



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Thursday, May 14, 2020

RACE 1:

7 JOSEFA is dropping to the \$12,500 level after pressing the pace and tiring vs \$25,000 maiden going a mile last out. Trainer Antonio Sano has Miguel Vazquez named to ride. **6 EL SCORCHO** is plunging to this level after breaking awkwardly and never getting untracked when finishing 9th vs \$50,000 maidens. Trainer John Servis adds 2-time blinkers; Luis Saez rides. **4 MATCHA** drops to the bottom on the grass, and removes the blinkers, after breaking from an outside post, tracking the pace, and failing to fire vs \$18,000 maidens at the distance. Trainer John Kimmel has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-4

RACE 2:

6 ROCK WITH ROBIN, a half-sister to Coco's Wildcat, who was multiple stakes-placed as a 2-year-old, debuts for trainer Kathleen O'Connell with a string of solid workouts showing a GP West; Luis Saez rides. **7 GO JO JO GO** is a daughter of Khozan debuting for trainer Mike Yates with 5 local workouts showing in preparation for this assignment.; Leonel Reyes handles the inside post. **5 ACTING LUCKY** is a daughter of Tapizar debuting for trainer Dan Pita, who is 4 for 10 at the meeting thus far, with a solid work tab showing across town at GP West.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-5

RACE 3:

10 BAHAMIAN PRINCE drops to the \$25,000 level, and breaks from the outside, after tracking the pace and finishing 2nd again behind nemesis, and repeat winner, Miami Crockett, in a \$40,000 starter optional claimer at the distance; Luis Saez rides.

6 FLASH PASS, listed as a gelding, removes the blinkers, after setting the pace and tiring to finish 4th vs \$25,000 optional claimers last out. Trainer Armando De La Cerda has Irad Ortiz Jr named.

9 GRAN HOMBRE, another from Armando De La Cerda, is turning back to 5 furlongs after following the maiden victory at the distance with a duel-for-the-lead 2nd vs similar quality going a mile. Note the barn is 23% with the route/sprint angle.

SELECTIONS: 10-6-9

RACE 4:

6 CAPTAIN DUKE moved to the Jorge Delgado barn via the claim, and steps it up a notch, after setting a pressured pace and tiring in his \$12,500 debut going 5 ½ furlongs; Irad Ortiz Jr guides this piece of the pace puzzle. **8 TIGER'S BACK** is dropping to the \$16,000 level on the dirt after following a couple of 'out of the money' finishes vs special weight competition on the main track with 5th place finish vs \$25,000 maidens on the turf. This is by far the easiest spot yet for the Romans/Saez collaboration. **7 SUDDEN CAPTURE** is making his first start since finishing 7th behind future Grade 2 Fountain of Youth winner Ete Indien when they competed at 5 furlongs on the grass last September. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr adds blinkers, and tabs Edgard Zayas to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-8-7

RACE 5:

2 DIZZY GILLESPIE is dropping to the \$16,000 level in the first race since finishing 3rd behind hard-knocking Quenane in the \$50,000 Rough and Ready. Trainer Peter Walder has Emisael Jaramillo named on the 7-time local winner.

3 STONE HANDS is dropping to this level, and turning back to a mile, after proving no match for free-running Blewitt, and next-out winner Moretti, in a \$25,000 optional claimer going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Liz Dobles has Luis Saez up.

5 CREA'S BKLYN LAW, now in the Peter Walder barn, the gelding debuts locally after facing allowance level competition at Aqueduct with some success; Miguel Vazquez rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-5

RACE 6:

10 FRESCO, a full-sister to stakes winner Therapist, is making her first start since the promising debut here during January in which she rallied to finish 3rd at the distance. Trainer Christophe Clement has her training forwardly for the return, and tabs Irad to ride.

4 SO DARN HOT, a \$600,000 daughter of Ghostzapper, is debuting on the turf after finishing 3rd in her 1-mile debut on the dirt. Trainer George Weaver has Joe Bravo named on this beautifully bred sophomore. **11 THANKFUL**, a \$625,000 daughter of American Pharoah, is debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and Luis Saez named to ride. The tote action should tell us more.

SELECTIONS: 10-4-11

RACE 7:

1 MASERATI MAN is making the 3rd start back from the layoff, for the red-hot Mike Yates barn, after coming within a neck of defeating \$50,000 starter optional claimers at the distance; Miguel Vazquez handles the inside draw. **7 VALID QUEST** is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after rallying 4-wide through the lane to finish 2nd – as the favorite – vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad named to ride. **6 BEYOND GONE** will try to make it 2 in a row after drawing clear in the slop to defeat \$30,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Ken McPeck has Luis Saez going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-6

RACE 8:

7 NAPA RULES is dropping to the \$12,500 level after encountering some early trouble (steadied) when finishing a fading 6th vs \$25,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Joe Orseno has Irad handling the dropdown. **9 MIDNIGHT GEM** is cutting back to 6 ½ furlongs after stalking the pace and finishing 3rd going a 1-turn mile last out. Trainer Jose D’Angelo, who claimed her 2 starts back, has Edgard Zayas handling the turnback. **5 GRAN BRANDY**, 2nd vs a notch tougher when sprinting at 7 furlongs 2 starts back, drops, and turns back, after failing to fire vs \$18,000 claimers going a mile last out.

SELECTIONS: 7-9-5

RACE 9:

4 VIOLENT TIMES, who finished 3rd on the turf in the 5-furlong \$75,000 Captiva Island 2 starts, back proved she could handle the dirt when she finished a game 2nd at this level and distance last out. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Emisael Jaramillo handling the usually fruitful 3rd start back from a layoff.

5 PACIFIC GALE, a multiple graded stakes-placed daughter of Flat Out, should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the 8-month plus layoff to finish last behind Violent Times last out. Trainer John Kimmel has Luis Saez in the saddle again. **2 DAY BY DAY**, in for the \$75,00 tag in this optional claimer, will stretch out to three-quarters of a mile after finishing 2nd vs \$62,500 types in a race moved from the turf to 5 furlongs on sealed sloppy track.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-2

RACE 10:

11 DOTDOTDASH wheels back after a rough outing in which she missed the break at the start, was forced to steady numerous times running up the backstretch, and then rallied through the lane to finish 4th -as the favorite – last out. **2 COOKIE COVE** is dropping to the \$12,500 level after chasing the pace and finishing 2nd vs \$16,000 maidens at the distance. Trainer Joe Orseno has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. **12 HECHIZADA** will depart from the tough outside post after rallying late to finish 3rd at this level and distance. She should be along to grab a share of the tri or super.

SELECTIONS: 11-2-12

BEST BET: RACE 6 – 10 FRESCO

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 11 DOTDOTDASH

