



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

6 HURRICANE ROBERTA is stepping up to the next level after responding in the first start back from the layoff with a victory vs the boys in a \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimer; Jose Batista rides for Rohan Crichton.

4 DR HARLAN moved to the Gustavo Delgado barn via the claim after returning from the layoff, getting mugged at the half-mile pole, and finishing last vs this level of competition going 5 ½ furlongs. He's a major player with a clean trip. **7 KOKOMO WILDCATS** is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 5th at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-7

RACE 2:

6 COCKTAIL SKIRT is dropping to the \$12,500 level after making a late move to finish 2nd vs \$25,000 conditioned claimers. Trainer Mike Maker has Reylu Gutierrez named to ride. **9 LIBERALE (FR)** is another dropping to this level after dueling for the lead and finishing 3rd behind Cocktail Skirt when they hooked up for \$25,000 last out. **7 MY MASTERPIECE** is stretching out slightly after setting the pace and just getting nailed at the wire vs \$12,500 claimers going 7 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 6-9-7

RACE 3:

5 ARRIVEDERLA is plunging to the \$12,500 level, and removing the blinkers, after facing state-bred allowance level competition in a trio of recent sprints with the shades added. **6 GYOZA** will try to make it two in a row after shaking off early traffic to defeat a pair of next out winners at the distance, and score at 33-1. **1 FOR THE GIPPER** makes the 2nd start back from the 3-month layoff after finishing 5th behind Gyoza last out. Trainer Armando De La Cerda has Edgard Zayas named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-1

RACE 4:

4 BOW TIE AFFAIR, who has races good enough on the go-back to defeat this level of competition, finds an ideal spot to rebound after getting bogged down on the inside and never getting a chance to launch his late rally last out. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Samy Camacho named to ride. **8 TROPICAT** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and removing the blinkers, after shipping from the Fair Grounds into the Ralph Nicks barn and failing to fire vs \$25,000 open-claimers.

3 NATURAL ORDER is making his local turf return (5-1-1-1) after facing \$16,000 types at Tampa with limited success.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-3

RACE 5:

3 CRYOGENIC should be primed and ready to score after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Mike Maker has Reylu Gutierrez named to ride. **2 DAY** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and debuting on the turf, after finishing a sightseeing 6th behind repeat winner Leaky Cup in a \$35,000 claimer on the main track. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Paco Lopez atop the 3-year-old son of Broken Vow. **4 KAREN'S COVE**, now in the Georgina Baxter barn, the \$95,000 son of Tale of the Cat debuts on the turf after failing to show much on synthetic or dirt on the Chicago circuit.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-4

RACE 6:

5 SCAM moved to the Marcial Navarro barn via the claim, and stretches out to 6 ½ furlongs, after the driving score vs this level at three-quarters of a mile; Jeffrey Sanchez rides. **4 WHO CARES** is dropping to the \$6,250 level on the dirt after showing some late interest when finishing 5th vs \$12,500 claimers sprinting on the turf. **1 OH MY WARRIOR** will depart from the rail after breaking from the outside, tracking the pace, and weakening to finish 6th vs similar going a mile. The turnback to 6 ½ furlong should produce better results.

SELECTIONS: 5-4-1

RACE 7:

3 STRIKE PLAY is dropping to the \$12,500 level after breaking from Post 12, dueling for the lead, and fading vs \$50,000 starter allowance runners going a mile on the Keeneland turf. The Wesley Ward trainee will be playing 'catch me if you can'. **2 ALIEN INVASION** is dropping a notch after encountering early trouble (steadied repeatedly) when finishing 7th vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. **1 SOURCE CONTROL** is dropping to this level after shipping into the Lilli Kurtinecz barn, showing some early interest and fading when facing \$30,000 conditioned claimers going a mile; Jairo Rendon rides.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-1**RACE 8:**

4 SOUPERY DUPERY is dropping to the \$10,000 level on the main track after 'hitting the board' in 1 of 2 \$20,000 sprints on the turf. The repeat of his last performance on the dirt (Feb 14) would crush this group. **3 KING KINGO**, listed as a gelding, drops, and gets in light, and cuts back to 6 furlongs, after the chase-and-fade 4th vs \$12,500 maidens going a mile; 10-pound apprentice Cristian Torres rides.

5 NATION U S A is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after rallying to finish 3rd going 5 ½ furlongs last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-5**RACE 9:**

5 UP THE ANTE is returning from the layoff, and turning back to a mile, in the first race since setting the pace and finishing 2nd in the 9-furlong Grade 3 Saranac at Saratoga. Trainer Christophe Clement has the son of Smart Strike training sharply for the return.

7 SECOND MATE moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim after game outing at this level and distance in which he broke from the outside and rallied to finish 2nd. Owner Maker has Reylu Gutierrez atop his \$62,500 purchase. **9 HOLIDAY STONE** is returning to the allowance optional claiming ranks after following his 3rd place finish in the Grade 3 Canadian with a stalk and weaken 6th behind red-hot repeat winner Dr. Edgar in the Grade 3 Appleton.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-9**RACE 10:**

6 TACTICAL QUALITY was solid in defeat after responding in the first race after the claim by Saffie Joseph Jr with a 2nd place finish at this level and distance.

2 CHASE RUNNER is debuting locally for trainer Laura Cazares after using his speed to humble a field of \$25,000 claimers by almost 13 lengths going a mile & 40 yards on the Tampa main track; Samy Camacho goes for 2 in a row. **5 RUSSIAN WINE**, who broke his maiden on the main track at the \$50,000 level, is going back to the dirt after tracking the action and fading vs \$50,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-5**RACE 11: THE POWDER BREAK**

9 QUEBEC, a Grade 3 stakes-placed daughter of Into Mischief, is getting the blinkers back after returning to the Bobby Dibona barn, and her most accomplished surface (8-3-3-0), to stalk the pace and get beat a couple of lengths in the \$100,000 Sand Springs.

12 CROWN AND SUGAR debuts locally, and breaks from the outside, after posting her 5th consecutive turf victory when she drew clear to win the \$100,000 Distaff Turf vs state-bred competition at Tampa. She'll be tested for class today. **10 FOOLS GOLD** is turning back to a mile after back-to-back optional claiming victories here at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Chad Brown has Feargal Lynch trying to keep her record on the GP turf unblemished (2-2-0-0).

SELECTIONS: 9-12-10**RACE 12:**

9 ALPERES should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the layoff to finish 5th at this level and distance. Trainer Rohan Crichton is 21% with the 2nd start after a 45-180 days layoff. **4 LOOKIN SAVVY** is dropping to the \$12,500 level after rallying to finish 3rd behind next-out winner Rumson Rally in a \$20,000 maiden test going a mile. The gelding, 83-1 last out, has Jose Alvarez in the irons. **2 OUTSIDE LOOKIN IN** is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after responding to the surface switch with a 2nd place finish vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 9-4-2**BEST BET: RACE 7 – 3 STRIKE PLAY****LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 9 QUEBEC**