



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

RACE 1:

7 LA FLAMENCA is going back to the turf with the speed needed to dictate the pace in what looks like a wide-open affair to kick off the Wednesday card. Trainer Marcial Navarro has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride. **6 CATS J N J**, a daughter of Mine Shaft, is debuting on the turf after responding to the addition of blinkers with an improved outing going a mile on the dirt. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez handling the dropdown to the \$16,000 level.

12 PADDY'S PRINCESS is a daughter of strong turf sire Paddy O' Prado debuting for trainer Danny Gargan in an ideal spot for a 1st-time starter to succeed. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Rajiv Maragh handling the outside draw.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-12

RACE 2:

9 TWO CENTS WORTH is stepping up to face winners after cruising to an almost 9-length victory vs \$12,500 maidens. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Cristian Torres going for 2 in a row. **7 MIZ CHAPLIN** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and steps up to tussle with winners, after responding to a dropdown in competition with a \$20,000 maiden victory going 5 ½ furlongs at GP West. Note that the barn is over 40% with recent claims. **8 MAGICGIRL**, drops, and adds blinkers, after chasing the pace and fading vs \$16,000 claimers in the first start after the claim by Robert Falcone Jr.; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 9-7-8

RACE 3:

12 PLAN OF ATTACK is freefalling to the \$16,000 level, and breaking from the outside, after showing some keen early interest prior to fading to finish last in a \$50,000 maiden test at the distance. Trainer Jimmy Jerkens adds both 2nd-time blinkers, and jockey Joe Bravo.

5 FAYEZ is hoping to finally notch the elusive maiden victory after taking a step in the right direction when he finished 3rd at this level and distance last out. **7 MUHLENGER** is dropping to this level after taking the overland route when rallying wide to finish 4th in his career turf debut at the \$25,000 level.

SELECTIONS: 12-5-7

RACE 4:

5 BELLEVILLE SPRING is dropping to the \$6,250 level in the first start since chasing the pace and finishing 3rd behind repeat winner Wicked Trick in a \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimer at Saratoga. Trainer George Weaver has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride. **2 STRIKE PLAY** is dropping to this level on the main track after disputing swift early fractions before weakening to finish 7th vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going 5 panels on the turf. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Rajiv Maragh handling the surface switch. **1 BLUE CHICORY** will depart from the rail again looking to improve on the recent stalk-and-flatten 4th at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-1

RACE 5:

6 MIKE'S GIRL is debuting locally for trainer Danny Gargan after the pretty solid turf campaign in New York, except for the miscue at Aqueduct when she was disqualified from the \$50,000 starter allowance during November. **10 CAT LADY STEPH** is stretching out to a mile after debuting locally for trainer Paul Kopaj to set the pace and just get nailed at the wire when 2nd vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers; Cristian Torres rides. **11 BLAME THE GODS** is departing from the outside with the perfect stalking style, and jockey, needed to sit the 'trip' and score. Trainer Brian Lynch has Javier Castellano at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 6-10-11

RACE 6:

5 KNARSDALE, now in the Rodolphe Brisset barn, the 6-year-old daughter of Medaglia d'or is stretching out to a mile on the main track in the first race since finishing 2nd behind repeat stakes winner Goldwood in the 5-furlong Safely Kept at Monmouth, and in front of Liana Susquehanna, who won impressively here on Sunday. **3 CUDDLE KITTEN** is turning back to a mile after setting the pace and settling for 2nd vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Tyler Gaffalione rationing her speed.

4 LADY KATE will try to keep her record at Gulfstream unblemished after following her debut maiden victory here last January with a monster 7 ½-length score – at the distance – vs \$35,000 optional claimers.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-4

RACE 7:

2 SPEED EFFECT is stepping up to face winners on the turf after drawing clear to wallop 4 rivals in a \$50,000 maiden test moved from the grass to a mile and a sixteenth on the main track. Trainer Dom Schettino has Tyler Gaffalione at the gelded son of Exchange Rate. **4 WILLING TO SPEED** will be outfitted with blinkers, and stretching out to his best distance, after finishing 3rd and being placed 2nd in front of a pair of next-out winners, and others in today's field. **5 ARMCHAIR JOCKEY**, who finished 2nd in front of Willing to Speed before he was disqualified 2-starts back, renews the rivalry at a mile after finishing 2nd going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Luis Saez in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-5

RACE 8:

6 AMELIA MADELYN is turning back to 7 furlongs after drawing clear to win in hand when facing \$25,000 claimers going a mile. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Luis Saez at the controls.

1 LADY ARCHA moved to the Guadalupe Preciado barn via the claim, and is stretching out to 7 furlongs, after posting her 2nd consecutive victory, when going 6 furlongs, at the \$16,000 level.

8 WORDS OF DEVINE is dropping back to the \$20,000 level after breaking badly and never getting untracked vs \$30,000 claimers last out. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-8

RACE 9:

4 O'MALLEY is debuting locally for trainer Jason Servis, and should take the lion's share of the action, after posting a trio of sprint victories on the New York turf circuit; Javier Castellano rides.

10 DREAMS ARE MADE should be primed and ready to score after returning from the extended layoff to finish 2nd at this level and distance. The \$500,000 daughter of Tapit should sit the 'trip' off the abundance of speed breaking to her inside.

2 MAGIC FAIRY, a sharp New York-bred allowance winner sprinting on the Aqueduct turf, is going back to the grass after failing to fire behind next-out stakes winner Cash Offer going 6 furlongs on the Big A main track. Trainer Christophe Clement has Julien Leparoux atop the daughter of Ghostzapper.

SELECTIONS: 4-10-2

RACE 10:

12 BALLAGH ROCKS, a multiple Grade 1 stakes-placed son of Stormy Atlantic, stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the layoff to finish 3rd – beaten less than a length – going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Bill Mott has Luis Saez atop the obvious class of the field. **7 MY BARILEY** is debuting locally vs \$75,000 allowance optional claimers after ending his fall campaign with a 6th -place finish – beaten 2 lengths – in the Grade 3 River City Handicap at Churchill. The longshot special is trained by Tony Granitz, who is 22% with the 61-180 days layoff. **5 PROJECTED** should be ready to offer more after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd here at this level when going 7 ½ furlongs on December 11th. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Javier Castellano at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 12-7-5

BEST BET: RACE 6 – 5 KNARSDALE

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 7 MY BARILEY