



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Sunday, February 2, 2020

RACE 1:

5 LOOKN FINE AS WINE is turning back to a mile after shipping down from New York for trainer Dom Schettino after finishing 5th – beaten 2 lengths – vs similar going a mile and a sixteenth. The 2nd time over the course should be a positive affair. **2 MARICOPA** is dropping to the \$25,000 level after recovering from an awkward start to finish 4th vs \$32,000 maidens going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jose Pinchin tabs Irad Ortiz Jr to ride. **10 KAYSERI** debuts locally for a quarter after finishing 4th vs tougher in a trio of route races - on turf and synthetic - at Woodbine. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione riding.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-10

RACE 2:

3 MARVA moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and drops to the \$25,000 level on the main track, with blinkers added, after rallying to finish 3rd vs \$35,000 claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. Note the barn is better than 30% with the grass to dirt angle. **2 NAPA RULES** should be primed and ready to score after returning from the 5-month layoff to finish 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Dave Braddy tabs Miguel Vazquez to ride. **1 DOMINEER**, another from Dave Braddy, is stepping up to face winners after rallying to defeat \$32,000 maidens at the distance by a perfectly timed nose.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-1

RACE 3:

1 PROVEN STRATEGIES is making his sophomore debut after a stellar 2-year-old campaign in which he was 2nd in the Skidmore at the Spa, was beaten 2 lengths in the Grade 1 Summer, and ended his campaign by getting beat only a couple of lengths in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. **7 INTENTIONAL WALK** figures prominently on the 'what have you done lately' angle after shipping in for trainer John Servis and finishing a well-meant 2nd at this level and distance; Jairo Rendon rides.

10 ABSAM, 1 of 2 in the field for trainer Chad Brown (11 Divestiture), the son of Hard Spun debuts with Lasix, and Javier Castellano named on this half of the uncoupled entry.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-10

RACE 4:

4 STROLL WITH BECCA moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and wears blinkers, in the first start since coming up empty vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on a sloppy Churchill main track; Edgard Zayas rides. **2 DERBY DAY ZIP** is dropping into this 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimer with blinkers added after failing to handle \$35,000 starter allowance competition here going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Pat Reynolds has Cristian Torres in the saddle. **6 SISTER GEMA** is returning to the main track after rallying to finish 4th going a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Jena Antonucci has Fanny Olsson handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-6

RACE 5:

8 MESSINA is an \$825,000 daughter of War Front debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and a consistent morning work tab showing at Palm Beach Downs. Irad Ortiz Jr handles the regally bred sophomore. **5 TRAPEZIUM** is turning back to a mile after losing all chance when she stumbled at the start of her mile and a sixteenth career debut. Trainer Bill Mott adds Lasix, and has Edgard Zayas back at the controls. **4 PINCH OF GRACE (GB)** is a daughter of Pivotal debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and jockey Javier Castellano named to ride; don't ignore!

SELECTIONS: 8-5-4

RACE 6:

2 TEENAGE KICKS should be ready to get her picture taken after shipping in for trainer Rodolphe Brisset and rallying to finish 2nd at this level and distance; Julien Leparoux rides. **5 EVE OF WAR** is a daughter of Declaration of War debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and John Velazquez named to ride the regally bred sophomore.

1 CASSEY'S GIRL is a daughter of Tale of the Cat debuting for trainer Brian Lynch with a sharp work tab showing at Palm Meadows; Javier Castellano rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-1

RACE 7:

7 TIGER BLOOD is wheeling back after winning for the 5th time in 6 races when sprinting on the local turf (6-5-0-0). Trainer Steve Klesaris spots the 7-year-old perfectly vs \$16,000 starter optional claimers.

4 TAKE CHARGE DUDE, who won his only previous turf sprint, is going back to the lawn after splashing away on a sloppy track to defeat \$35,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Luis Saez returning on this fast gelding. **5 NEW YORK'S FINEST** was collared by Luis Ramirez via the claim after drawing clear to wallop a field of \$16,000 claimers at the distance. His back class must be respected in this spot.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-5

RACE 8:

2 JUST KIDDING moved to the Carlos David barn via the claim, and turns back to 6 furlongs, after setting the pace and fading to finish 4th vs similar quality going a mile. Trainer David is 4 for 11 (36%) with new claims, and has Luis Saez handling the turnback in distance. **5 GREAT SUCCESS** is making his first start since showing promise in his brief 3-year-old season in which he won at first asking, and was 2nd in the \$100,000 Sophomore going 7 furlongs at Tampa last March. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has Cristian Torres named on this intriguing possibility. **6 UNPUBLISHED** will try to find more for the stretch drive after breaking from the outside (Post 7), vying for the lead, and settling for 2nd at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-6

RACE 9:

3 AMAZING AUDREY is dropping to the \$25,000 level after failing to fire in a strong \$35,000 optional claimer won by Mean Mary, who came back to win the Grade 3 La Prevoyante last Saturday. The previous winner at this mile distance has Edgard Zayas at the controls.

5 BELIEVE INDEED, a 4-time winner on the turf, is going back to the grass after returning locally into the Peter Walder barn and finishing 2nd vs similar quality going a mile on the main track; Cristian Torres rides.

1 PICASSO MOON is dropping to this level, and trying to notch the elusive turf victory (7-0-1-0), after breaking from the rail and failing to fire on the dirt in the Claiming Crown Glass Slipper. Trainer Jorge Navarro, 27% with the turf to dirt angle, has Luis Saez in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 3-5-1

RACE 10:

5 HARVEY WALLBANGER, who won the Grade 2 Holy Bull here last February, is making his local return the first start since rallying to finish 2nd in a \$62,500 optional claimer going 9 furlongs at Churchill. Trainer Ken McPeck has Jose Ortiz in the saddle.

2 TROPHY CHASER is stretching out to a mile and an eighth for the first time after ending his sophomore season with a duel-and-weaken 4th in the 6-furlong OBS Sprint. Trainer Juan Avila has Paco Lopez named on the son of Twirling Candy, who is certainly bred to handle this 9-furlong distance. **7 SCARS ARE COOL**, never defeated at this distance (2-2-0-0), stretches out after rallying to finish 4th behind next-out Sunshine Millions Classic winner Noble Drama in a \$62,500 optional claimer contested at a 1-turn mile.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-7

RACE 11:

4 FIBER OPTIC looks like an interesting longshot when she drops to the \$16,000 level after facing allowance competition last summer. Trainer Ian Wilkes, 23% with this type of layoff, has Julien Leparoux atop the previous winner over the course.

9 MOON EYES was solid in defeat when responding to both the dropdown in competition, and the return to the turf, with a 2nd place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has Luis Saez in irons.

7 AVOCADO TOAST should have the screws tightened after breaking slowly from the rail prior to finishing a 6-wide 3rd behind Moon Eyes last out. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Victor Lebron atop the daughter of Big Drama. **2 SHANGHAI BONNIE** will try to save more for the stretch run after setting fractions of 21 & 2 and 44 flat before weakening to finish 4th behind the top two. Trainer Dom Schettino has Tyler Gaffalione rationing her speed.

SELECTIONS: 4-9-7-2

BEST BET: RACE 9 – 3 AMAZING AUDREY

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 4 FIBER OPTIC