



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Sunday, May 24, 2020

## RACE 1:

**8 ASTRONAUT** is ready to land in the winner's circle after debuting on the turf, in the Tom Albertrani barn, and proceeding to run a bang-up 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance; Joe Bravo rides. **3 LEADING WEST**, now in the Mike Maker barn, the son of Distorted Humor makes his first start since showing promise on the turf in a trio of special weight test at this 1-mile distance.

**5 CONSTITUTIONAL PAL** is another primed and ready to offer more after returning from the 7-month plus layoff to finish a troubled starting 6<sup>th</sup> (bumped, steadied) – beaten 3 lengths – at this level and distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Nik Juarez in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 8-3-5**

## RACE 2:

**2 STORMY BOSS** gets the call after responding to the turnback from a mile with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Juan Avila has Leonel Reyes in the saddle. **10 MYSTIC COMIN HOME** is dropping to the \$6,250 level after setting the early pace and calling it a day when fading to finish 5<sup>th</sup> vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' foes going 6 panels on a sealed sloppy track.

**11 AMERICA'S QUEEN** is debuting locally after returning from a layoff at Tampa to crush a field of \$10,000 maidens by 6 ½ lengths; Joe Bravo rides.

**SELECTIONS: 2-10-11**

## RACE 3:

**7 SEISMIC WAVE**, who has shown in the past he can win after a layoff, returns to action for trainer Bill Mott, and makes his 1<sup>st</sup> start since winning the \$100,000 English Channel going a mile on the Belmont turf. The son of Tapit, working strongly at Payson Park, has Edgard Zayas in the saddle. **2 CLASS AND CASH** is wheeling back at this same level and distance after finishing 4<sup>th</sup> behind next-out Sunshine Forever Stakes winner Halladay, and hard-knocking next-out winner Kroy. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Nik Juarez atop the 4-time local turf winner.

**5 MONARCHS GLEN (GB)** is cutting back to a mile in the first start since disputing the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a \$75,000 optional claimer going 9 furlongs during March. Trainer Danny Gargan, 26% with this type of layoff, has Samy Camacho in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 7-2-5**

## RACE 4:

**4 MUMBAI** is a daughter of Street Sense, and a half-sister to Grade 1 stakes-placed Terra Promessa, debuting for trainer Christophe Clement with Lasix, and Samy Camacho named to ride.

**3 DOLL COLLECTION**, a daughter of Tapit, is making her 4-year-old debut after showing promise in her sophomore campaign in Kentucky and New York. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Emisael Jaramillo atop the Whisper Hill Farm homebred.

**2 GRAND CRU CLASSE** is a \$335,000 daughter of Bernardini debuting for Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott with Lasix, and 11 Payson Park workouts showing in preparation for her first start; Edgard Zayas rides.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-2**

## RACE 5:

**12 MAN WITH A PLAN** is dropping to the \$8,000 level in the first start since being claimed for \$35,000 when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> going 5 furlongs on the turf during December. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Emisael Jaramillo handling the big dropdown.

**3 LUCKYTOBEINAMERICA**, now in the Marcial Navarro barn, the gelding figures prominently after coming within a nose of scoring at this level and distance last out. **11 SULTRY SAMURAI**, now in the Elizabeth Dobles barn, the \$300,000 son of Midnight Lute makes his first start since defeating \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers going 6 ½ furlongs. Note that the barn is 26% with new additions to the shedrow.

**SELECTIONS: 12-3-11**

**RACE 6:**

**2 FUDDLED (IRE)** is making her first start since the promising career debut in which she encountered some traffic problems and was beaten on a neck at this level and distance. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

**4 AMERICAN GODDESS** is turning back to 5 furlongs after following a pair of 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes at this distance with a stamina tweaking set-the-pace-and-weaken 5<sup>th</sup> going a mile last out. Trainer Wesley Ward has Nik Juarez handling the turnback.

**5 LET THEM EAT CAKE** is another turning back to five-eighths of a mile after showing speed and getting caught late going 8 and 8 ½ furlongs, respectively. Trainer Ian Wilkes is 24% with horses turning back in distance.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-5****RACE 7:**

**5 DIZZY GILLESPIE** has his claiming tag carved in half after returning 3-month layoff to duel for the lead and finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$16,000 claimers. Trainer Peter Walder has Miguel Vazquez handling the dropdown.

**2 KAHRAMANI** moved to the Gerado Quiroz barn via the claim, and drops to the \$8,000 level, after stumbling at the start, rushing up to set the pace, and fading from his earlier efforts to get beat double-digit lengths at the \$12,500 level. **4 BLAME THE THIEF**, now in the Todd Pletcher barn, the gelded son of Blame drops a notch in the first race since defeating \$10,000 claimers going a mile at Aqueduct during March; Edgard Zayas rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-2-4****RACE 8:**

**3 TOFFEN** is hoping for clear sailing after following her \$25,000 maiden victory with a well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance, despite the fact she was searching for running room along the rail.

**2 I'LL DO IT MY WAY**, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> – at 42-1 – at this level and distance 2 starts back, drops after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> – at 18-1 – when facing \$50,000 claimers last out. Trainer Ron Spatz has Miguel Vazquez in the irons. **10 DAYS OF SPRING**, a sharp winner vs \$20,000 claimers 2 starts back, is hoping for better racing luck after breaking poorly and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> behind the top choice last out. The outside post can help the daughter of Uncle Mo.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-10****RACE 9:**

**5 COLONEL LIAM** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after setting demanding early fractions, and fighting back gamely along the rail, before having to check late and settle for 2<sup>nd</sup>, before being elevated to 1<sup>st</sup> via a steward's decision. **6 BLUE BUFF** will try to make it 4 in a row after drawing clear – as the odds-on choice – to win at this distance by 4 widening lengths. The red-hot gelding will have Miguel Vazquez at the controls. **2 WAR GIANT** is dropping in for the \$25,000 tag in this optional claimer after following the victory at this level 2 starts back with a stalk-and-fade outing vs \$50,000 optional claimers.

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

**1 CARBON DATA** should be ready to offer more after returning from the 20-month layoff to set the pace and weaken to finish 5<sup>th</sup> behind this familiar competition. Trainer Mary Eppler has Emisael Jaramillo atop the son of Birdstone. **2 WILLING TO SPEED** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth again after hanging on gamely to defeat \$32,000 starter allowance runners going a mile last out. Trainer John Kimmel has Luis Reyes atop the consistent 4-year-old.

**12 KOKOKOMO**, a son of Uncle Mo, is stepping up to face winners at 8 ½ furlongs after breaking from an outside post (11) and defeating special weight runners going a mile, albeit last September. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 29% with the longer than 180 days layoff, as Edgard Zayas handling the outside draw.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-12****RACE 11:**

**8 SOUPER SHENANIGAN** is dropping to the \$12,500 level after returning from the 5-month layoff to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$20,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. Trainer Mark Casse has apprentice Cristian Torres named to ride.

**3 CAPTURED BY FATE** is dropping to this level, and debuting on the turf, after following his maiden special weight victory going 5 furlongs on the dirt with a set-the-pace-and-fade outing vs \$30,000 claimers going 6 furlongs on a sealed sloppy track.

**7 KOBE FIFTY TWO** is stepping up to face winners after drawing clear to win his \$12,500 career debut going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Gilberto Zerpa has Emisael Jaramillo going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 8-3-7****BEST BET: RACE 9 – 5 COLONEL LIAM****LONGSHOT: RACE 10 - 1 CARBON DATA**