



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Thursday, February 13, 2020

RACE 1:

8 ASTROTURF is debuting locally for trainer Jonathan Thomas after rallying to finish 3rd in a fruitful 1-mile maiden special weight turf race at Tampa that's produced a pair of next out winners. The gelding adds blinkers, and has Javier Castellano in the saddle. **2 MAGIC STREET** is turning back to 8 furlongs after promising career debut here in which he ran 3rd going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Luis Saez atop the son of Magician. **1 CARIBBEAN GOLD** is a son of strong turf sire Treasure Beach debuting for trainer Ben Perkins Jr with Lasix, and a slew of strong workouts showing on the Palm Meadows turf. Red-hot jock Irad Ortiz Jr handles the inside post.

SELECTIONS: 8-2-1

RACE 2:

1 VICKYTHEBEST is dropping to the \$12,500 level in the first start since getting beat a nose when finishing 2nd vs \$20,000 maidens going 5 furlongs on the GP West main track. **5 NENITA** is wheeling back after yielding late – at odds of 87-1 – when finishing 3rd in her career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Antonio Sano tabs Edgard Zayas to ride. **2 STAMINA PRINCESS** is eligible to show more after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 4th place finish at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-2

RACE 3:

2 SUZ is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after setting the pace and just getting edged at the wire when finishing 2nd vs \$12,500 starter optional claimers going 5 ½ furlongs. The daughter of Well Positioned should be well positioned on the front-end playing catch me if you can; Luis Saez rides. **3 ROYALLY COOL** is dropping to the \$12,500 level on the main track after shipping up to Tampa and finishing 5th vs \$32,000 optional claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf.

The speedy 4-year-old should be part of the pace vs this level of competition. **1 ASSAIL** is stretching out to three-quarters after finishing 4th behind the top choice going 5 ½ furlongs last out. She can end up sitting in the catbird seat behind what could be a fast speed duel up front.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-1

RACE 4:

5 SISTER OTOOLE, now in the Graham Motion barn, the daughter of Amira's Prince debuts on the turf after showing promise when finishing a troubled 3rd (bumped start) in her 6-furlong career debut on the Tampa main track. Leading jockey Irad Ortiz Jr hops aboard. **2 JIMMYSSMOKEDCARROT** is a daughter of Turbo Compressor debuting for trainer Chad Brown, and that should be more than enough to pique your interest, despite the so-so turf breeding. **10 COUPLE OF NIKKIS** is stepping up the competition after finishing a well-meant 2nd – beaten a nose – going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf vs \$25,000 maidens. Luis Saez gets the call, as Irad moves to the top choice.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-10

RACE 5:

8 IRISH THUNDER is cutting back to 6 furlongs after pressing the pace and weakening to finish 3rd vs this level of competition going a 1-turn mile last out. Trainer David Fawkes has Luis Saez handling the shorter distance. **9 GIBBY'S GEM** is dropping to the \$25,000 level on the main track after expending valuable energy in the post parade, and then failing to fire in her \$50,000 career debut going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Jorge Navarro is a strong 34% with the turf-to-dirt angle. **4 TUMBADORA** is a daughter of Awesome Again debuting for trainer Gilberto Zerpa with Lasix, and jockey Marcos Meneses named to ride. The tote action should tell us more about her chances to win at first asking.

SELECTIONS: 8-9-4

RACE 6:

2 MAGIC RIVER moved to the David Fawkes barn via the claim, and turns back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs, after making a move for the lead and finishing 4th – as the tepid favorite – going a mile at this level last out. The new connections keep the status quo with Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **1 LITTLE NICOLE** is stretching out around 2-turns after the pair of promising 5-furlong sprints in which she rallied to get beat only a nose 2 starts back, and was a troubled 7th (shuffled back) in her last. Trainer Carlo Vaccarezza has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the added real estate. **6 ZODIAC PRINCESS** is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after finishing 2nd in a pair of recent turf routes going a mile, which includes the troubled outing here (steadied) last out.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-6**RACE 7:**

7 R MAN JOE is debuting on the turf after dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd – as the odds-on choice – going 5 furlongs in a race moved from the grass to a fast-main track. Trainer Georgina Baxter has Jose Ortiz handling the surface switch.

2 THE VIRGINIAN certainly has license to improve after having to rally wide when finishing 3rd in his career turf debut at this level and distance. Trainer Bill Hickey keeps the status quo with Jairo Rendon in the saddle. **4 OPTIMISTIC** is a gelded son of Treasure Beach debuting for trainer Jorge Delgado with Lasix, and Luis Saez named to ride. The steady morning work tab indicates the sophomore should be ready to roll.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-4**RACE 8:**

2 GRIT AND GLORY is plunging into this \$30,000 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimer after failing to fire in his local debut vs a strong group of \$35,000 optional claimers at the distance. Trainer Stanley Hough has Tyler Gaffalione named ride.

7 MORE THAN STRIKING finds an ideal spot to step up the competition after the sharp debut victory vs \$12,500 maidens going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Mike Tomlinson lightens the impost with apprentice Romero Maragh named to ride.

1 GEONOSIS is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after rallying 5-wide to finish 3rd – as the favorite – going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Antonio Sano has Jose Ortiz handling the stretchout.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-1**RACE 9:**

6 HIRE THE LADY should be primed and ready to fire a winning salvo after dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd – as the favorite – in her local return at this level and distance. Trainer Jose D'Angelo has Jose Ortiz returning on the daughter of Can the Man. **2 NILESTAR** is stepping up to the next level after breaking from the outside (Post 10), pressing the pace, and drawing clear to defeat \$14,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at the distance. **1 ANJALI** is hoping to find a little more firepower for the stretch drive after rallying to finish 3rd behind the top choice last out. Trainer Antonio Sano keeps it light with 7-pound apprentice Gaddiel Martinez in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-1**RACE 10:**

2 LUCKYTOBEINAMERICA moved to the Dom Schettino barn via the claim, and wheels back, after failing to show his usual early interest when finishing 5th behind a trio of next-out winners going 5 furlongs on a softened course listed as 'good'. The barn, 29% with new claims, tabs Chris Landeros to ride.

11 DARK AGES is stepping up to the next level, and departing from an outside post (11), after dueling from start to finish and holding sway to defeat \$16,000 '2-lifetime' foes at the distance. Irad Ortiz Jr rides! **10 SCRIBE** was absolutely game in defeat when he vied for the lead throughout and finished 2nd – beaten a half-length – at this level and distance. Trainer Juan Avila has Emisael Jaramillo in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 2-11-10**BEST BET: RACE 9 – 6 HIRE THE LADY****LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 2 LUCKYTOBEINAMERICA**