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**By Randy Goulding****BEST BET: Salsa Rita (4th race)****First Race**

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**1. Richie's Sister****2. Dawn Lightning****3. Dahlonga**

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In a tough one to start the day we'll go with **RICHIE'S SISTER** who has the best numbers on turf. If she's ready to go coming off a this long layoff she could be a handful while dropping to a new low. She won her debut and just missed when she was coming off a shorter layoff so we know she can fire fresh. **DAWN LIGHTNING** hasn't run a bad race this year and could make amends after losing as the chalk in her last start. She is versatile and could get a nice trip stalking what should be a fast and contested pace. **DAHLONEGA** had a rough trip when she finished fourth in her first start with winners. With just three starts behind her she could have plenty of upside.

**Second Race**

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**1. Diplomatic Affair****2. Grace's Drama****3. Helen Virginia**

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**DIPLOMATIC AFFAIR** hasn't had much luck on turf so it is easy to toss her latest and focus on her record on the main track where she has won six times with five coming at this distance. Gaffalione attracted and since 2017 at Gulfstream he's won with almost half of his mounts including **Ziadie**. Considering how **GRACE'S DRAMA** won a race washed off the lawn maybe she should have been running on dirt all along. If she runs as well on a fast surface she could be long gone. **HELEN VIRGINIA** looked good getting her second win and could make a big impact in her first start for Nicks who has solid numbers with newly claimed horses.

**Third Race**

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**1. Tactical Pursuit****2. Uncle Larry****3. Wooderson**

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**TACTICAL PURSUIT** looked like he might win his debut when he collared the leader at the top of the stretch but hung late. The second of a Group 1 placed mare figures to take a big step forward with the experience behind him. **UNCLE LARRY** had a rough trip when he was favored in his debut on the main track. He's out of a mare that won twice on turf and he's by the decent turf sire Uncle Mo so he could thrive on the surface switch. **WOODERSON** is a half-brother to champion Rachel Alexandra and should appreciate the added distance following a decent effort in his sprint debut. No turf winning sibs so not sure if grass will be his preferred surface. **FRENCH EMPIRE** is by a decent sire and has been working well enough for a trainer who can have them ready to roll first time.

**Fourth Race**

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**1. Salsa Rita****2. Nothins Free****3. Stellamattutina**

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**SALSA RITA** romped over \$16K conditional claimers two back and then ran okay when she faced a much tougher group in her latest. A repeat of her effort in her previous race makes her tough to beat. **NOTHINS FREE** could be sitting on a big race after coming back with a sharp work following an improved effort in her latest. **STELLAMATTUTINA** had a couple of strong sprints here last year and figures to move forward in her second start back while dropping to a new low.

**Fifth Race**

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**1. Yawl Lyin****2. Dynamic Dancer****3. Allurstra**

**YAWL LYIN** ran well in both of her starts in straight maiden races and will appreciate the easier company with the drop into a maiden claimer. Adding to her appeal is that over the past five years Nicks has a 25% strike rate with horses moving from MSW to maiden claiming. **DYNAMIC DANCER** owns the best Beyer on turf and could be sitting on a peak performance in the third start of his current for cycle. **ALLURSTRA** showed some promise when he debuted on turf last year and should move forward after showing good speed running a sloppy track in his first start this year. He also sheds 7 pounds with Gutierrez picking up the mount.

**Sixth Race****1. Cautious Giant****2. Three Rules****3. Splash Rules**

Expecting a strong effort from **CAUTIOUS GIANT** who was coming off a layoff when he finished third to Harryhee two back but then came back with a solid runner-up finish in the \$75K Jebbar won by the Grade 3 winner Classic Rock. **THREE RULES** was in a striking position ran out of steam mid-stretch in his first start of the year in the \$100K Big Drama won by the classy Mr. Jordan. It didn't help that his rider had his whip knocked out of his hands. Easy to imagine the Grade 3 Carry Back winner taking a big step forward with a race behind him. **SPLASH RULES** won a couple of stakes last year and is capable of firing fresh. **HARRYHEE** is also capable of winning this but would look more attractive with at least one work showing since he just missed in a \$10K starter/optional race May 6.

**Seventh Race****1. False Accusation****2. Stay On Base****3. Rythmofsimnard**

**FALSE ACCUSATION** was impressive winning a \$20K maiden claimer in his second start as a 4-year-old and if you can believe the 80 Beyer he received in a race that was hand timed he shouldn't have any problem handling this group of \$16K nonwinners of two. **STAY ON BASE** didn't fire in a race washed off the turf in his latest but focusing on his two previous races he looks like a serious threat if it stays on the lawn. **RYTHMOFSIMNARD** hopped at the start and then had a rough trip when he finished a close fourth in a similar race March 25. He may have been trying to tell us something when he worked a bullet 4 furlongs May 11 and Antonucci has solid numbers with horses coming back in this time period.

**Eighth Race****1. Florida Fuego****2. Silver Bay****3. Luzmimi Princess**

**FLORIDA FUEGO** was a sharp winner sprinting in the \$100K Sophomore Fillies at Tampa Bay and should appreciate the cutback in distance after a decent effort in her first route attempt in a \$100K Florida Sire Stakes. She is also reunited with Gaffalione who was aboard for her debut win here last year. **SILVER BAY** was perfect as a 2-year-old sprinting and was ambitiously placed in her sophomore debut in the Grade 2 Florida Oaks. She should appreciate both the easier company and move back to a sprint. **LUZMIMI PRINCESS** got off to a poor start in her latest and the horse she dead-heated with before being dq'd two back was impressive winning a stakes race at Hastings Saturday. Not sure if **WRITER'S ALMANAC** fits on this circuit but she was a bear in Puerto Rico and you can make excuses for her disappointing effort in her first start here.

**Ninth Race****1. Lady and Me****2. Draft****3. Jima's Gold**

**LADY AND ME** got squeezed back at the start and then made a bit of a late move in her latest. She takes the plunge and if Panici can get her into the mix a little sooner she could be the one in what appears to be a wide-open event. **DRAFT** showed improvement when she finished third in a key race at this level in her latest. **JIMA'S GOLD** has speed in a race lacking that commodity and is by a decent first-time turf sire.

COOL MAIARA ran okay the only time she ran on turf and figures to move in her second start following a lengthy layoff. Good luck in a r that his hard to decipher.