



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Sunday, March 3, 2019

RACE 1:

2 INDIGITA is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and cutting back to a mile, after showing speed and weakening late in a string of \$25,000 to \$35,000 optional claimers. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Jose Ortiz in the saddle.

6 PILLANGO breaks midpack after departing from Post 10, dueling for the lead, and finishing 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Rohan Crichton has Luis Saez named to ride. **7 SWAPL** is turning back to 8 furlongs after tracking the action and finishing 4th vs similar going a mile and a sixteenth; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-7

RACE 2:

1 GARDENCITY GAMBLER is freefalling to the \$12,500 level in the first start since facing maiden special weight competition in her 4-race sophomore campaign. Trainer Robert Falcone Jr has Luis Saez handling this shaky proposition. **5 SALSA QUEEN** is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after finishing a distant 2nd going 5 ½ furlongs. **8 STAGE REVIEW** is dropping to the bottom on the dirt after facing tougher with little success on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-8

RACE 3:

7 BALLY SQUALL moved to the Antonio Sano barn via the claim, and stretches out to seven-eighths of a mile, after coming up empty – as the 3-to-5 favorite – going 6 ½ furlongs. The new connections tab Irad Ortiz Jr to ride.

5 MAMA LELA is an obvious choice to be on the ticket after tracking the pace and finishing 3rd in front of Bally Squall when they hooked up at 6 ½ furlongs last out.

1 GRACIE'S DREAM drops to the bottom on the main track after failing to show much in the way of speed in back-to-back \$20,000 turf races contested at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Ken McPeek is 18% with the grass-to-dirt move.

SELECTIONS: 7-5-1

RACE 4:

1 ELEGANT ROSE, claimed for \$50,000 by Jorge Navarro 2 starts back, shortens up to a 1-turn mile after recovering from an awkward start to finish 2nd vs maiden special weight competition going a mile and a sixteenth. Luis Saez gets the call as Irad sticks with

6 HIGHTAILING. The latter, a daughter of Orb, trained by Shug McGaughey, is stretching out to 8 furlongs after rallying to finish 2nd in her 7-furlong debut on a sealed 'sloppy' track. **3 DUNBAR ROAD**, a \$350,000 daughter of Quality Road, is debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and Jose Ortiz named to ride. The tote action should tell us more about her chances to win at first asking.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-3

RACE 5:

6 GIVE TO U.K. CATS is wheeling back after surrendering a late lead to get beat a head at this level and distance last out. Trainer Marcus Vitali has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. **5 BOW TIE AFFAIR** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after searching for racing room, getting checked at the 1/16th pole, and finishing 3rd going a mile. The added distance should help the hard-knocking gelding. **8 AKTABANTAY (GB)** is debuting locally on the turf for trainer Armando De La Cerda looking to recapture the form he displayed using his speed to defeat \$40,000 claimers at Churchill in November; Luis Saez guides this interesting 7-year-old.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-8

RACE 6:

5 TRINITY is stretching out to 9 furlongs after the solid North American debut for trainer Graham Motion in which he rallied to finish 3rd behind next-out winner Battle of Memphis going a mile and a sixteenth.

2 PERSONAL TIME, a full-brother to G1 Florida & Kentucky Derby winner Orb, is debuting on the turf after returning from the layoff to run 2nd on the dirt here going 7 furlongs. Trainer Shug McGaughey is 24% with the turf-to-dirt angle. **7 CARDINAL KITTEN**, a full-brother to multiple Grade 2 winner Banned, is debuting locally for trainer Mike Maker after the pair of promising turf races at Woodbine during 2018. The lightly raced 5-year-old son of Kitten's Joy is working sharply for the return.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-7

RACE 7:

1 THERE GOES BELLA claimed by Marcus Vitali out of a monster 6-furlong victory at this level 2 starts back, drops back after setting the pace and fading to 5th in a \$12,500 optional claimer going 6 panels last out. The mare stretches out to a mile (6-2-2-0) with the speed needed to steal this heat on the front end.

6 GRACE'S DRAMA moved to the Don Swick barn after tracking the pace and clearing late to notch her 2nd consecutive victory at this level and distance.

2 GALILEO'S AFFAIR moved to the Antonio Sano barn via the claim after making a 4-wide move to finish 2nd behind Grace's Drama last out; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-2

RACE 8:

9 JUNIPERO AVENUE is dropping to the \$20,000 level after following a 2nd place finish on the dirt vs this level of competition with a track-and-fade outing vs \$50,000 starter/optional claimers. Trainer Mike Trombetta has Luis Saez handling the dropdown. **6 KING LEO** is dropping a notch, and stretching out to a mile, after following his open-length score going a 1-turn mile on a sloppy track with a chase-and-weaken 3rd going 5 furlongs vs \$25,000 claimers. **2 STILL THE ONE**, 4 for 8 'in the money' on the turf, is shifting back to the grass after rallying to finish 3rd going a mile on the dirt.

SELECTIONS: 9-6-2

RACE 9:

6 BAD BOY is stepping back up to special weight company, with blinkers added, after splitting a pair of next-out winners when 2nd vs \$75,000 maidens going a mile; Jose Ortiz rides for Jorge Abreu. **4 PIONEER DANCER** is a \$340,000 son of Pioneerofthe Nile debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and Javier Castellano named to ride. **2 MOHJESTIC** is a \$385,000 son of Uncle Mo debuting for trainer George Weaver with Lasix, and John Velazquez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-2

RACE 10:

8 IDENTITY POLITICS is making his 4-year-old debut for trainer Chad Brown the first start since rallying to finish 2nd behind (G1) Pa Derby winner McKinzie in the 7-furlong Grade 1 Malibu at Santa Anita; Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

4 EARLY ENTRY is stepping up the competition after drawing clear to crush a field of \$30,000 conditioned claimers by 5-plus lengths. Leading trainer Jorge Navarro has Emisael Jaramillo named on the 10-time winner.

2 FAST PASS, stakes-placed sprinting on the dirt at Santa Anita last summer, steps up after making 4-wide bid to finish 2nd – beaten a neck – in a \$10,000 optional claimer at the distance. Trainer Peter Walder has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-2

RACE 11:

8 BEACH WALTZ, who has been facing stakes level competition since winning the Mrs. Presidentress here last February, drops into a competitive spot for trainer Mike Maker and jockey Tyler Gaffalione.

6 CELIA'S SONG is making her first start since following her maiden victory on the dirt at Churchill with a stalk-the-pace 3rd here vs entry-level allowance runners going a mile on the turf. **3 SALSA BELLA (FR)**, now in the Jorge Abreu barn, the 4-year-old makes her first start since the interesting sophomore campaign while in the Chad Brown barn. She finished 2nd here in the Grade 3 Sweetest Chant in her North American debut, was beaten 3 lengths in the (G3) Fla Oaks at Tampa, and put on the shelf after the 6th place finish vs allowance company last May.

4 SUPERCOMMITTEE will face open-company after debuting locally for trainer Chad Brown and drawing clear to defeat \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-3-4

RACE 12:

2 SOLDADO is stretching out to a mile after the impressive 6-furlong debut in which he drew clear to win by open-lengths, and get a 90 Beyer figure for his effort.

5 AWARD WINNER, a half-brother to millionaires Oscar Nominated and Oscar Performance, is cutting back to a mile after following his maiden score at the distance with a 3rd place finish behind Bourbon War.

6 FINAL JEOPARDY is stretching out to 8 furlongs after the pair of solid sprint races for trainer Jason Servis, which includes the 3rd place finish in the 6-furlong \$75,000 Limehouse. The barn, 24% with horses stretching out, has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-6

RACE 13:

10 MR. NOBODY can turn out to be the controlling speed in the nightcap when he returns to the turf after failing to show his usual early interest in a race moved from the lawn to a sealed sloppy track. **11 BOLD PAYNTER** will depart from the outside in the first start since rallying to finish 4th at this level and distance during January. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr has Irad named to ride. **6 RESTART** is turning back to a mile in the first race since closing from 11 lengths 'off the pace' to finish 3rd vs this caliber of competition going a mile and a sixteenth. **4 RAGE AWAY** is hoping to find more for the stretch drive after rallying wide to finish 3rd at this level and distance last out.

SELECTIONS: 10-11-6-4

BEST BET: RACE 9 – 6 BAD BOY

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 8 BEACH WALTZ