



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Thursday, September 24, 2020

RACE 1:

7 MISSING LINK had a turf race missing from his resume until she stepped up to the \$40,000 level and finished a distant 2nd at the distance. Trainer David Fawkes has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride. **2 SILVER PACKAGE**, a half-sister to a multiple 2-year-old turf winner, shifts her focus to the grass, after rallying to finish 2nd sprinting on the dirt, in the 3 starts, from 4 ½ to 5 furlongs. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Samy Camacho handling the surface switch.

5 SHOULDACKNOWLEDGEBETTER, a daughter of Brethren, lures the services of leading jock Edgard Zayas after a classic chase-and-fade outing contested at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-5

RACE 2:

2 CAPTAIN DUKE is cutting back to 5 ½ furlongs after back-to-back well-meant 2nd place finishes vs similar quality going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Jorge Delgado has Emisael Jaramillo up. **3 TIO WILL** moved to the Marcial Navarro barn via the claim after responding to a dropdown from a good effort at the \$25,000 level with a slow starting 5th at this level and distance. It's the old bounce/rebound angle. **7 HANDSOME PRINCE** will try to turn the tables on Captain Duke at this shorter distance after rallying to finish a workman-like 3rd behind him going 6 furlongs last out.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-7

RACE 3:

9 MISSION BRIEF is a gelded son of Noble Mission (GB) debuting for trainer Tim Hamm with the breeding needed to succeed in his career debut going a mile on the grass.

10 BACH is dropping to the \$35,000 level, and breaking from Post 10 again, hoping the class relief with help him improve on the 5th place finish in his special weight debut. **12 EL ROMANTICO** will depart from the demanding outside post, and drop to this level, after finishing 4th at life-changing odds of 138-1 – vs special weight competition going a mile on the lawn.

SELECTIONS: 9-10-12

RACE 4:

4 TIME TO TWO STEP needs to step away from the gate trouble free after failing to break sharply in a trio of state-bred optional claimers going from 7 to 8 furlongs. Trainer Peter Walder has Miguel Vazquez named to ride. **5 FOREVER MARTA** is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile after returning from the 3-month layoff to finish a late rallying 2nd vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Luis Duco has Luca Panici in the saddle.

3 CHUTZPAH is another trying to notch the elusive 3rd career victory after returning from the layoff and finishing 3rd behind Forever Marta.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-3

RACE 5:

9 PONT DU GARD moved to the suddenly hot Amador Sanchez barn via the claim, and has all the attributes need to win here. The 5-year-old has speed, comes off a victory at the distance, and has Hector Berrios rationing his speed.

8 BATTLE OF BLENHEIM is a speedy son of War Front who drops a notch after breaking from the rail, setting the pace, and finishing 3rd vs \$25,000 optional claimers going this 1-mile distance. The 4-time local turf winner will have Edgar Prado in the irons.

5 TWENTY FOR SEVEN is stepping up the competition with the perfect late-running style needed to reel in the abundance of speed in the field, which includes my top 2 choices. It's Saffie and Edgard!

SELECTIONS: 9-8-5

RACE 6:

3 DOC AMSTER has his claiming tag sliced in half after encountering early trouble before rallying to finish 3rd in his \$50,000 debut. Trainer Wesley Ward has Emisael Jaramillo handling the class relief. **7 IRISH PAUL** moved to the Alfredo Velazquez barn via the claim, and was given some time off, after dueling along the inside and finishing 3rd vs similar quality in a \$16,000 maiden sprint going 6 furlongs. **4 WESLEY OWEN** must now prove he can handle the jump up to the \$25,000 level after following his 3rd place finish in his \$10,000 debut with a set-the-pace 2nd vs \$16,000 maidens going this 6 ½-furlong distance. The 3rd-time can be the charm for the Walder/Gonzalez connections.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-4

RACE 7:

7 SUNSET EMPIRE is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and stretching out to a mile, after tracking the pace and failing to fire when facing repeat winner Heir Ball in a \$20,000 state-bred optional claimer going 5 furlongs. This 5-year-old daughter of Kantharos will be trying to steal the race at a price. **1 HOPONTHEBUSGUS** is dropping to the level where she posted consecutive turf victories after stepping up off the claim by Saffie Joseph Jr and finishing an even 4th vs \$20,000 starter optional claimers last out. **9 YAKO**, who has chased Hoponthebusgus home on numerous occasions, turns back to a mile after finishing a rallying 3rd vs this level of competition going 8 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-9

RACE 8:

7 ROYAL HABIBI is stepping up to face winners after shifting into overdrive when defeating \$25,000 maidens by 8-plus lengths.

8 DANCING CRANE is another stepping up vs winners after the hard-fought \$16,000 debut in which she dueled throughout and held sway to win as the 2-to-1 favorite. Trainer Daren Rodriguez has Miguel Vazquez handling the outside post.

4 ROCK WITH ROBIN moved to the Carlos David barn via the claim after drawing clear to defeat \$16,000 by 5 widening lengths. The new connections tab Samy Camacho to ride.

SELECTIONS: 7-8-4

RACE 9:

12 R NINJA J K is a darn if you do/darn if you don't selection. The gelding drops to the \$12,500 level after finishing 3rd vs special weight competition going 5 furlongs, which is good. However, he breaks from the tough outside post, which is not so good. Georgina Baxter trains, and Edgard Zayas rides, which are both good.

5 KING OF ROCK is eligible to take another step forward after tracking the pace and finishing 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Michelle Nihei has Santiago Gonzalez named to ride.

4 ANIMA D'Or, who finished 3rd in back-to-back 5 furlongs turf sprints at this level, turns back on the grass after failing to show much going a mile on the dirt in the first race after the claim by Fausto Gutierrez.

SELECTIONS: 12-5-4

BEST BET: RACE 5 – 9 PONT DU GARD

LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 7 SUNSET EMPIRE