



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

RACE 1:

8 BIG CITY RALPH has a big shot to win at first asking vs a field where no participant has really stepped forward with a top-notch performance. Trainer Jorge Navarro adds Lasix, and has Luis Saez named to ride. **11 MOZANO** breaks from Post 11, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile, after departing from Post 12 and finishing 3rd vs similar quality going 6 ½ furlongs. **10 JACK BEANSTALK** is debuting local after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 3rd place finish going 6 furlongs vs \$15,000 maidens at the Fair Grounds. Trainer Norm Casse has apprentice Cristian Torres in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 8-11-10

RACE 2:

6 BUCKY'S DRAMA is debuting locally after pair of solid turf sprints at Tampa, which includes the recent 2nd place finish where she disputed a sizzling :20.3 first-quarter, reached the lead, and was then caught in the stretch and settled for 2nd. **3 NO NO NINA** is a \$150,000 daughter of More Than Ready debuting for trainer Christophe Clement with a steady morning workout tab showing at Payson Park; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **2 SAUCY TUNE** was given some time off after encountering some early problems (checked) and finishing 6th in her 5-furlong career debut vs open special weight competition. Trainer Joe Orseno has Cristian Torres in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-2

RACE 3:

6 BAD BEAT BRIAN was ultra-game when breaking his maiden at the \$50,000 level. The gelded son of Jack Milton set the pace, was bumped twice in the stretch, and still managed to win by a neck. Trainer Kieran McLaughlin has John Velazquez going for 2 in a row. **2 DANZING DUNHILL** was solid vs \$35,000 optional claimers last out when he chased the speed bias-aided winner throughout and finished 2nd – beaten 1 ¼ lengths.

Trainer George Weaver, winning races here at a 36% rate, has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle as Johnny V sticks with the top choice. **4 DYNADRIIVE** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and tries \$50,000 optional claimers, after finishing a late-running 3rd, at the distance, vs \$50,000 claimers.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-4

RACE 4:

6 KOZY DREAMS is dropping to the \$25,000 level in the first start since facing maiden special weight runners in a trio of sprints before the layoff. Trainer Scott Becker has Marcos Meneses named to ride.

3 IRISH THUNDER is wheeling back after responding to the turnback in distance with a 3rd place finish – as the favorite – at this level and distance. The most experienced runner in the field has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr at the controls.

7 AWESOMENEWEAR is eligible to take another positive step forward after pressing the pace and finishing 4th behind Irish Thunder at this level and distance; Paco rides for John McAllen.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-7

RACE 5:

4 SIR CHUBBY is sitting on a winning performance after returning from the 11-month layoff – with blinkers added - and finishing 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Tom Bush has Javier Castellano named to ride. **3 THENORTHREMEMBERS** is stepping it up a notch after responding in the first race under the tutelage of trainer Dom Schettino with a 2nd place finish behind repeat winner New Year in a \$25,000 maiden test at the distance.

5 HEIRLOOM KITTEN is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks, for trainer Linda Rice, after debuting locally and failing to fire vs special weight competition; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-5

RACE 6:

1 SAMOA is looking to make amends after setting the pace, drifting out in the stretch, finishing 1st, but being disqualified and placed 2nd. Trainer Juan Alvarado has Edgard Zayas in the saddle again.

3 LOOKING FOR MORE is looking to turn the tables on the top choice after tracking the action and finishing 3rd behind her last out. Trainer Jose Pinchin keeps the status quo with Irad in the saddle.

4 SOUTHERN TODDY is making the usually fruitful 3rd start back from a layoff after dueling for the lead and fading in the stretch at this level and distance. Trainer Armando De La Cerda has Emisael Jaramillo penciled in the return riding assignment.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-4

RACE 7:

7 I'M THE CAPTAIN NOW is getting some class relief hoping to recapture the form he displayed during his 2018 campaign in New York. Trainer Barclay Tagg drops him to the \$20,000 level after making a middle move and fading vs \$35,000 optional claimers here on New Year's Day.

2 GAMBLER'S FALLACY is returning to the turf for trainer Chad Brown after ending his 2019 campaign with a poor showing on the Aqueduct main track. Trainer Brown, 26% with the dirt-to-turf angle, has Javier Castellano named to ride. **1 SOLAR** is stepping up to the next level after drawing clear to defeat \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile. Trainer Kelly Breen has Emisael Jaramillo handling the stretchout to 8 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-1

RACE 8:

8 CUCINA, now in the Bill Mott barn, the son of Northern Afleet drops into this \$20,000 state-bred optional claimer after facing stakes competition in his final 3 races of his freshman campaign; John Velazquez rides. **2 MAN WITH A PLAN** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim, and is hoping for clear sailing, after getting bottled up behind horses making the turn for home, finding seam along the inside, but failing to reel in the winner; Luis Saez rides.

5 DANCING DESTROYER, bred to love sprinting on the grass, moves to the turf after the pair of strong sprints on the dirt, which includes the sharp state-bred special weight score 2 starts back. Trainer Norm Casse has Julien Leparoux handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 8-2-5

RACE 9:

1 MOBEATYABAD is debuting locally for trainer Jonathan Thomas after responding to both a dropdown in competition, and a surface switch, with a 13 ½-length drubbing of \$40,000 maidens going 6 furlongs on the Tampa main track. **2 GEMO** is turning back to 6 furlongs on the dirt after returning the 2-month freshening to press the pace and fade to 6th vs \$50,000 claimers going a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Rohan Crichton, 22% with the turf to dirt angle, has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the surface switch.

8 RICKI TICKI TAFFI is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after following his 2nd place finish – at the distance – in the \$75,000 Limestone with a 3rd place finish – as the odds-on choice – going 7 furlongs last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-8

RACE 10:

7 AERODYNAMIC is dropping to the \$16,000 level after returning from the layoff for trainer Todd Pletcher and finishing 3rd vs \$40,000 maidens. The daughter of Verrazano will surely be the odds-on choice with Irad in the saddle.

4 PRINCESA CRYSTAL (GB) is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to finish 2nd – beaten a neck – vs similar going a mile last out. Trainer Amador Sanchez has go-to jock Hector Berrios at the controls. **3 FUNNY FEATHER** is a late-striding type who comes off back-to-back 4th place finishes looking to grab a share with Luis Saez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-3

BEST BET: RACE 3 – 6 BAD BEAT BRIAN

LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 7 I'M THE CAPTAIN NOW