



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



Saturday, January 29, 2022

RACE 1: THE SOUTH BEACH

4 YAMATO is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after returning from the layoff to defeat this familiar competition going a mile and a sixteenth on the Tapeta. Luis Saez rides for Murat Sancal. **11 TOWN CLASSIC** moves to the Gustavo Delgado barn via the claim, and stretches out on the all-weather surface, after the second-place finish going seven furlongs on the dirt. The 9-year-old, seven for nine in the money on all-weather surfaces, has Tyler Gaffalione up. **1 LIGHT FURY** will try to turn the tables on Yamato at nine furlongs after getting caught late when they hooked up at 8 ½ furlongs last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-11-1

RACE 2:

9 HAPPY BOY ROCKET is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth with Lasix and blinkers added after rallying to finish third in his seven-furlong debut. Bill Mott, 26% with first-time blinkers, has Junior Alvarado atop the \$490,000 son of Runhappy. **10 COMPLETE AGENDA** is back locally after shipping up to Tampa and finishing second going a mile and 40-yards. Todd Pletcher adds Lasix, and has Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. **1 BEYOND BEST**, another from Todd Pletcher, the \$400,000 son of Curlin gets Lasix and blinkers after finishing a so-so fifth in his one-mile debut at Belmont. Luis Saez handles the inside post.

SELECTIONS: 9-10-1

RACE 3:

11 GLADYS, a full-sister of Rachel Alexandra, drops into this \$25,000 optional claimer after tracking the pace and faded in the \$100,000 Tropical Park Oaks. Trainer Kelsey Danner has Tyler Gaffalione looking to sit a 'key' stalking trip off the speed. **4 PASSION PLUS** was game in defeat when she rallied to finish second behind hard-knocking Sugar Fix in the Claiming Crown Tiara. She's another who should benefit from the hot pace, which includes **9 CHAMPAGNE LADY**. The latter steps up after using her speed to break her maiden going a mile on the local turf. Trainer Shug McGaughey has leading jock Luis Saez going for two in a row.

SELECTIONS: 11-4-9

RACE 4:

3 NO NAY FRANKLIN (IRE) is turning back to seven furlongs on the main track after vying for the lead and finishing third going 7 ½ furlongs on the turf. Patrick Biancone has Julien Leparoux handling the surface switch. **11 POSITIVE REVIEW** is stretching out with Lasix and blinkers after rallying to finish third behind impressive repeat winner Dean's List going six furlongs last out. Saffie Joseph Jr has Joel Rosario named to ride.

10 SWING SHIFT is a \$550,000 son of Midnight Storm debuting for Todd Pletcher with Lasix and Irad Ortiz Jr named to ride. The tote action should tell us more.

SELECTIONS: 3-11-10

RACE 5: THE LA PREVOYANTE (G3)

4 ALWAYS SHOPPING, the defending champ in the La Prevoyante, stretches out to 12 furlongs after adding to her horse-for-course status when winning the 11-furlong Via Borghese, and notching her fourth victory over the local turf. **6 BEAUTIFUL LOVER** is hoping to turn the tables on Always Shopping at a mile and a half after rallying to finish third behind her last out. Trainer Christophe Clement has Joel Rosario handling the rematch. **1 SORREL (IRE)**, another from Christophe Clement, is stretching out to her best distance (3-2-0-0) after failing to fire when finishing seventh behind the top two in the Via Borghese. Irad Ortiz Jr rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-1

RACE 6: THE CAROUSEL CUP

4 FROSTED OVER, a Grade 3 winner on the Woodbine Tapeta, cuts back to a mile and 70-yards after just missing his second Grade 3 victory when beaten a half-length by Sir Winston in the 12-furlong Valedictory Stakes. Mark Casse has Luis Saez in the irons.

7 TELEPHONE TALKER is hoping to dial up another victory after moving to the Saffie Joseph Jr and closing to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a \$62,500 optional claimer going this distance on the Tapeta. Tyler Gaffalione rides. **1 MISCHIEF AFOOT**, three for three in the money on all-weather surfaces, debuts locally for trainer Jim Toner looking to rebound from the slow starting performance in the Richard Small on the Laurel main track. Jose Ortiz handles the inside post.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-1

RACE 7: THE W. L. MCKNIGHT (G3)

10 ABAAN is turning back to a mile and a half after using his speed to notch his second consecutive victory when winning the two-mile H Allen Jerkens here last out. Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez rationing his speed. **1 TEMPLE**, a close-up second in this race last year, stretches out after responding in the first race after the \$80,000 claim by Mike Maker with a closing third in a \$100,000 optional claimer going 8 ½ furlongs on the Aqueduct turf. Umberto Rispoli rides. **9 GLYNN COUNTY**, a previous winner at this marathon 12-furlong distance, stretches out looking to recapture the form he displayed when third in the Grade 2 Turf Cup at Kentucky Downs, and the Grade 1 Mr D at Arlington. Mike Maker has Tyler Gaffalione atop the son of Kitten's Joy.

SELECTIONS: 10-1-9

RACE 8: THE INSIDE INFORMATION (G2)

5 FOUR GRACES is stretching out to her most accomplished distance (6-4-1-0) after rallying to finish second – beaten a nose – in a perfect table setter going six furlongs here last out. Ian Wilkes has Julien Leparoux returning on the multiple graded stakes winner at the distance. **7 JAKARTA** is making her local return the first start since drawing clear to win the seven-furlong \$100,000 Mrs Claus at Parx. Mike Trombetta has Irad Ortiz Jr at the controls. **8 JUST ONE TIME**, now in the Brad Cox barn, the Pa-bred will be tested for class after dominating state-bred competition at Presque Isle and Penn National. Joel Rosario rides this interesting proposition.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-8

RACE 9: THE PEGASUS F & M TURF (G3)

8 SUMMER IN SARATOGA seems poised to sit an ideal come-from-the-clouds trip behind a field that is stocked with horses that like to be on or with the pace. Trainer Joe Sharp reunites the daughter of Hard Spun with Corey Lanerie, who is going for a third consecutive stakes victory. **4 REGAL GLORY**, a versatile daughter of Animal Kingdom, comes off an impressive front running score in the one-mile Grade 1 Matriarch to merit the moniker of the one to beat. Trainer Chad Brown has Jose Ortiz named to ride. **1 SWEET MELANIA** goes from an outside post to the rail after dueling throughout and holding sway to defeat Shifty She and In a Hurry here in the Swanee River. Luis Saez rides the daughter of American Pharoah.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-1

RACE 10: THE FRED HOOPER (G3)

8 SPEAKER'S CORNER is turning back to a mile after the pair of impressive outings going longer in which he posted a 103 Beyer figure when second in the nine-furlong Discovery last out, and a whopping 109 Beyer when defeating \$80,000 optional claimers two starts back. Bill Mott has Junior Alvarado atop the son of Street Sense. **1 FEARLESS** is cutting back to a one-turn mile after stalking early, and drawing clear late, to win the mile and a sixteenth Grade 3 Harlan's Holiday in dominating fashion. Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez returning on the gelded son of Ghostzapper. **7 DENNIS' MOMENT** is stretching out after the productive local tune up in the seven-furlong Grade 3 Mr Prospector when rallying to finish third behind Officiating. The son of Tiznow should sit in the catbird seat behind the torrid pace expected.

SELECTIONS: 8-1-7

RACE 11: THE PEGASUS WORLD CUP TURF (G1)

12 NEVER SURPRISED is stretching out to nine-furlongs after the pair of head-swirling victories going a mile and a sixteenth in the Tropical Derby and Gio Ponti. Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez trying to turn the tables on stablemate, and defending champion **6 COLONEL LIAM**. The son of Liam's Map was sent to the sidelines for R & R after following his victories in the Grade 1 Pegasus Turf, the Grade 2 Muniz, and Grade 1 Turf Classic, with a poor showing in the G1 Manhattan. He's undefeated on this course with Irad at the controls. **8 SACRED LIFE (FR)** renews his rivalry with **9 FIELD PASS** after finishing second to him in the G2 Seabiscuit last out, and defeating him in the G3 Knickerbocker two starts back. Both are worthy opponents to be on the ticket.

SELECTIONS: 12-6-8-9

RACE 12: THE PEGASUS WORLD CUP (G1)

1 KNICKS GO the defending champ will start from the rail with after ending his 2021 campaign with a trio of impressive front running victories, including the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Classic. Sit back and enjoy this brilliant son of Paynter. **4 LIFE IS GOOD** has been better than good when drawing clear to win the Grade 2 Kelso Handicap by 5 ½ lengths two starts back, and the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile by almost six lengths last out. The newly turned 4-year-old tries nine furlongs with Irad Ortiz Jr rationing his pushbutton speed. **6 SIR WINSTON**, who does his best running in the latter stages of the race, will be there to reap the spoils if Knicks Go and Life Is Good get hooked up in a speed duel. Trainer Mark Casse has go-to jock Edwin Gonzalez in the irons.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-6

BEST BET: RACE 8 – 5 FOUR GRACES

LONGSHOT: RACE 9 – 8 SUMMER IN SARATOGA