



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

3 EL COMMENDATORE is an obvious choice in the opener after returning from the layoff to finish a rallying 3rd at this level and distance.

2 DAZZLING PROSE is giving the turf another try after back-to-back 2nd place finishes vs similar quality going a 1-turn mile on the main track.

1 ACCOUNTANT Q is stretching out around 2 turns on the grass after dueling for the lead and finishing 3rd vs similar going 6 furlongs on the dirt. He can control the pace from his inside post.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-1

RACE 2:

1 LEAKY CUP will depart from the rail after posting impressive back-to-back victories at the distance. The sophomore will be odds-on to repeat. **3 SMOKER** has chased Leaky Cup around in consecutive races, including the first start after the claim by Aubrey Maragh. It can be déjà vu all over again.

4 FOLLOWHISFOOTSTEPS moved to the Fernando Abreu barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, after drawing off to defeat \$16,000 maidens by 5-plus lengths.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-4

RACE 3:

3 FAITHFUL SUE will try to make it 2 in a row after returning from the 4-month plus layoff to defeat \$12,500 conditioned claimers at the distance. Trainer Yvon Belsoeur has Marcos Meneses in the irons. **2 STAY SAFE KITTEN**, a sharp 2nd on the turf vs \$16,000 claimers 2 starts back, is going back to the lawn after finishing a distant 3rd vs \$25,000 optional claimers going a mile in the mud. The concern is the lack of a victory since 2017.

5 SWAPL moved to the Jose Garoffalo barn after the claim, and drops to the \$12,500 level, in the first start since finishing 5th behind new stablemate Stay Safe Kitten when they hooked up on the turf during March. Jockey Victor Lebron guides this half of the Garoffalo uncoupled entry.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-5

RACE 4:

1 FORTY'S SWEETHEART moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and stretches out to three-quarters of a mile, after a 6-wide charge produced a 3rd place finish behind next-out winner Bright Venezuelan going 5 ½ furlongs. 10-pound apprentice Kennyel Suarez rides.

6 MISS SURPRISE moved to the Yvon Belsoeur barn via the claim looking to rebound from the chase-and-fade outing at this level and distance. The new connections tab C C Lopez to ride.

5 SHE NAILED IT, a winner at this level and distance during March, drops after returning from the layoff to finish a so-so 6th vs \$10,000 open claimers.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-5

RACE 5:

6 MAMBO DANCER wheels back after responding to the dropdown to this level and distance with a duel-for-the-lead 3rd place finish last out. Trainer Jorge Delgado has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride. **8 JUDGE KITTEN** is taking an immediate drop to the \$12,500 level after finishing a sightseeing 8th in her \$20,000 career debut. Trainer Mike Maker has Edgard Zayas named on the daughter of Kitten's Joy.

3 RAGS PAULINE is freefalling to the \$12,500 level after 'hitting the board' in 1 of 3 turf routes at the \$50-35,000 levels. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has J J Gonzales named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-8-3

RACE 6:

1 QUICK STEP ED is turning back to 6 furlongs again after following the head defeat in his debut at the distance with a stalk-the-pace 3rd vs open special weight competition going a 1-turn mile last out. **2 JAMAICAN** will depart towards the inside after breaking from Post 11, chasing the pace, and weakening to finish 6th at this level and distance. Expect improvement in the 3rd start back from the layoff. **3 DEXTER**, who showed promise in his sophomore campaign, makes his 4-year-old debut the first start since finishing 2nd vs state-bred special weight runners last May. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Albin Jimenez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-3**RACE 7:**

2 MAJESTIC MAIARA is dropping a notch on the competition ladder after following her \$16,000 '3-lifetime' victory going 5 furlongs with a 2nd place finish vs \$20,000 starter optional claimers, also at five-eighths of a mile. She stretches out around 2-turns with speed needed to steal this event from on or just off the pace. **1 LOVELY LUVY** is stretching out slightly to a mile after responding to the dropdown in competition by finishing a wide 3rd behind *Anabella Queen* last out.

7 VENEZUELAN FOREVER might have something to say about the pace when she makes her first start since leading every step of the way to defeat \$16,000 claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on softened turf listed as 'good'.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-7**RACE 8:**

4 LEVY LAND moved to the Gilberto Zerpa barn via the claim after responding to the dropdown in competition with a rousing score vs \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers. The barn, 48% with new claims, has Edgard Zayas named to ride. **5**

GLOTONASA moved to the Marcial Navarro barn via the claim in the first start since drawing clear to defeat \$6,250 '2-lifetime' foes going 5 ½ furlongs. The new connections have Israel Rodriguez handling the stretchout to 7 furlongs.

1 PEGGITY is a candidate for a rebound performance at a price when turning back to 7 furlongs after following a victory at a mile with clunker at three-quarters of a mile. **7 SITE VAS** is stepping up the competition after responding in the first start after the switch to the Emmet Jolly barn with a 'much the best' victory vs '2-lifetime' runners going 6 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-1-7**RACE 9:**

5 GUY CABALLERO is returning to the optional claiming ranks after tracking the pace and finishing 3rd in the Grade 2 GP Mile. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Jalon Samuel trying to notch the gelding's first victory since 2017. **1 AEQUOR** is stepping up the competition after returning from the layoff to crush a field of \$25,000 conditioned claimers by almost 10 lengths. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez has Emisael Jaramillo going for 2 in a row at the distance. **7 EYE OF A JEDI** is a consistent gelding that turns back to a mile after rallying to finish 3rd in a \$62,500 optional claimer going a mile and a sixteenth last out. The 4-year-old, 7 for 7 'in the money' on the GP main track (7-1-3-3), has Victor Lebron at the helm.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-7**RACE 10:**

8 PLEA BARGAIN, now in the Mike Lerman barn, the gelding should be ready to offer more after returning from the layoff to set a pressured pace before fading to finish 4th at this level and distance.

7 OUR BOSS is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after shaking off early traffic to duel for the lead and weaken going 6 ½ furlongs last out.

10 K C TWOSTEP is looking to make amends after showing speed and finishing 3rd vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs, but that was before he was disqualified and placed 12th for cutting off the field; journeyman Gary Bain rides.

SELECTIONS: 8-7-10**BEST BET: RACE 7 – 2 MAJESTIC MAIARA****LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 1 PEGGITY**