



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



Thursday, December 10, 2020

RACE 1:

1 ALWAYS MISBEHAVING, who faced better in his only previous turf race, is dropping to the \$20,000 level, and returning to the grass, after showing some early interest in a pair of sprints vs high-priced maidens on the dirt. Trainer Danny Gargan has Miguel Vazquez handling the surface switch. **8 ISLE OF MAN** had his claiming tag cut in half after returning from a layoff at Laurel to finish a useful 6th going a mile on the dirt. Trainer Marry Eppler has Paco Lopez atop the gelded son of Tapit. **7 CUY**, who ran well on the turf here during the last meeting, is going back to the lawn after the pair of chase-and-fade outings on the main track. Trainer Liz Dobles has Edgar Prado trying to spark the wake-up call.

SELECTIONS: 1-8-7

RACE 2:

1 MARKISTAN moved to the Kent Sweezey barn via the claim, and returns locally, after the couple of solid 2nd place finishes vs similar quality across town. The new connections have Luis Saez atop the 3-time local winner. **5 BEAST OF WILDWOOD** is another 3-time local winner who returns after finishing 3rd behind common thread It'smyluckygirl, who defeated Makistan on November 1st, when going 6 furlongs in the slop last out. Trainer Gilberto Zerpa has Paco Lopez atop the daughter of The Big Beast. **3 BAHAMIAN GIRL** is dropping to the \$6,250 level after setting the pace and fading late vs \$12,500 claimers going 6 ½ furlongs at GP West. She'll be playing catch me if you can with Luca Panici in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-3

RACE 3:

3 FREEZE TURKEY has his claiming tag cut in half, and adds blinkers, after finishing a workman-like 6th in his \$32,000 career debut at GP West. Trainer Kelly Breen, 24% with maidens making their 2nd start, has Joe Bravo in the saddle. **7 WATER CAY** will try a 1-turn mile locally after rallying 3-wide to finish 2nd vs similar quality going a 2-turn mile across town. Trainer Gustavo Amaya has Leonel Reyes atop the son of Orb.

8 THOROVER will face \$16,000 maidens locally after responding to a dropdown in competition with a stalk-the-pace 3rd place finish vs \$25,000 state-bred maidens going 6 furlongs on a sealed sloppy track across town. Trainer Joe Orseno has Victor Lebron handling the local debut.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-8

RACE 4:

7 HAPPY CHAMP, a son of Runhappy, will face Fla state-bred maidens on the main track after showing speed and fading to finish 6th vs special weight competition going a mile on the Churchill turf course. Trainer Jack Sisterson, 24% with the turf to dirt angle, has Julien Leparoux handling the turnback to 6 furlongs. **4 CAPTAIN** is a son of win-early sire Khozan debuting for trainer Kathleen O'Connell with a string of consistent workouts showing on the Ocala Training Center synthetic surface. Edgard Zayas rides this unknown quantity over the local surface.

3 THE RED MAN is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after rebounding from his poor showing in the \$400,000 In Reality with a 3rd place finish vs this level of opposition going 6 ½ furlongs at GP West.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-3

RACE 5:

5 STORMY DERBY DAY, who used her speed to defeat \$50,000 maidens here during April, returns after failing to show that keen early interest in a series of \$40,000 '2-lifetime' races on the New York turf circuit. Trainer Tommy Bush reunites the daughter of Get Stormy with Luca Panici, who was aboard for her only previous victory. **1 SHE FLED THE SCENE**, who is 9 for 13 'in the money' on this course, goes back to the grass after returning from a layoff at GP West and getting beat double-digit lengths in a race moved from the lawn to a sealed sloppy track. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Tyler Gaffalione handling the surface switch. **9 RECESS**, a daughter of Point of Entry, is making her first start since Dan Hurtak claimed her from Todd Pletcher here during March. The tote action should tell us more: Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-9

**RACE 6:**

4 MISS PEPPINA, now in the Todd Pletcher barn, the daughter of Bayren makes her local debut going 6 furlongs hoping to recapture the form she displayed in her freshman season when finishing 4th in both the Grade 1 Spinaway and Grade 2 Adirondack: Luis Saez rides. **8 BRAMBLE BERRY**, who finished a well-meant 2nd in a pair vs similar sprinting on the Monmouth main track, is going back to the dirt after failing to fire when trying \$20,000 state-bred optional claimers going 5 furlongs on the GP West turf. Trainer Kent Sweezey has Paco in the irons.

2 ROYAL MEGHAN is dropping a notch after hitting the board in 2 of 4 sprints vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers, both here and across town. Trainer Fernando Abreu has Tyler in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-2

RACE 7:

10 SOOTHING was sent east after solid turf campaign in California in which she used her speed to defeat \$50,000 starter allowance runners at Delmar, was 3rd vs the same at Golden Gate, and a set-the-pace 5th at Santa Anita in her last. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Julien Leparoux atop the speedy 4-year-old.

8 WAR CANOE, a 7-year-old daughter of Lemon Drop Kid, is dropping to the \$35,000 level, and facing open competition, after 'hitting the board' in 3 of 4 New York-bred turf stakes for trainer Chad Brown. Tyler Gaffalione will handle this shaky drop into the claiming ranks. **3 CALENTITA (IRE)** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from a layoff to finish 2nd vs \$16,000 starter optional claimers going a mile on the GP West turf. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Edgar Prado atop the 4-year-old, who is a perfect 2-for- 2 at 8 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 10-8-3

RACE 8:

3 REAL TALK, a son of Gemologist, who is bred to like the distance, is stretching out after following his impressive debut victory with a disappointing 4th – as the favorite - behind repeat stakes winner Poppy's Pride in the 6 ½-furlong Juvenile Sprint going 6 ½ furlongs on a sealed sloppy GP West main track. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Tyler in the irons.

1 MOONLIGHT STRIKE, who hasn't raced on a fast surface yet, steps up, and stretches out, after driving clear in the slop to break his maiden going 7 furlongs. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Edgard Zayas atop the son of Liam's Map.

2 KIGER, another from Saffie Joseph Jr, comes off the 2-turn mile maiden victory across town to figure prominently. The connections add 2nd-time blinkers, and 2nd-time Emisael Jaramillo.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-2

RACE 9:

3 BEAM OF LIGHT is making her local return for the trainer Mike Trombetta the first race since using her speed to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a fruitful special weight affair going a mile on the Monmouth turf: Edgard Zayas rides. **11 OSAKA GIRL**, 2 for 2 'in the money' on this course, returns after a solid campaign vs allowance company in Kentucky, which includes a trio of 2nd-place finishes, the last behind Confessing, who won the Ricks Memorial Stakes at Remington in her next start. Trainer Brian Lynch has Julien Leparoux trying to get her out of 2nd gear. **1 GET REWARDED**, another from trainer Brian Lynch, is returning to the turf after following a solid turf performance here in August with a couple of solid turf outings in Kentucky: Paco Lopez rides.

SELECTIONS: 3-11-1

RACE 10:

3 LITTLE RED FROG is dropping to the \$20,000 level locally after ending her turf campaign in New York with a 3rd place finish vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Mike Maker has Tyler named to ride. **8 DIVINE MARTHA** is going back to the turf after a confidence building performance in which she posted an 8-length plus maiden victory going 6 ½ furlongs on the dirt. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Miguel Vazquez handling the surface switch. **9 ALL ABOUT KATHERN** is going back to the turf after finishing a distant 4th vs \$20,000 2-lifetime' claimers going a mile in race moved from turf to a sloppy track. Trainer Mary Eppler, who claimed her 2 starts back, has Paco Lopez handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-9

BEST BET: RACE 9 – 3 BEAM OF LIGHT

LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 10 SOOTHING