



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

## RACE 1:

**9 LOOKIN FINE AS WINE** is dropping to the \$25,000, and wearing blinkers after 'hitting the board' in 1 of 2 \$40,000 maiden turf races, at the distance, on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Dom Schettino has Javier Castellano named to ride.

**8 DAYS OF SPRING** is another debuting locally at the \$25,000 level after breaking from an outside post, tracking the pace, and weakening to finish 8<sup>th</sup> behind the top choice when they competed at this distance at Aqueduct on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez handling the rematch. **1 SILVER PALMS** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after a solid return on the GP West turf in which she rallied to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> going 7 ½ furlongs; Paco Lopez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 9-8-1**

## RACE 2:

**1 DISTINCTIVE LADY** moved to the Dom Schettino barn via the claim, and faces \$12,500 starter optional claimers, after her strong run in New Jersey ended when she finished 4<sup>th</sup> here vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers. The cutback to 5 ½ furlongs, and the addition of jockey Luis Saez, should produce positive results.

**2 SAME KINDA CRAZY** is dropping to the \$12,500 level on the main track after facing tougher sprinting on the turf, which includes the 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Claiming Crown Distaff Dash. Trainer Luis Ramirez has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the surface switch. **3 SUZ** is debuting locally after ending her campaign in the Windy City with a trio of 'in the money' sprints vs similar quality at Hawthorne; Paco rides for Scott Becker.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-3**

## RACE 3:

**4 SUSIKIN** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after dueling for the lead and settling for 3<sup>rd</sup> when facing similar quality going 6 ½ furlongs.

**1 SHES ONE MAD MOMMA** is debuting locally for trainer Kathleen O'Connell after pressing the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$8,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going 6 ½ furlongs on a 'good' track at Tampa; Jairo Rendon rides. **3 HOW SWEEP IT IS** makes her local return for trainer Jane Cibelli after the inconsistent campaign vs a notch tougher at Monmouth; Paco Lopez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-3**

## RACE 4:

**6 HEY KITTEN** is dropping to the \$75,000 level after encountering some traffic problems when finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in her local debut going a mile vs maiden special weight competition. Trainer Rodolphe Brisset tabs Irad to ride.

**3 UNEXPLAINABLE** is dropping into this high-priced maiden claimer after tracking the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> behind next-out Ginger Brew Stakes winner She's My Type, and next-out maiden winner Osaka Girl. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

**7 SPECIAL LIAISON** is a daughter of Liaison, and a half-sister to Grade 2 turf winner Casa Creed, debuting for trainer David Fawkes with Lasix, and Luis Saez named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-7**

## RACE 5:

**6 SMOKE 'N' GLOAT** is debuting locally for trainer Scott Becker, and turning back to 7 furlongs, after a couple of sharp optional claimers going a mile & 70 yards at Hawthorne; Luis Saez rides.

**7 AKTABANTAY (GB)** is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile after rallying on a sealed 'good' track at GP West to defeat \$6,250 claimers going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jane Cibelli has go-to jock Paco Lopez in the irons. **2 DOC KANE**, who has been claimed more times than my luggage at Delta, moves to the Nagib Aoughaida barn, and returns to his favorite racing surface, after back-to-back clunkers at GP West. The new connections tab my favorite apprentice Christian Torres to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 6-7-2**

**RACE 6:**

**2 SHANGHAI BONNIE** was solid in defeat when she dueled for the lead and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> -beaten a head – in her local debut at this level and distance. The biggest challenge for the speedy daughter of Shanghai Bobby will come from **4 LITTLE NICOLE**. The latter, trained by Carlo Vaccarezza, and ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr, makes her 2<sup>nd</sup> start back from the layoff after finishing a nose in front the top choice when they hit the wire as part of a 3-horse blanket finish. **7 SHANGHAI MISTRESS**, a 4-year-old daughter of Shanghai Bobby, drops to the \$16,000 level after responding in the first start for trainer Steve Klesaris with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish, at the distance, vs \$35,000 '2-lifetime' claimers.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-7**

**RACE 7:**

**3 VERY AMUSING** is eligible to rebound after following his sharp \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claiming victory at GP West with a press-and-fade 4<sup>th</sup> place finish here – as the favorite – at this level and distance; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **2 ELUSIVE RO** is making his local return the first start since rallying from off the pace to defeat '2-lifetime' claimers going 5 ½ furlongs at GP West. Trainer Angel Rodriguez has Irad named to ride. **6 MILLIONAIRE RUNNER** is dropping to this level, and turning back to 6 furlongs, after showing speed and calling it a day vs \$12,500 '3-lifetime' claimers going a mile; Paco Lopez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-6**

**RACE 8:**

**2 CODRINGTON** moved to the Elizabeth Dobles barn via the claim after sharp try vs \$35,000 '3-lifetime' claimers in which she came within a nose – as the odds-on choice – of putting that condition in the bank. The new connections keep the status quo with Irad in the saddle. **5 TOOTSIE** moved to the Eddie Kenneally barn via the claim, and is back on the turf, after returning from the layoff at Churchill to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> going a mile and a sixteenth on a sealed 'sloppy' track; Tyler Gaffalione handles the surface switch. **8 TIPLE (IRE)** is stretching out around 2-turns after series of competitive turf sprints on the New York circuit. The 4-year-old should be part of the pace at a mile.

**SELECTIONS: 2-5-8**

**RACE 9:**

**3 VICKY APPLE** will try to make it 2 in a row at the distance after setting a pressured pace throughout and holding sway to score by 1 ½ lengths. **10 INFINITY SKY**, who beat Vicky Apple at GP West 2 starts back, is looking to rebound after the duel-and-fade performance here last out. You have to like the fact that Irad Ortiz Jr takes the return call. **2 BROOKES ALL MINE** is stretching out to a mile after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar quality going 6 furlongs last out. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Fanny Olsson handling the added real estate.

**SELECTIONS: 3-10-2**

**BEST BET: RACE 4 – 6 HEY KITTEN**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 6 – 2 SHANGHAI BONNIE**

