



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Thursday, January 23, 2020

RACE 1:

1 LALALI is making her first start since March, and debuting on the turf, with the speed needed to steal this race on the front end. Trainer Amador Sanchez has Hector Berrios atop the daughter of Handsome Mike. **7 DE PURA SANGRE** is an obvious choice to be on the ticket after dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Mike Yates has Nik Juarez in the irons. **6 MAKE A MINT** is hoping to find more for the stretch drive after rallying to finish 3rd – at 130-1 – behind De Pura Sangre last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-6

RACE 2:

7 PROBABLE GRACE moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, steps up to the \$16,000 level, and stretches out to three-quarters of a mile, after recovering from a slow start from the rail to finish 2nd vs similar quality going 5 ½ furlongs; Irad Ortiz Jr stays aboard. **4 LADY ARCHA** will try to make it 2 in a row at this level and distance after rebounding from a poor showing on the turf 2 starts back with a victory last out. Trainer Joe Orseno tabs Cristian Torres to ride. **5 MARCHING IN** is back in the claiming ranks after following a sharp \$20,000 claiming score at GP West with a chase-and-fade outing in the \$75,000 House Party.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-5

RACE 3:

1 WAJEEHA is shortening up to a 1-turn mile on the dirt after debuting locally for trainer Chad Brown and finishing 4th vs special weight company going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Brown, 22% with the turf to dirt move at this level, has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the combo surface switch/turnback. **6 FIRST IN COMMAND** is stretching out to 8 furlongs after debuting locally at three-quarters of a mile and finishing a screw-tightening 4th – at the favorite last out.

Trainer Mark Hennig has John Velazquez handling the stretchout. **4 HAAFILAH** is making her local bow after returning from a 10-month layoff at GP West and finishing 3rd going 6 furlongs. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has Luis Saez atop the daughter of Bernardini.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-4

RACE 4:

2 ELUSIVE MOLLY is dropping to the \$32,000 level, and stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth, after rallying to finish a willing 3rd – beaten three-quarters of a length – vs \$50,000 maidens going a mile. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad handling the added distance. **1 UNICORN SALLY** is dropping a notch on the maiden scale after returning from a freshening at Aqueduct to finish 4th – beaten 1 ½ lengths at the distance – vs \$40,000 maidens. Trainer John Kimmel has Javier Castellano handling the inside draw. **7 BIG BOSS LADY** is stretching out to 8 ½ furlongs after the promising turf debut in which she encountered double-trouble (steadied, lost whip) when finishing 2nd here going 7 ½ furlongs; Paco Lopez rides for Dave Fawkes.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-7

RACE 5:

1 NIGHT WATCH, now in the Juan Alvarado barn, the daughter of Brethren stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to finish 3rd behind next-out winners Bello Porto and Codrington in a 'key' 1-mile turf outing vs \$35,000 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' runners; Edgard Zayas rides. **5 LOVELY LUVY** is looking to be closer to the pace after rallying from 8th and last to finish 3rd at this level and distance last out. Trainer Jorge Navarro keeps the status quo with Jose Ortiz in the irons. **6 CHARLOTTE THE BRIT**, beaten a neck at this level and distance 2 starts back, drops after taking the overland route and failing to fire when wide in the \$75,000 Tropical Park Oaks.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-6

RACE 6:

2 PROSPECTIVE DIVA, who has been competitive at this level in the past, drops after facing superstar Lady's Island, and impressive next-out winner Thinkin Cowtown, in a \$40,000 optional claimer at GP West. The mare is worth a look at double-digit odds. **7 HIRE THE LADY**, the post time favorite in 6 consecutive races, wheels back after returning from the freshening to finish 2nd – beaten a length – at this level and distance. The likely favorite for the 7th time has Jose Ortiz in the saddle. **4 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 odds of 24-1. **3 ANJALI** should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the freshening to finish 3rd behind Hire the Lady.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-4-3**RACE 7:**

1 YODEL E.A. WHO is dropping into this \$16,000 starter optional claimer after his 3-race win streak ended when he broke awkwardly and never got untracked in the Claiming Crown Rapid Transit. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Edgard Zayas named to ride. **4 SALSA'S RETURN**, in for the \$16,000 tag in this optional claimer, steps up after vying for the lead and finishing 2nd – as the odds-on choice – vs \$12,500 starter optional claimers. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Emisael Jaramillo in the irons again. **7 EMPIRE POWER** is dropping to this level after rallying to finish 2nd to hard-knocking Squeezadios in a \$25,000 optional claimer at the distance. Trainer Antonio Sano has Irad at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-7**RACE 8:**

5 NO NAY MAYBE (IRE) is stepping up to face winners after responding in the first race after the claim by Jorge Navarro with a driving score – as the even-money favorite – vs \$50,000 maidens; Luis Saez goes for 2 in a row. **1 BAHAMIAN PRINCE** is stepping up to the \$50,000 level after debuting locally for trainer George Weaver and defeating \$35,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Weaver, 20% with the 2nd start after a layoff, has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride, as Saez sticks with the top choice.

10 HENRY'S WORLD is looking to make amends after following his \$75,000 optional claiming victory with a stalk-and-fade performance – as the 3-to-5 favorite – at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-10**RACE 9:**

4 BELLE TAPISSERIE, a reclaim by Mike Tomlinson, is back locally (9-2-2-1) after the winning campaign in Kentucky in which he defeated \$40,000 claimers for Tomlinson at Churchill, and \$50,000 claimers at Keeneland while in the Robertino Diodoro barn. **2 GET HAMMERED** is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs, and competing for the \$62,500 tag in this optional claimer, after coming up empty in the \$250,000 Steel Valley Sprint Stakes at Mahoning Valley. Trainer Larry Rivelli has Irad atop the \$180,000 son of Stay Thirsty. **1 BENEFACITOR** will depart from the rail after rallying to finish a well-meant 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Javier Castellano handling the usually fruitful 3rd start back from a layoff.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-1**RACE 10:**

4 TRAFFIC TROUBLE is plunging to the \$16,000 level after a couple of okay local turf performances vs maiden special weight competition. Trainer Brian Lynch, 27% with the dropdown for special weight to maiden claiming, has Javier Castellano in the saddle. **3 DONEGAL ACES** is stretching out, and dropping a notch, after dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd here vs \$20,000 maidens going a mile. Trainer Danny Gargan has Irad atop the gelded son of Hard Spun. **2 EIGHT AIN'T ENOUGH** is dropping to this level after debuting locally for trainer Dale Romans and finishing 2nd, at the distance, vs \$20,000 maidens.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-2**BEST BET: RACE 9 – 4 BELLE TAPISSERIE****LONGSHOT: RACE 6 – 2 PROSPECTIVE DIVA**