



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



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## RACE 1:

**1 SHOUG** will be outfitted with blinkers after returning the 11-month layoff to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Tyler Gaffalione handling the inside post.

**5 SUSPICIOUS MINDS** is a daughter of Lemon Drop Kid debuting for trainer Christophe Clement with Lasix, and a string of solid workouts showing in preparation for this assignment: Luis Saez rides.

**6 MUDSLIDE WICKED** is stepping up to the \$35,000 level after prompting the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the favorite – vs \$20,000 maidens going 5 furlongs. Her previous speed figure puts her right in the hunt vs this level of competition.

**SELECTIONS: 1-5-6**

## Race 2:

**5 DIVINE MARTHA**, who broke her maiden going 6 ½ furlongs on the GP West main track, is going back to the dirt after vying for the lead and tiring to finish 5<sup>th</sup> vs similar quality going a mile on the turf. Trainer Bill Tharrenos claimed her last out, and has Irad Ortiz Jr in the saddle. **6 FREEZER BURN** is dropping into this \$20,000 conditioned claimer after facing tougher with success before going to the sidelines last May. Trainer David Fawkes has Tyler Gaffalione atop the daughter of Kantharos.

**2 CAFFEINE RUSH** is another going back to the dirt after following an open-length victory, over 11 rivals, going 5 furlongs on a good GP West main track with a clunker going five-eighths on the turf here last out.

**SELECTIONS: 5-6-2**

## RACE 3:

**3 TRADE DEAL** is stretching out around 2-turns, and racing without blinkers, after showing speed and getting collared late in back-to-back stakes races contested at 6 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Wesley Ward has Irad Ortiz Jr named on the classy son of Fed Biz. **6 SCARLETT SKY**, who has run well at a mile in the past, is turning back, and getting Lasix, after failing to fire in the \$100,000 Central Park going a mile and a sixteenth on a good Aqueduct turf. Trainer Shug McGaughey has John Velazquez atop the son of Sky Mesa.

**4 SIR ROBERTO** is hoping to get away from the gate in in a timely fashion after breaking slowly and never getting untracked in his local debut going a mile. Trainer Brian Lynch adds Lasix, and has Julien Leproux in the irons.

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-4**

## RACE 4:

**3 MONTE NE** moved to the Kelly Breen barn via the claim, and steps up the competition, after the pair of solid local turf sprints in which he broke his maiden 2 starts back, and followed that with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish vs \$20,000 '2-lifetime' claimers here last out. Trainer Breen, a healthy 32% with new claims, tabs Paco Lopez to ride. **6 SCOTTY BROWN** is wheeling back after moving to the Jane Cibelli barn and finishing a game 2<sup>nd</sup> in his local debut at this level and distance: Junior Alvarado rides. **2 SMOKE ALARM** is stepping up to face winners after breaking from Post 11 and setting fractions of 21 & 1 and 43 & 4 on route to a 3 ½-length victory vs \$20,000 maidens. Trainer Paul Kopaj has Hall of Fame jock Edgar Prado going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-2**

## RACE 5:

**3 GAGA OH LA LA** is stepping up, stretching out, and getting Lasix, after breaking from a demanding outside post (12) and finishing a promising 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$12,500 maidens going 5 ½ furlongs. She'll be tested for class with Cristian Torres in the saddle.

**1 ELLIEREESTON** is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and getting both Lasix and blinkers, after finishing a well-beaten 4<sup>th</sup> in her \$35,000 debut at the distance. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler Gaffalione handling the inside post.

**5 R TENDERONI** is debuting locally at three-quarters of a mile after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$16,000 maidens going 7 furlongs on sloppy Tampa main track. Trainer Georgina Baxter adds Lasix, and Irad Ortiz Jr to the equation.

**SELECTIONS: 3-1-5**

**RACE 6:**

**7 COLONEL TOM** will try to make it 2 in a row after the successful local debut at this level and distance. Trainer Brittany Russell, 24% winning consecutive races, has Edgard Zayas atop the son of Colonel John. **4 APACHE BRAVE** should be primed and ready to finally score locally after returning to the Georgina Baxter barn and finishing a troubled 4<sup>th</sup> (traffic) at this level and distance. However, the zero-for-21 record on the Gulfstream turf is a concern.

**5 HERO TIGER** is cutting back to 5 furlongs after returning locally and finishing a game 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$16,000 claimers going a mile. Note that he has run well at the distance, on both turf and dirt, in the past.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-5**

**RACE 7:**

**3 DON'T GET KHOZY** is returning to the state-bred optional claiming ranks after rallying from well off the pace to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> to repeat winner Descente in the Claiming Crown Glass Slipper. Trainer Antonio Sano has Irad returning on the daughter of Khozan.

**5 DIZZY** is making the 3<sup>rd</sup> start of her current form cycle after responding to a dropdown in competition with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Juan Alvarado has Junior Alvarado named to ride. **2 MISS PEPPINA** is stretching out to a mile after returning from the layoff to finish a distant, but much-needed 3<sup>rd</sup> vs this caliber of competition going 6 furlongs. Leading trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez atop the daughter of Bayren, who has some respectable graded stakes efforts in her past.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-2**

**RACE 8:**

**7 KRSTO SKYE**, stakes-placed sprinting on both turf and dirt, is going back to the grass after returning locally and crushing the competition – as the odds-on choice – in the 6-furlong Claiming Crown Express. Trainer Carlos David has Irad going for 2 in a row. **2 INFINITE** is making her local turf debut the first start since failing to fire when trying the synthetic surface at Turfway Park. Trainer Wesley Ward, 20% with the synthetic to grass angle, has John Velazquez on the multiple winner sprinting on the lawn (4-2-0-1). **5 FULLY LOADED**, who was 2<sup>nd</sup> to impressive winner Fiya in the Claiming Crown Canterbury, and 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$62,500 turf sprinters last out, is spotted perfectly vs \$16,000 starter allowance competition.

**SELECTIONS: 7-2-5**

**RACE 9:**

**3 WOODFIN**, who likes to run long, is dropping into the optional claiming ranks after failing to fire vs a stellar field of Grade 3 runners going 11 furlongs on the Del Mar turf. The daughter of Gio Ponti will have Julien Leparoux trying to spring the late-closing upset. **6 WHATDOESASHARKSAY** is making her local return for trainer Jim Toner the first race since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> going 11 furlongs on the Saratoga turf. The daughter of Animal Kingdom is reunited with jockey Luis Saez. **1 SHE THROWS HEAT**, a daughter of Honor Code, is stretching out to a mile & three-eighths after following her 9-furlong maiden victory at Belmont with a late-closing 5<sup>th</sup> – beaten 2 lengths – going 8 ½ furlongs on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Jose Ortiz handling the added real estate. **8 CRYSTALLE**, a daughter of Palace Malice, is debuting at this marathon distance after showing some late interest when finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in her local debut going a mile and a sixteenth. She'll do her best running in the latter stages of the race.

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-1-8**

**RACE 10:**

**1 DIENDA** is dropping to the \$12,500 level, and turning back to 5 ½ furlongs on the dirt, after setting the pace and tiring vs \$20,000 '3-lifetime' claimers going a mile on the turf. Trainer Mark Casse has Luis Saez handling the surface switch. **2 DOMINEER** is hoping to save more for the stretch drive after opening and surrendering an early 6-length lead when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> vs similar going three-quarters of a mile. The slight turnback to 5 ½ furlongs can be the key to her success. **6 SENSE A MILLION** is cutting back slightly, and facing 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' runners, after rallying to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$12,500 open-claimers going 6 furlongs. She's spotted perfectly in the nightcap.

**SELECTIONS: 1-2-6**

**BEST BET: RACE 10 – 1 DIENDA**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 3 WOODFIN**