



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



Saturday, February 27, 2021

RACE 1:

10 PASS THE CHAMPAGNE is wheeling back after the eventful career debut at the distance in which she was away slowly, steadied at the 5/8th-pole, and still managed to finish and okay 2nd. George Weaver takes over the training, and has John Velazquez handling the outside draw.

6 CHAMPAGNE SALUTE is a daughter of Runhappy debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with a series of sharp workouts showing at Palm Beach Downs: Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

5 FRONT STREET is turning back to 7 furlongs after debuting locally to set the pace and finish 2nd going a 1-turn mile. Trainer Ken McPeck has Corey Lanerie atop the daughter of Street Sense.

SELECTIONS: 10-6-5

RACE 2:

7 NOCTURNAL is stepping up to face winners after returning from the almost 10-month layoff to defeat a field of maiden special weight runners at this distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez atop the lightly raced son of Palace Malice. **2 BEAU LUMINARIE** is cutting back to a mile on the dirt after returning from the layoff to finish a game 2nd vs this level of competition going a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Note the gelding has run well on the dirt here in the past. **5 KID BOURBON** should have the screws tightened after returning from the layoff to finish a needed 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Mark Hennig has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-5

RACE 3: THE HERECOMESTHEBRIDE (G3)

6 TOBY'S HEART makes her sophomore debut at a mile and a sixteenth after the pair of impressive sprints last summer in which she followed her debut maiden score at Churchill with a dominating win in the Bolton Landing, a key-race that's produced 4 next-out stake's winners from 6 starters. **3 CON LIMA** is stretching out to 8 ½ furlongs after her 2-race win streak ended when she followed a victory in the 1-mile Ginger Brew with a set-the-pace 2nd in the 1-mile Grade 3 Sweetest Chant. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Irad atop the one to beat. **1 SPANISH LOVEAFFAIR**, a perfect 2 for 2 on the GP turf, returns after finishing 6th in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. The Grade 2 stakes-placed daughter of Karakontie has Tyler in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-1

RACE 4: THE MAC DIARMIDA (G2)

8 ADMISSION OFFICE, who was 2nd to classy Zulu Alpha in this race last year, returns after rallying late to finish 3rd – beaten a length – in the Grade 3 Tampa Bay last out. Trainer Brian Lynch has Julien Leparoux handling the stretchout to 11 furlongs.

3 TIDE OF THE SEA is turning back after following the troubled trip in the Grade 2 Ft Lauderdale with a game front running score in the 12-furlong G3 McKnight. Trainer Mike Maker has Tyler going for 2 in a row. **7 AQUAPHOBIA** drops into a competitive spot after finishing an ambitious 8th in the Grade 1 Pegasus Turf. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz atop the hard-knocking 8-year-old.

SELECTIONS: 8-3-7

RACE 5:

4 COLLABORATE is stretching out to a mile after recovering from a slow start to finish a late-closing 5th in his 6-furlong debut in the slop. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr is 21% with maidens making their 2nd start. **3 FULL COURT PRESS** is stretching out after running into a buzz saw when finishing 4th behind much-the-best winner Prevalence in his 7-furlong debut. Trainer Bill Mott has go-to jock Junior Alvarado in the irons. **6 BENNYFROMTHEBRONX** is a \$300,000 son of Tapit debuting for trainer Chad Brown with string of solid workouts showing at Payson Park. Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-6

RACE 6: THE PALM BEACH

3 SCARLETT SKY will try to make it 2 in a row after responding to the addition of Lasix with an impressive \$75,000 optional claiming victory at the distance. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Jose Ortiz atop the son of Sky Mesa. **6 FIGHTING FORCE** is back locally after following his 2nd place finish here in the Dania Beach with a duel-for-the-lead 4th in the Texas Turf Mile at Sam Houston. Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez handling the stretchout to a mile and a sixteenth. **2 ANNEX** is making his stakes debut after the impressive first-out victory in which he rallied wide to defeat special weight runners going a mile. Trainer Bill Mott has the son of Constitution training sharply on the Payson Park turf.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-2

RACE 7:

5 WEST WILL POWER has trained sharply after putting his 2-race win streak on the line when he finished 2nd going a mile here on December 3rd. Trainer Kelly Breen has Javier Castellano in the irons. **2 SUPERFECTO** is stepping up the competition after returning from Belmont to crush a field of \$25,000 optional claimers here by almost 6 lengths. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Emisael Jaramillo going for 2 in a row.

3 CLEAR DESTINATION is turning back to a mile after making a bid for the lead and weakening to finish 4th vs similar quality going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Bill Tharrenos has Edgard Zayas in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-3

RACE 8: THE CANADIAN TURF (G3)

6 VENEZULEAN HUG will try to make it 3 in a row at the distance after victories in the Sunshine Turf Preview at GP West, and the Sunshine Turf here last out. Trainer Danny Gargan is 27% winning consecutive races.

9 WINTERS BACK is making his stakes debut after following back-to-back turf victories at Aqueduct with a 2nd place finish going a mile vs a solid group of \$62,500 optional claimers, including **2 OLYMPIC RUNNER**. The latter, who came from the clouds to defeat Winters Back last out, has a lot of graded stakes experience showing north of the border. Trainer Mark Casse has John Velazquez atop the classy son of Gio Ponti.

SELECTIONS: 6-9-2

RACE 9: THE WINSTAR GULFSTREAM MILE (G2)

4 PERFORMER, a beautiful son of Speightstown, got back to his winning way when he dueled through the lane and held sway to win the Grade 3 Fred Hooper last out. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Jose Ortiz named on the winner of 6 of 8 races. **6 AVANT GARDE** was solid in defeat when the 5-time local winner rallied to finish 3rd behind Performer and **3 EYE OF THE JEDI** last out. The latter, trained by Steve Budhoo, is an overachieving 6-year-old who never runs a bad race, and who gave Performer all he could handle last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-3

RACE 10:

2 OPRY is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the 9-month layoff to finish 4th behind classy Olympic Runner in an \$62,500 optional claimer going a mile last out. It's Pletcher and Irad! **8 BODECREAM** is debuting locally, and making his first start since setting the pace and finishing 2nd in an overnight stake on the Fair Grounds turf. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz atop the Grade 2 stakes-placed 4-year-old. **9 STREET READY**, who has run well on the turf here in the past, makes his first start since getting beat a nose in the Grade 3 Transylvania at Keeneland last July. Trainer Ian Wilkes has Miguel Vazquez in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-9

RACE 11: THE HONEY FOX (G3)

2 GOT STORMY, an 8-time winner at the distance, stretches out after breaking from a tough outside post and finishing 5th – beaten 2 lengths – against the boys in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. Trainer Mark Casse has Tyler Gaffalione atop the multiple Grade 1 stakes-placed mare.

6 ZOFELLE (IRE) will try to make it 2 in a row after drawing clear – as the favorite – to win the Grade 3 Marshua's River here last out. Trainer Brendan Walsh tabs Irad to ride, as Tyler sticks with the top choice. **7 FEEL GLORIOUS (GB)** is making her local return the first start since rallying to win the Forever Together at Aqueduct. Trainer Christophe Clement has Junior Alvarado going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-7

RACE 12: THE DAVONA DALE (G2)

3 VEQUIST is making her sophomore debut after a stella 2-year-old campaign in which she won the Grade 1 Spinaway by 9 lengths, was 2nd to Dayoutoftheoffice in the Frizette, and returned the favor when she beat her in the Grade 1 Breeder's Cup Juvenile Filles. **5 MILLEFEUILLE** is making her first start since following her maiden victory at the distance with a 2nd-place finish in the 9-furlong Grade 2 Demoiselle in the slop at Aqueduct. Trainer Bill Mott has John Velazquez atop the daughter of Curlin.

6 CRAZY BEAUTIFUL, who was 2nd to classy Simply Ravishing in the Grade 1 Alcibiades, cuts back to a mile after failing to fire behind Vequist in the Juvenile Fillies.

SELECTIONS: 3-5-6

RACE 13: THE VERY ONE (G3)

9 WAR LIKE GODDESS is making her stakes debut at a mile & three-sixteenths after going undefeated in her 2 turf races at Churchill, which includes the victory in an 11-furlong allowance. Trainer Bill Mott has Julien Leparoux atop the daughter of English Channel. **10 SISTER HANAN** is turning back after following her allowance optional claiming score going a mile with a 4th place finish in the 12-furlong Grade 3 La Prevoyante. **7 BACCHANALIA** is making her stakes debut for trainer Chad Brown after returning from the layoff to score here going a mile and a sixteenth. The previous winner here at the distance will have Irad going for 2 in a row.

SELECTIONS: 9-10-7

RACE 14: THE FASIG-TIPTON FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH (G2)

8 GREATEST HONOUR is going for 3 in a row locally after following his maiden victory at the distance with a head-swirling score in the Grade 3 Holy Bull. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Jose Ortiz atop the son of Tapit.

4 FIRE AT WILL, who won the With Anticipation at the Spa in the slop, will try to the dirt again after following his victory on the turf in the Grade 2 Pilgrim with a commanding score in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. Trainer Mike Maker has Kendrick Carmouche handling the surface switch.

1 DRAIN THE CLOCK is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after dominating victories in the 6-furlong Limehouse, and the 7-furlong Grade 3 Swale. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Edgard Zayas handling the added real estate.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-1

BEST BET: RACE 8 – 6 VENEZUELAN HUG

LONGSHOT: RACE 13 – 9 WAR LIKE GODDESS