



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Thursday, January 16, 2020

RACE 1:

2 MISTER NOISI is plunging to the \$16,000 level on the main track, and turning back to a sprint distance, after showing speed and fading to 5th when facing \$50,000 maidens going 7 ½ furlongs on the GP West turf. Trainer Gustavo Amato is 4 for 15 (27%) with the grass to dirt angle. **6 FREDDY SOTO** is dropping to this level, and stretching out to 6 furlongs, after failing to get untracked when facing \$25,000 maidens going 5 furlongs on a wet track listed as 'good'; Paco Lopez rides.

10 SEE THE SONG, 2nd sprinting on the dirt vs \$25,000 maidens 2 starts back, returns to the main track after failing to produce a rally when facing \$32,000 maidens going 5 furlongs on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-10

RACE 2:

3 BUNDI BUNDI, 2nd at the distance in his \$25,000 career debut, drops to the bottom after showing speed and fading when facing \$50,000 maidens going a mile again last out. **1 MAGNOLIA BLVD** is debuting locally after rallying to finish 2nd vs \$16,000 maidens going 7 furlongs on the Tampa main track; Luis Saez rides for Mike Dini. **6 AT THE BEACH**, beaten a neck at this level and distance 2 starts back, drops after failing to get untracked when facing \$40,000 maidens last out.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-6

RACE 3:

3 CUDDLE KITTEN is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth (8-3-2-0) after dueling for the lead and finishing 3rd in the 8-furlong \$100,000 Claiming Crown Glass Slipper. Trainer Jorge Navarro has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr handling the 2nd trip over the track. **1 QUEEN NEKIA** moved to the red-hot Saffie Joseph Jr barn, and is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth, after drawing clear to crush a field of \$25,000 optional claimers going a mile; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

2 NIKKI BEACH is debuting locally for trainer Ben Colebrook after a solid campaign in Kentucky in which she used her tactical speed to 'hit the board' in 1 of 2 \$100,000 optional claimers at this distance; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-2

RACE 4:

5 DRACARYS FIRE moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, steps up to the \$40,000 level, and stretches out to a mile, after finishing 3rd behind repeat winner Uncaptured King in a \$25,000 maiden sprint going 6 furlongs; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

3 ROMARIO is debuting locally for trainer Jorge Navarro after following a 3rd-place finish in his \$50,000 debut at Keeneland with a slow starting 6th vs maiden special weight runners going 6 ½ furlongs at Churchill; Luis Saez handles the stretchout to a mile. **6 NIMBLE BEAST** moved to the Kathleen O'Connell barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile with blinkers added, after posting a competitive speed figure when 5th vs \$25,000 maidens going 6 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-6

RACE 5:

6 BEBEAU, who faced better on the grass in New York, is returning to the turf at the \$32,000 level after tracking the pace and finishing a distant 3rd in a \$50,000 maiden test moved from the turf to a mile and a sixteenth on the main track. Trainer Kelly Breen has Luis Saez named to ride.

8 HAIL MICHIGAN, a son of Bernardini, drops into the maiden claiming ranks after facing special weight competition in New York with spotty results. Trainer Barclay Tagg has Hall of Fame jock John Velazquez handling the class relief. **4 DERMOT** is dropping into the selling ranks, and turning back to a mile and a sixteenth, after attending the pace and fading when facing special weight competition going 9 furlongs on a 'good' Churchill turf course; Tyler Gaffalione rides for Brendan Walsh.

SELECTIONS: 6-8-4

RACE 6:

7 NORTHERN is dropping to the \$8,000 level after failing to fire behind next-out winners Fast Pass and Take Charge Dude in the Claiming Crown Express last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Tyler Gaffalione handling the 7-time local winner.

8 COLORMEPOMPOM will try to make it 3 in a row after following the 2nd place finish behind Northern on September 8 with back-to-back sprint victories at the \$6,250 level. **4 MR. KISSES** moved to the Jorge Delgado barn via the claim after setting the pace and finishing a neck behind Colormepompom going 6 furlongs at GP West.

SELECTIONS: 7-8-4

RACE 7:

6 DRINKS ON ME is back the claiming ranks after failing to fire in her local return in the Claiming Crown Tiara. The mare has turf figures on the go-back that indicate she can rebound here at a price.

9 PUGILIST is stretching out to her most accomplished distance (5-3-0-0) after making a move to reach the lead before settling for a 3rd place finish vs similar opposition going a mile. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz handling the 2nd trip over the course. **4 SCATNAP** is stretching out after returning from the 3-month freshening to finish 2nd in front of Pugilist going a mile last out. The rematch at a mile and sixteenth should be fun to watch.

8 LOOKINLIKEAQUEEN is going for the 3rd consecutive victory after following her \$35,000 claiming score at GP West with hard-fought neck victory here vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Luis Saez going for another tally at this mile and a sixteenth distance.

SELECTIONS: 6-9-4-8

RACE 8:

4 SWAGGER is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after responding to a dropdown in competition with a 'much the best' \$6,250 claiming victory going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez going for 2 in a row. **2 BLINGS EXPRESS** is dropping to the \$8,000 level in the first start since opening and surrendering a 3 ½-length lead when facing \$16,000 conditioned claimers at GP West. Trainer Georgina Baxter, 28% with the 61-180 days layoff, has Jose Ortiz atop the newly turned 11-year-old.

1 DR HARLAN is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after vying for the lead and getting caught late when finishing 3rd vs similar quality going 7 furlongs last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-1

RACE 9:

5 GLOBAL AMBITION, a daughter of Ghostzapper, makes her local debut after a pair of solid efforts up north in which she broke her maiden at Parx by almost 7 lengths, and followed that with a 2nd place finish vs \$62,500 optional claimers going a mile at Laurel. Trainer Michael Matz has Jose Ortiz in the irons. **3 LAVI** is stretching out to a mile after following a 3rd place finishing behind budding superstar Sound Machine in the 6-furlong \$75,000 House Party, and 4th behind her in the 6 ½-furlong Glitter Woman last out. Trainer Emmy Gaffney has Jairo Rendon handling the added distance.

4 DREAM MARIE will try to make it 3 in a row, and 2nd straight score at the distance, after following her \$20,000 maiden victory with a \$50,000 optional claiming win. Trainer Matt Williams has Richard Mitchell going for the hat trick.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-4

RACE 10:

9 KITTEN BY THE SEA is dropping to the \$25,000 level after tracking the action and finishing 5th in her 7 ½-furlong career debut vs maiden special weight competition. Trainer Mike Maker has Luis Saez handling the dropdown. **5 WEEKEND MADNESS** is dropping a notch or two on the maiden scale in the first start since failing to show much when finishing 7th behind repeat winner Team Win in a \$40,000 maiden test on the Belmont turf. **2 TRULY** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after knocking on the door in 3 consecutive turf outings from 7 ½ furlongs to a mile. Trainer Mike Lerman has Jairo Rendon in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 9-5-2

BEST BET: RACE 5 – 6 BEBEAU

LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 6 DRINKS ON ME