



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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## RACE 1:

**6 NELLIE BELLE** is driving down into the maiden claiming ranks with blinkers added after losing her best chance when she was shut off at the start of her maiden special weight debut. Trainer Todd Pletcher is 30% locally with turf horses dropping in class.

**7 OMI TEN** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim after dueling throughout and getting beat a head when 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar going a mile here on opening day. **1 DAZZLING BRIDE** is shifting her focus to the turf after showing speed and fading late in a series of sprints on the dirt. She can be an inside speed threat if she takes to the grass.

**SELECTIONS: 6-7-1**

## RACE 2:

**8 WHAT'S TO BLAME** is stepping up to face winners at the \$16,000 level after drawing clear to defeat \$40,000 maidens going 6 furlongs on a 'good' Aqueduct turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has England's top apprentice Cieren Fallon named to ride. **7 SCRIBE**, a well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar quality on the GP West turf, is going back to the grass after finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in a race moved from the turf to 5 furlongs on a sealed sloppy track. **2 COMBINATION** will give the turf a try after rallying late to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind a trio of next-out winners in a fruitful \$16,000 conditioned claimer going 6 furlongs on the GP West main track.

**SELECTIONS: 8-7-2**

## RACE 3:

**4 VICKYTHEBEST** is dropping to the \$12,500 level after returning from the layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a nose – vs \$20,000 maidens going 5 furlongs on the GP West main track. **2 MILKAH** is another dropping to the bottom, and removing the blinkers, after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> across town in a rained-out turf sprint moved to the dirt. Note that trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 36% when removing the blinkers on maiden claimers.

**9 TOUGH N BUFF** has her claiming tag carved in half, and gets the services of Luis Saez, after finishing a troubled 4<sup>th</sup> (steadied) vs \$25,000 maidens here on opening day.

**SELECTIONS: 4-2-9**

## RACE 4:

**6 HE'S SUPER LUCKY**, beaten a neck at this level during September, drops after returning from the freshening to finish 5<sup>th</sup> vs \$35,000 maidens here on opening day. Trainer Kathy Ritvo tabs Luis Saez to ride. **2 BIG TREASURE** needs to find an extra gear for the stretch drive after making a middle move to get the lead before fading to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Jose Pinchin has Irad Ortiz Jr at the controls. **7 GARNETT** is dropping into a competitive situation after failing to fire in his turf debut at the \$35,000 level. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Jairo Rendon in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 6-2-7**

## RACE 5:

**10 MAGNITUDE TEN** will be outfitted with blinkers after responding to the dropdown in competition with an improved 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Scott Becker has Jairo Rendon handling the stretchout to 6 ½ furlongs.

**8 HARTLING** is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks after 'hitting the board' in 2 of 3 maiden special weight sprints before the layoff. Trainer Kathy Ritvo has Luis Saez at the controls. **4 AWESOME EVIL** is debuting locally at the \$12,500 level after showing some early interest and fading vs \$20,000 types when sprinting at GP West.

**SELECTIONS: 10-8-4**

**RACE 6:**

**3 JO JO AIR** is returning to the allowance optional claiming ranks after ending her Spring campaign with a victory and well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in 5-furlong turf stakes. Trainer Wesley Ward, 35% with horses returning from similar layoffs locally, has the \$325,000 daughter of Scat Daddy working strongly on the Palm Meadows turf. **1 GUACAMOLE** is going back to the turf for the red-hot Todd Pletcher barn after ending her campaign up north with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Cicada, which was contested at 6 furlongs on the Aqueduct main track.

**2 R HAPPY ENDING** is stepping up to the \$62,500 level in the first start since using her speed to defeat \$25,000 optional claimers here during July. Note that trainer Georgina Baxter is 29% with the 61-180 days layoff.

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

**1 LI'L MEATBALL** moved to the Gilberto Zerpa barn via the claim after returning from the layoff to defeat \$6,250 dated-claimers going 5 ½ furlongs at GP West. Trainer Zerpa, 40% with new claims, has Edgard Zayas handling the inside draw.

**8 JERSEY JOE B** moved to the Bobby Dibona barn after the claim, and turns back to 5 ½ furlongs, after surrendering a mid-race lead to the winner when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> here going three-quarters of a mile.

**6 GEMOLOGISTER** is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after dueling for the lead and holding on gamely to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> on a wet main track at GP West.

**SELECTIONS: 1-8-6****RACE 8:**

**9 LA CHAUFFEUR** is dropping to the \$25,000 level, and returning to the turf, after the pair of 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finishes vs \$40,000 maidens sprinting on the GP west main track. The daughter of Cairo Prince, 4 for 5 'in the money' at the distance on the turf, has Emisael Jaramillo in the saddle. **5 TRULY** is turning back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs after a game try here at a mile in which she finished 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten only a head. Trainer Mike Lerman has Luis Saez in the irons again.

**3 GAMBLA** is dropping to this level, and turning back, after setting the pace and fading to finish 5<sup>th</sup> vs \$35,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth here last out. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Irad named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 9-5-3****RACE 9:**

**2 EARLY ENTRY**, a 5-time local winner, returns, and makes his first start since finishing 4<sup>th</sup> vs similar quality at Monmouth during June. Trainer Jorge Navarro, 36% with the longer than 180 days layoff, has Luis Saez handling the homecoming.

**5 FORTUNATE FRIENDS** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after just getting nipped for 2<sup>nd</sup> when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> going 6 ½ furlongs here last out. Trainer Herbert Miller has Cristian Torres in the saddle. **3 KAHRAMANI** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, in the first start since defeating \$10,000 open-claimers going 7 furlongs at Belmont during October.

**SELECTIONS: 2-5-3****RACE 10:**

**8 PURE LUCK** will be outfitted with blinkers after the pair of improved turf sprints in which he defeated \$10,000 '2-lifetime' claimers across town, and was 4<sup>th</sup> from the rail in his local return at this level and distance. He should get more than enough pace needed to compliment his stalking style.

**4 LUCKYTOBEINAMERICA** moved to the Herbert Miller barn via the claim, and returns locally, after chasing the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs similar quality going 5 furlongs on the GP West turf. The new connections tab apprentice Christian Torres to ride. **5 ANOTHER SOFTBALL** will try to find just a tad more for the stretch drive after returning from the layoff to set the pace and finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a half-length here - at this level and distance.

**SELECTIONS: 8-4-5****BEST BET: RACE 8 - 9 LA CHAUFFEUR****LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – PURE LUCK**