



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



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RACE 1:

4 THE TWINS SNEAKERS is dropping to the \$35,000 level, and adding blinkers, after rallying late to finish 3rd vs \$50,000 types going a 1-turn mile. Trainer Happy Alter has Miguel Vazquez handling the turnback to 7 furlongs. **2 VALIANT AVENGER** is a son of Valiant Minister debuting for trainer Ralph Nicks with a solid work tab showing over the main track, which includes the recent 3-furlong bullet in 35 & 2. Edgard Zayas rides. **7 ERLAN** is shifting to the main track in the first start since finishing 4th in his \$35,000 career debut going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf. Trainer Angel Rodriguez readied him for the surface switch, and turnback to seven-eighths of a mile, with a 3-furlong bullet gate work in 35 & 3.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-7

RACE 2:

6 ALLEGEDLY PERFECT is debuting on the Tapeta after following his \$20,000 turf sprint score, in which he finished 2nd before being placed 1st via a steward's decision, with a \$12,500 victory going 5 panels on the turf. Red-hot trainer David Fawkes – going into the Thursday card - is 8 for 18 (44%), and a whopping 6 for 10 (60%) on the Tapeta. **3 CUY** is cutting back to 5 ½ furlongs after showing a fondness for the Tapeta when he shook off trouble at the start and finished 2nd going a mile and 70 yards. Trainer Liz Dobles has Leonel Reyes atop the gelding, whose both career victories were at 5 furlongs on the turf. **4 GRACEFUL KITTEN** is shifting to the Tapeta after rallying to finish 3rd behind Allegedly Perfect on the grass last out. Trainer Amador Sanchez has Hector Berrios looking to sit the 'trip' behind the speed.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-4

RACE 3:

7 GENERAL COMMAND is a son of Brethren debuting for trainer Gilberto Zepa with a swift workout tab showing at Palm Meadows, which includes back-to-back half-mile bullet workouts. The barn, 22% with first-time starters, has Cristian Torres in the saddle.

1 CAJUN LOVER is dropping to the \$50,000 level after setting the pace and fading to finish 8th behind multiple stakes winner Octane in a 5-furlong state-bred special weight sprint during July. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell, 23% with the 61-180 days layoff, has Edwin Gonzalez handling the inside post. **5 ETERNAL FLAME**, another from Gilberto Zepa, the gelded son of Jimmy Creed is working well at Palm Meadows, and boasts a half-mile bullet gate work in 46 & 3. Emisael Jaramillo rides.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-5

RACE 4:

5 ADVENTURE SEEKER is looking to make amends after following his open-length \$16,000 maiden score with a distant 2nd place finish – as the favorite – at this level and distance. Kathleen O'Connell has Emisael Jaramillo in the irons. **3 FEDERAL EXCHANGE** moves to the Victor Barboza Jr barn via the claim after responding to the dropdown in competition with a rousing \$16,000 maiden victory going 6 ½ furlongs. The gelding will have Samy Camacho handling the turnback to three-quarters of a mile. **1 GILLIGAN**, who broke his maiden at the \$25,000 level, drops after failing to fire in back-to-back stakes races going 7 furlongs. Trainer Juan Alvarado has Edgard Zayas handling the turnback to 6 panels.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-1

RACE 5:

8 GLOBAL EMPIRE drops into the maiden claiming ranks, and adds blinkers, in the first start since failing to fire vs maiden special weight competition going a mile here in April. Trainer Louie Roussel III has the \$500,000 son of American Pharoah working well for the return. **1 UBIQUITOUS**, a half-brother to multiple stakes winner Chance It, is dropping to the \$40,000 level, and turning back to 6 ½ furlongs, after following a 2nd place finish at the distance vs special weight competition with a press-the-pace-and-weaken 5th going 7 furlongs vs special weight foes at Saratoga. Saffie Joseph Jr has Edgard Zayas in the saddle.



2 MISH will race without blinkers after setting the pace and finishing 2nd vs this level of competition going three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Crystal Lanum has Leonel Reyes named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 8-1-2

RACE 6:

2 TROPHY CHASER is stretching out around 2-turns on the Tapeta after encountering traffic problems (lacked room) when finishing a useful 3rd going 6 furlongs on the main track, which was his first start in 16 months. Trainer Juan C Avila has Leonel Reyes handling the combo surface switch/stretchout. **5 LIGHT FURY** will try to make it 2 in a row on the Tapeta after dueling throughout and holding sway when defeating \$25,000 starter allowance runners going a mile and 70 yards. Trainer Ron Spatz, 28% winning consecutive races, has Samy Camacho going for 2 in a row.

3 FIGHTING FORCE is dropping to the \$62,500 level after returning from Delmar to defeat \$75,000 optional claimers going this distance on the Tapeta. Trainer Jeff Engler has Miguel Vazquez atop the \$400,000 son of Air Force Blue.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-3

RACE 7:

3 FLOR DE PLATA is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after dueling for the lead and weakening late when finishing 3rd vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jorge Delgado, 33% with his freshman runners, has go-to jock Chantal Sutherland atop the daughter of Uncaptured. **4 HOT FOOT SUSIE** renews the rivalry with the top choice after fueling with her throughout, and when the smoke cleared, she finished 2nd in front of her. Trainer Joe Orseno has Luca Panici handling the rematch.

10 LANIAKEA STORM is eligible to take a positive step forward after taking the overland route when rallying 5-wide to finish 3rd in her career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Jose D'Angelo has Emisael Jaramillo in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-10

RACE 8:

2 TONALIST'S SHAPE, a classy daughter of Tonalist, will try to rekindle her horse-for-course status (8-5-0-1) after following her 3rd place finish here at this level and distance with a clunker on the turf in the \$400,000 One Dreamer at Kentucky Downs. Saffie Joseph Jr adds blinkers on the Grade 2 winner. **1 STARSHIP NALA** is stretching out to a mile after dueling throughout and finishing 2nd to upset winner, and stablemate, Starship Bonita in the 7-furlong \$100,000 Sheer Drama. Steve Dwoskin has Miguel Vazquez handling the stretchout.

5 CRUMB BUN, who finished 2nd in front of Tonalist's Shape at this level and distance 2 starts back, moves to the Jorge Delgado barn via the claim after finishing 4th vs \$35,000 claimers going 6 furlongs last out. The barn, 28% with new claims, readied her for this assignment with a bullet half-mile drill.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-5

RACE 9:

3 GRAN MALBEC is stretching out slightly to a mile and a sixteenth after breaking from an outside post, stalking the pace, getting the lead, and then getting nailed late when finishing 2nd in a 3-horse blanket finish. Trainer Armando De La Cerda has Emisael Jaramillo handling the rematch with **6 UNTRED**, who finished in a dead heat with him for 2nd after they were caught by upset winner Farley. The latter, trained by Elizabeth Dobles, has Leonel Reyes returning on the son of English Channel.

7 TIL THE END is stretching out slightly after finishing full of run when fifth -only 1 ½ lengths behind the aforementioned blanket finish. Jorge Delgado has Edgard Zayas up.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-7

BEST BET: RACE 6 – 2 TROPHY CHASER

LONGSHOT: RACE 5 – 8 GLOBAL EMPIRE