



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

2 PIKES PEAK OR BUST is climbing to the \$40,000 level after getting stuck behind a wall of horses before finding a seam and closing to finish a solid 3rd behind repeat winner Violent Nature in a \$20,000 maiden test going 7 ½ furlongs.

7 AWESOME CLASS is another rising to this level after a game outing from the rail in which she dueled throughout and came up a half-length shy of defeating \$20,000 maidens at this 1-mile distance. **9 TROPICALITY** is hoping to save a little more firepower for the stretch drive after dueling for the lead and calling it a day when fading to finish 5th at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-9

RACE 2:

3 ERCOLANO is an \$80,000 son of Take Charge Indy debuting for trainer Victor Barboza Jr with a trio of 3-furlong workouts showing, which includes the recent bullet gate work in 35 & 3. The tote action should tell us more about his chances to win at first asking. **4 SKY POINT** is dropping a notch after taking the overland route when he was carried wide turning for home prior to finishing 6th in a \$25,000 maiden sprint at the distance. Trainer Aubrey Maragh has apprentice Romero Maragh in the saddle. **8 SOLDOLLIE** will break from the outside after dueling for the lead and tiring in his \$25,000 career debut at the distance. Trainer Terri Pompay readied him for this assignment with a bullet half-mile drill in 47 flat.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-8

RACE 3:

2 SPIRIT LOVE is stepping up to face winners after breaking from Post 12 and totally dominating as field of bottom level maidens when drawing clear at a mile to win by 11-plus lengths.

6 ACCUMULATOR is plunging to the \$12,500 level after following his \$25,000 maiden victory with poor showing vs \$30,000 conditioned claimers. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Tyler Gaffalione atop the \$150,000 son of Super Saver. **3 ARISTTELES** is a late-running type who should be along to grab a share of the tri or super. Trainer Antonio Sano has Edgard Zayas atop the 1-for-21 son of Union Rags.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-3

RACE 4:

7 SCRAPS is stretching out to 7 ½ furlongs after showing promise on the turf when 'hitting the board' in 1 of 2 turf sprints going 5 furlongs. Trainer Stanley Gold, who has 2 in the field (Joe Di Baggio) tabs Jesus Rios to ride this half of the uncoupled entry as go-to jockey Jeffrey Sanchez sticks with the latter. **8 HOMEDRILL** is a son of Drill (Lawyer Ron) debuting for trainer Mark Casse with a series of workouts showing, on both turf and dirt, in preparation for this assignment. The freshman gets Lasix and has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **3 RILEY RULES** is stretching out around 2-turns with blinkers added after rallying to finish 3rd in his 5-furlong career debut. The son of Kantharos is bred to respond favorably to the added distance.

SELECTIONS: 7-8-3

RACE 5:

5 RETURN is returning from the layoff, and stretching out to a 1-turn mile, in the first start since closing to finish 2nd vs similar going 7 furlongs on May 11th. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Emisael Jaramillo handling the added distance.

2 UNTRUTHFUL SONNET, an open-length maiden winner on the dirt 2 starts back, is going back to the main track after failing to get untracked when facing this caliber of competition on the turf last out. **3 HANNAH CATHERINE** is stepping up to the next level after responding to a dropdown in competition by drawing clear to wallop a field of \$10,000 maidens by almost 6 lengths.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-3

RACE 6:

10 FAST MAMA looks to have found her proper level after responding to the dropdown with a 4-wide move to finish 2nd vs this caliber of competition. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride. **1 TWO STEP BLUES** is going back to the turf, and breaking from the rail, after dueling early, getting the lead, and settling for 2nd when facing this level of competition going a mile in the 'slop' last out. She's an obvious pace threat, but her tendency to finish 2nd is a concern (18-1-8-1). **11 FUN AND GAMES** is stretching out to a mile after breaking from the rail and having little chance to reel in free-running Fallen Leaf when going 5 furlongs last out. Trainer Rodolfo Garcia has Jonathan Gonzales handling the 2nd start off the bench.

SELECTIONS: 10-1-11

RACE 7:

7 DANCING NOELLE moved to the Gilberto Zerpa barn via the claim after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 6th at this level and distance. Trainer Zerpa, 40%-plus with his new claims, has Emisael Jaramillo named on the winner of 50% of her races (6-3-0-0). **1 SONG OF MELODY** is dropping into this \$6,250 conditioned claimer in the first start since notching her 4th career victory when defeating \$16,000 conditioned claimers going 7 furlongs on May 20th. The daughter of Flat Out, 3 for 4 over the track, has Nik Juarez in the saddle. **5 STAR MILY**, 2nd behind Dancing Noelle when they hooked up during May, renews the rivalry looking to improve on the recent pair of 3rd place finishes at this level.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-5

RACE 8:

2 SPLASH RULES was making a move when trying to catch super sprinter X Y Jet in the Grade 3 Smile when Reason to Soar drifted out causing him to clip heels and finish 5th before being placed 4th when Reason to Soar was disqualified. He can spring the upset with a clean trip.

6 CAUTIOUS GIANT, in for the \$62,500 tag in this optional claimer, is hoping to find a little more after finishing 2nd behind Reason to Soar last out, and 2nd to Classic Rock in the \$75,000 Jeblar 2 starts back. Trainer Victor Barboza has Emisael Jaramillo in the saddle. **1 HARRYHEE** will depart from the rail after dueling throughout and finishing 3rd behind Cautious Giant last out. Trainer Brett McLellan has Luca Panici handling the inside draw.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-1

RACE 9:

10 OUR DREAMS FLY is hoping to break sharply after stumbling slightly at the start, racing last of 10 in the early going, and then rallying to finish 5th in what should prove to be a useful return to action. **11 SHIDOSHI** was game 2nd last out, but just couldn't reel in longshot Iron Throne when finishing 2nd in front of Our Dreams Fly.

6 GIANT DILEMMA is plummeting to the \$12,500 level after facing maiden special weight competition in his inconsistent turf campaign thus far. Trainer Carlo Vaccarezza has Jefferey Sanchez handling the freefall down the class ladder.

SELECTIONS: 10-11-6

BEST BET: RACE 6 – 10 FAST MAMA

LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 2 SPLASH RULES