Sunday, March 10, 2019

RACE 1:
7 BRILLIANT LIGHT is dropping to the $12,500 level in the first start since coming within a head of defeating $25,000 maidens – as the even-money favorite – on December 14. **5 THE MIGHTY JUDGE** moved to the Elizabeth Dobles barn via the claim after tracking the pace and finishing an even 4th at this level and distance; Paco Lopez gets the riding assignment. **3 BAGWELL** will break from Post 3 after departing from the outside (Post 10), stalking the pace, and finishing 3rd behind repeat winner Fightingirishtabit last out.

SELECTIONS: 7-5-3

RACE 2:
2 LADRONA is dropping into this conditioned claimer after facing allowance level competition before the lengthy layoff. Trainer Brian Lynch has Jose Ortiz handling the mares first race since last June. **5 LIBERALE (FR)** is returning to the conditioned claiming ranks after following a couple of sharp efforts vs this level of competition with a set-the-pace-and-fade 7th place finish in the $60,000 Mary Todd. **6 O.K. KAY** is taking a sizeable drop to the $30,000 level after failing to 'hit the board' in back-to-back turf outings at the $62,500 level; Irad rides for Jane Cibelli.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-6

RACE 3:
1 NOBLE ALMA should be primed and ready to score after returning from the layoff, debuting on the turf, and finishing a well-meant 3rd – beaten a half-length – at this level and distance; It's Mott & Johnny V. **7 ELLA BROWN** is another eligible to take the jump into the winner's circle after debuting on the turf and finishing 3rd – beaten a length at this level and distance. Trainer Mike Tomlinson has Emisael Jaramillo at the helm. **2 KNOCK** is a $235,000 daughter of Tapit debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and Luis Saez named to ride. The tote action should tell us more.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-2

RACE 4:
5 LAUR NET is dropping into this dated claimer after facing better, with little success, going around 2-turns on the turf, including the stalk-and-fade outing vs $16,000 claimers just 7 days ago.

6 CUCKOO KENIA is stretching out to 7 furlongs after a well-meant late-closing 2nd vs similar going three-quarters of a mile. **3 ITALIAN SMILE** is stretching to seven-eighths of a mile after rallying to finish 3rd vs similar going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Marcus Vitali has apprentice J C Diaz Jr. in from California to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-3

RACE 5:
6 CEEVEE is dropping to the $50,000 level after setting the pace and finishing 3rd vs a solid group of $62,500 optional claimers at the distance. Trainer Kelly Breen has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride. **7 SLIM SHADEY (GB)** is wheeling back at the same level after rallying 4-wide to finish 2nd – beaten a half-length at the distance. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz named to ride.
2 CHIEF EXCHANGER is dropping to the $40,000 level after pressing the pace and weakening to finish 6th vs $62,500 optional claimers. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has John Velazquez rationing the gelding's speed.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-2

RACE 6:
4 FIRST APPEAL is going back to the turf after stalking the action 3-wide and finishing 2nd vs this caliber of competition in a race moved from the turf to a 'fast' main track. **2 DELIGHTFUL LANA**, 2 for 3 'in the money' at the distance, is turning back after making a middle move and fading when facing similar going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Preciado Guadalupe has hard-riding Paco Lopez handling the turnback.
9 THE TWO NANCY'S is dropping into this conditioned claimer after searching for racing room when finishing 5th vs $16,000 open-claimers.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-9

RACE 7:
5 RIGO is an obvious choice to be on the ticket after rallying at the 39-1 to finish 2nd vs similar going three-quarters of a mile. The stretchout to 6 ½ furlongs should help his cause. **1 BLIND RUCKUS** has his claiming tag carved in half after a 5-wide journey produced a 5th place finish vs $12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers.

7 DON FAGER is cutting back to the distance where he broke his maiden after dueling for the lead and fading behind repeat winner Mr Chaplain going a mile last out.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-7

RACE 8:
5 KING ORB is stepping up to face winners for trainer Linda Rice after using his speed to defeat $35,000 maidens in front running fashion; Luis Saez rides.
11 GOOD OLD BOY is sitting on a winning performance after showing improvement in a pair at this level, which includes the 3rd place finish last out. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz in the saddle. **10 SENSATIONAL SAM** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth, and dropping to the $16,000 level again, after dueling for the lead and weakening when stepping up the $30,000 '2-lifetime' level last out. Trainer Scooter Dickey has Chris Landeros in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-11-10

RACE 9:
4 SIR CHUBBY is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after setting the pace and fading to 4th at this level and distance last out. Trainer Tom Bush has Emisael Jaramillo rationing his speed. **11 MILITIAMAN** is a $400,000 son of Broken Vow, and a half-brother to million-dollar earner Handsome Mike, and Grade 1 winner Union Strike, debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **2 MASS APPEAL**, a half-brother to Grade 1 Belmont Stakes winner Tapwrit, is debuting on the turf for trainer Rodolphe Brisset after a learning effort going 6 furlongs on the main track. The son of Speightstown is bred to take to the grass like a lawnmower run amok.

SELECTIONS: 4-11-2

RACE 10:
1 PASSIONATE HACHI will try to make it two in a row after responding in the first race after the claim by Aubrey Maragh with a hard-fought nose victory at this level and distance. Note that the barn is 39% winning consecutive races. **5 ZALZA** moved to the Jorge Navarro barn via the claim after following the sharp maiden score with a 3rd place finish at this level and distance. The new connections tab Emisael Jaramillo to ride.
7 BRAVER THAN WE ARE, claimed by Saffie Joseph Jr last out, will be outfitted with blinkers after failing to fire when facing this level of competition at 6 furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-7

RACE 11:
2 DULL KNIFE is ready to fire a winning salvo after making his North American debut for trainer Todd Pletcher and finishing 4th behind next-out Dania Beach Stakes and Grade 3 Palm Beach Stakes winner A Thread of Blue going a mile and a sixteenth in his last.
8 SHOOTIN THE BREEZE is making his first start since following his maiden victory in the slop at Tampa with an 8th place finish behind A Thread of Blue in the Dania Beach. Trainer Graham Motion tabs John Velazquez to ride. **7 CLINT MAROON (GB)** is stepping up to face winners after using his speed to defeat 8 rivals under maiden special weight conditions. Trainer Pletcher, who also conditions Dull Knife, has Jose Ortiz atop this half of the uncoupled entry.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-7

RACE 12:
5 TIMBER GHOST is turning back to three-quarters of a mile in the first race since ending his sophomore campaign at Aqueduct with a 2nd place finish vs this level of competition going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jimmy Jerkens is 28% with the 61-180 days layoff. **1 IMPACT PLAYER** is making his first start since rallying to finish 3rd – beaten a neck as the favorite – at this level and distance; John Velazquez rides for Todd Pletcher. **4 WILL'S POWER** is debuting locally for trainer Jorge Navarro with the great equalizer on its side – Speed! The $500,000 son of Pioneerofthe Nile can steal it with his best.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-4

RACE 13:
2 SNELL FLICKA, now in the William Tharrenos barn, is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd – beaten a neck at 5 ½ furlongs.
3 HOT FUDGE HONEY is dropping a notch, and stretching out an additional furlong, after rallying to finish 3rd vs $16,000 maidens going 5 ½ furlongs.
5 CAREER MOVE is plummeting to the $12,500 level with blinkers added after failing to show much in a pair of state-bred maiden special weight sprints. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-5

BEST BET: RACE 11 – 2 DULL KNIFE

LONGSHOT: RACE 9: 4 SIR CHUBBY