



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



Saturday, September 4, 2021

RACE 1:

3 ROYAL WAR stretches out to a mile vs open company after pair of well-meant 2nd place finishes vs \$25,000 state-bred competition. Kathleen O'Connell has Emisael Jaramillo up. **1 AL HILAL** is cutting back to 8 furlongs after rallying to finish 2nd – beaten a length vs similar – going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Juan C Avila has Chantal Sutherland handling the inside draw. **4 GONNA BE EPIC** is dropping to this level after following the 4th place finish vs \$50,000 maidens on the grass with poor showing vs \$50,000 types on the main track. Terri Pompay adds 2nd-time blinkers for the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-4

RACE 2:

7 LYRICAL has been knocking on the door in back-to-back sprints at this level, and may have found the spot where she can notch the elusive 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' condition. Gilberto Zerpa has Emisael Jaramillo up. **2 LIGHTS ON GIRL** is hoping for clear sailing after shaking off traffic problems on the turn when finishing a late charging 2nd at this level and distance. Barry Croft has Miguel Vazquez atop the sophomore. **1 NENITA** will depart from the rail after breaking from the outside (Post 12), vying for the lead, and yielding late vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs. The turnback to 5 ½ can be the key to her success.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-1

RACE 3:

8 KAHIKO is stretching out to 8 ½ furlongs after returning from the layoff to defeat this level of opposition going 7 ½ furlongs, which was her 3rd turf victory in her last 4 starts. Kent Sweezey has Samy Camacho in the irons. **10 SMART SPENDING** is stretching out after returning from the 2-month freshening to finish a useful 5th vs similar going a mile. Victor Barboza Jr has leading jock Edgard Zayas handling the stretchout. **4 ZODIAC PRINCESS** is stepping up the competition after rallying to defeat \$16,000 starter allowance runners at the distance. Laura Cazares has Miguel Vazquez returning on the 2-time winner at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 8-10-4

RACE 4:

6 GREATEST GLORY is wheeling back after finishing a distant 2nd – in front of a pair of next-out winners – in a fruitful sprint at this level and distance. Dan Pita has Cristian Torres up. **4 DEL REY DOLLY** is stepping up to the \$25,000 level after racing greenly on the backstretch and still managing to finish 2nd vs \$12,500 maidens. The speed figure she posted in her last indicates she can compete at this level. Mark Casse has Edwin Gonzalez atop this intriguing choice.

3 SCIENCE FRICTION is a daughter of Ocean Knight (Curlin) debuting for Armando De La Cerda with string of solid workouts showing over the track. Marcos Meneses rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-3

RACE 5: THE MISS GRACIE

7 STARSHIP ENTERPRISE is returning to the turf after highlighting both her versatility, and her form, when she came within a neck of winning the rained out \$75,000 Monroe Stakes last out. Steve Dwoskin deputizes Samy Camacho to ride. **1 SUNSHINE CITY** is turning back to a mile after using her speed to post her 2nd consecutive victory when she defeated \$35,000 conditioned claimers at a mile and a sixteenth by almost 6 lengths. Speed from the rail is always an enticing choice. **5 TIK TOK FAMOUS (GB)**, 1 of 3 entered in the field by leading trainer Saffie Joseph Jr, is hoping to bounce back after following the impressive maiden victory with a slow starting last in the \$75,000 Honey Ryder Stakes. Emisael Jaramillo rides.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-5

RACE 6:

9 BEASTFROMTHEEAST is dropping to the \$16,000 level after following the 5th place finish behind recent Affirmed Stakes winner Octane under special weight conditions with a 3rd place finish vs \$35,000 maidens last out. Rory Miller has Jesus Rios up.

7 ADVENTURE SEEKER is freefalling to this level after following the 3rd place finish in her \$50,000 debut with a clunker vs maiden special weight competition last out. Kathleen O'Connell keeps the status quo with E Jaramillo in the saddle. **8 VENEZUELAN TRIUMPH** wheels back after rallying to finish 2nd – in front of a pair of next-out winners – at this level and distance. Miguel Vazquez rides for Victor Barboza Jr.

SELECTIONS: 9-7-8



RACE 7:

2 LADY JAE is stepping up to face winners after returning from the layoff, with Lasix added, and rallying from far back to defeat \$12,500 maidens going 7 ½ furlongs. David Fawkes is 28% winning consecutive races. **10 LA RUSIA** is turning back to a mile after making a move to get the lead before settling for 2nd going a mile and a sixteenth. The obvious concern is the filly's penchant for finishing 2nd or 3rd (23-1-10-3). **9 CATUS KITTEN** is going back to the grass after following a solid 2nd at this level on the turf with a poor showing on the dirt. Enrigue Amado has Hector Berrios atop this shaky proposition.

SELECTIONS: 2-10-9

RACE 8:

3 SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL will try to make it 3 in a row after proving the maiden score wasn't a one-shot deal when she came right back to score at this level and distance. Carlos David has Samy Camacho going for the hat trick. **5 LAST LEAF** is hoping to make amends after dueling for the lead and fading to finish 5th – as the odds-on choice – behind She's So Beautiful last out. Trainer Ron Spatz removes the blinkers trying to throttle down her keen early interest. **2 STORY TOLD**, 2nd behind the top choice in her \$50,000 debut, renews the rivalry after dueling throughout and holding sway to break her maiden going 5 ½ furlongs last out. Edgard Zayas handles the rematch.

SELECTIONS: 3-5-2

RACE 9:

7 BRETT'S WORLD gets the tepid nod after setting modest early fractions and still getting nailed at the wire when sent off at 18-1 last out. Bobby Dibona has Leonel Reyes in the irons. **4 SHANGHAI RONNIE** is getting a slew of karma changes when he plunges to the \$12,500 level, and debuts on the turf, after following his debut victory with a poor showing vs \$75,000 optional claimers going 6 furlongs on the dirt. Trainer Louie Rousell III has E Jaramillo handling the combo dropdown/surface switch. **8 TRACEABILITY** is looking to find a little more firepower for the stretch run after following the \$12,500 maiden score with a stalk-and-flatten 4th at this level and distance. Joe Catanese III has Jonathan Gonzales up.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-8

RACE 10:

3 SUPERSTITIEUX is hoping for a trouble-free trip after breaking in a tangle, stalking along the rail; and then going 5-wide at the 3/16th pole when beaten only a half-length in his debut at the distance. Gustavo Delgado secures the services of Edgard Zayas for this assignment. **6 CLASSICSTATEOFMIND** is a son of Classic Empire (Pioneerofthe Nile) debuting for Kelsey Danner, who has a 22%-win average with her freshman runners. Miguel Vazquez rides. **5 MO Z** is a \$230,000 son of Uncle Mo, out of the Awesome Again mare Awesome Frances, debuting for trainer Kathy Ritvo with the breeding needed to be a good thing. Luca Panici rides.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-5

RACE 11:

4 SEVEN CHANNELS will race with the blinkers off after following his \$50,000 maiden score with a stalk-the-pace 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Lisa Lewis readied the gelded son of English Channel with a bullet 5-furlong drill on the Palm Meadows turf. **6 THE VIRGINIAN** is stretching out to 8 ½ furlongs after encountering traffic problems at the top of the stretch (lacked room) when going a mile last out. His performance 2 starts back, when 2nd, is good enough to win here. **2 SURPRISE FACTOR** has some races on the go-back at this level that puts him right in the hunt with this caliber of competition. Kent Sweezey has Edwin Gonzalez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-2

RACE 12:

6 TAPPING is dropping to the \$6,250 level after posting back-to-back 3rd place finishes vs \$12,500 claimers before going to the sidelines back in May. Gilberto Zerpa has Venezuelan Phenom Jean Briceno named to ride. **10 BARREL PROOF** is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after yielding late to finish 2nd – at 38-1 - vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs. Joe Catanese III has Gaddiel Martinez up. **9 NO COMMISSION** moves to the Mark Passley barn via the claim after tracking the pace and finishing 4th behind Barrel Proof going 6 ½ furlongs last out. Wilmer Galviz rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-10-9

BEST BET: RACE 10 – 3 SUPERSTITIEUX

LONGSHOT: RACE 7 – 2 LADY JAE