



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



Wednesday, February 24, 2021

## RACE 1:

**7 UNION PARK GAL (IRE)** is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and turning back to 7 ½ furlongs, after showing tactical speed and weakening late vs \$25,000 maidens going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Rodolphe Brisset has Edgard Zayas named to ride.

**8 NOT TONIGHT BOBBY** is hoping to find more for the stretch drive after responding to the dropdown in competition with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Jose Ortiz in the saddle again. **2 KATE'S KINGDOM**, a daughter of Animal Kingdom, is debuting on the turf with the breeding needed to excel on both the surface, and at the distance: Irad Ortiz Jr. rides.

**SELECTIONS: 7-8-2**

## RACE 2:

**3 MAN OF VISION** is going for 3 races in as row after stalking the pace, shifting out at the top of the stretch, and drawing clear to win by 1 ½ lengths. Trainer Ron Spatz has Junior Alvarado in the irons.

**1 HIGH HEATER** is dropping to the \$12,500 level on the dirt, and turning back to a sprint distance, after failing to fire when finishing 6<sup>th</sup> behind a pair of next-out winners on the turf. Red hot trainer Peter Walder is 8 for 29 (42%) with the combo turf to dirt, and route to sprint angles. **6 SANDYS BLAZE** has his claiming tag carved in half after facing tougher throughout his 13-race campaign. Trainer Antonio Sano has leading jock Irad Ortiz Jr handling the dropdown.

**SELECTIONS: 3-1-6**

## RACE 3:

**5 SHOUG** is dropping to the \$25,000 level, and adding blinkers, after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$35,000 maidens going 5 furlongs here during December. Trainer Ralph Nicks, 4 for 13 (31%) with first-time blinkers, has Tyler Gaffalione atop the daughter of Khozan.

**4 SEAMIALAUGH** should be primed and ready to offer more after a game outing, from a demanding post, in which she split horses at the top of the stretch and rallied to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a half-length.

**6 INTO CANDY** is dropping to the \$25,000 level, and debuting on the turf, after stalking the pace and weakening to finish 5<sup>th</sup> in her maiden special weight debut going 6 ½ furlongs on the main track. Trainer George Weaver, 5 for 16 (38%) with similar class drops, has Javier Castellano named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 5-4-6**

## RACE 4:

**5 PERSPECTIVE** moved to the Danny Gargan barn via the claim, and gets Lasix, after returning from the layoff to duel for the lead and weaken to finish 5<sup>th</sup> at this level and distance. The new connections have Tyler Gaffalione named to ride. **7 ROYAL WAR** is a son of Declaration of War debuting for trainer Kathleen O'Connell with Lasix, and Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. The sophomore debuts with 9 GP West workouts showing. **8 WORK ETHIC** is making his 3-year-old debut on the main track, with Lasix added, after showing speed and fading in his \$50,000 debut going 5 furlongs on the turf here during December. Trainer Victor Barboza Jr removes the blinkers, and has Paco Lopez handling the surface switch.

**1 AMERICAN RULER**, a half-brother to Grade 1 Preakness runner-up Ever Fast, debuts locally for Mark Hennig after ending his campaign up north with a stalk-the-pace 4<sup>th</sup> vs similar going 6 furlongs at Aqueduct. The \$190,000 son of American Pharoah gets Lasix, and has Junior Alvarado in the irons.

**SELECTIONS: 5-7-8-1**

## RACE 5:

**1 NACHO PAPA** moves to the Carlos David barn via the claim after tracking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 state-bred optional claimers at this mile distance. The barn, over the last 2 years, is 5 for 18 (28%) with new claims running on the dirt.

**2 BRASSTOWN** is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after opening an early 4-length lead before weakening to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Antonio Sano has Edgard Zayas returning on the gelded son of Tiznow. **6 MEADE** proved he could win at this level and distance when he stepped up from the \$6,250 level and held on to win by a neck - at odds of 10-1- last out. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez has Junior Alvarado going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-6**

**RACE 6:**

**7 MACH ONE** is hoping to keep a straight course through the lane after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> before being placed 5<sup>th</sup> for drifting out and impeding a rival. Trainer Wesley Ward, 25% with maidens making their 2<sup>nd</sup> start, keeps the status quo with John Velazquez in the saddle.

**6 DASSULT MIRAGE** exits the same race as Mach One, and was placed 4<sup>th</sup> when the former was disqualified. More importantly the pair exit a race that's produced a pair of next-out winners, including repeat winner Kasim. **4 ALADO** proved he could compete at the \$50,000 level when he followed the well-meant 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$25,000 types with a 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Antonio Sano has Irad in the saddle again.

**SELECTIONS: 7-6-4**

**RACE 7:**

**3 INCLUDE THE BEAST** is dropping, and stretching out to three-quarters of a mile, after chasing the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> behind speedy R Adios Jersey – and in front of a pair of next-out winners - in a state-bred allowance going 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Marcial Navarro has Irad at the controls. **4 SUNSHINE CITY** moved to the Danny Gargan barn via the claim, goes back to the main track, and adds blinkers, after tracking the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> – beaten a half-length – vs this level of competition going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Gargan, 26% with the turf to dirt move, has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride. **5 VIVA LA REINA** is dropping to the \$35,000 level, and removing the blinkers, hoping both karma changes produce a winning performance. Trainer Carlos David has Emisael Jaramillo handling the class relief.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-5**

**RACE 8:**

**2 NOBLE INDY** drops to the \$35,000 level after an eventful trip at the \$50,000 level. The 6-year-old was stuck in traffic turning for home, then had to steady sharply in the stretch, and still managed to finish 2<sup>nd</sup>. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez in the saddle.

**6 TIZZARUNNER** is dropping to this level after ending his 2020 campaign with a victory here at the \$62,500 level, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively, vs \$62,500 optional claimers on the Churchill turf. Trainer Brian Lynch has Julien Leparoux handling the dropdown.

**7 GO POKE THE BEAR** is hoping for clear sailing after encountering traffic when finishing a late-closing 5<sup>th</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Mike Maker has Irad Ortiz Jr returning on the son of Kitten's Joy.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-7**

**RACE 9:**

**4 CAUSALISTIC** is stretching out to a mile (3-2-1-0) after returning from the 9-month layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs this level of competition going 6 furlongs. That performance was highlighted when Ludington came back to win again on Saturday.

**1 WICKSTERS DREAM** moved to the Larry Rivelli barn via the claim, and stretches out to 8 furlongs, after stalking the pace and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Causalistic last out. The barn, 32% with new claims, has Tyler Gaffalione handling the stretchout. **7 ROCKET BLAST** will try \$20,000 conditioned claimers at a mile after returning from GP West and finishing a stalk-and-fade 6<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 starter allowance runners going 7 furlongs. The previous winner at the distance should have the screws tightened in the 2<sup>nd</sup> race off the bench.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-7**

**RACE 10:**

**6 TODAYSTHEDAY**, 2<sup>nd</sup> behind logical choice Nitro Time in a \$25,000 maiden sprint in December, renews the rivalry after responding to the addition of Lasix with a solid \$50,000 maiden score at the distance. Trainer Carlos David has Emisael Jaramillo handling the rematch. **7 NITRO TIME** will try to make it 4 victories in a row after dueling throughout and holding sway to defeat \$75,000 optional claimers, and keep his record on the local turf unblemished (3-3-0-0). Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione going for the 4-peat.

**5 KASIM** will try to make it 3 in a row after following his \$50,000 maiden score with a stalk-the-pace victory at this level and distance. Trainer Mike Maker has Luis Saez named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 6-7-5**

**BEST BET: RACE 8 – 2 NOBLE INDY**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 6 TODAYSTHEDAY**

