RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Thursday, April 2, 2020

RACE 1:
3 LIVING VICARIOUSLY was solid in defeat when he set some swift early fractions and finished a hard-fought 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Mike Tomlinson has Emisael Jaramillo in the irons. **10 MR NAPPY** is dropping to the $50,000 level and turning back to 5 furlongs, after following a 4th place finish vs state-bred special weight company sprinting at the distance with a stalk-and-fade outing vs special weight foes going a mile last out. **9 CALL CURT** is stepping up to this level after finishing a promising 2nd – from an outside post – in his $25,000 career debut at the distance. Trainer Juan Avila claimed him last out, and tabs Edgard Zayas to ride.

SELECTIONS: 3-10-9

RACE 2:
10 MARKISTAN moved to the Jorge Delgado barn via the claim, and cuts back slightly to 5 ½ furlongs, after chasing the pace and finishing 3rd vs this level of competition going three-quarters of a mile. The new connections tab Luis Saez to ride. **6 BIBIANA** is plunging to the $16,000 level after returning from the 2-month freshening to finish 6th -as the favorite – vs $50,000 going 6 furlongs. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione atop the one to fear on the drop. **4 NEW YORK COMMANDER** is a daughter of Commissioner debuting for trainer Sandra Matier with Lasix, and full morning work tab over the track showing in preparation for the debut.

SELECTIONS: 10-6-4

RACE 3:
1 TALKTHETALK is dropping to the $10,000 level, and turning back to 6 furlongs on the dirt, after setting the pace and weakening to finish 5th vs $25,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Jane Cibelli, 30% with the grass-to-dirt angle, readied her for this performance with a 3-furlong bullet work on the Palm Meadows main track. **6 DERBY DAY ZIP** is dropping to this level, and turning back to three-quarters of a mile, after facing considerably tougher in both local sprints going longer. Trainer Pat Reynolds tabs 7-pound apprentice Mario Fuentes to ride. **3 PAPA'S LITTLE GIRL** is dropping a notch after rallying to 'hit the board' in a trio of sprints at the $12,500 level. The concern with the consistent 4-year-old is the 1-for-18 win record.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-3

RACE 4:
3 CAT LADY is hoping for clear sailing after getting bumped on the first turn, causing the jock to lose an iron, and still managing to finish 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher tabs Luis Saez to ride. **8 MIMINA'S TEAM** was solid in defeat when she broke from Post 10, stalked early, got the lead in the stretch, and settled for 2nd – beaten three-quarters of a length – at this level and distance. **4 TOO SEXY** is sitting on an improved performance after finishing the promising 3rd behind Mimina's Team in her career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione returning on the $270,000 daughter of Quality Road.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-4

RACE 5:
6 WORTH AVENUE is shopping for a victory at the $6,250 level after moving to Victor Barboza Jr barn via the claim and finishing 4th vs $8,000 claimers going 6 ½ furlongs. The barn, a whopping 57% with new claims, tab Edgard Zayas to ride.
4 SUZ moved to the Dom Schettino barn via the claim, and drops to this level, after showing speed and weakening late vs $12,500 claimers last out. The speedy mare should be in the first fight playing catch me if you can.
9 TUESDAY'S ROSE is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after responding in the first race after the claim by Saffie Joseph Jr with a wide 3rd place finish vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-9

RACE 6:
6 DIENDA is wheeling back after the solid career turf debut at this level and distance in which she set the pace and finished 2nd in front of a pair of next out winners. Trainer Mark Casse has Joel Rosario named on the daughter of Kantharos.
1 RICHIES GREAT GIRL, who was a troubled 4th on the turf in the $60,000 Mrs Presidentress, is going back to the grass with the ideal stalking style needed to sit behind what should be a strong early pace. Trainer Larry Rivelli has Victor Lebron handling the surface switch. **2 GLORIOUS GAL** is hoping to find more during the stretch run after making a 3-wide bid and finishing 3rd behind Dienda last out.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-2

RACE 7:
7 ENVOUTANTE is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after responding to the surface switch with a trouble starting 2nd (stumbled) – as the favorite – going a 1-turn mile on the dirt last out. Trainer Ken McPeek has Dylan Davis named to ride. **2 NEVER FORGET**, a daughter of War Front, is stretching out around 2-turns after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd – as the favorite – going 6 furlongs. Trainer Vickie Oliver has Joe Bravo named to handle the stretchout.

1 TOKEN, a daughter of Curlin, out of the Pulpit mare Sign, stretches out for Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott after opening and surrendering a late 4-length lead when 2nd going a mile last out; Joel Rosario will be rationing her speed this time out.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-1

RACE 8:
4 DIXIEINCANDYLAND is looking to sit in the catbird seat behind what is absolutely sure to be a torrid early pace after finishing a trouble 2nd (checked) at this level and distance. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has the best finisher in the game (Joel Rosario) named to ride. **1 SMACK** is stepping up to face winners after the impressive maiden victory at the distance in which she drew clear to win by 3 ½ lengths. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione going for 2 in a row.
7 AWSUM ROAR, a 6-time local turf winner, and an 8-time winner at the distance, signaled she could compete at this level when she stepped up off the claim by Elizabeth Dobles and finished a chase-the-pace 3rd last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-7

RACE 9:
6 BATTALION is hoping for a clean trip at 8 ½ furlongs after bumping at the start, getting mired in traffic at the top of the stretch, and finishing 5th going a mile last out. Trainer Bill Mott tabs John Velazquez to ride. **7 BEAR ALLEY**, a half-brother to $1.8 million-dollar earner Arklow, and Grade 2 winner Maraud, is debuting on the turf after setting the pace and finishing 2nd going a mile and a sixteenth on the main track. Trainer Dale Romans has Emisael Jaramillo named on the $525,000 son of Will Take Charge. **5 PRICING EXERCISE** is stretching out an additional 16th of a mile after making a middle move and fading – as the favorite – in his 1-mile debut for trainer Chad Brown, who is 35% with maidens making their 2nd start; Joel Rosario rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-5

BEST BET: RACE 7 – 7 ENVOUTANTE

LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 6 BATTALION