



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

RACE 1:

7 MILLEFIORI is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and adding blinkers, after failing to show much in her \$25,000 career debut going a mile on the turf during April. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Edgard Zayas handling the dropdown. **3 MATCHA**, now in the Kent Swezey barn, the mare wheels back after responding to the class relief with a 2nd place finish at this level and distance. The new connections tab Samy Camacho to ride. **2 MYFIRSTXWIFE** moved to the Sandra Matier barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile, after a quartet of 'in the money' finishes going 5 furlongs, the last as the 3-to-5 favorite.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-2

RACE 2:

10 FUN LOADED is stretching to five-eighths of a mile after the promising 4 ½-furlong debut in which he showed early speed before fading to finish 5th. Trainer Ralph Nicks is solid with 2-year-year-olds making their 2nd start. **8 HEAVENLY BLESSING** is another eligible to end up in the picture ceremony after recovering from some early trouble to finish 3rd in front of Fun Loaded in their respective debuts.

5 CHUCKY, listed as gelding, makes his first start since finishing 4th in his 4 ½-furlong debut on May 1st. Trainer Juan Alvarado has apprentice Joe Trejos atop the son of Brethren.

SELECTIONS: 10-8-5

RACE 3:

4 LA RUSIA, who has run well vs this caliber of competition on the turf, is going back to the grass after finishing 4th in a \$25,000 optional claimer going a mile on a sealed sloppy track last out. The stakes-placed daughter of Hampton Court looks strong at the \$30,000 claiming level.

6 DIENDA, 5th behind La Rusia when they competed at the \$50,000 level in April, was sent to the sidelines by Mark Casse to be freshened. The dropdown to this level should help the daughter of Kantharos.

2 DAYS OF SPRING is returning to her favorite course (6-2-1-0) after getting mugged in the stretch, finishing 2nd, and then placed 1st via steward's decision, in a \$25,000 starter optional claimer moved from the grass to a 1-turn mile in the slop.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-2

RACE 4:

4 ESTILO TALENTOSO is getting the blinkers removed after only 1 start after following a quartet of 2nd place finishes sprinting with a set-the-early-pace-and-drift 3rd when trying a mile with the shades added. Trainer Juan Arriagada has Samy Camacho trying to improve the also-ran status (5-0-4-1).

2 INDEPENDENT MISS, a half to stakes winner Muggsamatic, is turning back to a mile after stalking the pace and weakening to finish 4th in a stamina-tweaking outing going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Yates has Miguel Vazquez handling the 1-turn mile. **7 EVER SMART** debuts locally for trainer Kathleen O'Connell after a couple of solid outings at Tampa, which includes a 2nd place finish going a mile & 40-yards on the dirt 2 starts back, and distant 2nd going a mile on the turf last out. Note the barn is 19% with the turf-to-dirt angle.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-7

RACE 5:

5 SEPTEMBERTEN is stretching out to 7 furlongs after back-to-back 4th place finishes vs better going 6 furlongs. Trainer Rohan Crichton finds the perfect 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' competition for the gelding to notch the elusive 2nd career victory.

1 FLAMING HOT is dropping to the \$25,000 level after showing some early interest and fading when facing \$32,000 starter optional claimers in the first start after the claim by Elizabeth Dobles; Paco Lopez rides.

2 HANDSOME PRINCE is stepping up, and stretching out, after drawing clear to defeat \$25,000 maidens going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Antonio Cioffi has apprentice Joe Trejos going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-2

RACE 6;

7 ELITE APPEAL, who was knocking on the door on the turf vs a notch tougher before the layoff, is back on the grass after returning from the 2-month freshening to finish a press-the-pace 4th vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile on the main track. **11 KARENINA** was a well-meant 2nd when dropped to this level on the turf last out. However, her 30-1-9-9 record is a concern for the otherwise hard trying mare. **6 EL SCORCHO** is stepping up to face winners after responding to the dropdown in competition with a sizzling \$12,500 maiden victory, despite the fact she hit the gate, and raced wide.

SELECTIONS: 7-11-6

RACE 7:

5 TAKE CHARGE AGAIN is stepping up, turning back, and adding blinkers, after drawing clear to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimer going 6 furlongs. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Paco Lopez named to ride.

2 PALACE TWO STEP has her claiming tag carved in half, and debuts on the main track, after facing \$16,000 types in a pair of 5-furlong sprints on the turf. Note that the versatile sophomore is also 3-2-1-0 on synthetic surfaces. **10 MA MEATLOAF** is looking to make amends at 5 ½-furlongs after shipping down from New York and finishing 4th – as the odds-on choice – vs \$10,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going 6 furlongs in the slop. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Edgard Zayas on the likely favorite.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-10

RACE 8:

9 BAHAMIAN PRINCE is stretching out to a mile after finishing 2nd in back-to-back turf sprints going 5 furlongs. Trainer Gustavo Delgado has Nik Juarez handling the upset special.

8 DYNADRIVE will face \$40,000 claimers at a mile after rallying to come within a neck of defeating \$50,000 starter optional claimers going 7 ½ furlongs last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Samy Camacho atop the son of Temple City. **10 CAPTAIN D** will try turning the tables on Dynadrive at a mile after rallying to finish 3rd – a neck behind him – going 7 ½ furlongs last out. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Miguel Vazquez handling the rematch.

SELECTIONS: 9-8-10

RACE 9:

3 INDIMAAJ is turning back to a mile after returning from the extended layoff and finishing 2nd – beaten a half-length at 31-1 – going a mile and a sixteenth on sealed sloppy track. The beautifully bred 5-year-old son of Tapit, trained by Jeff Engler, has Victor Lebron in the saddle again. **8 TIZ APPROVED** is stepping up the competition, and debuting locally, after a trio head-swirling victories vs cheaper sprinting at Tampa. He gets the old class check with Samy Camacho up. **5 NOTSOSUBTLE** is another stepping up the class ladder after drawing away to defeat \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers – as the odds-on choice – going a mile on a sealed sloppy track.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-5

RACE 10:

5 SYDNEY'S TREASURE is debuting locally at the \$12,500 level after facing Indiana state-bred special weight competition on the Indiana Grand turf. Trainer Larry Rivelli has Victor Lebron atop the daughter of Treasure Beach.

3 NEW YORK COMMANDER is stretching out around 2-turns for the first time after showing some late interest in back-to-back turf sprints vs similar quality. **7 MARICOPA** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and returning to the turf, after responding to a dropdown in competition with a 4th place finish vs \$16,000 maidens going a mile in the slop. The daughter of Temple City clearly does her best running on the turf (4-0-1-1).

SELECTIONS: 5-3-7

BEST BET: RACE 3 – 4 LA RUSIA

LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 9 BAHAMIAN PRINCE