut victory going 6 ½ furlongs with a duel for the lead 3<sup>rd</sup> going a mile vs \$50,000 optional claimers last out. Trainer Alexis Delgado has Luis Saez in the irons.

**2 MIAMI CROCKETT** moved to the Steve Klesaris barn via the claim, and returns to the main track, after drawing clear to defeat \$32,000 maidens here going 5 furlongs on the turf; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

**5 MILES AHEAD** is stepping up the competition after responding to the surface switch with a commanding 12-length plus maiden victory at the \$12,500 level. Edgar Prado rides for Ed Plesa Jr, who is 38% winning consecutive races.

**SELECTIONS: 7-2-5**

**RACE 8:**

**7 VETTORI KIN (BRZ)**, a 2-time winner at this marathon 12-furlong distance, is returning to the turf after chasing the pace and fading vs \$62,500 optional claimers going 9 furlongs on the main track. Trainer Ken McPeck has Jose Ortiz in the saddle.

**8 LEMONIST** is stretching out to uncharted territory when he tries a mile and a half in the first start after the claim by Saffie Joseph Jr. The gelding, who has twice finished 2<sup>nd</sup> going 11 furlongs, has Irad handling the added distance. **6 HEZA KITTEN**, a previous winner at the distance, drops, and stretches out, in the first start since finishing 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$62,500 optional claimers going 8 ½ furlongs here during December. Trainer Mary Eppler has Tyler Gaffalione handling the proven commodity at the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 7-8-6**

**RACE 9:**

**2 ENLISTING** is dropping to the \$8,000 level, and returning to the main track, after following a \$16,000 '3-lifetime' score on the dirt with a stalk-and-fade 7<sup>th</sup> going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf. **7 BROOKES ALL MINE** moved to the Angel Quiroz barn via the claim after setting the pace and just get nailed at the wire when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> to **4 BABIE MONSTER**. The latter, trained by Joe Orseno, will try to make it 2 in a row after springing the 24-1 upset last out.

**SELECTIONS: 2-7-4**

**RACE 10:**

**5 QUEEN OF SHADES** will try to make it 2 in a row after debuting locally for trainer Jason Servis and leading every step of the way to defeat \$75,000 optional claimers by almost 3 lengths; Irad Ortiz Jr goes for 2 in a row. **7 HEAR MY PRAYER** undefeated at 5 furlongs on the turf (2-2-0-0), turns back after opening and surrendering an early 2-length leading when fading to 6<sup>th</sup> in the 7 ½-furlong \$100,000 Ginger Brew last out. **1 FOOLISH HUMOR** is debuting locally for trainer Wesley Ward after facing a steady dose of stakes competition from Ascot to Monmouth after breaking her maiden at Belmont last May; John Velazquez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-1**

**RACE 11:**

**5 GO AWAY** is going back to the turf, and debuting locally, after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in a solid outing on the Tampa main track that's produced a pair of next-out winners. The gelding, 5-2-1-0 on the grass, has Jose Ortiz at the controls. **7 DEVOTED KITTEN** moved to the Amador Sanchez barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, after rallying to defeat \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers by almost 2 lengths. The new connections add blinkers, and name Hector Berrios to ride. **3 GUY CABALLERO** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and returns to the turf, in the first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$30,000 conditioned claimers going 6 ½ furlongs on the GP West main track; Luis Saez handles the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-3**

**BEST BET: RACE 8 – 7 VETTORI KIN (BRZ)**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 5 GO AWAY**