



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

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## RACE 1:

**1 BELLEVILLE SPRING** will depart from the rail looking to make amends after returning from the 6-month layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the odds-on choice – at this level and distance. **8 WHY TRUST** is hoping to get away from the starting gate in a timely fashion after breaking last in a field of 10, rushing up to get a mid-race lead, and failing to reel in repeat winner Combination at this level and distance. **2 AWESOME ACTION** is freefalling into this ‘non-winners of 2-lifetime’ sprint on the dirt after chasing sizzling early fractions and flattening out when finishing 5<sup>th</sup> vs \$30,000 conditioned claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Ralph Nicks is 14% with the grass-to-dirt angle.

**SELECTIONS: 1-8-2**

## RACE 2:

**7 JUST FOR ONE DAY** is debuting on the turf in the first start since dueling for the lead and weakening in his 7-furlong career debut at Belmont last June. Trainer Christophe Clement, 21% with the dirt-to-turf angle, has the beautifully bred son of Will Take Charge training sharply at Payson Park. **1 GROUNDBREAKING**, a gelded son of Tapit, is debuting on the turf for trainer Ian Wilkes after showing some early interest and fading in his 6 ½-furlong debut on the main track, a race that’s produce a pair of next-out winners from 3 starters. **4 NOW IS**, 3 for 4 ‘in the money’ at this distance on the turf (4-0-1-2), makes his first start since stalking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> going 5 panels on the Tampa turf during January; Phil Gleaves conditions the new gelding.

**SELECTIONS: 7-1-4**

## RACE 3:

**4 POSITIVE PHIL** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth, after encountering some early traffic problems and finishing 6<sup>th</sup> vs this level of opposition. Maker, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the trainer standings with 39 victories, has been sharp with recent claims.

**6 NOBLE HOPE** is plunging into this ‘2-lifetime’ claimer on the turf after facing allowance company on both turf and synthetic during his 2019 campaign north of the border at Woodbine. Trainer Roger Attfield has the son of Noble Mission training forwardly at Payson Park.

**3 DIRECT APPROACH** was solid in defeat when rebounded from a mugging at the start to finish a late-closing 3<sup>rd</sup> – at 25-1 – when going a mile vs similar last out.

**SELECTIONS: 4-6-3**

## RACE 4:

**8 PLEASANT ORB**, a daughter of Orb, was sharp in her local debut at this level and distance when she vied for the lead throughout and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a length. Trainer Barclay Tagg has the sophomore working steadily for this assignment.

**2 SNEER**, 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Tampa main track in her debut, returns to the dirt, and cuts back to a 1-turn mile, after stalking the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> when going 9 furlongs on the Tampa turf. Trainer Christophe Clement is 19% with the grass-to-dirt move. **6 SO DARN HOT** is a \$600,000 daughter of Ghostzapper debuting for trainer George Weaver with Lasix added. The barn, 20% with first-time starters, has the regally bred filly working steadily at Palm Beach Downs.

**SELECTIONS: 8-2-6**

**RACE 5:**

**8 KING OF RANCH** is wheeling back at the same level after responding in the first race after the claim by trainer Mike Maker with a troubled 2<sup>nd</sup> (carried out) – as the favorite - at the distance last out. **3 FLASH PASS** is stretching out around 2-turns after the promising career turf debut at 5 furlongs in which he rallied from 10 lengths 'off the pace' to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>. Trainer Armando De La Cerda is 19% with horses stretching out in distance.

**9 HANDSOME LIL DEVIL** should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the layoff to finish a late-running 5<sup>th</sup> behind King of Ranch last out; Patrick Biancone trains the son of Handsome Mike.

**SELECTIONS: 8-3-9****RACE 6:**

**4 TOURNESOL** will try \$50,000 claimers after following her debut turf victory at the \$25,000 level with a late-closing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the \$60,000 Mrs. Presidentress last out. The numbers certainly add up for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr.

**5 SPECIAL LIAISON** is stepping up the face winners after drawing clear to defeat \$40,000 maidens at the distance last out. Trainer David Fawkes is 18% winning consecutive races.

**7 OMNIA** is another stepping up to face winners, but turns back to a mile, after setting a pressured pace and holding sway to defeat \$50,000 maidens at a mile and a sixteenth.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-7****RACE 7:**

**2 MORE THAN STRIKING** moves to the Jose Gallegos barn via the claim, and cuts back to 6 ½ furlongs again, after following his debut victory at the distance by opening and surrendering an early 4-length lead when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile last out. **4 KYLE** is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs, with blinkers added, after dueling for the lead and tiring when facing \$12,500 claimers going 7 furlongs last out. Trainer Carlos David, who has 10 victories at the meeting, is 3 for 9 (33%) with first-time blinkers.

**6 JOE DI BAGGIO** is dropping to the \$16,000 optional claiming level after his 2-race win streak was halted when finishing 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 allowance optional claimers last out.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-6****RACE 8:**

**5 DYNA PASSER** is stretching out to a mile and a half after returning from the layoff to finish a screw-tightening 6-wide 4<sup>th</sup> going a mile and three-sixteenths. The daughter of Lemon Drop Kid, trained by Tom Albertrani, is stakes-placed at 11 furlongs, and is bred to get the distance.

**2 WHATDOESASHARKSAY**, who broke her maiden going 10 furlongs on the Belmont turf, is stretching out looking to rebound from the poor showing going a mile and three-sixteenths last out. Trainer Jimmy Toner has the daughter of Animal Kingdom working steadily for this assignment. **6 ON THE TOWN** is stretching out after an eventful local return at a mile and three-sixteenths in which she bumped at the start, lugged in, and then weakened from her earlier exploits. She's worth a flyer at a price.

**SELECTIONS: 5-2-6****RACE 9:**

**3 THE QUEENS JULES** is dropping into this \$8,000 dated-claimer after showing speed and weakening vs better going around 2-turns on the turf; Monica McGoey trains the Scat Daddy gelding. **8 JAMAICAN** is stretching out to his best distance (6-3-0-0) after stalking the pace and weakening to finish 7<sup>th</sup> vs \$8,000 open claimers going 6 ½ furlongs. **1 DEXTER ROAD** will depart from the rail after responding to the surface switch with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish behind repeat winner Trapezoid at this level and distance last out.

**SELECTIONS: 3-8-1****BEST BET: RACE 5 – 8 KING OF RANCH****LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 6 ON THE TOWN**