



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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## RACE 1:

**3 NIKKI'S CAUSE** is turning back to a mile (13-6-2-0) after returning from the layoff to defeat similar going 9 furlongs. Trainer Rohan Crichton is 20% winning consecutive races. **2 ARABELLA BELLA** is dropping to the \$25,000 level after tracking the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> when facing \$62,500 optional claimers at the distance last out.

**5 FROZEN HANNAH** moved to the Kathleen O'Connell barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, after drawing clear to defeat \$12,500 open-claimers at the distance by 5-plus lengths; Edgard Zayas rides.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-5**

## RACE 2:

**6 FERGIELICIOUS** is dropping to the \$8,000 level after returning from the 5-month layoff to make an outside bid and finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 conditioned claimers going three-quarters of a mile.

**3 STELLAMATTUTINA** is plunging to this level, and cutting back to 5 ½ furlongs, after returning from the lengthy layoff to finish a sightseeing 7<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 claimers. Trainer Antonio Sano tabs Edgard Zayas to ride. **4 TUESDAY'S ROSE** is stepping up the competition after shaking off early pressure to defeat \$6,250 claimers by open lengths.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-4**

## RACE 3:

**1 SUGAR BOLT** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after shipping from the Fair Grounds into the David Fawkes barn and finishing an okay 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$25,000 optional claimers; Feargal Lynch rides.

**2 DIVA'S REVENGE** is going back to the turf after a trio of solid performances sprinting on the main track, which includes the 14 ½-length 5-furlong maiden victory on the dirt. The 4-year-old wheels back in 7 days for trainer Jason Servis.

**6 ALL ABOUT STELLA** has been knocking on door in consecutive races at this level and distance and just needs a push from Lady Luck to get into the picture ceremony.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-6**

## RACE 4:

**3 PURPLE GIRL** moved to the Gilberto Zerpa barn via the claim after pressing the pace, on a wet-fast track, and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance. The barn, 40%-plus with new claims, tab Edgard Zayas to ride. **4 ONLY IN AUGUST** will try to win in April when she drops to the \$25,000 level after back-to-back 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes vs \$35,000 maidens. Trainer Teri Pompay has Jose Batista named to ride.

**1 BACKCAT** will depart from the rail after closing to finish 4<sup>th</sup> – as the favorite – in a slow \$16,000 maiden test that was timed in 1:15 & 4 for the 6 furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-1**

## RACE 5:

**4 I'M CARDINAL** will face \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers in the first start since he dueled for the lead and gave way when facing \$25,000 optional claimers during February. Trainer Georgina Baxter is 25% with the 61-180 days layoff. **5 SWAGGER** is returning to the turf after following a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs similar on the grass with a neck defeat, at this level, in a race moved to a wet-fast main track. He's a major player come rain or shine.

**7 QUICK CONNECT** moved to the Mary Eppler barn via the claim after keeping his record unblemished when he defeated \$25,000 claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. The 3-year-old has done nothing wrong yet (4-4-0-0).

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-7**

**RACE 6:**

**7 MYFRANCESCA** was solid in defeat when she rallied to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance last out. Trainer Terri Pompay has Edgard Zayas atop the daughter of Bullet Train. **11 ALWAYS LUCKY** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and adding blinkers, after stalking the pace and fading in her \$50,000 career debut. Trainer George Weaver has Albin Jimenez handling the tough post. **9 GONE SKIING** moved to the Sarah Nagle barn via the claim, and plummets to the \$12,500 level, after failing to show much vs \$35,000 maidens in her only previous race on the GP West turf. The tote action might tell us more?

**SELECTIONS: 7-11-9**

**RACE 7:**

**1 READY TO TANGO** should be ready to score after responding to the surface switch with a 2<sup>nd</sup> -place finish, between a pair of next-out winners, at this level and distance on the main track. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Edgard Zayas handling the inside post. **7 SHESSUCHAKNOCKOUT** is debuting locally for trainer Monte Thomas after the pair of 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finishes vs maiden special weight competition at Tampa. The daughter of Kantharos will be tested for class. **2 AUGUSTA MOON**, another from Todd Pletcher, the \$250,000 daughter of Malibu Moon debuts with Lasix, and a string of solid workouts showing at Palm Beach Downs.

**SELECTIONS: 1-7-2**

**RACE 8:**

**10 GLORY ROLL** is stepping up to face winners after a quartet of solid maiden sprints on both turf and slop. The red-hot Joe Orseno barn has Roberto Alvarado Jr handling the daughter of Adios Charlie. **8 FEATURE CREATURE** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and turning back to 5 furlongs (5-1-1-1), after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$25,000 claimers going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Steve Klesaris tabs Samy Camacho to ride. **4 GINA'S HONEY** is dropping a notch after setting the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> when facing \$16,000 claimers going 5 furlongs on a 'good' turf.

**SELECTIONS: 10-8-4**

**RACE 9:**

**5 INTERLAKEN** moved to the Peter Walder barn via the claim, and makes his first start since finishing 4<sup>th</sup> at this level and distance during March. The gelding finds an ideal spot to get back to the races.

**8 IRISH LETTERS** will try once more to notch the elusive 2<sup>nd</sup> career victory after 'hitting the board' in 2 of 3 recent races at this level and distance.

**6 MAX Q** is making the 3<sup>rd</sup> start back from the layoff hoping he can save more for the stretch drive after the pair stalk-and-retreat outings at the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 5-8-6**

**RACE 10:**

**1 UNO EMAYO** will face \$25,000 starter optional claimers after following his victory in the \$50,000 Little Magician with an ambitious outing in the Grade 3 Appleton. Trainer Lilli Kurtinecz has Jairo Rendon in the irons. **7 CHIEF EXCHANGER** is stretching out slightly to a mile after a hard-fought head victory when facing this level of competition going 7 ½ furlongs. Note that the gelding has shown in the past that he can string together back-to-back victories.

**4 MONTCLAIR (IRE)** is another returning to a competitive level after failing to fire in the 11-furlong Grade 3 Mac Diarmida in his last.

**SELECTIONS: 1-7-4**

**RACE 11:**

**8 BLACKTOP LEGEND** is debuting locally for trainer Jonathan Thomas after the promising turf debut at Tampa in which he rallied to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a neck at the distance – vs maiden special weight competition. **11 NOBLE LION** is expected to offer more after pressing the pace and weakening in his maiden special weight debut here at the distance. Trainer George Weaver is 20% with maidens making their 2<sup>nd</sup> start. **2 BIG AGENDA**, now in the Lilli Kurtinecz barn, the gelded son of Data Link makes his first start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in 6 of 8 turf races before the layoff; Edgar Prado handles the first start in 9 months.

**SELECTIONS: 8-11-2**

**BEST BET: RACE 7 – 1 READY TO TANGO**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 10 GLORY ROLL**