



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

## RACE 1:

**5 ROYAL JEWEL** is hoping to get away trouble free after stumbling and bumping at the start prior to finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in her recent outing at this level and distance. **3 FELONY MELANIE** is stepping up to the \$25,000 level after shipping down from New York into the Joe Orseno barn and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$16,000 maidens going 5 panels on a softened turf listed as good. **1 DREAM ADRIANNA** is dropping to this level, and debuting on the turf, after failing to show much in her 6-furlong career debut vs state-bred special weight competition on the main track.

**SELECTIONS: 5-3-1**

## RACE 2:

**5 EMBRACE MY UNCLE** is stepping it up a notch after responding to both a dropdown and surface switch with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place vs \$25,000 maidens going a mile on the dirt. **6 UNO BABY BIRD** is eligible to show more after returning from the 6-month layoff to open and surrender a 4-length at the 1/8<sup>th</sup>-pole when finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Embrace My Uncle. Trainer Kathy Ritvo has Luca Panici named to ride.

**3 JESUS' TEAM** is dropping to this level on the main track after dueling for the lead and retreating vs \$50,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf.

**SELECTIONS: 5-6-3**

## RACE 3:

**2 DONJI** is turning back to a mile after prompting the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> when facing similar quality going a mile and a sixteenth last out. The gelding, ridden by Luis Saez, looks like the controlling speed vs a field that's light in the pace department.

**5 KING OF SPADES**, who does his best running in the latter stages of the race, is dropping to the \$30,000 level after closing from far back to finish 8<sup>th</sup> – beaten 1 ¾ lengths – vs \$40,000 claimers going 8 ½ furlongs. Trainer Kelly Breen has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride.

**1 PROJECTED (GB)** is plunging to the \$40,000 level after returning from the most recent layoff and finishing 9<sup>th</sup> vs a competitive field of \$75,000 optional claimers. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Tyler handling the class relief.

**SELECTIONS: 2-5-1**

## RACE 4:

**1 GAMBIT**, the beaten favorite in consecutive races at this level and distance, will depart from the rail trying to repair the chalk-burning status. Trainer Rusty Arnold has Tyler handling the inside draw.

**8 LUCK OF THE CROOK** is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after returning from the extended layoff to finishing a late-running 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar quality going 6 furlongs. Trainer Steve Dwoskin adds 2<sup>nd</sup>-time blinkers for the stretchout. **7 SWEET GIANT** will try a mile again after getting bumped at the start and never getting untracked when 5<sup>th</sup> behind this familiar competition going three-quarters of a mile.

**SELECTIONS: 1-8-7**

## RACE 5:

**2 CELEBRATION (GB)** is turning back to his most accomplished distance (21-6-3-1) after returning from the layoff to set the pace and fade to 6<sup>th</sup> in a strong \$62,500 optional claimer going 7 ½ furlongs, a race that produced next-out G3 Canadian Turf winner Sombeyay, and next out stakes winner Aquaphobia. **5 TIGER BLOOD**, a 5-furlong turf master (8-7-0-0), is turning back after setting the pace and fading to 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1-mile \$50,000 Little Magician last out. He'll be playing 'catch me if you can' with Edgard Zayas at the controls.

**6 WHAT'S INSIDE**, who does his best running from a stalking position, should get the pace needed to help him notch his 3<sup>rd</sup> straight victory. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Irad named to ride, as Paco sticks with the top choice.

**SELECTIONS: 2-5-6**

**RACE 6:**

**6 LUCKY RUNS NORTH** is making his local return for trainer Sarah Nagle the first race since drawing clear on the Delaware main track to wallop a field of special weight runners by 9 widening lengths.

**1 ATTHEPEARLYGATES** will break from the rail again after tracking the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$20,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at the distance. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Victor Lebron named to ride.

**3 BIG SPENDER** is back on what looks like his preferred surface after returning from the layoff to finish a chase-and-fade 9<sup>th</sup> vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' foes going 5 furlongs on the turf.

**SELECTIONS: 6-1-3**

**RACE 7:**

**9 WICKED SOLUTION** is back in the claiming ranks after following back-to-back victories vs this caliber of competition with an ambitious 6<sup>th</sup> place finish in the \$60,000 Mrs. Presidentress. Trainer Dave Braddy, who claimed her 2 starts back, reunites her with Irad Ortiz Jr, who was aboard for both previous victories. **1 BEASAICHI** moved to the Bob Hess Jr barn via the claim after posting consecutive 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes, at this level and distance, for the previous connections; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

**7 DONDER 'N BLITZEN** is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after surrendering a late lead when weakening to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Beasaichi last out.

**SELECTIONS: 9-1-7**

**RACE 8:**

**2 JERSEY JOE B** is back in the optional claiming ranks after a yeoman effort in the \$50,000 Trust Buster in which he dueled throughout and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> - beaten a half-length for whole enchilada; Paco Lopez rides. **5 YES I SEE** is a late-striding type who has shown in the past that he can defeat this level of competition if he gets the right pace setup. Trainer Peter Walder has Rajiv Maragh in the irons.

**1 KILLA DEE** is stepping up the competition after drawing clear to defeat \$8,000 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' foes at this 6-furlong distance.

**SELECTIONS: 2-5-1**

**RACE 9:**

**5 JAKARTA**, now in the Mike Maker barn, the Bustin Stones mare debuts on the turf after using her speed to leave both Pa-breds, and open-allowance runners, in her wake on the Penn National main track. **9 KITTEN'S COVERGIRL** was given some time to regroup after posting back-to-back 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes here at this level and distance. Trainer Jose Gallegos has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the outside draw.

**8 MS MESHAK**, who won her previous turf race at this level and distance here last April, drops, and returns to the grass, after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> to speedy Blame in a \$75,000 optional claimer going 6 ½ furlongs on the main track.

**SELECTIONS: 5-9-8**

**RACE 10:**

**1 TILL THE END** moved to the Kelly Breen barn via the claim, and departs from the rail, with the tactical speed, and the jockey (Emisael Jaramillo), needed to steal the nightcap at a price.

**7 MY POINT EXACTLY** looks strong vs this caliber of competition after following back-to-back victories with a game 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish behind repeat winner Dalarna in the Little Magician. Trainer Carlos David has Irad returning on strictly the one to beat.

**3 SUBLIME APPEAL** needs a little kinder rating on or near the front after setting a pressured pace and finishing in a game dead heat for 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$40,000 claimers at the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 1-7-3**

**BEST BET: RACE 5 – 2 CELEBRATION (GB)**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – TILL THE END**