Wednesday, March 20 2019

RACE 1:

5 LUCKY LONG will try to make it 3 in a row after using her speed to win the $60,000 Marry Todd in impressive fashion. The red-hot mare looks like the main speed again, and could be tough to collar in the opener with Irad Ortiz Jr going for 3 in a row.
8 HOGANS HOLIDAY is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after the pair strong performances at a mile, which includes the victory at this level 2 starts back, the late-closing 4th in the Grade 3 Honey Fox in her last; Paco Lopez rides as Irad sticks with the top choice. **4 PERU (GB)**, 1 of 2 in the field for Mike Maker (Shezaprado), is stretching out after rallying 6-wide to finish 4th behind Hogans Holiday when they hooked up on February 3rd.

SELECTIONS: 5-8-4

RACE 2:

1 ELISSAS SECRET is stepping up to face open claimers after edging away to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a $25,000 maiden test at the distance. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Emisael Jaramillo handling the inside draw. **4 MIDNIGHT MIRACLE**, a game winner at this level and distance 2 starts back, drops, and turns back, after chasing the pace and finishing 4th in the 7-furlong $60,000 Queen Mother last out. Trainer Jane Cibelli, who claimed her 2-starts back, has Javier Castellano named to ride. **7 STRONGER KAT** moved to the Jose Gallegos barn via the claim, and steps up, after back-to-back open-length victories at the $12,500 level. The new connections keep the status quo with Irad Ortiz Jr going for the hat trick.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-7

RACE 3:

5 R WAY TO ESCAPE was sent south after posting a pair of impressive victories going a mile & 40 yards on the Tampa main track. Trainer Gerald Bennett tabs Irad Ortiz Jr to handle the local return.

3 RADIANTRITHYM is stretching out to a mile after consecutive sprint victories at this level for trainer Jorge Navarro. The only knock is the zero-for-10 record at the distance (10-0-3-1).
6 GRACE'S DRAMA moved to the Scooter Dickie barn via the claim after notching her 3rd straight victory at the distance when she defeated $6,250 open-claimers by 3-plus lengths; Tyler Gaffalione goes for 3 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-6

RACE 4:

7 LISA MILA, now in the Victor Barboza Jr barn, the 4-year-old cuts back to 5 ½ furlongs after returning from Tampa to set the pace and fade to 3rd vs this level of competition going three-quarters of a mile.
8 GARDENCITY GAMBLER is stepping up to face winners after drawing off – at $.10 cents to the dollar – to defeat $12,500 maidens by 4-plus lengths. Trainer Robert Falcone Jr has Luis Saez in the saddle. **3 GLOTONASA** is dropping a notch after finishing a 4-wide 4th vs $10,000 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' claimers going 6 panels. Trainer Luis Duco has Leonel Reyes handling the combo dropdown/turnback.

SELECTIONS: 7-8-3

RACE 5:

9 VIOLENT TIMES is making her 4-year-old debut after showing promise in a pair of turf allowance sprints at Belmont and Saratoga last year. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Tyler Gaffalione handling daughter of Violence. **6 SPEED STAR**, 1 of 2 in the field for Saffie Joseph Jr (2 First Appeal), is making her first start since rallying to finish 3rd – beaten a head in a 4-horse blanket finish – at this level and distance. The daughter of Wildcat Heir should sit the catbird seat right off the speed.

8 CUCCIDATI, a daughter of Street Cry, steps up to face winners after returning from the 20-month layoff to defeat maiden special weight runners at the distance. Trainer Christophe Clement has Irad going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 9-6-8

RACE 6:
2 MOROCCO gets a full complement of karma changes when he drops to the $30,000 '2-lifetime' level on the dirt, and cuts back to a sprint distance, after a trio of turf routes. Trainer Bill Mott has John Velazquez named to ride. **6 FLORIDA COTTON** moved to the Robert Falcone Jr barn via the claim, and cutting back to 6 furlongs, after the solid 2nd-place finish vs this level of competition going seven-eighths of a mile. **8 TRUE BOOTS** is stretching out a half-furlong after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 3rd-place finish – beaten a length – at this level going 5 ½ furlongs during January. Leading trainer Jorge Navarro is 34% with the 61-180 days layoff.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-8

RACE 7:
2 SONOMA STORM is dropping to the $16,000 level after showing brief early interest and fading when blinkers were added for her recent turf outing at the $35,000 level. The daughter of Fed Biz finds the ideal spot to get some class relief.
8 UNCOMMON FACTOR is dropping to this level on the turf with blinkers added hoping both the surface switch, and blinks, help cure her failure to get away from the starting gate. Trainer Peter Walder has Paco Lopez to handling this shaky proposition.
6 RUCIA MORA, who was beaten a nose vs better 2 starts back, and was a disappointing 8th in her last start, finds a perfect spot to bounce back into the winner's circle.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-6

RACE 8:
9 SCAM is stretching out slightly to 6 ½ furlongs after dueling throughout and finishing 2nd vs similar going three-quarters of a mile. The 8-time winner fits the conditions of this dated-claimer perfectly.

8 ELLAS MY LOVE drops, and cuts back to a sprint distance, after returning from the layoff to finish a distant 3rd going a mile in the slop vs $30,000 conditioned claimers. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Luis Saez named to ride. **6 WILDCAT'S LEGACY** moved to the Gilberto Zerpa barn via the claim, and turns back, after responding to dropdown by former trainer Todd Pletcher with a 4th place finish vs $12,500 state-bred optional claimers going 7 furlongs in the slop.

SELECTIONS: 9-8-6

RACE 9:
3 WILDWOOD DANCER is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after posting his 3rd consecutive victory when he won the 6 ½-furlong $60,000 Rail Splitter going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jorge Navarro has Irad going for 4 in a row. **4 DUPREE**, another from Jorge Navarro, cuts back his most accomplished distance (19-5-2-2) after finishing 2nd to his stablemate in the Rail Splitter.
2 STAR JUANCHO, 2nd to Wildwood Dancer at the start that one's 3-race win streak during December, renews the rivalry after drawing clear in the slop to defeat $25,000 optional claimers in convincing fashion.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-2

RACE 10:
6 COPPER FOX, who faced considerably tougher in her 3 previous turf races, is dropping to the $16,000 level on the grass after encountering trouble at the start (bumped, steadied) in a pair of $30,000 conditioned claimers going 6 furlongs on the dirt; Paco Lopez guides the upset special. **5 EILA** moved to the Victor Barboza Jr barn via the claim after responding to the dropdown in competition with a front running score at this level and distance. The barn, 33% with new claims, has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride. **1 PASSIONATE EMOTION** moved to the Kelly Breen barn after the claim, and departs from the rail, looking to sit the 'trip' behind what should be an honest pace scenario; Jose Ortiz rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-1

BEST BET: RACE 8 – 9 SCAM

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 6 COPPER FOX