



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

RACE 1:

2 COIN THE PHRASE will try to save a tad more for the stretch drive after setting a pressured pace and finishing 3rd – beaten a half-length – at this level and distance. Trainer Jim Toner has Paco at the controls. **6 SUMMER IN THE CITY** is a daughter of Summer Front, and a half-sister 9-time turf winner Awsum Roar, debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and Luis Saez named to ride. **7 AMERICAN GODDESS**, who was a rallying 4th behind the top choice last out, can end up sitting the perfect trip stalking what should be a glib early pace scenario.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-7

RACE 2:

5 R U LUCKY is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after responding in the first race after the claim by Saffie Joseph Jr with a 10-length victory vs \$50,000 claimers going 6 ½ furlongs; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **2 INTER MIAMI**, who was impressive breaking his maiden going 6 furlongs at the \$50,000 level, drops after failing to fire in both the 7-furlong Grade 3 Swale Stakes, and the \$100,000 Mucho Macho Man, respectively.

4 GRAN CASIQUE is stepping it up a notch again after following the 2nd place finish vs \$50,000 starter optional claimers with a 2nd place showing vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers last out.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-4

RACE 3:

4 BLAME THE GODS will try \$16,000 ‘2-lifetime’ competition after following her \$20,000 maiden victory by ‘hitting the board’ in 1 of 2 \$35,000 starter allowance races at the distance; Javier Castellano rides for Brian Lynch.

2 KARENINA is stretching out to a mile with the speed needed to steal this race from on or just off the pace. However, the 1 for 27 record is an obvious concern. **5 SAVVY CAIRO** is stepping up to face winners after tracking solid early fractions and closing to defeat \$14,000 maidens at the distance. Trainer Linda Rice has Rajiv Maragh going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-5

RACE 4:

5 SHAZZY B is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after rallying to finish 2nd in back-to-back state-bred maiden special weight sprints going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Dale Romans has Luis Saez handling the stretchout. **3 RUN DEVIL** is making her long-awaited 3-year-old debut for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr after the so-so freshman campaign on both turf and dirt. The daughter of Soldat gets Lasix, and has Emisael Jaramillo in the irons. **2 SWEDEN** proved she could negotiate the mile when she closed to finish 2nd – beaten a head – at this level and distance; Fanny Olsson rides.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-2

RACE 5:

3 PROVEN STRATEGIES should be primed and ready to shed the maiden moniker after returning from the layoff to track the pace and finish 3rd behind impressive winner Fancy Liquor. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione returning on the stakes-placed son of Sky Mesa.

8 SOUPER WATSON, another from trainer Mark Casse, is stretching out to a mile after the promising turf debut going 5 furlongs in which he rallied along the inside to finish 3rd. John Velazquez rides this half of the uncoupled entry.

7 SHAMROCKET is making his first start since finishing 3rd vs maiden special weight runners going a mile and a sixteenth on the Saratoga turf. The son of Tonalist will face state-bred maidens with Lasix added.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-7

RACE 6:

1 BOURBON CURRENCY is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the almost 1-year layoff to finish 2nd going 5 furlongs. Trainer John Kimmel has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the added real estate. **5 VEGAS KITTEN** moved to the Mark Casse barn via the claim after returning from the layoff to set the pace and finish 2nd at the \$30,000 level. The recent gelding has Tyler Gaffalione at the controls. **8 BYE BYE MAN** should be able to sit a perfect trip behind the speed after rallying to finish 3rd at this level and distance last out. Trainer Dom Schettino has strong finisher Paco Lopez at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-8

RACE 7:

5 SULTRY SAMURAI is debuting locally at 6 ½ furlongs after following his \$10,000 maiden victory going 5 ½ furlongs with a 4th place finish – as the odds-on choice – going 7 furlongs on the Tampa main track. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez named to ride. **2 MONEY COME** moved to the Dom Schettino barn via the claim after returning from the layoff to show speed and fade – as the favorite - behind hard-knocking repeat winner Combination. **12 DONEGAL ACES** will be outfitted with blinkers after using his speed to defeat \$16,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Danny Gargan has Irad handling the outside draw.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-12

RACE 8:

4 LA CARA BONITA is turning back to 5 furlongs after stalking the pace and weakening to finish 7th in the 1-mile Mrs Presidentress. Trainer Efen Loza Jr has Paco Lopez handling the classic turnback move.

2 ROMAN CITY is stepping up to face winners after rallying to defeat \$25,000 maidens at this niche 5-furlong distance. Trainer Steve Klesaris has Irad going for 2 in a row.

5 SWIRLING CANDY is another facing winners after breaking from an outside post, setting the pace, and drawing clear to defeat \$25,000 maidens by 3 widening lengths. Trainer Cheryl Winebaugh has Luis Saez in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-5

RACE 9:

6 EARTHQUAKE will try to make it 3 in a row after following the maiden victory on the Tampa turf with a rousing 4 ½-length victory here vs \$16,000 claimers on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Juan Alvarado has John Velazquez in the irons again.

3 SILVERLY ENOUGH is stretching out to a mile after rallying to finish 3rd vs this caliber of competition going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Bob Hess Jr has Javier Castellano handling the added distance. **1 BEINFUN** will try a 1-turn mile on the dirt after showing speed and weakening late in a pair of 2-turn miles on the turf. Trainer Kathy Mongeon has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-1

RACE 10:

11 SILVER PALMS is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and turning back to a mile, after making a middle move and fading to finish 6th behind a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' \$25,000 maiden test going a mile and a sixteenth. **2 SUBTLE JOY** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after rallying to finish 3rd vs \$25,000 maidens going a mile on the turf. Trainer Armando De La Cerda has Irad named to ride. **12 CAT'S J N J** will depart from the outside after dueling throughout and finishing 2nd – beaten a half-length as the favorite – going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez up.

SELECTIONS: 11-2-12

BEST BET: RACE 8 – 4 LA CARA BONITA

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 11 SILVER PALMS