



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



Sunday, February 21, 2021

RACE 1:

6 THORN is dropping to the \$35,000 level, and returning to the turf, after following a 4th place finish vs special weight competition sprinting on the Saratoga grass with 5th place finish on the Spa main track. Trainer Bill Mott, winning races here at a 30% clip, adds Lasix, and Junior Alvarado for the return. **3 EAMONN** is wheeling back after stalking the pace and finishing a promising 5th – beaten 1 ¼ lengths – in his career turf debut at this level and distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Tyler Gaffalione atop the son of Pioneerofthe Nile. **7 COMMAND CENTRAL** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after responding to the dropdown in competition with a late-closing 3rd going a mile vs \$25,000 maidens. Trainer Dale Romans has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-7

RACE 2:

5 PICKING UP PENNIES drops to the \$35,000 level, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile, after showing improved speed when blinkers and Lasix were added for his recent distant 3rd place finish vs state-bred special weight competition going 6 ½ furlongs. Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

6 CONVERTER was solid in defeat when dueling for the lead and finishing 2nd at this level and distance. Trainer Jena Antonucci adds 2nd-time Lasix, and first-time Irad Ortiz Jr. **2 SANDY DUDE**, beaten only three-quarters of a length when 2nd in his career debut at this level and distance, drops after clunker vs state-bred special weight runners last out.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-2

RACE 3:

7 MAKISUPA (GB) is plunging to the \$12,500 level after following her \$50,000 maiden victory going a mile with a set-the-pace-and-fade outing vs \$35,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going 8 ½ furlongs last out. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Tyler in the saddle again.

4 LA RUSIA, who is 7 for 9 'in the money' on the Gulfstream turf, returns after getting rained out in a pair of \$25,000 claimers moved to the GP West main track. Trainer Amador Sanchez has Edgard Zayas handling the homecoming.

3 TAILADIOS is dropping a notch, and stretching out, after finishing a late-running 6th – beaten a couple of lengths – vs \$16,000 '2-lifetime' foes going a mile.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-3

RACE 4:

2 VIVA LA RED, a half-sister to million-dollar earner Diamond Oops, is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after losing her best chance when she stumbled at the start of what turned out to be a 'key' race that produced a trio of next-out winners. Trainer Patrick Biancone has the sophomore training sharply, and tabs Javier Castellano to ride.

6 PHAROAH'S BELLE is stretching out around 2-turns after finishing a workman-like 4th in her 7-furlong career debut. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 24% with both horses making their 2nd start, and stretching out, has the daughter of American Pharoah firing bullets for this assignment. **1 BOW BOW GIRL**, the only horse in the field with previous experience at this distance, is hoping to break sharply after stumbling and bumping at the start prior to finishing a distant 3rd last out. Trainer Dale Romans has Corey Lanerie handling the tough inside post.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-1

RACE 5:

4 DON'T GET KHOZY is a consistent daughter of Khozan, who was sharp defeating \$12,500 state-bred optional claimers 2 starts back, and a game 3rd vs a notch tougher last out, gets the call in this competitive starter optional claimer. Trainer Antonio Sano has Irad named to ride. **1 SKY CHASER**, who defeated the top choice in August, and was 3rd behind her in the Claiming Crown Glass Slipper in December, renews the rivalry after the ambitious chase-and-fade outing at the \$62,500 level last out. **5 LAVI** is stepping up, and stretching out, after following a sharp victory at the distance, at the \$6,250 level, with a well-meant 2nd sprinting last out. Trainer Kent Sweezey has Luis Saez atop this upset possibility.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-5

**RACE 6:**

2 FINANCIAL SYSTEM, who has always faced better on the grass, drops into this \$16,000 dated-claimer after facing \$35-50,000 types in both local turf outings. Trainer Kelly Breen has Paco Lopez atop the 4-time turf winner. **7 TWENTY FOUR SEVEN** is turning back to a mile after running a bang-up 2nd – beaten a head – going a mile and a sixteenth vs this level of competition last out. Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler handling the turnback. **9 FARLEY** is stretching out slightly to a mile after rallying to finish 2nd in back-to-back races vs similar going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Antonio Sano has Jose Ortiz handling the outside draw.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-9

RACE 7:

8 TONS OF GOLD breaks from the outside, and gets the tepid nod, after the pair of 'in the money' finishes at this level and distance. Trainer Jose Garoffalo has Miguel Vazquez in the irons. **3 SAGE CANYON** is stepping up to the next level, and stretching out to a mile, after parlaying a late charge into a \$6,250 '2-lifetime' victory going 5 ½ furlongs.

2 RAGS FOR BRITCHES, who has run some races on the go-back that make him a player in this spot. Trainer Carlos Perez has Victor Lebron handling the geldings 25th start.

SELECTIONS: 8-3-2

RACE 8:

8 GOTTA GO MO has been burning the Palm Meadows turf course in preparation for the first start since breaking her maiden here last April. Trainer John Kimmel has Luis Saez returning on the \$425,000 daughter of Uncle Mo. **2 ANGELCENTS** is stepping up the competition after the sharp local debut in which she drew clear to defeat \$16,000 state-bred optional claimers at this 5-furlong distance. Trainer Larry Rivelli, 30% winning consecutive races, has Irad Ortiz Jr going for 2 in a row. **1 AWSUM ROAR**, who does her best running from a stalk/close position, can end up sitting a dream trip off what should be some glib early fractions. Trainer Antonio Sano has strong finisher Edgard Zayas at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 8-2-1

RACE 9:

5 HEIRESSINDY is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after a couple of sharp outings going a mile in which she was beaten a neck vs \$35,000 optional claimers 2 starts back, and was 3rd behind stakes-faced Hallawallah last out. Trainer Terri Pompay has Paco handling the first-ever try at the distance. **6 SLAM DUNK**, now in the Shug McGaughey barn, the \$450,000 daughter of Into Mischief makes her first start since the chase-and-fade outing in the Grade 3 Beaumont at Keeneland last July. The 4-year-old, working consistently at Payson Park, has Jose Ortiz in the irons. **2 DON'T CALL ME MARY** will race with blinkers off in the first start since she bobbled twice and was eased in an allowance race at Saratoga last September. Trainer Todd Pletcher has the daughter of El Padrino working consistently at Palm Beach Downs in preparation for her 4-year-old debut.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-2

RACE 10:

7 TUSK has his claiming tag carved in half after tracking the pace and coming up empty – as the favorite - in a \$35,000 claimer going a mile last out. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione atop the winner of 2020 Grade 3 Tropical Turf. **8 ANOTHER** is cutting back to a mile after opening and surrendering an early 8-length lead when finishing 3rd – beaten a head – going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Jose Gallegos has Edgard Zayas in the saddle.

5 OUTSHINE is stretching out to a mile after stalking the pace and finishing 5th behind next-out winner J P Hellish going 7 ½ furlongs last out. The 5-year-old is worth a flyer at a price.

SELECTIONS: 7-8-5

RACE 11:

2 FEELING DANGEROUS is dropping to the \$16,000 level after bumping at the start when finishing 6th behind next-out winners Call Curt and Souper Energizer in a \$35,000 maiden race going a mile on the grass. Trainer Jose D'Angelo has Edgard Zayas in the irons. **9 MAGICAL CAUSE** is dropping a notch after stalking the pace and finishing 3rd vs \$20,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Kent Sweezey has Angel Arroyo up. **11 CUY** will break from the outside after recovering from a slow start to finish 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Elizabeth Dobles has Luis Saez named to ride this intriguing closer.

SELECTIONS: 2-9-11

BEST BET: RACE 8 – GOTTA GO MO

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 2 FEELING DANGEROUS