



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

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RACE 1:

4 ALLURING RUMBA, who faced special weight competition sprinting on the grass here during the summer, drops to the \$16,000 level after returning from layoff to finish a chase-the-pace 3rd – as the favorite – going 5 furlongs on the GP West main track. Trainer Kelsey Danner has Joe Bravo handling the surface switch. **5 MIAHSOLOMIAH**, now in the Jorge Delgado barn, the 4-year-old daughter of Strong Mandate is another dropping into a competitive situation after facing better in all her previous turf sprints locally. The barn, 23% with new additions to the shedrow, has Luis Saez named to ride. **6 FLAT OUT COOL** is making her first start since finishing a rallying 3rd in fruitful \$12,500 maiden sprint here during September that produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Henry Collazo has Edgard Zayas up.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-6

RACE 2:

7 EXCALIBUR is dropping to the \$6,250 level, and trying a 1-turn mile, after following his \$12,500 maiden victory with a stalk-the-pace 5th vs \$18,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a 2-turn mile across town. **3 ARMANDO'S TEAM**, who broke his maiden here at this distance, albeit in the slop, returns after failing to get untracked when finishing 7th behind next-out winners Trisomia and Aycapote in a \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimer going a 2-turn mile at GP West. Trainer Francisco D'Angelo has Emisael Jaramillo in the irons. **5 MONEY HOUSE** is stretching out to a mile after rallying to finish 3rd when facing similar in his across town finale going 7 furlongs. Trainer Ricko Maragh has Rajiv Maragh named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-5

RACE 3:

3 GRAN SAMAN, who is the poster child for the horse-for-course theory, returns looking to notch his 8th career victory sprinting on the local turf (19-7-1-2). Trainer Steve Klesaris has Edgard Zayas handling the homecoming. **9 TAKE CHARGE DUDE**, now in the Victor Barboza Jr barn, the gelding, who was a solid 4th behind a competitive group of state-bred optional claimers the last time he tried the local turf, is back on the grass after the chase-and-fade outing on the GP West main track: Luis Saez rides.

5 OHANZEE, 2 for 4 in the win column sprinting locally (4-2-1-0), returns after ending his campaign up north with a \$12,500 '3-lifetime' score going 5 ½ furlongs on the Monmouth turf. Trainer Jane Cibelli adds 2nd-time blinkers, and 2nd-time Paco Lopez.

SELECTIONS: 3-9-5

RACE 4:

3 OMNIA is dropping a notch, and returning to the main track, after making a bid to get the lead before fading to finish 5th when facing \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers going a 2-turn mile on the GP West turf. Trainer Kent Sweezey has Luis Saez handling the surface switch.

1 SIMPLE STORY will be outfitted with blinkers after dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd vs similar quality in her across town finale going a 2-turn mile. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has Edgard Zayas handling the inside draw. **2 MARIALUISA** is dropping to the \$10,000 level after following her \$25,000 maiden victory at the distance with distant 4th place finish vs \$25,000 optional claimers going a mile and a sixteenth here during March. Trainer Juan Rodriguez has Leonel Reyes named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-2

RACE 5:

4 THE ANGRY MAN, who was a well-meant 2nd in both previous races on the Saratoga turf, is going back to the grass after hitting the board in 1 of 2 outings on the main track. Trainer Dermot Magner reunites the gelded son of Summer Front with Luis Saez, who rode him on the grass at the Spa. **1 ROCHAMBEAU**, 3 for 5 'in the money' over this course (5-0-2-1) returns for trainer Cherie DeVaux after finishing 2nd – as the favorite – before being disqualified and placed 4th in a fruitful special weight test at Kentucky Downs that produced a couple of next-out winners. **5 BREAK BEAT** is stepping up the face maiden special weight competition after the pair of well-meant 2nd place finishes vs \$75,000 maidens on the New York turf circuit. Trainer Danny Gargan has Miguel Vazquez at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-5

RACE 6:

3 PIPER is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and turning back to 5 ½ furlongs, after setting the pace and finishing 2nd vs \$25,000 state-bred maidens going 6 furlongs across town. Trainer Juan Alvarado has Edgard Zayas returning on the Arindel homebred daughter of Brethren. **4 PITUFINA** is another dropping to this level after returning from the layoff at GP West and finishing 3rd vs \$25,000 maidens going 5 furlongs in a rained-out turf sprint. **2 BRODY'S HONOR** is a daughter of Brody's Cause debuting for trainer Jorge Delgado with Emisael Jaramillo named to ride. The tote action should tell us more.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-2**RACE 7:**

10 OUR FANTASY, who was eliminated at the start (dwelt) in her previous outing on the local turf, is going back to the grass after drawing clear to defeat \$25,000 '2-lifetime' foes going a 2-turn mile across town. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Luca Panici on this rejuvenated upset special. **9 HELENA BEAT** is debuting locally for trainer Jane Cibelli after posting her 2nd career turf victory with a sharp outing from a tough outside post (12), going a mile on the Monmouth turf. The daughter of Hat Trick will have Luis Saez at the controls. **4 LITTLE BIT GOOD** is stretching out to a mile after following her 2-lifetime' victory at the distance with a late-closing 3rd vs this level of competition going 7 ½ furlongs on the GP West turf. Trainer Ron Spatz has Paco Lopez handling the mini-stretchout. **6 DIENDA** is making her first start since using her speed to defeat \$25,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile on the turf here during September. Trainer Mark Casse has Cristian Torres going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 10-9-4-6**RACE 8:**

5 ASHAAR, a \$650,000 son of Into Mischief, now in the Todd Pletcher barn, makes his first start since failing to show much in the \$100,000 Mucho Macho Man here during January. The classy colt, training sharply at Palm Beach Downs, get the blinkers removed, and has Luis Saez riding. **6 OURNATIONONPARADE**, who ran a bang-up 3rd in the \$100,000 Hutcheson when returning from a layoff in February, was freshened after finishing 3rd in 7 top-notch sprints before going to the sidelines in September. Trainer Kathy Ritvo has Luca Panici named to ride. **7 LIFE IN SHAMBLES** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile, and returning locally (4-2-1-0), after tracking the pace and finishing 4th in a \$25,000 starter optional claimer going 6 ½ furlongs across town. Trainer Peter Walder has Paco Lopez handling the jump up in competition.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-7**RACE 9:**

9 TRACY ANN'S LEGACY, 6 for 6 'in the money' on the local turf (6-2-1-3), returns after breaking slowly and finishing 4th in an overnight stake going 5 ½ furlongs on a good Monmouth turf. The speedy daughter of Shackelford, trained by Kelly Breen, will have Paco Lopez playing 'catch me if you can'. **3 CATCH A THRILL** is making her first start since finishing 2nd in back-to-back turf sprints vs this caliber of competition, one at Gulfstream, and one at Belmont. Trainer Mark Casse has Cristian Torres atop the daughter of City Zip, who is stakes-placed over this course.

1 DEFY EXPECTATIONS is debuting locally for trainer Brittany Russell after a couple of well-meant turf sprints going 6 furlongs up north in which she was 2nd vs similar at Laurel, and a hard-fought 3rd on a yielding Belmont turf; Edgard Zayas rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-1**RACE 10:**

9 FRENCH REEF (IRE) is dropping to the \$20,000 level, and turning back to 5 furlongs, after showing speed and fading when facing allowance competition in a pair of 6-furlong turf sprints at Belmont. Trainer Chad Brown has Paco Lopez named to ride. **2 SOPE** is stepping up to the next level after the successful debut here during September in which he set solid early fractions when defeating \$12,500 maidens by a couple of lengths. Trainer Efen Loza Jr has Edgard Zayas named to ride.

6 MISTER KELLY, now in the Cheryl Winebaugh barn, the son of Tapiture debuts locally after finishing a good 3rd vs similar at Remington Park, while in the Steve Asmussen barn. Apprentice Mario Fuentes rides this intriguing possibility.

SELECTIONS: 9-2-6**BEST BET: RACE 9 – 9 TRACY ANN'S LEGACY****LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 10 OUR FANTASY**