



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Sunday, March 17, 2019

## RACE 1:

**5 LA CHAUFFER** is looking to drive to the winner's circle from on or near the lead in the Sunday opener. Trainer Norm Casse has Julien Leparoux atop the speedy daughter of Cairo Prince. **1 HOT N SOUR** is a beautifully bred daughter of Tapit debuting for trainer Jonathan Thomas with Lasix, and Hall of Fame jock Javier Castellano named to ride. The consistent morning work tab adds to the appeal. **4 LOOKINLIKEAQUEEN** moved to the Rohan Crichton barn via the claim, and steps up to face state-bred special weight competition, after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> at the distance vs \$35,000 maidens; Luis Saez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-4**

## RACE 2:

**5 SAINT MICHAEL** is sitting on a winning performance after responding in the first race after the claim by Robert Falcone Jr with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at this level and distance; Luis Saez rides. **1 WHY TRUST** will depart from the rail after making a 5-wide bid to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez has Miguel Vazquez handling the inside draw. **3 ORGANIC JENNY** moved to the Jorge Delgado barn via the claim, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile, after bumping at the start prior to finishing 5<sup>th</sup> going a 1-turn mile last out. The barn, 7 for 16 (44%) with recent claims, tabs Jose Batista to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-3**

## RACE 3:

**6 FIRST SPRING**, 2 for 2 'in the money' sprinting on the turf, is turning back to 5 furlongs in the first start since a solid 2018 grass campaign from distances of 5 ½ to 9 furlongs. Trainer Mark Casse has Jose Ortiz handling the return. **3 OAK BLUFFS** is hoping to recapture the form he displayed when rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Claiming Crown Canterbury here during December. The 10-time winner at the distance has Paco Lopez trying to rekindle his back class. **5 GEYSER** will be outfitted with blinkers after following his solid \$16,000 '2-lifetime' victory with a late-running 4<sup>th</sup> at this level and distance last out.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-5**

## RACE 4:

**5 PAINT THE CORNERS**, favored in 4 consecutive races, will probably have that distinction again after drawing clear – as the 4-to-5 favorite – to win at this level and distance last out. Trainer Jorge Navarro tabs Joe Bravo to ride. **2 ATHERA** is making her first start since rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in back-to-back races at this level and distance during January. Trainer Robert Falcone Jr, who claimed her last out, has Luis Saez named to ride.

**1 VENEZUELAN FOREVER**, 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Paint the Corners in her last, and 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Athera 2 starts back, breaks from the rail to figure prominently on the ticket; Tyler Gaffalione rides for Saffie Joseph Jr.

**SELECTIONS: 5-2-1**

## RACE 5:

**4 SUPER TAP** should be primed and ready to score after returning from the layoff and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione atop the 3-year-old daughter of Super Saver.

**5 SHE LOVES IT** is stretching out to a mile in the first start since rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in her 7-furlong career debut here in January. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 28% with maidens making their 2<sup>nd</sup> start, has Luis Saez atop the Red Oaks Stable daughter of Union Rags.

**6 DANCE AND DANCE**, another from trainer Todd Pletcher, is debuting on the main track with blinkers added after showing speed and retreating in back-to-back route races vs maiden special weight competition on the turf. Jockey John Velazquez returns on the daughter of Verrazano.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-6**

## RACE 6:

**3 LONG BLADE** wheels back after returning from the 9-month plus layoff to finish a stalk-the-pace 4<sup>th</sup> – beaten less than 2 lengths - at this level and distance. Trainer Armando De La Cerda has Luis Saez aboard.

**7 BARBAROSSA** is a logical choice on the ticket after moving to the Angel Medina barn via the claim and rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in front of Long Blade last out. Jockey Miguel Vazquez will try to get him out of 2<sup>nd</sup> gear (9-1-4-1). **8 THORPE D'ORO**, 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level during January, drops after the inconsistent trio of races at the \$30,000 '2-lifetime' level. Trainer Antonio Sano has Tyler Gaffalione handling the class relief.

**SELECTIONS: 3-7-8**

**RACE 7:**

**7 GRAN RED** was game in defeat once again when surrendering a late lead to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Scooter Dickey has Tyler Gaffalione returning on the 1-for-19 gelding. **3 SPA JAZZ** moved to the Gustavo Delgado barn via the claim after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance; Chris Landeros rides.

**6 CANDY MAX** is stretching out to a mile after making a 3-wide bid to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar going 7 furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 7-3-6****RACE 8:**

**8 CODESEVENTYSEVEN** is debuting on the turf after showing speed and fading when facing similar quality in a pair moved from the grass to fast main tracks. The gelding departs from the outside looking to make every call a winning one. **2 ALPHADAR** is expected to show more after shipping in from the West Coast for trainer Bob Hess Jr and finishing a late-running 4<sup>th</sup> at this level and distance. He's the logical choice to pick up the pieces if the top choice fails to negotiate the distance.

**4 ANOTHER SOFTBALL**, now in the Kathy Mongeon barn, the gelding makes his local return after facing \$16,000 types on the Tampa turf. The hard-trying gelding has run okay on the local turf, but has yet to find the winner's circle here in 12 previous turf races (12-0-3-1).

**SELECTIONS: 8-2-4****RACE 9:**

**6 DISCREET HEAT** is dropping to the \$6,250 level following the much-the-best victory vs \$12,500 conditioned claimers 2 starts back with a stalk-and-fade outing vs a salty group of \$10,000 starter optional claimers last out. Trainer Murat Sancal has Paco Lopez named to ride. **3 W W CONCERTO** moved to the Saffie Joseph Jr barn via the claim after using his speed, and holding on gamely, to score at this level and distance while in the Jorge Navarro barn last out.

**2 NOMINAL DOLLARS** is dropping to this level after returning from the layoff for trainer Jorge Navarro and finishing a wide 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 claimers going three-quarters of a mile.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-2****RACE 10:**

**10 YAKO** is a consistent daughter of Mineshaft who returns to the \$35,000 starter optional claiming ranks after following a victory the \$60,000 Andromeda with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 1-mile \$60,000 Mrs. Presidentress last out. The only unknown is how the sophomore will handle the mile and a sixteenth distance.

**1 LET'S GO BABY** moved to the Marcus Vitali barn via the claim, and steps up to face winners, after drawing clear to win her \$20,000 career debut at this mile and a sixteenth distance; Luis Saez rides.

**3 DANCE TILL DAWN** is stretching out around 2-turns for the first time after dueling early, and drawing clear late, to defeat \$25,000 claimers going 5 furlongs. She'll be playing 'catch me if you can'.

**SELECTIONS: 10-1-3****RACE 11:**

**2 SALSA'S RETURN** is hoping to get back to his winning ways after losing all chance when he broke poorly and finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the \$50,000 Rough and Ready last out. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez in the irons.

**1 TRANSISTOR** is a candidate for a rebound performance after following sharp victory at this level and distance 2 starts back with a late-closing 3<sup>rd</sup> – as the favorite – vs \$12,500 state-bred optional claimers.

**7 INHIBITION**, 4<sup>th</sup> behind Transistor when they hooked up at this level during February, renews the rivalry after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$25,000 starter allowance runners going 7 furlongs last out.

**SELECTIONS: 2-1-7****RACE 12:**

**2 KNOCKE BY THE SEA** moved to the Juan Carlos Abarrio barn via the claim, and steps up, after rallying to finish 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$20,000 maidens at this 9-furlong distance. He's the upset special with strong finisher Leonel Reyes in the saddle. **4 BLUESKY KITTEN** is stretching out after the pair of sharp efforts at a mile, which includes the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs this level of competition last out. Trainer Armando De La Cerda, who claimed him 2 starts back, has Luis Saez handling the added distance.

**8 KITTEN'S SPA** is dropping to the \$35,000 level after returning from the layoff for trainer Mike Maker and failing to show much vs maiden special weight competition. The son of Kitten's Joy, bred to love the distance, has Jose Ortiz in the saddle. **3 EMPTY SKY** is a son of Midnight Lute debuting for trainer Christophe Clement with a solid Payson Park workout regiment showing. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-8-3****BEST BET: RACE 5 – 4 SUPER TAP****LONGSHOT: RACE 12 – 2 KNOCKE BY THE SEA**