



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Thursday, April 23, 2020

RACE 1:

10 LASKA drops to the \$12,500 level after getting mugged at the 1/8th pole when finishing 6th vs considerably tougher in a \$25,000 maiden test at the distance. Trainer Michael Matz has Joe Bravo named to ride. **8 DELIA'S PRIDE** is stretching out after rallying to finish a late-closing 4th vs \$16,000 maidens going a mile. **7 CALENTITA (IRE)**, now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, the 4-year-old plummets to the \$10,500 level, and races without blinkers, in the first race since facing \$50,000 types in California last summer; Edgard Zayas rides.

SELECTIONS: 10-8-7

RACE 2:

1 BUST OUT LADY is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after stalking the pace and finishing 3rd when facing similar quality going a 1-turn mile. Trainer Mike Lerman has Edgard Zayas handling the inside draw. **7 SHEKNOWSTHEDRILL** is turning back after setting the pace and fading to finish 4th when facing this familiar competition going 7 furlongs. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Angel Rodriguez rationing her speed. **5 WATER WIZARD** will try 6 ½ furlongs after finishing 2nd at 6 and 7 furlongs, respectively. Trainer Angel Medina has apprentice Mario Fuentes riding.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-5

RACE 3:

1 DOTDOTDASH – U - need to have this daughter of Tapiture on your ticket when she drops to the \$12,500 level, with blinkers added, after tracking the action and finishing 4th in a \$25,000 maiden sprint at the distance. **6 MAKE A MINT** is another dropping to this level in the first race since finishing a late-closing 3rd vs \$25,000 maidens during December. Trainer Bill Hickey has Emisael Jaramillo handling the return. **3 AWESOME LIGHT** is a daughter of Awesome of Course, out of the Stack mare Straya, debuting for trainer Juan Rizo with Lasix,

and a string of solid workouts showing over the stamina enhancing GP West training track; Miguel Arroyo rides.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-3

RACE 4:

3 STORMY BOSS is stretching out to a mile after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 2nd place finish – beaten a neck – vs \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers going 6 furlongs. **6 PAYNTER FEST** moved to the Victor Barboza Jr barn via the claim, and drops to this level, after coming up empty vs \$12,500 types during February. The barn, 55% with new claims, has Cristian Torres in the saddle.

1 SAMOA, now in the Oscar Gonzalez barn, the Arindel homebred is hoping to bounce back after disputing the pace and fading to finish 4th – at \$.50 cents to the dollar – at this level and distance last out; Emisael Jaramillo handles the inside speed.

4 TIME TO TWO STEP is stepping up to face winners after returning from the layoff, dropping to the \$12,500 level, and holding on to break her maiden at \$.20 cents to the dollar. Trainer Peter Walder has Miguel Vazquez up.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-1-4

RACE 5:

7 VALDOLOBO (IRE) is stepping to the competition in the first start since debuting locally and posting his 2nd consecutive turf victory when defeating \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Brendan Walsh has Luis Saez in the irons. **6 WILLING TO SPEED** is turning back to a mile after rallying to finish 3rd in back-to-back starter allowance races going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer John Kimmel has Dylan Davis trying to get the colt out of 3rd gear. **8 DERMOT** is another cutting back to a mile after setting the pace and tiring to finish 5th behind Willing to Speed in consecutive races going 8 ½ furlongs. The turnback move can be the 'key' to his success.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-8

RACE 6:

2 UNTITLED will face state-bred runners after finishing 2nd vs open competition in the Grade 3 Gotham at Aqueduct. Trainer Mark Casse has Luis Saez atop the probable odds-on choice.

3 ROMAN EMPIRE, who was impressive breaking his maiden at this distance on the dirt, is going back to the main track after taking the overland route when finishing a sightseeing 6th vs \$20,000 state-bred optional claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher is 28% with the grass to dirt angle. **1 NO GETTING OVER ME**, now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, is debuting locally at a mile after following a pair of 'in the money' finishes sprinting vs stakes competition with a troubled starting 5th in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 3 Sam Davis at Tampa.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-1

RACE 7:

11 DR. EDGAR, is dropping into this starter allowance after facing stakes competition in 9 consecutive races, which includes a victory here in the 2019 Grade Appleton, and stalk-the-pace 5th in this years Appleton. Trainer Barclay Tagg has Dylan Davis atop this classy 7-year-old. **12 MOROCCO** is turning back to a mile after following his set-the-pace and retreat performance behind superstar stablemate Zulu Alpha in the Grade 2 Mac Diarmida with a \$50,00 claiming score going 8 ½ furlongs last out. **9 GRAND JOURNEY**, 5 of 9 on this turf course, will try to flaunt his horse-for-course status with the ideal stalk/closing style to needed to sit the trip behind the honest pace expected. Chris Landeros rides for Ralph Nicks.

SELECTIONS: 11-12-9

RACE 8:

2 MONEY NEVER SLEEPS is dropping to the \$50,000 level, and turning back to 7 furlongs, after stalking the pace and finishing 3rd vs \$75,000 optional claimers going a mile last out. Trainer Terri Pompay has Miguel Vazquez named to ride.

4 TOPO GRIGIO is stepping up to face winners after rebounding from the poor showing in her maiden special weight debut with a \$50,000 maiden victory – as the favorite – going a mile. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez named to ride.

5 BIRD MAP moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim after edging clear to defeat \$50,000 maidens going 6 furlongs. The new connections have Edgard Zayas handling the stretchout to seven-eighths of a mile.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-5

RACE 9:

1 TEMPLE is stretching out to 9 furlongs after rallying late to 'hit the board' in 3 consecutive races vs this caliber of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Maker has Luis Saez handling the stretchout. **3 OPRY** is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after returning from the 8-month plus layoff to wire a field of allowance runners going 8 ½ furlongs. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Edgard Zayas atop the son of Declaration of War.

8 AWARD WINNER, a half-brother to turf superstars Oscar Performance and Oscar Nominated, and a previous winner at the distance, stretches out after failing to show us usual speed when he got parked wide and finished 9th behind Temple last out. He's worth a look at double-digit odds.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-8

RACE 10:

10 SWEET STORY is dropping to the \$12,500 level after running into winning machine Avenida Manana in the 3 consecutive races at the \$16,000 level. The concern for the late-striding mare is the lack of a strong pace to help her running style. **12 YAKO** breaks from the outside, and may turn out to be the controlling speed, vs a field that's clearly light in the pace department. She'll be running and gunning as soon as the pop the gate latch. **7 RETRO STREET** is turning back to her best distance (9-2-2-0) after getting mired in traffic when finishing 7th behind disqualified Yako when they hooked up during March. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Luis Saez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 10-12-7

BEST BET: RACE 5 – 7 VALDOLOBO (IRE)

LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 8 AWARD WINNER