



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Friday, June 29, 2018

RACE 1:

8 GRAN MALBEC has improved like a fine wine since trainer Victor Barboza Jr started sprinting him on the turf. The son of Bucket Head steps looking for 3 victories in a row.

3 ROYALTY SALVATORE moved to the Elizabeth Dobles barn, and returns to the turf, after being forced to take the overland route when finishing a wide distant 4th – as the favorite – going 6 furlongs on the dirt. **1 FLYING LIBERTY**, another from Victor Barboza Jr, is stepping up the competition after rallying late to finish 2nd in back-to-back turf sprints at the \$16,000 level.

SELECTIONS: 5-8-1

RACE 2:

6 ACCUMULATOR is stepping up to face winners after leading every step of the way to defeat \$30,000 maidens at 7 furlongs on a wet surface listed as 'good'. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Tyler Gaffalione going for 2 in a row.

1 SMASH WILLIAMS, another from Todd Pletcher, the \$460,000 son of More Than Ready steps up after returning from a 13-month layoff to defeat a field of maiden special weight runners going 7 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track.

3 FOUR FREEDOMS became the only multiple winner in the field when drew off to wallop 5 rivals by 10-plus lengths – as the favorite – in a \$20,000 conditioned claimer at the distance. Trainer Marcus Vitali has Nik Juarez going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-3

RACE 3:

1 UNDERTHERAIN will depart from the rail again after returning from the 4-month layoff to finish a well-meant 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle.

2 ORTIGA is another eligible to show more after returning from the 9-month layoff to surrender a late lead when settling for 3rd behind Undertherain last out. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Nik Juarez handling the rematch. **7 COSITA RICA** became the only 3-time winner in the field (15-3-2-2) when the 3-year-old survived a protracted stretch duel to defeat similar at a mile and a sixteenth last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-7

RACE 4:

2 HANDSOME CHEWY has his claiming tag sliced in half after a 5-wide journey produced a distant 4th place finish vs \$50,000 maidens at the distance. The son of Handsome Mike, who has taken money in both previous races, has Miguel Vasquez in the saddle. **4 GATOR FIFTY TWO** will be outfitted with blinkers after just missing 2nd money when finishing 3rd behind also eligible Rosas for Jimmy at this level and distance last out.

10 BUNSTER is a son of Temple City debuting for trainer Ralph Nicks with Lasix and Tyler Gaffalione named to ride; don't ignore.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-10

RACE 5:

4 GRAYDAR'S RESOLVE, 3rd when facing \$50,000 maidens on the turf 2 starts back, returns to the grass after failing to show much when racing wide in a race moved to 7 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **2 CONISTON**, beaten a neck on the turf when facing similar quality 2 starts back, goes back the lawn after bobbling at the start and failing to get untracked vs \$35,000 maidens going 7 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' surface.

1 ANGELINO is getting some class relief in the first start since facing better on the blades during April. Trainer Armando De la Cerda has Jeffrey Sanchez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-1

RACE 6:

5 ULTIMATE CHALLENGE, a \$260,000 daughter of Curlin, is making her first start since showing promise at Laurel and Parx last Fall when she finished 2nd behind a next-out winner going a mile in Maryland, and 3rd in a 'key' mile race at Parx in which the winner finished 3rd in the Grade 3 Tempted in her next race.

6 INCREDIBLE GRACE is a \$775,000 daughter of Medaglia d'Oro debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with a slew of consistent workouts showing at Palm Beach Downs. The sophomore gets Lasix and has Tyler Gaffalione at the controls. **8 BRING JOY** will be outfitted with blinkers after back-to-back 2nd place finishes at this level and distance. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr has Edgard Zayas at the helm.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-8

RACE 7:

5 JAGR, in for the \$25,000 tag, the son of Uncle Mo, a 3-time local turf winner, returns to action for trainer Yvon Belsoeur looking to recapture the turf form he displayed before the freshening; Sebastian Saez guides the upset special.

2 ELK CAMP is stepping up to the next level after a couple of sharp efforts vs \$16,000 optional claimers, which includes the game victory going a mile last out. It's Pletcher and Gaffalione again.

7 JOJO'S DREAM is making his first start since leading every step of the way to defeat \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers in impressive fashion. Trainer Ralph Ziadie has apprentice Reylu Gutierrez going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-7

RACE 8:

5 ROYAL HOLIDAY will face \$62,500 optional claimers after cruising away on a wet track listed as 'good' to defeat \$75,000 optional claimers at a 1-turn mile. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez has Miguel Vasquez handling the stretchout to a mile and a sixteenth. **1 DELAND**, a perfect 2-for-2 at the distance, is stretching out after breaking slowly and finishing 4th in the 7-furlong \$100,000 Big Drama in his last start. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Edgard Zayas atop the mile and a sixteenth specialist. **2 HI RIVERSIDE** is making the 3rd start of his current form cycle after rallying in the 'slop' to finish 2nd vs this caliber of competition going a mile. The concern is the zero-for-3 record at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-2

RACE 9:

1 OURS DREAM FLY is making his first start since rallying to finish 2nd behind repeat winner, and my 1st race choice Gran Malbec, at this level and distance on May 11th. Use the opening race as a handicapping guide before you sashay to the window to bet this Barboza/Jaramillo collaboration. **12 ROYAL FLYER** will shift to the turf after getting hammered at the start, dueling for the early lead, and fading to finish last in his 7-furlong debut on the main track. **10 SHODOSHI** is looking for a clean trip after getting bumped hard after the start before finishing 3rd – as the favorite - at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 1-12-10

BEST BET: RACE 5 – 4 GRAYDAR'S RESOLVE

LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 5 JAGR