



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Friday, March 1, 2019

RACE 1:

8 TRIxie'S TIME is cutting back to a mile after returning from the layoff to vie for the lead and yield late when finishing 3rd going a mile and a sixteenth.

5 COURTESY NOTICE is stepping up to face winners after surviving a protracted stretch duel to defeat \$35,000 maidens at the distance.

7 CONQUESTHARDCHERRY will try to make it two in a row after unleashing a strong late kick to defeat \$20,000 maidens at the distance; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 8-5-7

RACE 2:

1 MUCHO is making his sophomore debut the first start since ending his 3-race freshman campaign with a 2nd place finish in the Grade 1 Hopeful at Saratoga. Trainer Bill Mott adds Lasix, and has the son of Blame working sharply for the return.

5 RELEASETHETHUNDER is debuting locally for trainer Christophe Clement after returning from a layoff at Tampa to defeat a field of maiden special weight runners in driving fashion. The son of more Than Ready has Luis Saez at the controls.

2 LUTSKY is a son of Yes It's True debuting locally for trainer Dermot Magner, and making his first start since the impressive state-bred victory at Belmont last July.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-2

RACE 3:

7 EMPEROR JOHN is dropping to the \$6,250 level on the main track, and turning back to a sprint distance with blinkers added, after a wide trip vs better going around 2-turns on the turf.

1 MY MR. WONDERFUL is an inconsistent sort who was an okay 3rd at this level in the slop 2 starts back, and a not so good 10th last out. It's a perfect spot to rebound. **5 IRISH LETTERS** is eligible to show more after finishing a distant 4th at this level and distance last out.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-5

RACE 4:

8 VAUGHAN is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile with blinkers added after rallying inside to finish 2nd – as the favorite – going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer John Mattine has Jose Ortiz in the irons.

6 STARSHIP TAXI is making the 3rd start back from the layoff after chasing the pace and weakening to finish 4th behind Vaughan last out. **1 SKY POINT** goes from Post 13 to the rail after failing to get untracked and settling for a distant 7th behind Vaughan.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-1

RACE 5:

6 PEACOCK KITTEN is turning back to 9 furlongs in the first start since a sharp outing at a mile & three-sixteenths in which he broke from the outside, set the pace throughout, and was beaten a half-length at this level. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad Ortiz Jr atop the son of Kitten's Joy.

5 SOUPER SCAT DADDY is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after a couple of solid performances here vs state-bred competition, which includes the hard-fought \$16,000 optional claiming victory at a mile. **7 COUNTY COURT**, bred to love the distance, the son of Harlan's Holiday stretches out after a rough trip here going a mile in which he shook clear to finish 3rd. Note the Shug McGaughey trainee is the only multiple winner at the distance in the field (3-2-0-1).

SELECTIONS: 6-5-7

RACE 6:

7 MY SWITCHAROO is stretching out to 7 furlongs, and adding Lasix, after rallying to finish 2nd in her state-bred debut going three-quarters of a mile.

3 LUXE DIAMOND is expected to show more after she had to steady early and settled for 4th behind 'much-the-best' winner Cory Gal. Trainer Joe Orseno has Irad named to ride the daughter of Fort Larned.

4 ELITE APPEAL is turning back to 7 furlongs after returning from the 2-month layoff to finish a stalk-and-fade 5th vs open special weight competition going a mile and a sixteenth.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-4

RACE 7:

9 MISS ACCUSE, a sharp maiden winner 2 starts back, drops into this conditioned claimer after prompting the pace and fading behind repeat winner Miss Munnings in a \$50,000 starter allowance.

7 TIZ PRICELESS is stretching out in the first start since she opened and surrendered a midrace 3-length lead when finishing 2nd going 7 ½ furlongs last out. Trainer John Kimmel keeps the status quo with Luis Saez at the controls. **8 RUBELLITE** is dropping a notch on the maiden scale after responding in the first race after the claim by Danny Gargan with a set-the-pace and weaken 4th place finish vs \$40,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. **5 PASS IT ON** is dropping into the conditioned claiming ranks after failing to earn a check in both local turf outings vs \$35,000 optional claimers. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Javier Castellano handling the class relief.

SELECTIONS: 9-7-8-5

RACE 8:

1 SUSAN B ANTHONY (IRE), a half-sister to \$1.9 million earner Rip Van Winkle, is making her first local start for trainer Chad Brown after showing promise in her 2 maiden races on the Belmont turf last summer. The regally bred daughter of Galileo is working sharply on the Payson Park turf.

6 MOVIEMAKER is stretching out to 9 furlongs after the solid outing here going a mile in which she rallied to finish 2nd – beaten three-quarters of a length. Trainer Mark Hennig has Julien Leparoux atop the daughter of Curlin. **2 STEFANIE ON FLEEK**, the only 3-year-old in the field, will try to defeat older horses after rallying to finish 2nd vs \$50,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-2

RACE 9:

5 ASCERTAIN is dropping into the conditioned claiming ranks on the dirt after breaking from the rail, dueling for the lead, and fading vs \$25,000 optional claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on the Laurel

turf last July. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez handling the combo dropdown/surface switch.

6 TRAPPED AT SEA is stepping up to the next logical level after returning from the 3-month layoff to defeat \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers at 5 ½ furlongs. **2 GIANNA'S GIFT** is plummeting to this level after showing some early interest and fading in back-to-back allowance sprints. Trainer Armando De La Cerda has Tyler Gaffalione handling the dropdown.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-2

RACE 10:

12 AMAZING AUDREY goes from the rail to the outside (Post 12) after sharp outing at this level in which she set a pressured pace and was beaten a half-length by repeat winner Miss Munnings. Trainer Danny Gargan has Irad returning on the daughter of Bodemeister. **5 BELLA'S GAME** is stepping up after responding to the addition of blinkers with a rousing 3-length score vs \$45,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. Trainer Pat Reynolds is 21% winning consecutive races. **11 SCATNAP**, a 9-time winner, and a 3-time winner on the local turf (6-3-1-0), is turning back to a mile after prompting the pace and weakening to finish 4th behind repeat winner Lucky Long in a \$25,000 optional claimer going a mile and a sixteenth.

SELECTIONS: 12-5-11

RACE 11:

7 IT'S COMPLICATED is dropping to the \$20,000 level in the first start since finishing a rallying 3rd vs \$50,000 maidens here on December 27. Trainer Ken McPeck has Brian Hernandez Jr handling the dropdown. **3 KINDHEARTED KOTA** is a late-running type stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth hoping there's a strong pace to help bolster her running style. Trainer Antonio Sano has Irad atop the daughter of Take Charge Indy. **4 ABJURE** is getting some needed class relief, and adding blinkers, after facing tougher locally with little success. Trainer Norm Casse has Julien Leparoux trying to spark a wakeup call.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-4

BEST BET: RACE 10 – 12 AMAZING AUDREY

LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 9 MISS ACCUSE