



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

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RACE 1:

11 TEMPESTA is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to finish 3rd vs a notch tougher going 5 furlongs. Trainer James Lawrence has Paco Lopez looking to put this gelding on or near the lead.

2 BEE BRIDGE is plunging to the \$16,000 level, and adding blinkers, after facing considerably tougher with limited results. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Tyler Gaffalione named on the son of English Channel.

4 RAPSTOREROCKS has his claiming tag sliced in half after showing some early interest and weakening when facing \$32,000 maidens going a mile last out. Trainer Kelly Breen tabs red-hot Marcos Meneses to ride.

SELECTIONS: 11-2-4

RACE 2:

4 QUEEN ABARRIO will try to make amends in this slightly easier spot after finishing 2nd – as the odds-on choice – at this level and distance last out. Trainer J C Perez has Edgard Zayas in the irons. **8 HONEST GAL** is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and turning back to 6 furlongs, after following a nose defeat vs \$32,000 maidens going three-quarters of a mile 2 starts back with distant 2nd place finish vs \$25,000 types going 6 ½ furlongs last out. **6 MARKISTAN** is wheeling back after being declared a non-starter in her previous race at this level and distance. Her 2nd place finish 2 starts back puts her right in the hunt with this caliber of competition.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-6

RACE 3:

4 COMBINATION moved to the Juan Avila barn via the claiming after posting his 2nd consecutive victory when defeating \$12,500 '3-lifetime' claimers as the 4-to-5 favorite; Edgard Zayas rides. **5 RAY'SWARRIOR** moved to the Javier Gonzalez barn via the claim after finishing 2nd – as the favorite – in a \$12,500 claimer going 6 panels in the slop. The beaten favorite in 3 consecutive races will have Cristian Torres trying to repair the chalk-burning status. **3 BORDINI** must be respected when dropping to this level for trainer Cheryl Winebaugh. The gelding's performance 2 starts back - at this level and distance - was good enough to win here.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-3

RACE 4:

3 MYFIRSTEXWIFE was solid in defeat when dropped to this level last time out. Trainer Jorge Abreu has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride. **1 SUMMER SANGRIA** is dropping to the \$25,000 level, and removing the blinkers, hoping both karma changes help produce positive results. Trainer Wesley Ward is 24% with the blinkers off angle.

6 ROYAL JEWEL gets some needed class relief after showing some early interest and fading in a trio of turf sprints at the \$50,000 level.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-6

RACE 5:

5 HIDDEN SCROLL is making his anticipated 4-year-old debut after showing tons of promise during his sophomore season, which includes a 4th place finish in the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth in only his 2nd career start. Trainer Bill Mott has the son of Hard Spun training sharply at Payson Park; John Velazquez rides. **6 LORD ADARE** is debuting on the East Coast after solid sprint campaign in California, which includes victories in 2 of 3 races before the layoff. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Tyler in the irons. **7 STEALTH** will try to make his presence felt when he ships in from Kentucky for trainer Ian Wilkes, and tries to recapture the form he displayed breaking his maiden at Keeneland last April.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-7

RACE 6:

9 SKINNY DIP is stretching out to 7 furlongs after the promising 6-furlong debut in which she rallied to finish 2nd behind impressive winner Eve of War. Trainer Ben Colebrook has Jersey Joe Bravo handling the outside draw. **6 MYLASTFIRSTKISS** was solid in defeat when breaking from an outside post (10), stalking the pace, and finishing 3rd at this 7-furlong distance. Trainer Peter Walder has Jose Bracho named to ride.

7 NIKKI AND PAPA is back with maidens after finishing 3rd in her ambitious career debut vs winners in the Grade 3 Forward Gal. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Fanny Olsson at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 9-6-7

RACE 7:

1 OPRY is making his 4-year-old debut for trainer Todd Pletcher after an interesting 5-race campaign, which included a victory in the Grade 3 With Anticipation as a 2-year-old, and then making only 1 start as a sophomore, which was a 2nd place finish vs allowance runners at Belmont. **3 ROAD TO MEATH**, who broke his maiden for a \$75,000 tag at Belmont, returns to action for trainer Chad Brown after ending his 4-year-old campaign with a 5th place finish vs allowance company at Aqueduct. **6 BOURBON IN MAY**, another from Todd Pletcher, this one has the recency angle on his side after finishing 2nd at this level here during January.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-6**RACE 8:**

8 ZALZA is turning back to one of his best distances (3-2-1-0) after using his speed to defeat this level of competition going a 1-turn mile. **9 STEADY EARNER** is dropping a notch, and stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs, and returning locally, after following a victory going 6 ½ furlongs with a 3rd place finish vs \$10,000 claimers going 5 ½ at Tampa. **6 DR HARLAN** is stretching out an additional half-furlong after winning 1 of 2 recent races going three-quarters of a mile. The hard-knocking 8-year-old can jump up and beat this level of competition on any given day.

SELECTIONS: 8-9-6**RACE 9:**

6 PREACHER MARSEE is dropping to the \$16,000 level after following his \$20,000 maiden victory with a troubled starting 9th vs \$35,000 starter allowance competition. Trainer Herbert Miller, who claimed him 2 starts back, has Tony Maragh named to ride.

2 DING DONG DITCH is making the 3rd start of his current form cycle, and stretching out to 8 ½ furlongs again, after following the 2nd place finish at this distance 2 starts back, with a 5th place finish going a mile last out. It's the old bounce/rebound angle.

5 MALIBU MUSIC is returning to the turf at the \$16,000 level after tracking the pace and finishing a distant 3rd vs \$25,000 claimers going a mile on the main track. Trainer Patrick Biancone has Joe Bravo handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-5**RACE 10:**

2 QUALITY SPECIAL is stepping up to the next level after using his speed to defeat \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers at the distance. **11 TANGIBLE** is making his first start since the pair of sharp performances at GP West, which includes the '2-lifetime' victory going 7 furlongs, and the 2nd place finish vs \$6,250 '3-lifetime' claimers going a 2-turn mile. **9 FALSE ACCUSATION** moved to the Henry Collazo barn via the claim after the pair of well-meant performances at this level and distance. The new connections tab Marcos Meneses to ride.

SELECTIONS: 2-11-9**RACE 11:**

9 KING OF RANCH moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim after posting his 2nd consecutive victory when he used his speed to wire a field of \$30,000 claimers at this 1-mile distance; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

12 CASTAGNO is dropping a notch after following his \$20,000 maiden victory with a late-running 3rd vs \$35,000 starter optional claimers. Trainer Jose Gallegos has Paco Lopez handling the outside post.

7 DRAMA IN DIXIE will try to the turn the tables on the top choice after stalking him throughout and settling for 2nd behind him as the tepid favorite.

SELECTIONS: 9-12-7**RACE 12:**

6 BARBADOLLA is turning back to a mile after encountering traffic in the stretch when finishing 3rd vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Maker tabs Edgard Zayas to ride.

12 RECESS is turning back to a mile for trainer Todd Pletcher, and breaking from a tough outside post (12), after finishing 4th vs this caliber of competition going a mile and a sixteenth; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

9 GET REWARDED is back locally after shipping up to Tampa and defeating \$25,000 2-lifetime' claimers before she was disqualified and placed 4th for drifting out. Trainer Sarah Nagle has Ray Ganpath named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-12-9**BEST BET: RACE 11 – 9 KING OF RANCH****LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 9 PREACHER MARSEE**