



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Thursday, May 7, 2020

RACE 1:

6 MYFIRSTXWIFE is dropping to the \$12,500 level after finishing 2nd – at the distance – in back-to-back \$25,000 maiden sprints. Trainer Jorge Abreu has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **7 BUSINESSINDUBAI** drops a notch after showing speed and weakening late in consecutive turf sprints at the \$16,000 level. Trainer Phil Serpe has Luis Saez in the saddle. **2 NO NO NINA** plunges to this level after making a middle move and fading vs maiden special weight competition. Trainer Christophe Clement has Tyler Gaffalione at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-2

RACE 2:

7 BRIELLA, a full-sister to Cajun Firecracker, who won the Dr Fager as a 2-year-old, debuts for trainer Mike Yates with a pair of solid 3-furlong workouts showing over the track; Miguel Vazquez rides. **4 GEM THIEF**, 1 of 2 in the field for freshman guru Wesley Ward (Tharos), debuts with a string of stamina-enhancing workouts showing at Palm Meadows; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **5 LYRICAL** debuts for the red-hot Arindel Farm, and trainer Juan Alvarado, with 11 workouts showing in preparation for her first start; Edgard Zayas rides the daughter of Brethren.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-5

RACE 3:

5 STORMY BOSS, beaten a neck at this distance 2 starts back, shortens up after making a middle move and fading when trying a mile last out. **1 TAKE CHARGE AGAIN** is expected to show more after breaking awkwardly, and racing wide, when finishing 3rd at this level and distance last out. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Dylan Davis in the saddle. **3 CHIC AND SEXY** figures prominently on the ticket after responding to the dropdown to this level with a 2nd-place finish – at odds of 22-1.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-3

RACE 4:

4 FORMULA is dropping to the \$16,000 after losing all chance when she was shut off and checked at the start of her \$50,000 career debut. Trainer Stanley Hough has Joel Rosario atop the daughter of Algorithms. **12 CARIBBEAN KITTEN** should take the lion's share of the betting action when dropping to this level after shipping in from the Fair Grounds, for trainer Mike Maker, and finishing 3rd vs \$30,000 maidens at the distance; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **5 GARNER STATE PARK** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to finish 2nd and 3rd, respectively, in a pair going a mile. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez handling the stretchout.

SELECTIONS: 4-12-5

RACE 5:

4 BLAMELESS is dropping into this \$30,000 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' affair after following his front running maiden special weight victory with a duel-for-the-lead 5th vs allowance competition. Trainer Michael Matz has Edgard Zayas named on the son of Blame. **8 BOURBON CURRENCY** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the freshening to finish a well-meant 2nd going a mile. Trainer John Kimmel has Irad named to ride. **7 BAD BEAT BRIAN**, now in the Todd Pletcher barn, the gelded son of Jack Milton drops to this level after following his \$50,000 maiden victory on the turf with a clunker vs \$50,000 starter optional claimers going a mile on the dirt; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-7

RACE 6:

1 CELTIC BROTHERHOOD will depart from the rail again after setting the pace and getting caught at the wire when finishing 2nd in his career debut at the distance. Trainer George Weaver has Luis Saez up again. **5 VICTORY TOWN** is making the 3rd start of his current form cycle after closing to finish 2nd – as the favorite – at this level and distance last out. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

7 SANDYS BLAZE, now in the Antonio Sano barn, the colt makes his first start since finishing a late-closing 2nd – at 46-1 – in his 7-furlong debut last September. The son of Gone Astray is worth a look at a price.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-7

RACE 7:

6 FIBER OPTIC moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim after setting the pace and getting caught late when finishing 3rd -as the favorite – at this level and distance; Tyler rides. **5 HEIR BALL** is an obvious choice to be on the ticket after surrendering a late lead to hard-knocking Blue Magic, and finishing 2nd in front of Fiber Optic, last out. Trainer Larry Rivelli has Victor Lebron in the saddle. **4 ROYALLY COOL** move to the Steve Klesaris barn via the claim, and returns to sprinting on the grass (3-2-0-0) after showing speed and weakening vs similar quality going 6 furlongs on the dirt; Emisael Jaramillo rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-4

RACE 8:

8 WORTH AVE is wheeling back after responding in the first race after the claim by Victor Barboza Jr with a 2nd place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Barboza, who is 7 for 16 (44%) with a 75% 'in the money' finish, in the 2nd start after the claim, has Edgard Zayas in the saddle. **5 FOUR K'S** is dropping to the \$6,250 level after facing tougher on the turf before the 4-month layoff. Note the last time the mare tried the dirt she defeated \$16,000 '3-lifetime' claimers, albeit in 2018. Trainer Wesley Ward removes the blinkers, and tabs Dylan Davis to ride. **7 MEMORIZE** is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile (14-7-0-2) after getting caught late when finishing 3rd behind upset winner Salsa Rita last out.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-7

RACE 9:

10 MIKE'S GIRL was freshened after returning from a layoff here in February to finish a late-closing 4th behind this familiar competition. The steady work tab, on both turf and dirt, should have the daughter of Scat Daddy ready to score in only her 2nd start this year.

3 BEAN COUNTER has been knocking on the door in her three local turf races, and gets the services of Joel Rosario, for the always-dangerous Todd Pletcher barn. She'll be tested for class today.

8 BIG TINA will try to make it 2 in a row after leading every step of the way to defeat \$35,000 '2-lifetime' claimers that included Bean Counter; Emisael Jaramillo rides.

SELECTIONS: 10-3-8

RACE 10:

5 FLORA FANTASY moved to the Jose D'Angelo barn via the claim after posting her 2nd consecutive victory, for her 2nd consecutive trainer, with Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. Both the hard-knocking mare, and Irad, are going for the hat trick. **3 ROYAL MEGHAN** is a lightly raced 3-year-old who merits respect after following her state-bred special weight victory with a 2nd place finish at this level and distance. **7 GIOIELLI**, another from trainer Jose D'Angelo, is going back to the main track after dueling for the lead and finishing 3rd vs \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile on the turf; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-7

RACE 11:

2 TWO BY TWO, a son of New Year's Day, is debuting on the turf after returning from the extended layoff to finish a useful late-closing 3rd going 6 furlongs on the main track, which was his first race after shipping in from the farm. He's bred on both sides of the family tree to spring the upset on the turf. **9 KOKO STAR**, half-brother to stakes winner Csaba, is dropping into the claiming ranks after shipping in the from the Fair Grounds to finish 5th vs maiden special weight competition. Trainer Mike Maker has Luis Saez named to ride. **5 FAKE MUSE** is dropping to the \$65,000 level after 'hitting the board' in 1 of 3 maiden special weight races before the layoff. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Hector Berrios named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 2-9-5

BEST BET: RACE 9 – 10 MIKE'S GIRL

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 2 TWO BY TWO