



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

RACE 1:

1 HEIDI HO is dropping to the \$16,000 level after following her \$35,000 maiden score at GP West with a chase and fade out vs \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimers. Trainer Efren Loza Jr is 28% with the 31-60 days layoff. **2 TRULY COURAGEOUS** is an obvious choice in the opener after tracking the pace and finishing 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Gustavo Amaya claimed the mare last out, and tabs Leonel Reyes to ride. **3 DIAMOND LOVE**, 3rd at this level and distance 2 starts back, drops, and turns back after failing to show much vs \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers going a 2-turn mile.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-3

RACE 2:

1 UNRIVALED SOUL will depart from the rail again after responding to the barn change to Alexis Camano with a hard-fought 2nd at this level and distance.

4 IS THAT MAGIC is making her first start since setting the pace and fading to 3rd in a tougher rendition of this race on January 9. Trainer John Vinson has Brian Hernandez Jr named to ride.

6 CASUAL CARO has been knocking on the door in consecutive races at this level and distance, which includes the 3rd place finish behind Unrivaled Soul last out.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-6

RACE 3:

6 COAL TRUTH moved to the Scooter Dixie barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, with the look of the controlling speed at this 1-mile distance. The new connections have Tyler Gaffalione at the controls. **3 PORTAL**, a game 2nd at this level and distance last out, is the logical choice to reap the spoils if Coal Truth fails to handle the hike in competition. **4 HOLLYWOOD STRIKE**, who posted a few 80-plus Beyer figures in the past, drops into this '2-lifetime' claimer after proving no match for repeat winner Chatiment in a \$25,000 optional claimer contested at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Michael Matz has Jose Ortiz named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-4

RACE 4:

4 PURPLE GIRL continues her descent through the maiden ranks after showing speed and fading late in a series of sprints vs tougher. The daughter of Shackleford gets the tepid nod on the speed/experience angle. **6 IMMACULATE HEART** is dropping to the \$20,000 level, and making her first start since tracking the action and finishing 5th behind a pair of next-out winners in a rained-out 5-furlong sprint originally scheduled for the turf here during December. **3 HOTSOKIE**, 1 of 2 in the field for trainer Kathleen O'Connell, drops a nickel on the maiden scale after making a 5-wide bid in her debut to finish 5th behind a pair of next-out winners in a \$25,000 maiden sprint at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-3

RACE 5:

2 DRAGON MOON was given some time off after a solid local debut at this level and distance in which he made a middle for the lead before settling for 4th at this level and distance. Trainer Jason Servis, 35% with the 31-60 days freshening, has Luis Saez named to ride. **6 STURGEON** proved he could compete at this level when he followed his 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' victory with a troubled starting (bumped, lugged in) 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Kathy Mongeon has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle.

7 DIAMOND MINT is as consistent as they get at this level and distance, but needs to figure out how to get his picture taken. The gelding is a must-use on the exotic tickets.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-7

RACE 6

5 OVERLEVERAGED is sitting on a victory after responding to both the dropdown in competition, and the addition of blinkers, with a 3rd place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Linda Rice has Luis Saez atop the son of Fed Biz. **3 COME ON VENEZUELA** has been knocking on the door in consecutive races at this level and distance, which includes the 2nd place finish in front of Overleveraged last out. Trainer Alexis Delgado tabs Leonel Reyes to ride.

1 J ZAYA, bred on both sides of the family tree to love the turf, the son of Cairo Prince is dropping to the \$20,000 level after showing brief interest and fading vs maiden special weight competition on the main track.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-1

RACE 7:

6 JORDY'S READY moved to the Luis Ramirez barn via the claim, and turns back to the distance where she broke her maiden by 13 lengths, after pressing the pace and finishing 3rd – as the even-money favorite – going a mile last out. The new connections tab apprentice J C Diaz Jr to ride.

7 COTTON TOOYAH is dropping to the \$6,250 level after failing to show much in the 'mud' when finishing last behind repeat winner Mybigitalianfriend in a \$12,500 state-bred optional claimer. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has red-hot jock Paco Lopez named to ride. **3 TUESDAY'S ROSE** is stretching out to 7 furlongs for the first time after following her '2-lifetime' victory with a 3rd place finish vs this level of competition going three-quarters of a mile.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-3

RACE 8:

6 QUICK CONNECT is debuting on the turf for trainer Jeremiah Englehart after keeping his record unblemished when he defeated \$25,000 claimers here in a race moved from the grass to 5-furlongs on a 'good' main track; Jose Ortiz rides.

2 TWISTED LICORICE is stepping up to face winners after leading every step of the way to defeat \$20,000 maidens at this 5-furlong distance. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Tyler Gaffalione going for 2 in a row.

5 MARCELINO is dropping a notch after rallying late to 'hit the board' in 1 of 2 recent turf sprints at the \$25,000 level. The gelding should be along for a share.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-5

RACE 9:

5 SKY RUN is stretching out to 7 furlongs after returning from the 2-month freshening to come within a nose of defeating similar going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Gilberto Zerpa Jr has 33% win average with the 2nd start back from this type of layoff.

7 ROLLING BOBBY is dropping to the \$12,500 level again after stepping up off the claim and finishing 2nd best in a \$16,000 claimer going three-quarters of a mile.

1 AWESOME HILLS will be outfitted with blinkers after finishing a workman-like 3rd behind Sky Run last out. Trainer Ralph Nicks tabs Luis Saez to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-1

RACE 10:

4 HELEN, now in the Victor Barboza Jr barn, the daughter of Gio Ponti, who won impressively at this level at Laurel, is debuting locally after failing to fire, on a wet track listed as 'good', in the 6-furlong \$100,000 Smart Halo in her last. Note the barn is 29% with new additions to the shedrow. **6 DANA GRACE** is stretching to a mile after splitting a pair of solid efforts on the dirt with a stalk-and-fade outing in a \$60,000 overnight stake on the turf. **3 HILL VALLEY**, who defeated \$50,000 optional claimers during her freshman campaign, is stretching out to 8 furlongs after failing to get untracked when breaking from Post 11 in the \$60,000 Queen Mother.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-3

RACE 11:

1 YES IT'S FACTUAL is turning back to a mile after following well-meant 2nd going a mile and a sixteenth 2 starts back with a troubled outing going another 8 ½ furlongs last out. Trainer Milt Wolfson has Paco Lopez handling this longshot play. **3 SUPER MAMA** is hoping to cure the case of seconditis after the pair of 2nd place finishes at the distance, which includes the game nose defeat last out. Trainer Jorge Abreu has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride. **10 ITS ABOUT ME** is cutting back to a mile after a headstrong outing at mile and a sixteenth in which she made a move for the lead and ended up finishing a tiring 5th.

12 YOU PEOPLE is dropping to the \$20,000 level to merit serious consideration on the getaway exotic tickets.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-10-12

BEST BET: RACE 7 – 6 JORDY'S READY

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 1 YES IT'S FACTUAL