



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Sunday, May 17, 2020

## RACE 1:

**1 QUEEN ABARRIO**, beaten a neck on the turf vs a notch tougher 2 starts back, is shifting back to the grass after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in a \$16,000 state-bred optional claimer moved to a fast-main track.

**4 I'M PRAYINGFOR THAT** is stepping up to face winners after rocketing clear to defeat \$16,000 maidens on the grass by 5 widening lengths.

**8 HOLLY HILL** is another stepping up to face winners after drawing clear to defeat \$16,000 maidens by 3 ½ lengths. Trainer Shamir Maragh has Edgard Zayas going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 1-4-8**

## RACE 2:

**2 O DRISCOLL** is freefalling to the \$12,500 level after showing some brief early interest and fading in his maiden special weight debut. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Emisael Jaramillo handling the dropdown.

**8 TEMPUS** is dropping to this level after encountering some early trouble (bumped & checked) when beaten double-digit lengths in his local debut vs \$40,000 maidens. Trainer Tim Hills has Dylan Davis in the irons.

**5 KING WADE** is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs hoping the latest distance switch helps produce the elusive maiden victory (30-0-7-2).

**SELECTIONS: 2-8-5**

## RACE 3:

**7 R U LUCKY** was freshened after following a commanding victory, at the distance, vs \$50,000 claimers during January, with a stalk-the-pace 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 state-bred optional claimers going 6 furlongs in his last. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr, 27% with this type of layoff, has Irad Ortiz Jr riding. **1 LIKE YOU** is dropping to the \$35,000 level, and turning back to a sprint distance, after a couple of solid efforts going a 1-turn mile. Trainer Ron Spatz has Miguel Vazquez handling the inside draw.

**4 INTER MIAMI**, who defeated R U Lucky in March, drops after showing speed and fading on the turf in the \$100,000 Cutler Bay, and in a \$50,000 starter optional claimer on the dirt last out.

**SELECTIONS: 7-1-4**

## RACE 4:

**4 VOODOO ZIP** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth again after a pair of solid efforts at a mile in which he finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. The son of City Zip will have Luis Saez trying to get him out of second gear. **8 SCANNO** will try to turn the tables on Voodoo Zip at 8 ½ furlongs after encountering some traffic on the turn when finishing 4<sup>th</sup> last out. Trainer Tom Albertrani, who has 2 in the field (This ILL Defend), has Hector Berrios named to ride. **10 UNRIGHTEOUS** is a son of Violence debuting on the turf for trainer Todd Pletcher after a so-so campaign on the dirt, which includes the ambitious try in the G2 Tampa Bay Derby; Irad Ortiz Jr handles the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 4-8-10**

## RACE 5:

**5 RED FOG**, disqualified from a victory at this level and distance 2 starts back, drops after tracking the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in a race moved from the turf to a mile and a sixteenth on a good main track. Trainer Jose Garoffalo has Irad atop the gelded son of Brethren.

**1 GEONOSIS** is dropping to the \$6,250 '2-lifetime' level in the first race since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in a \$35,000 '2-lifetime' claimer going 6 ½ furlongs during December. Trainer Antonio Sano has Luis Saez handling the major class drop. **4 DAZZLING PROSE** is wheeling back after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a rainstorm at this level and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-4**

**RACE 6:**

**10 HOTSY TOSY (IRE)** is making her first start since finishing 5<sup>th</sup>, on a yielding course, in the \$100,000 Riskaverse at Saratoga, which was her North American debut for trainer Christophe Clement; Irad Ortiz Jr adds to the appeal. **3 SCATNAP** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after prompting the pace and running good enough not to lose when beaten a head going a mile last out. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Edgard Zayas in the saddle. **2 MUSIC OF LIFE** is making her first start since parlaying a game stretch run into a \$40,000 starter allowance victory during March. Trainer Danny Gargan, 25% with this type of layoff, has Luis Saez named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 10-3-2****RACE 7:**

**5 SNIPER SHOT** is stretching out to a mile after returning from the 3-month layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> behind stakes winner Mihos going 7 furlongs last out. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez atop the gelded son of Shackleford. **6 SQUEEZEADIOS** is turning back to a mile after rallying to come within a neck of defeating \$50,000 optional claimers – at 19-1 – going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Terri Pompay has Cristian Torres in the irons. **2 LEGIT**, another from Todd Pletcher, is hoping to get back on track at a mile after the clunker – as the 4-to-5 favorite – going a mile and a sixteenth last out. You have to like the fact that Irad Ortiz Jr sticks with the lightly raced 5-year-old son of Curlin.

**SELECTIONS: 5-6-2****RACE 8:**

**5 DUC DE CALAS (FR)**, in for the \$35,000 tag in this optional claimer, wheels back at this marathon distance looking to improve on the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish last out. Trainer Christophe Clement, a master at getting horses to compete at longer distances, has Emisael Jaramillo in the irons. **8 RIJEKA (IRE)**, who defeated the top choice at this 12-furlong distance 2 starts back, drops, and stretches out, after finishing a troubled 9<sup>th</sup> (clipped heels) vs \$62,500 optional claimers going 9 furlongs last out. **7 SO HIGH (GB)**, listed as a gelding, is making his North American debut for trainer Jonathan Thomas after the brief 4-race campaign in Great Britain, which includes a pair at this mile and a half distance; Luis Saez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-8-7****RACE 9: THE SUNDAY SILENCE**

**3 SPINOFF**, 2<sup>nd</sup> at the distance in the G2 Louisiana Derby, stretches out after returning from the 6-month plus layoff to finish a useful 4<sup>th</sup> going 7 furlongs. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Irad Ortiz Jr returning on the classy son of Hard Spun. **5 PHAT MAN**, who posted triple digit Beyer figures when winning the 1-mile G3 Fred Hooper, and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the G2 Gulfstream Mile, will try to notch his first-ever victory at a mile and an eighth (2-0-0-0). Note that he hasn't competed at this distance in a few years. **6 JUST WHISTLE** is making his first start since rallying to come within a length of springing the 24-1 upset in the 9-furlong G3 Fred Hooper. Trainer Michael Matz has Luis Saez named to ride

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-6****RACE 10:**

**12 MISS MUNNINGS** is dropping after her 2-race win streak at this level ended when she finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Grade 3 Honey Fox. Trainer John Kimmel has the 7-year-old daughter of Munnings working sharply on the Palm Meadows turf. **5 TRAIPSING** will try to make it 2 in a row after returning from an extended layoff to defeat first-level allowance competition at the distance. Trainer Christophe Clement has Dylan Davis named to ride. **6 GUACAMOLE** is stretching out around 2-turns on the turf after coming within a head of defeating this level of competition going 6 furlongs on the dirt. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Irad atop the daughter of Flat Out.

**SELECTIONS: 12-5-6****RACE 11:**

**6 CATHARSIS** will try to make it 3 in a row after returning from the 2-month freshening to score at this level and distance. Trainer Armando De La Cerda has Irad in the saddle again. **1 AWSUM ROAR** goes from the outside to the rail after setting the pace and finishing in dead heat for 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Catharsis last out. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Hector Berrios atop the inside speed. **4 STORMY NELLY** is stepping up the competition in the first race since reeling off back-to-back turf sprints vs a notch softer competition. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez has Leonel Reyes named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 6-1-4****BEST BET: RACE 11 – 6 CATHARSIS****LONGSHOT: RACE - 5 DUC DE CALAS (FR)**