



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

1 J R'S HOLIDAY is hoping to recapture some of his past glory when he drops to the \$30,000 claiming level after returning from his latest layoff to break slowly and fail to reel in red-hot stakes winner Conquest Sandman in a \$62,500 optional claimer during March. **4 SAHARA STORM** will face conditioned claimers at a mile and a sixteenth after racing wide into the stretch when finishing 4th vs \$25,000 starter allowance optional claimers going a mile. **6 TWO STEP SALSA** moved to the Joe Orseno barn via the claim and make his first start since finishing 5th in a 'key' \$16,000 state-bred optional claimer that produced 3 next-out winners from 8 starters.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-6

RACE 2:

5 CHASE YOUR DREAMS is stepping up the competition after responding to the dropdown with a \$10,000 maiden victory and then following that with a 6,250 '2-lifetime' score going 6 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track.

1 LOVE MY COTTON, now in the Jesus Lander barn, the gelding drops to this level after getting bumped at the start in a \$10,000 conditioned claimer going 5 furlongs on a wet surface listed as good. **2 BIG CITY HEART** is hoping to find more for the stretch drive after drifting wide in the lane when finishing a distant 4th behind similar going three-quarters of a mile.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-2

RACE 3:

3 SAIL THE SEAS is making his first start since a couple of solid efforts at the distance last winter. He defeated \$10,000 maidens going a 2-turn mile at Gulfstream West, and followed that with a 3rd place finish here at this level and distance.

1 JAI BLUE moved to the Gilberto Zerpa barn via the claim, and departs from the rail, after breaking outward at the start and tiring when facing similar quality at this distance last out. The barn has a monster 41% average with recent claims. **2 K K'S REVOLVER** plunges to the \$12,500 level with the blinkers added back, and wheels in 7 days, after recovering from trouble at the start to finish 6th at the \$25,000 level.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-2

RACE 4:

3 LA DUQUESA is turning back to 5 furlongs, and debuting on the turf, after showing speed and retreating when facing stiffer competition in a trio of sprints on the main track. Trainer Armando De la Cerda adds 2nd-time blinkers and has Emisael Jaramillo handling the surface switch.

2 RUN BLONDIE RUN moved to the Yvon Belsoeur barn via the claim, and is stepping up to the \$20,000 level, after pressing the pace and finishing 4th in a fruitful 1-mile \$12,500 maiden test that produced a trio of next-out winners from only 6 starters. **4 BEACH GIRL** drops, and goes to the turf, after returning from a 7-month layoff to chase the pace and finish 5th vs maiden special weight competition going three-quarters on the dirt.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-4

RACE 5:

6 SONIDO, a reclaim by Victor Barboza, is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after dueling for the lead and giving way late when finishing 3rd vs similar quality going three-quarters of a mile. **3 JOURNEY'S END**, a reclaim by Jose Jimenez, breaks from Post 3 after departing from the rail, tracking the pace, and finishing 4th at the distance on a sealed 'good' racing surface. **2 JERSEY STREET**, another from Victor Barboza Jr. is stepping up to face open-competition after drawing clear to defeat \$6,250 conditioned claimers by 6 widening lengths; apprentice Romero Maragh rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-2

RACE 6:

8 GO CRISTIAN GO is dropping to \$10,000 level on the turf in the first start since he dueled for the lead and faded to finish 7th when blinkers were added back vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers. Trainer Fernando Abreu has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **1 SMART DUDE** is returning to the turf after setting the pace and getting caught late in an almost identical pair of 5-furlong sprints moved to wet main tracks listed as 'good'. Trainer Joe Orseno has Nik Juarez in the saddle. **4 GRAN SAMAN**, who has shown 'good' speed, and run well sprinting on the grass (2-1-1-0), shifts back to the lawn after stalking the pace 5-wide and fading to 4th in a race moved to a 'good' main track.

SELECTIONS: 8-1-4

RACE 7:

4 FLASHING DIAMOND, who has one less victory than the rest of the field combined, the 5-time winner certainly fits the conditions when she moves to the Reuben Gracida barn after opening and surrendering an early 3 ½-length lead when 2nd – at 4-to-5 – vs this level of competition. The new connections have Jesus Rios atop the 3-year-old. **2 RAINFALL** is going back to the main track after returning from a 9-month layoff, debuting locally on the turf for Armando De la Cerda, and finishing a distant 3rd going a 2-turn mile.

5 COTTON TOOYAH is a late-running daughter of High Cotton who should be able to grab a share for legendary older statesman Jerry Bozzo.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-5

RACE 8:

12 DIFFERENCE MAKER is making his first start since showing promise when facing tougher competition at the competitive Championship Meet. The big concern for Ralph Nicks/Tyler Gaffalione collaboration is the tough outside post (12). **2 FLYING LIBERTY** is sitting on another good performance after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 2nd place showing at this level and distance. **5 WILDCAT SAINT** is hoping to find more for the stretch run after chasing the pace and settling for 3rd behind Flying Liberty last out.

SELECTIONS: 12-2-5

RACE 9:

8 CARTERSVILLE moved to the Reid Nagle barn via the claim, drops to the \$12,500 level, and turns back to 5 furlongs, after setting the pace and fading to finish 8th behind a quartet of next-out winners going a mile on the Tampa turf last December. **9 PEKIN** is going back to the turf after finishing 4th in a race moved from the grass to 5-furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle again. **11 ARMONICO** is dropping to this level, and going back to the turf, after returning from the freshening to show some early interest and fade vs \$25,000 maidens going a mile on a 'good' main track.

SELECTIONS: 8-9-11

BEST BET: RACE 9 – 8 CARTERSVILLE

LONGSHOT: RACE 4 – LA DUQUESA