



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Sunday, February 23, 2020

## RACE 1:

**3 SKYE SNOW** gets the nod in the opener after responding to both the surface switch, and the stretchout in distance, with a 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Mike Maker lightens the impost with apprentice Cristian Torres in the saddle.

**6 DUR A CUIRE** is making her first start since rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> – beaten a length – by next-out Ginger Brew Stakes winner She's My Type, and next-out maiden winner Osaka Girl. Trainer Michelle Nihei has John Velazquez in the saddle.

**10 REDEMPTION DAY**, a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Improbable, is making her career debut for trainer Bill Mott with Lasix, and jockey Junior Alvarado named to ride. Interesting!

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-10**

## RACE 2:

**1 BOSTALETO** is plunging into this \$8,000 dated-claimer after returning from the layoff and coming up empty vs considerably tougher going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Lilli Kurtinecz has Paco handling the dropdown. **2 SUMMER SPICE** moved to the Gilberto Zerpa barn via the claim after showing some early interest and fading vs a solid group of \$6,250 open-claimers. The barn, 30% with new claims, has Edgard Zayas named to ride. **4 GRAY DUDE** drops to the \$8,000 level on the dirt after a pair of track-and-fade outings going a 2-turn mile on the turf; Cristian Torres rides for Steve Klesaris.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-4**

## RACE 3:

**2 AWSUM ROAR** moved to the Elizabeth Dobles barn via the claim, and looks awesome in this spot, after posting her 2<sup>nd</sup> victory in 3 starts when drawing clear to win at this level and distance last out; Luis Saez rides. **3 BRIGHT VENEZUELAN** is making the 3<sup>rd</sup> start back from the layoff after rallying to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind logical odds-on choice Awsum Roar last out. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Edgard Zayas trying to close the gap.

**7 SWEET YARE N DIRA** moved to the Dan Hurtak barn via the claim, and figures on the ticket, because of her recent resume sprinting vs similar quality on the turf.

**SELECTIONS: 2-3-7**

## RACE 4:

**6 HAPPY BEE** is cutting back to a 1-turn mile on the main track after disputing the pace and flattening out when finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in a mile and a sixteenth 'key-race' on the turf that's produced 3 next-out winners from 7 starters. The daughter of Distorted Humor should be part of the pace with cagy front-running jock Julien Leparoux in the irons. **9 LOW PRESSURE ZONE** is a \$850,000 daughter of Curlin debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and Javier Castellano named to ride. **2 RISK MODEL**, another from Eclipse winner Chad Brown, the \$390,000 daughter of Into Mischief debuts with Lasix, and has a similar workout pattern as her uncoupled stablemate does in preparation for the debut; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

**SELECTIONS: 6-9-2**

## RACE 5:

**8 MOON EYES** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim after getting carried wide on the turn when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance. The new connections keep the status quo with Luis Saez at the controls. **3 CORY GAL** is dropping a notch on the claiming scale after following a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs \$35,000 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' competition 2 starts back with a troubled (boxed in) 8<sup>th</sup> vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers last out.

**4 BROADWAY PEGGY** is a late-striding type who should be along to grab a share of the exotic wagers.

**SELECTIONS: 8-3-4**

**RACE 6:**

**8 STUNTING** is turning back to a mile after back-to-back 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes going a mile and a sixteenth on the local turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Jose Ortiz trying to get the sophomore out of 2<sup>nd</sup> gear.

**11 LINNY KATE** is a \$200,000 daughter of Tonalist debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and leading rider Irad Ortiz Jr named to handle the outside post (11). **1 I THEE WED**, a half-sister to Group 1 winner Mozu Ascot, the daughter of Hard Spun debuts for trainer Bill Mott with Lasix, and has jockey Junior Alvarado in from New York to ride. The solid work tab at Payson Park adds to the appeal.

**SELECTIONS: 8-11-1****RACE 7:**

**5 MISS T TOO** is a daughter of Into Mischief debuting for trainer Bill Mott with Lasix, and a consistent workout pattern showing at Payson Park; Junior Alvarado rides this intriguing first-time starter. **10 PRIMACY** is a \$240,000 daughter of Union Rags debuting for the stocked Chad Brown barn with Lasix, and with leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr in the irons. **6 ASSUME** is a \$300,000 daughter of Candy Ride debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher, who has a solid 23%-win average with his first-time starters; John Velazquez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-10-6****RACE 8:**

**6 BLAZING DESIRE** will try to make it 2 in a row after using her speed to defeat \$35,000 starter optional claimers at this 1-mile distance. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad going for 2 in a row. **3 DYNADRIVE** will face \$50,000 claimers locally after rallying to defeat \$75,000 optional claimers going mile on the Tampa turf during December. Trainer Jonathan Thomas, 36% with the 61-180 days layoff, has Javier Castellano named on the gelded son of Temple City.

**7 BLANKET OF ROSES**, another from Mike Maker, is stepping up to face winners after shipping in from Keeneland and rallying to defeat \$50,000 maidens by a length; Luis Saez rides, as Irad sticks with the top choice.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-7****RACE 9:**

**6 SHES ALL WOMAN** is dropping to the \$20,000 level, and turning back to three-quarters of a mile, after returning from the layoff and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> to impressive repeat winner Flat Awesome Jenny in a \$35,000 starter allowance going 6 ½ furlongs; Edgar Prado rides.

**8 FOGGY FLIGHT**, a daughter of Rattlesnake Bridge, is making her first start since defeating state-bred maiden special weight competition here last April. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has the 4-year-old working consistently for the return; Paco Lopez rides.

**5 FLORA FANTASY** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and makes her first start since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers during December. The barn, 41% with new claims, sweetens the deal with Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 6-8-5****RACE 10:**

**7 HUNTING SEASON**, a daughter of Pioneerofthe Nile, is debuting on the turf for trainer Shug McGaughey after responding to the stretchout around 2-turns with a rallying 4<sup>th</sup> place finish on the dirt behind repeat stakes winner Jehozacat in the \$50,000 Wayward Lass at Tampa. Jose Ortiz handles the upset special. **1 BEALE STREET** is stretching out to a mile & three-sixteenths in the first start since making a 4-wide move to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind next-out La Prevoyante winner Mean Mary in a \$35,000 optional claimer contested at 9 furlongs on a softened turf listed as 'good'. Trainer Bill Mott has John Velazquez handling the added distance. **6 WHISPERING BEAUTY** made herself heard when she responded in her North American debut – with Lasix added – with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Brendan Walsh has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 7-1-6****RACE 11:**

**1 LA FLAMENCA** is dropping to the \$12,500 level on the main track, and turning back to a mile, after vying for the lead and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$16,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf; Paco rides for Marcial Navarro. **9 DIXIELAND DREAM** is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after responding to the addition of blinkers with an improved 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish going 6 furlongs. Trainer Joe Orseno tabs Tyler Gaffalione to ride.

**11 CRACK OF DAWN** is dropping to the bottom, and stretching out to a mile, after showing speed and weakening vs considerably tougher in New York. Trainer Phil Serpe has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the combo dropdown/stretchout.

**SELECTIONS: 1-9-11****BEST BET: RACE 6 – 8 STUNTING****LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 7 HUNTING SEASON**