



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Friday, March 8, 2019

RACE 1:

8 WILDCAT BLAST is dropping a notch on the maiden scale after making a 4-wide bid and finishing 4th in his \$25,000 career debut at the distance. Trainer Carlos David has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr named to handle the outside post. **4 ART'S TABLE** is debuting on the turf after returning from an 11-month layoff to chase the winner and finish 3rd in a \$20,000 maiden test moved from the grass to the main track.

7 SOUPERY DUPERY is going back to turf after responding to a dropdown in competition with a 2nd place finish in front of Art's Table in their recent clash on the dirt.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-7

RACE 2:

5 ZIPPY WILLY is plunging to the \$12,500 level after following his open-length maiden score at the \$25,000 level with a clunker vs \$50,000 starter/allowance runners. Trainer Bobby Dibona, who claimed him 2 starts back, has Paco Lopez in the irons. **6 DUNK** will try to finally notch this '2-lifetime' conditioned after responding to a turnback in distance with an improved 2nd place finish at this 6-furlong distance.

1 K C TWOSTEP will break from the rail again after dueling for the lead and weakening to finish 3rd behind Dunk when the tussled at this level last out.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-1

RACE 3:

3 GRACEFUL PRINCESS should be primed and ready to score after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd behind impressive winner Queen of Bees at this level and distance. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Tyler Gaffalione atop the daughter of Tapit. **2 WESTERN CURL** is another expected to take a positive step forward after rallying to finish 3rd behind Graceful Princess in her first-ever race on a regular dirt surface. Trainer Mark Casse has Irad Ortiz Jr atop the Woodbine shipper.

5 HOROLOGIST is stretching to a mile for the first time after rallying to 'hit the board' in 2 of 3 recent sprints vs stakes competition.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-5

RACE 4:

4 JALEN JOURNEY, now in the Kathleen O'Connell barn, the gelding race with blinkers in the first start since finishing 4th behind repeat winner Yes Factor in a maiden special weight sprint at GP West. The barn, 30% with new additions to the shedrow, has Luis Saez named to ride. **5 KEEPING THE PEACE** moved to the Juan Arias barn via the claim, and wheels back at the same level and distance, after dueling with the winner and finishing 3rd in his career debut.

3 DINO THREE O NINE is an obvious choice to be on the ticket after shipping down from Woodbine and coming within a head of winning at this level and distance. Trainer Steve Owens has Tony Maragh up.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-3

RACE 5:

1 MO MAVERICK, a perfect 2 for 2 on the GP turf, makes his local return after facing stakes competition since winning here last May. Trainer George Weaver has Tyler Gaffalione handling the dropdown into the claiming ranks. **5 BENEFACOR** is stepping up to face open competition after rallying 3-wide to defeat \$30,000 conditioned claimers at the distance. Leading trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez going for 2 in a row. **4 GOLDEN SPEAR**, a sharp 3rd on the turf vs \$35,000 optional claimers 2 starts back, moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via the claim after chasing the pace and weakening in race moved from the lawn to 9 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-4

RACE 6:

7 RAGS PAULINE is dropping to the \$35,000 level after the promising turf debut in which she rallied 3-wide to finish 3rd vs \$50,000 maidens going a mile; Irad Ortiz Jr rides for Gustavo Delgado. **2 NOBLE MARIA** was given some time off after responding to a dropdown in competition with a late-running 5th vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth on January 16. **5 SWEEPENO** is stretching out to 7 ½ furlongs after shaking off early trouble to finish 3rd vs \$25,000 maidens going 5 furlongs. The daughter of He's Had Enough should be closer to the pace when trying 2-turns for the first time.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-5

RACE 7:

4 PACHANGA PARTY is stretching out to one of his best distances (22-5-3-2) after 'hitting the board' in 1 of 2 recent races going 5 ½ furlongs. **2 PADILLA**, now in the Ruben Gracida barn, the 9-year-old makes his first start since finishing a troubled 5th vs \$8,000 claimers at Laurel last September. **6 WHO CARES** is stretching out after responding in the first race after the claim by Armando De La Cerda with a 4th place finish behind Pachanga Party when going 5 ½ furlongs last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-6

RACE 8:

5 WINDJAMMER (GER) is going back to the turf after following a pair of well-meant 2nd place finishes on the grass with a duel-for-the-lead 3rd place finish going a mile and a sixteenth on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Danny Gargan is 6 for 14 (43%) with the dirt-to-turf angle. **6 DIXIE PRINCESS**, now in the Armando De La Cerda barn, is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after a rough outing going a mile in which she checked on the first turn, came out at the ¼-pole, finished 2nd, but was disqualified and placed 7th. The new connections tab Edgar Perez to ride.

2 STARSHIP GUSSIE is making her first start since coming within a head of notching this '2-lifetime' condition going 7 ½ furlongs on December 5th.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-2

RACE 9:

5 STEADY EARNER is dropping in this \$35,000 open-claimer after finishing a distant 3rd behind undefeated repeat winner Maximum Security in a \$50,000 optional claimer contested at 6 furlongs on a sealed 'muddy' track. Trainer Aubrey Maragh has Luis Saez named to ride. **4 SHE LOVE ME** is stepping up to face winners in the first start since he defeated \$35,000 maidens here at the distance on December 15th. Trainer Stanley Hough has Chris Landeros going for 2 in a row.

2 BOOBY TRAP moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and turns back to 7 furlongs, after responding to the dropdown in competition with a \$35,000 maiden victory going a 1-turn mile last out.

SELECTIONS: 5-4-2

RACE 10:

5 GO POKE THE BEAR is dropping to the \$20,000 level after returning from Tampa for trainer Todd Pletcher and finishing 4th at the distance vs \$35,000 maidens; Luis Saez returns on the son of Kitten's Joy.

4 JUST KITTEN YOU is stretching out to 9 furlongs in the first start since rallying to finish 2nd – as the favorite – vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth on January 10th. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz atop this son of Kitten's Joy. **6 FINE SPIRIT** is dropping into the maiden claiming ranks, and adding blinkers, after being devoid of early speed when facing state-bred maiden special weight runners in both local turf outings. Trainer Bill Mott has Irad Ortiz Jr handing the dropdown.

SELECTIONS: 5-4-6

RACE 11:

10 TIDE OF THE DESERT merits longshot status after displaying versatility when showing speed and finishing 5th going 7 ½ furlongs 2 starts back, and coming from 'off the pace' and finishing 2nd – at 38-1 – at this level and distance last out. **1 AFFLUENTIAL** was game in defeat when he altered course and finished in a dead heat for 2nd – beaten a half-length in a 3-horse blanket finish – at this level and distance. **11 SLOT RECEIVER** moved to the Murat Sancal barn via the claim after rallying to finish 2 ½ lengths behind Affluent last out. The new connections tab Luis Saez to handle this major piece on the pace puzzle. **6 ARPINELLA** is cutting back to a mile after rallying to finish 2nd vs similar going 9 furlongs. He merits a spot on the superfecta ticket.

SELECTIONS: 10-1-11-6

BEST BET: RACE 8 – 5 WINDJAMMER (GER)

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 10 TIDE OF THE DESERT