



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Thursday, May 21, 2020

RACE 1:

11 OCEAN AIR is stretching out to 9 furlongs after rallying wide to finish 4th – beaten three-quarters of a length – vs this familiar competition going a mile and a sixteenth. The daughter of English Channel gets the tepid nod in a very competitive opening race.

1 SETTING THE MOOD, who finished 2nd in front of the top choice when they hooked up on March 8th, stretches out for trainer Todd Pletcher with Luis Saez handling the inside draw. The daughter of Lea – 17-to-1 last out – is training forwardly at Palm Beach Downs.

8 COME STORMING, bred to love the distance, the 4-year-old daughter of Get Stormy stretches out after returning from the 11-month layoff to finish a screw-tightening 4th going a mile. Trainer Tom Bush has Edgard Zayas named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 11-1-8

RACE 2:

5 GREAT WARRIOR (IRE), a beautifully bred daughter of War Front, is debuting on the turf for trainer Mark Casse with a steady morning work tab showing on the farm; Luis Saez rides. **2 FLYING ALTHEA** is a daughter of Tiznow debuting for trainer Wesley Ward with a slew of solid workouts showing on the Palm Meadows turf course; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

1 ROYAL APPROVAL is another daughter of Tiznow debuting for Wesley Ward, who also shows a similar workout pattern on the Palm Meadows turf in preparation for this assignment. Edgard Zayas will guide this half of the Ward uncoupled entry.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-1

RACE 3:

7 BRASSTOWN is plunging to the \$8,000 level on the main track after setting the pace and weakening when facing \$20,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr, 31% with the turf-to-dirt angle, has Irad Ortiz Jr in the irons.

2 MONMOUTH DR moved to the Victor Barboza Jr barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, after splashing clear in the rain to defeat \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers by 7 widening lengths. The barn, 55% with new claims, has apprentice Cristian Torres at the helm. **1 THIRD ARMY** is dropping to this level after facing tougher before the layoff with some solid efforts at this mile and a sixteenth distance; Edgard Zayas rides for Jose Gallegos.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-1

RACE 4:

7 FRACTORZATION, who was sharp sprinting on the turf vs New York-bred runners at Aqueduct, returns to the grass for trainer John Kimmel in the first race since coming up empty on the dirt, up north, during December; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **1 TWILIGHT**, now in the Luis Olivares barn, the beautifully bred daughter of Will Take Charge tries \$40,000 maidens after facing special weight competition on the turf at Lone Star last summer. Edgard Zayas will handle this intriguing possibility. **5 CASSEY'S GIRL** is debuting on the turf for trainer Brian Lynch after showing some tactical speed before weakening in her special weight debut here going 6 furlongs on the main track. The barn, 26% with similar class drops, has Luis Saez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-5

RACE 5:

4 BIG SPENDER moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and takes the big Calabrese drop, after setting the pace and finishing 2nd vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at the distance; Edgard Zayas rides.

2 ALASKAN is stepping up to face winners in the first start since drawing clear to defeat \$12,500 maidens going 5 ½ furlongs during March. Trainer Gilberto Zerpa, 26% winning consecutive races, has Irad going for 2 in a row. **12 DECKOLOGY** will depart from the outside after responding to both the dropdown, and the turnback in distance, with a well-meant 2nd place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Luis Saez handling the outside draw.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-12

RACE 6:

7 SENZAZIONE is dropping to the \$16,000 level after showing speed and tiring when facing \$65,000 maidens going a mile on the turf last out. Trainer Tom Albertrani has Emisael Jaramillo returning on the gelded son of Bernardini. **11 MOUNTAIN BREEZE** is stepping it up a notch after returning from the almost 10-month layoff and finishing 2nd – beaten a length – in his turf debut at the \$12,500 level. Trainer John Kimmel has Irad in the saddle again.

10 SULTANNES CROWN is turning back to a mile after responding to the dropdown to this level with a 4th place finish – beaten a length – going a mile and a sixteenth; apprentice Joseph Trejos rides.

SELECTIONS: 7-11-10

RACE 7:

3 STAR JUANCHO, now in the Jose D'Angelo barn, the 5-year-old freefalls to the \$6,250 level in the first race since facing considerably tougher before the layoff. The barn, 35% with new additions to the shedrow, has Irad in the saddle. **7 RAY'SWARRIOR** is dropping a notch after dueling for the lead and finishing a hard-fought 2nd – beaten a half-length at the distance – vs \$8,000 claimers. Trainer Kelly Breen has Joe Bravo named to ride. **8 SILENT TIGER**, who has been knocking on the door in a trio of sprints vs this caliber of competition, get the blinkers removed hoping to cure the current also-ran status. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Luis Saez in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-8

RACE 8:

10 I AM MAGICAL (GB), who was 3rd on the turf vs tougher 2 starts back, is returning to the grass after taking the overland route and failing to fire in a \$40,000 '2-lifetime' claimer moved from the turf to a sealed sloppy main track. **1 I'LL DO IT MY WAY** has her claiming tag carved in half after tracking the action and finishing 3rd – at 18-1 – vs \$50,000 open-claimers at the distance. She's spotted perfectly by trainer Ron Spatz. **2 CENTSLESS DRAMA**, now in the Carlos David barn, the daughter of Big Drama debuts locally after showing good tactical speed when facing similar quality on the Tampa turf. The 4-year-olds maiden victory up north puts her right in the hunt vs this caliber of competition; Irad Ortiz Jr. rides.

SELECTIONS: 10-1-2

RACE 9:

4 EXTRORDINARY JERRY, now in the Dermot Magner barn, the son of Overdriven makes his first start since living up to his name when he won the state-bred Wildcat Heir here last September by 10-plus lengths. The ridgling, 2 for 2 locally, has Edgard Zayas up. **5 ADMIRAL LYNCH**, now in the Mike Maker barn, the son of Super Saver stretches out to 6 ½ furlongs in the first race since finishing 2nd in the 6-furlong Grade 3 World of Trouble Stakes. The new connections have the 4-year-old firing bullets in preparation for the return. **2 MUCHO**, a previous winner here vs \$75,000 optional claimers, returns for trainer Bill Mott after finishing 4th in the \$75,000 Pelican at Tampa. The Grade 1 stakes-placed son of Blame has Joe Bravo at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-2

RACE 10:

11 SOMETHINSTAPPIN moved to the Elizabeth Dobles barn via the claim, and makes his first start since defeating \$20,000 maidens going 7 ½ furlong here last July. The upset special has Hector Berrios trying to light up the tote board.

2 PREACHER MARSEE, who clearly does his best running on the turf, returns to the grass after moving to the Antonio Sano barn via the claim and failing handle the move to a 'good' main track last out; Luis Saez rides. **7 BODIE CODY**, a hard-fought 3rd on the turf in back-to-back turf outings, is going back to the lawn after the stalk-and-fade outing going a mile and a sixteenth in a race moved from the grass to a 'good' main track; apprentice Joseph Trejos rides.

SELECTIONS: 11-2-7

BEST BET: RACE 5 – 4 BIG SPENDER

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 11 SOMETHINSTAPPIN

