



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Sunday, March 15, 2020

## RACE 1:

**4 PILOT EPISODE**, a full-sister to Grade 1 stakes-placed Bold Script, is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after setting a pressured pace and weakening to finish 5<sup>th</sup> in her 7-furlong career debut. Trainer Shug McGaughey has John Velazquez named to ride.

**6 PASSION FACTOR** is a \$235,000 daughter of Liam's Map who is working sharply, on both dirt and turf, at Palm Meadows, in preparation for her debut. Trainer Rodolphe Brisset adds Lasix, and has Jose Ortiz in the saddle. **3 WINNIPEG WONDER** is a daughter of Shanghai Bobby debuting for trainer Ralph Nicks with Lasix, and Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 4-6-3**

## RACE 2:

**4 TOOK A CAB** is stepping up, and turning back, after setting the pace and getting caught late when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 maidens going a 1-turn mile. **3 HANDSOME PRINCE** will be outfitted with blinkers after returning from the layoff to stalk the pace and finish a distant 2<sup>nd</sup> vs this level of competition going 6 furlongs. **7 BRAND** is dropping to the \$25,000 level after returning to action and failing to get untracked when making 5-wide bid vs maiden special weight runners going a mile in the slop. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Tyler Gaffalione handling the dropdown.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-7**

## RACE 3:

**3 DRINKS ON ME** is stepping it up a notch after tracking the pace and drawing clear to defeat \$25,000 claimers going a mile on a course listed as 'good'. Trainer Cheryl Winebaugh has Luis Saez named to ride. **5 BRITESIDEOFTHEROAD** is turning back to a mile after responding in the first start under the tutelage of trainer Kelly Breen with a late running score vs similar opposition going a mile and a sixteenth.

**1 SWEET BLOSSOM**, now in the Alexis Delgado barn, the 4-year-old returns to Gulfstream after a productive campaign at Tampa in which she won 3 of 4 races vs conditioned claiming competition.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-1**

## RACE 4:

**5 LEMNISCATE** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after the pair of sharp efforts at a mile, which includes the victory 2 starts back, and the well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs \$35,000 optional claimers last out. Trainer Ken McPeck has Jose Ortiz named to ride. **1 MOTAGALLY**, a \$650,000 son of Union Rags, is making his first start since breaking his maiden going 9 furlongs at Aqueduct last February. Trainer Chad Brown, 29% with the longer than 180 days layoff, has Javier Castellano named to ride.

**2 GRAN Omero (VEN)**, who was impressive finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the \$300,000 Classico during December, stretches out to 8 ½ furlongs after rallying late to finish 7<sup>th</sup> in the quickly run 1-mile Grade 3 Fred Hooper; Irad Ortiz Jr rides this major player.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-2**

## RACE 5:

**4 SYLVANELLA** is dropping to the \$75,000 level after rallying to finish a promising 4<sup>th</sup> in her maiden special weight debut at the distance. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle again. **7 WICKED MERCURY** is another dropping into this high-priced maiden claimer after facing special weight runners in back-to-back races. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Paco Lopez named to ride. **9 BETTER WITH AGE** is making her first start since rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance during January. Trainer Liz Dobles has John Velazquez in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 4-7-9**

**RACE 6:**

**3 YOUNGEST OF FIVE** is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after tracking the pace, making a 5-wide bid, to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in his 6 ½-furlong debut. Trainer Stan Hough has Luis Saez named to ride.

**6 COASTAL DEFENSE**, an \$800,000 son of Curlin, is stretching out to a mile after shaking off some trouble at the start (steadied) to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in his 6 ½ furlong career debut. Trainer Dale Romans has Rajiv Maragh in the saddle. **2 SOLE SEEKER** is making his first start since rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> going a mile and a sixteenth on sealed sloppy Keeneland main track last April. Trainer Ken McPeck has Jose Ortiz atop the son of Orb.

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-2**

**RACE 7:**

**6 LITTLE BELLA** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after returning from the 8-month layoff to stalk solid early fractions and finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers; Paco Lopez rides for Carlo Vaccarezza.

**4 MOON EYES** is looking to make amends after rallying 4-wide to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> – as the odds-on choice – at this level and distance last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad Ortiz Jr named on the 1-for-11 daughter of Kantharos. **2 GREY MANNERS** is turning back to 5 furlongs after tracking the pace and fading when facing similar quality going 7 ½ furlongs. The Efren Loza Jr trained mare is worth a flyer at big balloons.

**SELECTIONS: 6-4-2**

**RACE 8:**

**3 MONARCHS GLEN (GB)** is stretching out to 9 furlongs (6-2-1-0) after rallying to come within a length of defeating this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Danny Gargan has Irad in the saddle again. **2 PROFITEER** is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after returning from the approximate 8-month layoff to finish 7<sup>th</sup> – beaten 2 lengths – going 8 ½ furlongs. Trainer Shug McGaughey has John Velazquez returning on the son of War Front.

**1 HAYABUSA ONE (FR)**, listed as a gelding, is returning from an almost 2-year layoff looking to recapture the form he displayed finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in back-to-back Grade 2 turf races at Santa Anita during 2018. Trainer Mark Casse has the 7-year-old training sharply for the return.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-1**

**RACE 9:**

**3 FREUDIAN FINISH** is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after returning from the 7-month layoff to set a pressured pace and finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs this level of competition going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Brendan Walsh has John Velazquez named to ride.

**2 FREE TO FLY** is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after following a victory at the distance over next-out winner Crumb Bun with a troubled starting 3<sup>rd</sup> in the \$50,000 Lady Bird last out. **6 MIDTOWN ROSE** is back at her favorite racetrack (9-4-3-1) after shipping up to Tampa and coming up empty in the \$50,000 Minaret. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione handling the homecoming.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-6**

**RACE 10:**

**9 CRYPTO GOLD** has been knocking on the door in back-to-back turf outings vs \$16,000 maidens, which includes the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at the distance last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **2 CHAMPIONSHIP ALLEY** is dropping to this level after facing a notch tougher on the Tampa turf with some success. Trainer Kelsey Danner sweetens the deal with Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **12 DUELLIST** is stretching out to 8 ½ furlong after rallying from far back to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Crypto Gold when they hooked up at a mile last out; Paco Lopez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 9-2-12**

**BEST BET: RACE 8 – 3 MONARCHS GLEN (GB)**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 2 GREY MANNERS**