



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Thursday, January 9, 2020

## RACE 1:

**4 ALL POWER** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after the solid 6 ½-furlong debut in which he encountered some traffic problems and finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. Trainer Antonio Sano has Paco Lopez in the saddle. **2 THE BEAST AND I** is a son of The Big Beast debuting for trainer Ralph Nicks with Lasix, and a steady morning work tab showing; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **1 WEEKEND DREAMER**, \$200,000 son of Candy Ride, debuts for trainer Kathy Ritvo with Lasix, and jockey Luis Saez named to handle the inside draw.

**SELECTIONS: 4-2-1**

## RACE 2:

**5 UNCLE SKEETS** is a \$150,000 son of Khozan debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and a consistent morning work tab showing at Palm Beach Downs; John Velazquez rides. **4 CROSS COURT** hopes to volley into the winner's circle after chasing the pace and finishing a distant 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – to much-the-best winner Untitled at this level and distance; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **6 PURE NILE**, a \$300,000 son of Pioneerofthe Nile, debuts for trainer Joe Orseno with Lasix, and Paco Lopez named to ride the pricey sophomore. The tote action should tell us more.

**SELECTIONS: 5-4-6**

## RACE 3:

**4 UNCLE CURLY** is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and turning back to 7 ½ furlongs, after racing greenly through the stretch when surrendering a late lead to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' runners going a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf.

**7 GOOD SOLUTION** is stepping up to face winners after responding to the stretchout in distance with a much-the-best score here vs \$20,000 maidens going a mile on the grass. Trainer Danny Gargan has Paco going for 2 in a row.

**6 KING OF LEINSTER (IRE)** is wheeling back at 7 ½ furlongs after encountering trouble both early and late when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> here going a mile vs this level of competition. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride, as Tyler moves to the top choice.

**SELECTIONS: 4-7-6**

## RACE 4:

**11 SIMPLE STORY** is debuting locally for trainer Stanley Hough after the promising debut, at this level and distance, at Churchill, in which she dueled throughout – on a sealed sloppy track – and finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. The concern is the tough outside post.

**7 I'M A GINGER** will try a regular dirt surface after a couple of solid sprints on the Tapeta surface at Woodbine going 5 ½ and 5 furlongs, respectively. Trainer Nick Gonzalez has Cristian Torres in the saddle. **1 SILVER PALACE** is a daughter of Palace Malice debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and consistent workouts showing both over the Gulfstream training track, and at Palm Beach Downs; Luis Saez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 11-7-1**

## RACE 5:

**2 JUSTINTHENICKOFTIME** is dropping a notch, and stretching out to a mile, after tracking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> here vs \$35,000 maidens going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jane Cibelli tabs Paco Lopez to ride. **3 DANZING DUNHILL** is dropping to the \$32,000 level after facing restricted maiden special weight competition on the New York turf circuit, where he was 3<sup>rd</sup> twice going a mile, and a troubled 6<sup>th</sup> – as the favorite – going 8 ½ furlongs on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer George Weaver has Tyler Gaffalione handling the local bow.

**4 BLING SEEKER** is stretching out around 2-turns after losing his best chance when he broke slowly in his 5-furlong debut on the turf. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Cristian Torres named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 2-3-4**

**RACE 6:**

**4 DON'T GET KHOZY** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after vying for the lead and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> best vs \$25,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Scott Becker has Luis Saez in the saddle again.

**6 DUNIVERSE** will renew the rivalry with the top choice after disputing the early pace and tiring to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind her last out. Trainer Anthony Pecoraro tabs Irad Ortiz Jr to handle the rematch.

**5 LA TRES JOLIE** is stretching out to this 1-turn mile again after responding to the dropdown to this level with an improved 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Antonio Sano has Edgard Zayas named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 4-6-5**

**RACE 7:**

**5 JOYFUL HEART** is plunging to the \$16,000 level, and stretching out around 2-turns, after facing allowance competition in a series of 5-furlong sprints, including the recent 6<sup>th</sup> place finish in a 'key' dash here on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Trainer Brian Lynch has Paco handling the added distance. **2 VALDOLOBO** (IRE) is debuting locally for trainer Brendan Walsh after responding to a dropdown in competition with a much-the-best \$16,000 maiden victory going a mile and a sixteenth on the Indiana Grand turf; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **8 SKY D** is hoping to get away from the starting gate in a timely fashion after getting bothered early and finishing 5<sup>th</sup> at this level, which was his first start since moving to the Jane Cibelli barn.

**SELECTIONS: 5-2-8**

**RACE 8:**

**4 CONGRATS THAT**, who broke his maiden sprinting the GP West main track, drops to the \$12,500 level on the main track after stalking the pace and fading to finish 6<sup>th</sup> vs \$35,000 claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. **1 MR. CESCO** is making his local return the first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> when facing \$20,000 open-claimers going 7 ½ furlongs on the GP West turf. Trainer Antonio Sano has Edgard Zayas handling the surface switch.

**2 MAKABIM** is another getting some needed class relief after following his \$12,500 maiden victory at this 7-furlong distance with an ambitious 6<sup>th</sup> place finish vs \$35,000 claimers going 6 ½ furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-2**

**RACE 9:**

**8 OUR LITTLE JEWEL** is debuting locally after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – in the 1-mile Juvenile Fillies Turf at GP West. Trainer Mike Trombetta has Edgard Zayas atop the daughter of Hat Trick.

**4 SECURE CONNECTION** is stepping up to face winners with Lasix added after ending her freshman campaign with a maiden special weight victory going 7 ½ furlongs on the Delaware turf. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Julien Leparoux atop the daughter of Data Link. **7 STUNNING SKY** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and returns to the turf, after responding to the addition of blinkers with a mile and a sixteenth maiden victory here contested on a sealed sloppy track; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

**SELECTIONS: 8-4-7**

**RACE 10:**

**2 R SEA SMOKE**, who broke her maiden here at this distance last summer, returns for trainer Mary Eppler after ending her 3-race campaign at Laurel with a poor showing on the dirt behind next-out stake winner Bella Aurora going a mile on the dirt; Jairo Rendon rides upset special. **3 MRS MAISEL** is dropping a notch with the moniker of the 'one to beat' after tracking swift fractions and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$50,000 starter optional claimers. Trainer Terri Pompay has Luis Saez named to ride.

**4 RICHIES GREAT GIRL**, a daughter of Greatness, is debuting on the turf after displaying her versatility when she followed her debut score on the synthetic at Arlington with a \$40,000 claiming victory going 6 ½ furlongs on the Churchill dirt surface.

**SELECTIONS: 2-3-4**

**BEST BET: RACE 7 – 5 JOYFUL HEART**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – R SEA SMOKE**