



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Sunday, January 12, 2020

RACE 1:

8 SUGARTOWN KID is a gelded son of Lemon Drop Kid debuting for trainer Michael Matz with a series of stamina enhancing workouts showing both at the Fair Hill and Palm Meadows training tracks; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

6 DUELLIST is hoping to find a little more firepower for the stretch drive after rallying to finish 2nd – beaten a length at 20-1 – at this level and distance; Paco rides for Carlo Vaccarezza. **5 BRAHE** is plunging to the \$25,000 level after facing tougher on the New York turf circuit. Trainer Barclay Tagg has Chris Landeros up.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-5

RACE 2:

2 RAY'SWARRIOR moved to the Liz Dobles barn via the claim, and wheels back, after chasing the winner and finishing 2nd at this level and distance last out. Trainer Dobles, 38% with new claims, has apprentice Cristian Torres named to ride. **7 MR ATILA** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn after the claim, and makes his 2nd start back from a layoff, after dueling inside and fading to finish 3rd behind next-out winners Vinnie Van Go and Starship Apollo. The new connections keep the status quo with Luis Saez at the controls. **6 DESERT GENERAL**, another from Elizabeth Dobles, the gelding makes his first start locally after facing similar quality in California, including the recent 'key' dash Los Alamitos in which he was 4th in a \$10,000 claimer that produced a couple of next out winner.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-6

RACE 3:

5 HARD COUNT is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks after facing maiden special weight competition on the turf with inconsistent results. Trainer Mike Maker has go-to jock Irad Ortiz Jr handling the class relief.

8 SIESTA MOON is dropping to the \$20,000 level, and stretching out around 2-turns after rallying to finish a useful 4th vs \$35,000 maidens going 5 furlongs on the grass. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Jairo Rendon named to ride.

2 NOBLE NEBRASKAN is making the 3rd start back from the layoff, and turning back to 7 ½ furlongs, after tracking the pace and finishing 5th vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Robert Falcone Jr has Luis Saez handling the 3rd start off the bench.

SELECTIONS: 5-8-2

RACE 4:

7 TOKEN is a beautifully bred daughter of Curlin debuting for trainer Bill Mott with a series of strong workouts showing at Payson Park in preparation for her first start; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **1 MOTIVATED SELLER**, a daughter of Into Mischief, is debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and Javier Castellano named to handle the always-adventurous inside post. **2 SENORA ROMA** is a daughter of Verrazano debuting for trainer Larry Rivelli, who sports a 34%-win average with his first-time starters. The sophomore may have tipped her hand with the recent 3-furlong bullet workout in 34 & 3.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-2

RACE 5:

5 WONDER IN goes back to the turf for trainer Jonathan Thomas, and faces \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers, after encountering trouble both early and late when finishing 4th vs \$12,500 state-bred optional claimers going 5 ½ furlongs on the dirt; Javier Castellano rides.

4 CAT LADY STEPH, now in the Paul Kopaj barn, 4-year-old debuts locally against the boys after showing speed and weakening late vs New York state-bred allowance runners going three-quarters of a mile on the Belmont turf. The 4-year-old gets Lasix for this assignment.

3 BY THE SEY SHORE has tried sprinting on the grass only once in his career, and it was a 3rd place finish vs allowance competition going 6 furlongs on the Laurel turf. That performance puts him right in the hunt with these.

SELECTIONS: 5-4-3

RACE 6:

7 JEWEL PRINCESS will finally break from an improved post, and is hoping to get a fast racing surface, after breaking from outside posts and finishing 2nd and 3rd, respectively, going a mile on sealed 'sloppy' tracks at Churchill. Trainer Ken McPeck has Irad named to ride.

2 SPICE IS NICE is million-dollar daughter of Curlin debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and 12 workouts showing in preparation for the debut; John Velazquez rides. **8 LOADED**, who finished 2nd in front of the top choice when hooked up in the 'slop' in early November, renews the rivalry at this 1-turn mile locally. Trainer Rusty Arnold has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-8**RACE 7:**

7 JUSTCALLMENORMAN will be outfitted with blinkers after returning from the layoff to come within a nose of scoring at this level and distance. Trainer Terri Pompay has Rajiv Maragh in the irons. **2 SOLAR** renews the rivalry with the top choice after finishing a neck behind him in 3rd when they hooked up at the distance last out. Trainer Kelly Breen has Emisael Jaramillo at the controls again. **1 SALT KING** is making his local return vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers, and turning back to a mile, after facing New York state-bred allowance competition going longer. Trainer Mark Hennig has Chris Landeros handling the inside draw.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-1**RACE 8:**

6 MANDAMUS, now in the Jorge Navarro barn, the daughter of Constitution turns back to three-quarters of a mile after surrendering a 3-length lead when finishing 2nd in the 6 ½-furlong \$75,000 Juvenile Filly Sprint at GP West. **3 WE MISS SUSIE**, who broke her maiden at this distance by 5 lengths, is turning back after chasing the pace and weakening to finish 3rd when going a mile vs \$50,000 optional claimers last out; Paco rides for Jane Cibelli. **4 PRINCESS ULELE** is back in the optional claiming ranks after tracking the pace and finishing 4th in the \$75,000 House Party last out. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Cristian Torres in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-4**RACE 9:**

4 BLUE CHIP PROSPECT is stepping up to face open competition after returning from the layoff to defeat \$16,000 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' runners at the distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Jairo Rendon in the saddle.

9 KRSTO SKYE, a 3-time winner sprinting on the turf, is going back to the grass after finishing 3rd and 2nd, respectively, when facing tougher in a pair contested on 'sloppy' tracks. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Paco Lopez in the saddle. **3 SALAMBO** is hoping to break in closer contact with the field after rallying from last to finish 2nd – at 44-1 – at this level and distance. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Edgard Zayas named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-9-3**RACE 10:**

4 FEEDBACK a daughter of Violence, is making her 4-year-old debut after the stellar sophomore campaign in which she won of the Grade 3 Forward Girl here in February, and was 3rd in the Grade 3 Beaumont at Keeneland last April. Trainer Chad Brown has Irad handling the 1st start in 9 months. **5 UNHOLY ALLIANCE** is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after making a middle move and flattening out and finishing 5th when going a mile in the Grade 3 Rampart last out. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **3 BOUJIE GIRL**, now in the Rodolphe Brisset barn, the daughter of Flashback makes her first start since edging clear to defeat allowance runners at Churchill; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-3**RACE 11:**

5 WAR FEATHER is stepping up the competition after setting the pace and getting beat only a neck when 3rd vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. The gelding can speed-pop the field at a price. **6 VEGAS KITTEN** is dropping to the \$30,000 level, and making his first start since facing allowance competition with so-so results before the layoff. Mike Maker takes over the training, and has Irad handling the class relief. **8 PREACHER POWER**, a well-meant 2nd when facing similar quality on the Churchill turf 2 starts back, is returning to the grass after ending his campaign in Kentucky with a 4th place finish going a mile on the main track. **2 TRICKY MAGICIAN** is debuting locally after showing speed and weakening late when facing similar quality going a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler handling the turnback to 8 furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-8-2**BEST BET: RACE 6 – 7 JEWEL PRINCESS****LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 5 WAR FEATHER**