



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

RACE 1:

6 CAPTAIN GAUGHEN, who ran well vs better here last year, is dropping to the \$16,000 level in the first start since a rough outing (broke thru gate) vs \$25,000 claimers at Belmont last October. Trainer Jason Servis, 25% with the 61-180 days layoff, has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the dropdown.

1 IGO FORGREATNESS was solid in defeat when he split horses and finished 2nd at this level and distance last out. Trainer Antonio Sano has Edgard Zayas handling the inside draw. **3 LOST FOR WORDS**, a winner of 4 of 8 races during 2017, will try \$16,000 open-claimers after returning from the freshening to finish a press-and-fade 7th vs \$20,000 optional claimers. The 5-furlong turf sprint specialist (6-4-0-0) has apprentice Aby Medina in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-3

RACE 2:

3 CATSADIVA is dropping to the \$30,000 level in the first start since finishing 2nd vs \$62,500 optional claimers going 5 ½ furlongs on the Tampa main track. Trainer Jonathan Thomas has Tyler Gaffalione handling the class relief. **5 PANCAKE**, whose previous short comment line in the Grade 3 My Charmer was prophetic (stacked 4 wide, flattened out), is returning to the main track, and plunging to the \$30,000 level, for a barn this 10 for 49 (20%) with the turf to dirt angle. Trainer Stanley Gold has Javier Castellano named to ride. **1 SWEET PARANG** is making her first start since winning impressively at this level and distance last March. Trainer Ralph Nicks has the lightly raced mare training forwardly for the return.

SELECTIONS: 3-5-1

RACE 3:

8 CRYSTAL CLEAR is a daughter of Power Broker debuting for trainer Jason Servis, who is 9 for 42 (21%) with his first-time starters in the maiden claiming ranks on the dirt. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the outside post.

4 SUNNY MY WAY should be primed and ready to offer more after responding to both a class drop, and a turnback in distance, with a stalk-the-pace 4th place finish at this level and distance.

6 LISA MILA is dropping to the \$16,000 level on the main track after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 5th vs \$35,000 maidens going 5 furlongs on the Gulfstream West turf.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-6

RACE 4:

1 BODIE'S VALENTINE, the hunch play of the day, is making her first start since closing from far back to defeat maiden special weight competition going a mile & five-sixteenths at Kentucky Downs. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz in the saddle.

3 PEACE FRONT is stepping up to face winners after debuting locally for trainer Chad Brown with blinkers added and proceeding to defeat \$50,000 maidens at the distance. **6 MS. VIOLETTE** is making her first start since rallying to finish 2nd behind repeat winner Sun of Tara, and in front of next-out winner Little Irish Dancer in a fruitful \$20,000 '2-lifetime' claimer here during December.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-6

RACE 5:

4 ADMIRAL JIMMY is plummeting to the \$12,500 level in the first start since finishing a distant 7th in the Sapling at Monmouth last September. Trainer Todd Pletcher has leading rider Luis Saez named on this shaky proposition. **8 ADMIRABLE KISS** will try to make it 3 in a row after following his \$16,000 maiden victory 2 starts back with a solid \$16,000 claiming score going three-quarters of a mile last out. Trainer Yvon Belsoeur lightens the impost with 7-pound apprentice David Haldar at the controls. **7 TO JOE**, a 2-time winner on the dirt, is going back to the main track, and dropping to this level, after talking the overland route when finishing a wide 8th vs \$25,000 claimers on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-7

RACE 6:

2 MITCHELL ROAD is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after the promising mile and a sixteenth debut here in which she dueled throughout and finished a game 2nd – beaten a neck.

Trainer Bill Mott has Jose Lezcano returning on the daughter of English Channel. **7 EQUAL RIGHTS** is a daughter of Violence debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and a solid morning work tab showing at Palm Meadows; Jose Ortiz rides.

4 INCONVENIENT FACTS, another from trainer Chad Brown, the \$260,000 daughter of More Than Ready is making her career debut with a similar workout pattern as her stablemate showing in preparation for this assignment; Javier Castellano rides.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-4

RACE 7:

3 BUN BUN is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after getting tied up in a speed duel when finishing 2nd vs similar going three-quarters of a mile last out. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Nik Juarez returning on the daughter of Hansen. **7 BULLET THEBLUE SKY** moved to the Angel Rodriguez barn via the claim, and drops to the \$6,250 level on the main track, after making a middle move and fading when facing \$16,000 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimers going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Rodriguez, 4 for 8 (50%) with horses going from turf to dirt in the first start after a claim, has Luis Saez handling the karma changes. **6 ITALIAN SMILE**, claimed for \$12,500 by trainer Gilberto Zerpa last out, drops to the \$6,250 level with blinkers added hoping to rebound from the clunker on a sealed 'sloppy' track.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-6

RACE 8:

7 READY FOR SUMMER is dropping to the \$16,000 level after shipping in from Aqueduct, breaking from the rail, setting the pace, and weakening late to finish 6th in what should be a screw-tightening performance going a mile. **3 AUGUST LILLY** proved she could compete at this level when she stepped up from a \$8,000 conditioned claimer at Gulfstream West to finish 3rd – from a tough post (11) – at this level and distance. **6 STORMIN CHARLOTTE** is turning back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs hoping to carve a 'key' stalking trip behind what should be a spirited early pace scenario. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-6

RACE 9:

7 SKEPTIC is debuting locally for trainer Rusty Arnold, and making her first start since finishing 2nd in her freshman finale going a mile and a sixteenth at Churchill Downs. **2 SOUTH OF THE SHORE** will try the main track again after shipping in for trainer Chad Brown and finishing 2nd in a race moved from the turf to a mile and a sixteenth on a sealed 'sloppy' track.

4 COMMENTARY is debuting locally for trainer Christophe Clement after the promising career debut at Tampa in which she rallied to finish 2nd going a mile & 40 yards. Joel Rosario rides the \$475,000 daughter of The Factor.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-4

RACE 10:

1 BITACORA is dropping into this \$16,000 state-bred optional claimer after following the \$50,000 claim by trainer Peter Walder with a late-closing 5th in the Sunshine Millions F & M Turf. The daughter of Dominus has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. **7 O. K. KAY**, beaten a neck at this level 3 starts back, turns back to 7 ½ furlongs after 'hitting the board' in 1 of 2 \$50,000 starter allowance races going a mile. Trainer Jane Cibelli tabs Tyler Gaffalione to ride as Irad sticks with Bitacora. **8 ONE DIRECTION SONG** is turning back slightly after setting the pace and weakening to finish 5th behind O. K. Kay going 8 furlongs last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-8

RACE 11:

10 DINO DUDE will move to an outside post (10) after breaking from the rail, setting a pressured pace, and finishing 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Edgard Zayas rationing his speed.

6 WIGWAM SUMMER will give it one more try at the distance after getting parked wide and finishing 5th – beaten 2 ½ lengths last out. Trainer Jessica Campitelli has Irad Ortiz Jr to ride.

9 TENDOWNINGSTREET is dropping to the \$20,000 level, and stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth, after closing strongly to finish 3rd vs \$50,000 maidens going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Joe Orseno has Javier Castellano negotiating the added distance.

SELECTIONS: 10-6-9

BEST BET: RACE 4 – 1 BODIE'S VALENTINE

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 10 DINO DUDE