

Sunday, January 19 By Samantha Perry (Check X @samanthagperry for updates)

Race 1: 5 HEREFORAGOODTIME makes her first start on the turf after three unremarkable dirt efforts. Her performance on a muddy track at Ellis Park in July was respectable, and there's often a correlation between handling mud and turf capability. 4 LONG WAVE will have her third career start after encountering some trouble on the rail in her most recent outing. Considering it was her first attempt at two turns and her first turf race, she's entitled to improvement. Meanwhile, 8 SMUDGE is looking to bounce back after finishing fourth in her last outing on grass. However, that effort doesn't inspire much confidence, as the race seemed less competitive overall. Selections: 5-4-8-1

Race 2: 3 P FOUR will make her third career start with blinkers added today after finishing fourth against a similar field. 7 NESHUME ran second behind P FOUR in their last race, missing the win by just half a length, and draws a favorable post position here. 1 IRON HAND will try the Tapeta for the first time following all-dirt starts so far, but the rail draw is less than ideal. Selections: 3-7-1-6

Race 3: Race 3 highlights 6 GEMSTONE WARRIOR, making his first start for the Barry Croft barn, which excels in these scenarios with a 23% win rate from a limited sample. This level suits his return to racing, and he has drawn a favorable post position. 2 FABLEMAN, first off the claim for the Scott Acker barn, comes off a fourth-place finish against a similar field and benefits from making his second start off a layoff from Woodbine. 7 CARENTAN will try the local Tapeta surface for the first time, and the class drop should aid his chances. **Selections: 6-2-7-1**

Race 4: Race 4 is wide open, with no clear standout as many in the field seem reluctant to find the winner's circle. 4 SCALLYWAG might have the best chance, returning to the dirt where he's had a few underneath finishes and has shown early speed. 8 PASSIONATE CRY will try the dirt for the first time, drawing a favorable post position, and Junior Alvarado sticks with the ride, which is encouraging. 6 PRAISEWORTHY, despite being 0-for-24, remains competitive at this level, consistently picking up minor awards. Perhaps this class and field composition will finally align in his favor. Selections: 4-8-6-3

Race 5: 6 MONET NEVER, stretching out to two turns on the grass for the first time. His return race on the Tapeta after a long layoff should set him up well for a more competitive effort here with added fitness. 5 BETTER LUCK will race without blinkers, a change that could position him as a key speed player, especially with Luis Saez aboard. 9 MAGIC SLIPS has demonstrated speed on the grass at Woodbine but faces a tough challenge trying the local turf for the first time, especially from this difficult post with the rail settings. Selections: 6-5-9-1

Race 6: 4 SCAR drops significantly in class to the \$12,500 level for his eight-year-old debut. His second-place effort at the \$25,000 level last fall came with a solid figure, making him a strong contender. 6 SIGRUN FAST BOY makes his second start off a six-month layoff and has limited dirt experience, but he seems to be improving and is worth a look on this surface. 5 LUNA SIMA ran decently at this level in his last race and could take a step forward with that comeback effort under his belt. **Selections: 4-6-5-1**

Race 7: 6 SLEW DIVA will try the Tapeta for the first time following a sharp dirt effort in December, where she blazed on the front end and won going away. 2 IN OTHER WORDS also won going away in her most recent start, and that race has already produced three next-out winners, which enhances her form. 4 SORORITY BID cuts back to a sprint distance after trying two turns last time out, returning to the same distance where she broke her maiden, and looks like a good fit in this field. **Selections: 4-6-2-3**

Race 8: 3 READ ON makes his first start for the Jorge Delgado barn, which seems to be gaining momentum as of Thursday. 4 SPACE LAUNCH is first off the claim for trainer Kelly Breen, coming off a win at a similar level, making a repeat performance well within reach. 5 J P HELLISH returns to the Tapeta surface, where he boasts an impressive record of seven wins from 20 starts, making him a serious contender here. **Selections: 3-4-5-7**

Race 9: Race 9 features plenty of early speed, which could make things interesting. 8 BELLA FUTURE is first off the claim for the Bobby Dibona barn and appears to be thriving under new connections, as evidenced by two sharp morning works since the claim. 7 MY VOODOO DOLL comes off an impressive maiden win on the grass at 7-1, and the expected pace scenario should suit his closing style perfectly. 6 LOYAL LOUIE, while finishing fourth last time out, remains a model of consistency with solid efforts in each of his recent starts. His ability to stay in contention could make him a factor in the exotics. Selections: 8-7-6-10

Race 10: 11 PHOENIX OF WIT faces a tough challenge from an unlucky post position with the rail setting, despite potentially being the most talented filly in the field. However, with Jorge Ruiz aboard, she has a capable pilot to navigate a trip. 7 JALILA came close to winning in her only start, where she was sent off as the favorite, and it's a positive sign to see Javier Castellano take the reins for this outing. 5 INESPEREE debuts with strong turf connections and an excellent rider in Joel Rosario, suggesting the barn has confidence in her ability to make an immediate impact. **Selections: 11-7-5-1**

Best Bet Race 8 #3 Read On

Long Shot Race 4 #4 Scallywag