



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, March 9, 2019

RACE 1:

5 ONE MISSION is dropping to the \$20,000 level after an inconsistent pair vs maiden special weight competition at Tampa. Trainer Bill Mott, 23% with similar class drops, has Flavien Pratt named to ride. **10 BUNYAN'S AXE** has been knocking on the door in a trio of starts at this level, and trainer Robert Falcone Jr tabs Luis Saez to ride this major player in the opener. **1 CAPE DESIDERATO** will depart from the rail after making a wide bid to finish 2nd in front of Bunyan's Axe last out.

SELECTIONS: 5-10-1

RACE 2:

3 PIRATE'S TREASURE is stepping up, and stretching out, after responding to a dropdown in competition with a much-the-best score vs \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers going 7 furlongs. **4 FAMOUS KITTEN** moved to the Antonio Sano barn via the claim after vying for the lead and weakening when facing this level of competition at this 1-mile distance. The colt finds a perfect spot to rebound. **1 TAKEDOWN** is dropping to this level after showing early interest and fading when facing \$12,500 conditioned claimers last out.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-1

RACE 3: THE SILKS RUN

5 VISION PERFECT will try to make it 3 in a row after rebounding from his troubled trip in the G1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint with impressive victories in the Turf Sprint at Tampa, and the \$100,000 Janus here in his last. **2 IMPRIMIS**, who does his best running from a stalking position, can end up sitting in the catbird seat behind what should a sizzling early pace scenario. Trainer Joe Orseno has Paco Lopez in the saddle. **1 PAY ANY PRICE**, the track record holder at the distance, leaves little doubt as to what his running tactics will be. He'll be running and gunning as soon as the pop the gate latch.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-1

RACE 4:

3 SO LONG CHUCK is turning back to this best distance thus far (9-3-1-1) after surrendering a late lead when finishing 3rd in the 1-mile \$50,000 Rough and Ready. **2 UBER KIRK** is making his 4-year-old debut after ending his sophomore campaign with a \$50,000 '2-lifetime' victory over a trio of next-out winners at Churchill.

5 TIME ON TARGET, 2nd behind Uber Kirk when they competed at Churchill, turns back to three-quarters of a mile after pressing the pace and weakening to finish 3rd going 7 furlongs. Trainer Bill Mott has Luis Saez up.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-5

RACE 5:

6 TANGLED WEB is stepping up the competition after the solid \$35,000 career debut going a mile in which he set the pace and was caught late when finishing 2nd. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Paco Lopez in the saddle again. **7 NOTORIOUS NICK**, a \$225,000 son of Uncaptured, will be outfitted with blinkers after taking the overland route in his career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 27% with maidens making their 2nd start. **3 CAN U HANDLE THIS** is cutting back to a sprint distance vs state-bred special weight runners after setting a pressured pace and weakening to finish 3rd when facing \$50,000 maidens going a 1-turn mile. Trainer Luis Ramirez has Flavien Pratt named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-3

RACE 6:

4 GO GONE GONE moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim after drawing off to wallop a field of \$12,500 open-claimers by 5 widening lengths. **2 FRENCHMEN STREET** is dropping to the \$12,500 optional level, and returning to the main track, after a trio of 'in the money' finishes vs \$16,000 types going 5 furlongs on the turf. **1 SCOTUSCARE** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, after responding to the dropdown with a 2nd place finish vs \$6,250 claimers at the distance; cheap, maybe?

SELECTIONS: 4-2-1

RACE 7:

1 IRISH WILLOW goes from Post 11 to the rail, and turns back to a mile, after stalking the pace, reaching the lead, and getting outkicked when finishing 3rd going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Dale Romans has Luis Saez named to ride. **6 FEEL GLORIOUS (GB)** is making her North American debut for trainer Christophe Clement with Lasix added, and a pair of bullet workouts showing on the Payson Park turf in preparation for her U.S. unveiling.

8 KETTLE VALLEY is a daughter of City Zip making her 3-year-old debut the first start since defeating a trio of next-out winners in her 5-furlong debut at Ellis Park last July. Trainer Brendan Walsh has Rafael Hernandez named to ride this intriguing possibility.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-8

RACE 8:

4 SMOOTH AS is dropping to the \$12,500 level after responding to the dropdown in competition with a chase-the-pace 2nd vs \$16,000 maidens.

10 CROWN ROMANCE is expected to show more after breaking for Post 11, dueling for the lead, and finishing 3rd at this level and distance. **8 OH DANNY BEAR** renews the rivalry with Crown Romance after finishing a nose in front of him when 2nd last out; Luis Saez rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-10-8

RACE 9:

2 PANTHER HIT is wheeling back after the promising career debut in which she rebounded from trouble at the start (hit gate) to finish 2nd – beaten 1 ½ lengths – at this level and distance. Trainer Tom Albertrani has Miguel Vazquez returning on the daughter of Giant's Causeway.

6 RECESS is a daughter of Point of Entry debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and Luis Saez named to ride. The consistent morning work tab at Palm Beach Downs is a plus. **7 GETMOTHERAROSE**, beaten a nose – as the favorite – when going 7 ½ furlongs here in December, stretches out to 8 furlongs after chasing the pace and flattening out when coming up empty – as the favorite – going 5 furlongs last out. Trainer Tom Bush has Emisael Jaramillo handling the stretchout in distance.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-7

RACE 10:

1 TATHQEEF moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and makes his first start since finishing 2nd when dropped to this level in his last. The new connections tab Emisael Jaramillo to ride. **7 TWEET KITTEN** is cutting back to a mile after setting the pace and getting nailed late when finishing 3rd – beaten a half-length – at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Kelly Breen, who claimed him 2 starts back, has Luca Panici named to ride. **5 BARNEY REBEL** was ultra-game when rallying from well 'off the pace' to finish 3rd – beaten a half-length at 14-1 – when facing \$25,000 conditioned claimers last out. The 10-time winner has Edgar Perez trying to get him back to the winner's circle.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-5

RACE 11:

3 PROMO CODE is a \$450,000 son of Union Rags debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with a series of strong workouts showing at Palm Beach Downs. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Luis Saez at the controls.

1 BERNIN' THRU GOLD is a son of Bernardini making his 3-year-old debut the first start since the troubled 5-furlong debut at Belmont last June in which he stalked the pace and finished 3rd before being vanned off. Trainer Mark Hennig has the ridgling training forwardly for the return. **8 WORLD AFFAIRS** is a \$260,000 son of Cairo Prince debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with 12 morning workouts showing in preparation for the long-awaited debut; Emisael Jaramillo guides this half of the Pletcher uncoupled entry.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-8

RACE 12: THE CAPTIVA ISLAND

4 SAMARA is making her stakes debut after the pair of impressive local sprint victories for trainer Jason Servis. The daughter of Hard Spun will have Nik Juarez going for the hat trick. **2 MORTICIA**, a 6-time winner at this distance, is making her first start since rallying to finish 2nd – beaten three-quarters of a length – in the \$100,000 Abundantia here on December 29. Trainer Rusty Arnold has Emisael Jaramillo atop the hard-knocking daughter of Twirling Candy. **5 FEAR NO EVIL** is making her local return for trainer Tom Albertrani, and going back to the turf, after following her 2nd-place finish on the grass in the 6-furlong \$100,000 Floral Park with a 3rd place finish in the 6-furlong \$125,000 Autumn Days, which was moved from the lawn to a good Aqueduct main track.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-5

RACE 13:

10 TRIUMPHANT is debuting on the turf after opening and surrendering an early 4-length lead when finishing 2nd in a maiden special weight affair moved from the turf to a mile and a sixteenth on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Mark Hennig has Nik Juarez named on the Courtlandt Farm homebred daughter of Quality Road.

5 PAGALO IN AVANTI is a \$250,000 daughter of Orb making her first start since getting parked wide and proving no match for G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Filly Turf winner Newspaperofrecord in their respective debuts at Saratoga. Trainer Anthony Quartarolo adds blinkers for the return. **8 EBULLIENT** is eligible to offer more after responding to both the surface switch, and the addition of Lasix, with an improved performance at this level and distance on turf. Trainer Michael Matz has Leonel Reyes named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 10-5-8

BEST BET: RACE 10 – 1 TATHQEEF

LONGSHOT: RACE 13 – 10 TRIUMPHANT