



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

*by Ron Nicoletti*

Wednesday February 5, 2020

**RACE 1:**

**10 CALL CURT** is a gelded son of Sky Mesa debuting for trainer Mark Casse in an ideal spot for a first-time starter to succeed. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Edgard Zayas handling an outside post (10). **11 BOLT** breaks from the far outside, and debuts on the turf, with the speed needed to get position, and maybe steal this wide-open affair on the front end. **5 NEXTSTOP POKIPC** is turning back to a sprint distance after losing all chance when he broke slowly in a \$32,000 maiden test going a mile on the turf. Jose Ortiz rides for Jorge Abreu.

**SELECTIONS: 10-11-5**

**RACE 2:**

**5 ROAD TO PEACE** is free-falling to the \$12,500 level after responding in the first race after the claim Saffie Joseph Jr with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs \$40,000 maidens. He's the obvious choice, unless the big drop has you reluctant to hop on the Road to Peace. **1 SWEET GIANT** is cutting back to a sprint distance after dueling early and fading to finish 4<sup>th</sup> vs similar going a 1-turn mile. **8 WAR ACT** was solid in defeat when he responded to both the dropdown, and the addition of blinkers, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish – beaten a head – at 20-1.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-8**

**RACE 3:**

**8 DIXIE MO** is debuting locally on the turf after facing stakes caliber competition on the dirt last summer with limited success. Trainer Wesley Ward drops the daughter of Uncle Mo to the \$30,000 level, and tabs Joe Bravo to ride. **7 PALACE TWO STEP** is an obvious choice to score when she faces \$30,000 claimers after shipping from Canada into the Joe Orseno barn and finishing a duel-for-lead 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$35,000 starter optional claimers; Cristian Torres rides.

**2 PICK UP THE FONE** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and drops a notch, when making the first start since finishing 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$35,000 claimers during December.

**SELECTIONS: 8-7-2**

**RACE 4:**

**4 SHINNING COLORS** is dropping to the \$50,000 level, and turning back to 6 ½ furlongs, after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> going 8 ½ and 6 furlongs, respectively, vs maiden special weight competition at Tampa. Trainer Rodolphe Brisset has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **12 UNCAPTURED RUDY** is stretching out an additional half-furlong, and breaking from the outside, after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs similar quality going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez in the irons.

**8 LORILOUPIES** will be treated with Lasix after surrendering a mid-race lead to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in her career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 23% with maidens making their 2<sup>nd</sup> start.

**SELECTIONS: 4-12-8**

**RACE 5:**

**7 MONTATHAM** is debuting locally for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, and facing 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' competition, in the first race since defeating \$40,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth on the Belmont turf; Luis Saez rides. **1 MACHIAVELLI** is stretching out an additional 16<sup>th</sup> of a mile after returning from the layoff for trainer Mark Casse and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs similar quality going a mile.

**2 JUSTCALLMENORMAN** will try a mile and a sixteenth again after getting beat a neck, and a nose, respectively, when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a pair vs similar quality going a mile.

**SELECTIONS: 7-1-2**

**RACE 6:**

**7 PROPENSITY**, now in the Bill Mott barn, the gelded son of Twirling Candy makes his first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> behind a next-out allowance winner in a maiden special weight sprint on the Turfway synthetic surface; Irad Ortiz Jr rides this interesting proposition. **3 ANNUALIZED** is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after debuting locally for trainer Rodolphe Brisset, showing some early interest, and then fading to finish 7<sup>th</sup> and last.

**8 TOP SEED** is a 4-year-old son of Orb debuting for trainer Shug McGaughey with Lasix, and a consistent morning work tab showing at Payson Park; Jose Ortiz rides.

**SELECTIONS: 7-3-8**

**RACE 7:**

**5 ISADORABLE AIDA** moved to the Armando De La Cerda barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth, after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a head – vs similar going a mile; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

**9 RETRO STREET** has her claiming tag sliced in half after debuting locally for trainer Kathleen O’Connell and finishing a workman-like 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$30,000 claimers. Tyler Gaffalione gets the call, as Irad sticks with the top choice.

**4 VENEZUELAN FOREVER** moved to the Jorge Delgado barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, after productive 2019 turf campaign here in which she won 3 of 10 races, albeit at the \$10,000 level.

**SELECTIONS: 5-9-4**

**RACE 8:**

**10 WONDER IN** moved to the Dave Fawkes barn via the claim, and wheels back, after chasing the pace and weakening to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance. The new connections keep the status quo with Javier Castellano in the saddle.

**7 BOURBON CURRENCY** is making his local return the first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> here vs \$25,000 optional claimers some 353 days ago. Trainer John Kimmel reunites the gelding with Irad Ortiz Jr, who rode him here last February. **9 R BOY EVENS**, listed as a gelding, the son of Adios Charlie steps up to face winners after drawing clear to defeat \$16,000 maidens by 4-plus lengths; Jose Ortiz rides.

**SELECTIONS: 10-7-9**

**RACE 9:**

**3 CARPE OMNIOUS** is working sharply in preparation for his first start since the successful special weight debut in which he closed impressively to score by a half-length, and get an 83 Beyer for his effort. **6 SMASH FACTOR**, a multiple stakes-placed sprinter, turns back to 7 furlongs after opening and surrendering an early 3 ½-length lead when finishing 6<sup>th</sup> behind Chance It in the 1-mile \$100,000 Mucho Macho Man. **4 CONQUEST DAY** is making his local debut after splashing clear on a sloppy Tampa main track to win at first asking. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Irad atop the \$170,000 son of Race Day.

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-4**

**RACE 10:**

**8 THENORTHREMEMBERS**, who showed promise going both long and short on the turf last summer, makes his local debut for trainer Dominick Schettino the first start since finishing 4<sup>th</sup> sprinting vs \$40,000 maidens on a good Belmont main track last June; Luis Saez rides. **7 RAGS FOR BRITCHES** is dropping to the \$25,000 level in the first start since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in a \$40,000 maiden test going a mile and a sixteenth here last September. Trainer J C Perez has Irad named on the son of Union Rags.

**6 RIGHT ON KID** is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks after failing to fire vs maiden special weight runners going 9 furlongs at Churchill, and a mile and three-sixteenths at Keeneland. Trainer Eddie Kenneally, 21% with similar class drops, has Tyler named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 8-7-6**

**BEST BET: RACE 4 – 4 SHINNING COLORS**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – THENORTHREMEMBERS**

