



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

9 CAPTAIN FLINT is dropping to the \$20,000 level on the turf after following a front running maiden victory on the grass with a set-the-pace-and-fade outing vs \$35,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth on the main track. **5 QUICK ENOUGH** is dropping to the \$20,000 level after following his \$25,000 maiden breaker with a clunker behind repeat winner Monforte in a \$35,000 optional claimer at the distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez handling the dropdown. **7 SHANGHAI MOON**, a \$180,000 son of Shanghai Bobby, is debuting on the turf after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 2nd place finish going 7 furlongs on the dirt vs \$12,500 open-claimers.

SELECTIONS: 9-5-7

RACE 2:

6 STARSHIP APOLLO drops back into a winning spot after following the victory at this level and distance with a chase-the-pace 3rd vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers. **4 RAY'SWARRIOR**, a reclaim by the red-hot Amador Sanchez barn, is hoping to save more for these old/new connections after setting the pace and finishing 3rd – as the favorite – at this level and distance; Hector Berrios rides. **2 DESERT GENERAL** was solid in defeat when he rallied 5-wide to finish 2nd in front of Ray'swarrior when they hooked at this level in their last. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Edgard Zayas at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-2

RACE 3:

2 TROPICAT is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to defeat \$25,000 starter optional claimers going a mile last out. His biggest challenge will surely come from **3 ALIEN INVASION**. The latter stretches out to 8 ½ furlongs after drawing clear to defeat a group of \$12,500 starter optional claimers in front running fashion.

The speedy gelding will be playing 'catch me if you can' on a course that's favored speed lately.

7 KING ORB is a late-striding type who stretches out an additional 16th of a mile after closing to finish 2nd to Alien Invasion last out; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-7

RACE 4:

10 NEWYORK GIANT will break from the outside after departing from the rail, shaking off early traffic, and coming within a head of exiting the maiden ranks at this level and distance. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr keeps it light with 7-pound apprentice Gaddiel Martinez handling the outside draw.

1 UNO BABY BIRD is plunging to the \$12,500 level after showing speed and fading in a fruitful maiden special weight race here last September that produced 5 next-out winners from 9 starters.

3 ELECTRIC HEAT is dropping to the bottom on the main track after showing some early interest and fading vs \$35,000 maidens going a mile on the turf. Note that trainer Amador Sanchez is 4 for 16 with the grass-to-dirt move.

SELECTIONS: 10-1-3

RACE 5:

10 ALASKAN is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and stretching out around 2-turns, after making a middle move and flattening out when finishing 6th vs \$32,000 maidens going 5 furlongs. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the added distance.

4 TRACEABILITY is a son of Munnings debuting for trainer Bill Mott with Lasix, and Edgard Zayas named to ride. The Maram LLC homebred is working consistently at Payson Park in preparation for the first start. **3 CUY** is a gelded son of Beau Choix debuting for owner/trainer Elizabeth Dobles with Lasix, and jockey Hugo Sanchez named to ride. The tote action should tell us more about the gelding's chances to win at first asking.

SELECTIONS: 10-4-3

RACE 6:

8 MORE THAN STRIKING is stepping up to face winners after shaking off a bumping incident at the start to defeat \$12,500 maidens by almost 3 lengths. Trainer Efren Loza Jr has Luis Saez going for 2 in a row. **6 FLAWLESS MOON** moved to the Sandra Matier barn via the claim, and is turning back to three-quarters of a mile, after surrendering a mid-race lead to finish 3rd – as the 3-to-5 favorite – going a 1-turn mile; Irad Ortiz Jr rides. **3 WOLF RIDGE** is debuting on a regular dirt surface after shipping down from Woodbine and finishing a workman like 6th vs \$16,000 ‘2-lifetime’ claimers going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf. Trainer Mike DePaulo has Paco Lopez handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-3**RACE 7:**

5 CAPTAIN RON will try state-bred competition after setting a pressured pace and finishing in a dead heat for 2nd vs a solid group of \$25,000 open-claimers. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Miguel Vazquez atop the 4-time winner at the distance. **3 R BOY BODE**, a sharp winner vs \$35,000 claimers on the turf 2 starts back, is going back to the grass after disputing swift early fractions and finishing 2nd in a \$16,000 state-bred optional claimer going 5 furlongs on the main track. Trainer Georgina Baxter has Nik Juarez in the saddle. **2 HONOLULU EXPRESS**, a winner of 6 of 13 races, which includes 3 victories on the Gulfstream green, is making his first start since defeating \$35,000 claimers going 5 furlongs on the GP West turf. Trainer Barry Croft has Luis Saez handling the local return.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-2**RACE 8:**

1 HIGH JINGO will break from the rail after departing from the outside (Post 9), vying for the lead, and finishing 2nd in her local debut for trainer Jason Servis; Paco Lopez rides the 5-furlong specialist (3-2-0-1). **4 AWSUM ROAR**, a sharp winner at this level 2 starts back, drops after making a 4-wide charge to come within a whisker of finishing 2nd vs allowance competition at the distance last out.

2 BAND OF ANGELS moved to the Joe Catanese barn via the claim, and wheels back at the same level and distance, after dueling with High Jingo and finishing 2nd in front of her last out. The new connections tab Laura Kornmeyer to ride.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-2**RACE 9:**

5 SPEED EFFECT is stepping up to face winners, and turning back to a 1-turn mile, after drawing clear to wallop 4 rivals in a race moved from the turf to a mile and a sixteenth on the main track. Trainer Dominic Schettino has Irad going for 2 in a row.

3 TUNE IN, listed as a gelding, will try to make it 2 in a row after responding in the first start in the Jorge Navarro barn with a hard-fought \$35,000 ‘2-lifetime’ claimer going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Navarro, 24% with horses stretching out in distance, has Luca Panici going for 2 in a row. **6 OVERDELIVER** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and is stretching out to a mile, after shipping down from Monmouth to defeat \$25,000 ‘2-lifetime’ claimers going 6 furlongs in the slop; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-6**RACE 10:**

2 FRANCO’S TEAM is stretching out to a mile after stalking swift early fractions of 21 flat and 44 flat when finishing 3rd vs this quality going 5 furlongs. Trainer Jose Garoffalo has Jairo Rendon on the one to catch in the nightcap. **8 MOZANO** is dropping to the \$32,000 level on the turf, after responding to both the addition of Lasix and blinkers with an improved 4th place finish vs special weight competition going 6 furlongs on a sloppy Tampa main track. Trainer Kent Sweezey has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr named on the son of Verrazano. **9 BLING SEEKER** is eligible to take another positive step forward after responding in her first journey around 2 turns with a press-the-pace 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Kathleen O’Connell has apprentice Cristian Torres in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-9**BEST BET: RACE 5 – 10 ALASKAN****LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 2 FRANCO’S TEAM**