



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

1 HARRYHEE is dropping into this \$20,000 starter optional claimer, and stretching out to 7 furlongs, after a trio of strong performances going three-quarters of a mile; 10-pound apprentice Cristian Torres will try to negotiate the added distance in winning style. **4 COURAGE AND HONOR** moved to the Robert Falcone Jr barn via the claim, and turns back to 7 furlongs, after drawing clear to defeat \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers, at a mile, by 12-plus lengths, and receive a lofty 92 Beyer for his effort; blinkers on. **5 JUST KIDDING** has been knocking on door in consecutive races, which includes the recent 2nd place finish at this level and distance last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-5

RACE 2:

2 MONTAIGNE is a \$475,000 daughter of Tapizar debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher in a \$35,000 maiden race on the turf. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Edgard Zayas named to handle her fire sale debut. **6 SUNNIVA** is dropping to this level after hitting the board in 1 of 2 local turf races under maiden special weight conditions. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has red-hot jock Jairo Rendon handling the class drop. **5 SISTER GEMA** is turning back slightly after the knocking on the door vs similar in back-to-back turf outings at a mile.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-5

RACE 3:

3 PANGO will face state-bred claimers at 6 furlongs after following his sprint victory going 6 ½ furlongs with a set-the-pace-and-weaken 3rd place finish vs \$16,000 optional claimers going a mile & 40-yards at Tampa. Trainer Juan Arriagada has Victor Lebron handling the turnback.

6 WILD WIGGLIN JACK will try to sashay into winner's circle locally after holding on the defeat \$8,000 claimers going 6 ½ furlongs upstate. Note that the Monte Thomas trainee is 3 for 4 'in the money' vs better over the GP main track.

2 TRAVY BOY was solid in defeat when he returned from the 8-month plus layoff to finish a drifting 3rd – beaten three-quarters of a length – vs \$6,250 claimers at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-2

RACE 4:

6 CAPTAIN RON, now the Ron Spatz barn, the lightly raced 6-year-old debuts locally after showing speed on the downhill course at Santa Anita before the extended layoff. The son of Speightstown will have Jairo Rendon handling his first race in 14 months. **3 EXCLUSIVE RO**, who does his best running from a stalk/close position, can end up sitting in the garden spot behind the suspect pace in this field. **5 FREE FLAYME** will be outfitted with blinkers after dueling for the lead and settling for 4th when weakening late at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-5

RACE 5:

7 SON OF OAHU is dropping into this \$12,500 open claimer after stepping up off the \$16,000 claim by Robert Falcone Jr and failing to handle \$25,000 optional claimers going a mile. The 3-time winner at 8 ½ furlongs has Albin Jimenez handling the combo dropdown/stretchout.

3 ERASMO'S DREAM is another getting some class relief after stepping up off the \$16,000 claim by Tamara Levy and finishing 4th vs \$25,000 claimers at this mile and a sixteenth distance.

9 IT'S A NEW YEAR moved to the Aubrey Maragh barn via the claim after dueling throughout – as the favorite – and finishing 4th – at this level last out.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-9

RACE 6:

3 SKY CHASER is cutting back to 5 ½ furlongs after cruising away at three-quarters to defeat a field of \$10,000 maidens by 10-plus lengths. Trainer Ron Spatz has Miguel Vazquez going for 2 in a row. **5 MERTZ**, a 3-year-old daughter of Ghostzapper, is dropping to the \$12,500 level after showing speed and weakening late in a quartet of sprints at the \$25,000 level. She's a speed play, especially at 5 ½ furlongs.

7 ALPILLES moved to the Jorge Abreu barn via the claim, and is going back to the main track, after the chase-and-fade outing vs similar going 5 furlongs on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 3-5-7**RACE 7:**

2 SUM MO CASH, now in the Monte Thomas barn, the 3-year-old daughter of Big Drama debuts locally after posting her 2nd consecutive turf victory at the distance, and her 3rd win overall, when she defeated \$16,000 '3-lifetime' claimers on the Tampa turf. **3 FRECKLES KAN** is spotted perfectly when she steps up after drawing clear to defeat \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers her during January. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr is 32% with similar layoffs. **6 GRAN LETIZIA**, another from Victor Barboza Jr, makes her first start since using her speed to defeat \$12,500 '2-lifetime' foes here last out; Albin Jimenez rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-6**RACE 8:**

2 MY FRIEND FLAVIN, who reeled off back-to-back victories here when shipping in from the Fair Grounds last year, will try to duplicate that feat for trainer Leo Gabriel Jr after facing Louisiana state-bred allowance company in the Crescent City.

1 DROP KICK moved to the Yvon Belsoeur barn via the claim, and turn back to 6 furlongs (7-2-2-2), after chasing the pace and finishing 3rd vs a notch tougher going a 1-turn mile.

5 TAKE CHARGE DUDE is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after making a move to get the lead before tiring to finish 4th vs \$30,000 conditioned claimers.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-5**RACE 9:**

11 EARLY TIME (FR), now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, the sophomore drops to the \$35,000 level after facing \$75,000 optional claimers, both here and at Tampa, with limited success, while in the Graham Motion barn. **5 TAILADIOS** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the 3-month layoff to finish a wide, but needed 4th, vs this level of competition going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Terri Pompay has Jesus Rios named to ride. **8 HENNY'S TREASURE** is stepping up to face winners, for the red-hot Joe Orseno barn, after drawing clear to defeat \$35,000 maidens going a mile. Equally hot jock Jairo Rendon rides. **1 MESA MADEIRA** is stepping up the competition after posting her 2nd consecutive victory when she defeated \$20,000 conditioned claimers. Trainer Chuck Simon tabs J J Gonzales to ride, as Rendon moves to Henny's Treasure.

SELECTIONS: 11-5-8-1**RACE 10:**

8 PRICKLY KITTEN is a daughter of Kitten's Joy debuting for trainer Mike Maker in an ideal spot for a first-time starter to be successful.; Edgard Zayas rides. **9 KINDHEARTED KOTA** is dropping to the \$12,500 level after responding to the addition of blinkers with an improved 3rd place finish vs \$20,000 maidens, albeit on a 'good' main track.

5 J P'S ROSE is making the usually fruitful 3rd start back from the layoff after closing from 11th and last to finish 3rd at this level and distance.

7 RECONSIDER IT has been threatening to break her maiden recently, but the zero-for-24 record is an obvious concern.

SELECTIONS: 8-9-5-7**BEST BET: RACE 5 – 7 SON OF OAHU****LONGSHOT: RACE 9 - 5 TAILADIOS**