

### **Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

*The seven-race card features the first dirt route race of the season as well as two turf events. Good luck to all! -Ashley Mailloux*

**Race 1: #5 Our Miss Maggie** ran a very strong over the dirt on opening day. She was just a tad hesitant at the start and rated just off the leaders. She's technically jumping up in class, but most of the field is so that appears to be just a technicality. She'll get a little bit of extra distance which should be to her liking. **#4 Singnorita** is exiting the same race and she managed to rally from the back of the pack after giving the field a lengthy advantage. She's getting a rider change today and Helen Vanek is known to get them rolling early. **#2 Pasture Curfew** broke her maiden over this track late last fall, but after she didn't show much when racing at Mahoning Valley. The track isn't the friendliest to all, so I'll forgive her for that. She has steady breezes to report so she's worthy of a chance against these runners.

**Race 2:** This may be a compact field of six, but a case can be made for any of the runners. **#6 Devilish Style** has already gotten a win under her belt while running at Penn National. She has a ton of early speed....when she wants to show it. She had a successful campaign here last summer and her works suggest she's ready to roll over this surface. **#4 Lady of Moray** won a starter allowance last season, where she beat Sandy's Hurricane who has put in some monster performances over this track. She raced just under a month ago at Woodbine where she set the tempo but gave way in the final stages of the race. She's been a bit inconsistent, but she certainly fits this race well. **#5 About A Girl** is the longest shot based on the morning line odds, but after her races last season she deserves some respect. She came to life midway through the season and was very competitive at the level above this and even slightly higher than that. She has early speed as well but has shown she can rate a bit and close when just sitting of the flanks of the leaders. The price should be right.

**Race 3:** In 2017, the jockey trainer combination of Bradley Wilson and Nick Gonzalez proved to be strong, winning at 28% from 18 starts and they look to team up in here with **#5 Forever Bold**. She showed a ton of early speed in her three-year-old debut over the turf at Woodbine and with speed like that over this dirt course, she appears to be the one to the beat. Expect her to step up in her second race since the layoff. **#6 Holdonweregoinhome**, a four-year-old daughter of Milwaukee Brew has put in some nice efforts against tougher groups at Woodbine in her most recent two starts. Her pedigree suggests that the dirt won't be an issue and if anyone tries to go with **#5 Forever Bold**, the race might set up nicely for her to close from just off the pace. **#3 Bold n' Foxy** showed little in both her races as a two-year-old, but her dirt works have been steady, and she has showed some early speed. While this is still a maiden special weight, she faced tougher competitors at Woodbine and the removal of blinkers may benefit her.

**Race 4:** This field of eight may turn into a two-horse showdown. **#4 Dance With Me Baby** debuted very nicely this year at Woodbine where she attempted to take them gate to wire, but the race ended up setting up nicely for some closers. She did race against a tougher group here around this time last year and was second best to Devilish Style, who romped that day. Even though the workout was before her last start, she had a fast breeze over the training track at Woodbine so keeping that all in mind, it's no secret as to why she's the 7-5 favorite. **#6 Italian Ice** broke her maiden opening day, where she had to fend off favorite Tres Bien to get the win honors. The third-place finisher of that race, Big Brown Beauty broke her maiden on Sunday quite nicely so it's nice to see horses running strong that exited the same race as her. It can be very tough for horses to win back to back, especially off the maiden victory which is why I endorse her in the exotics. Rounding out the top three, **#2 Venetoklio** hasn't been seen since last fall, but logged a speedy work over the dirt on May 21<sup>st</sup>, going three furlongs in :35.80. After breaking

her maiden, she failed to fire in her remaining two starts as she set the pace but ran out of fuel in the lane. Her stamina seems to get the best of her, but she did have two nice races here and will offer value.

**Race 5:** In this turf event, **#5 Titanico** will be shipping down from Woodbine in search of his third trip to the winner's circle. He's raced twice this year and in his most recent race, he ended up finishing sixth in a field of ten, but he only lost by a relatively small margin of three and one-quarter lengths. He worked over the grass and posted a very solid time of :59 flat and his only win of 2017 was over the grass in Toronto against a much tougher group. Last season **#6 Fainne Geal** showed that she has a knack for the grass. Not only did she break her maiden here, she ended her 2017 season with another win. What stands out to me is her versatility. She broke her maiden sitting towards the middle of the pack, but she's also shown she has enough speed to sit right behind the leaders. For the third spot I had a tough time choosing between **#2 Needle in the Hay** and **#3 Dylan**, but I ended up giving the slight edge to the interesting **#2 Needle in the Hay**. This Sam-Son Farm bred finds himself back to flat racing after transitioning to hurdle races for his 2017 campaign. This is an interesting change up, but his most recent races suggest a change is needed. You must go back quite far to get to his flat races, but in July 2016 he was beaten by a head going a mile and a sixteenth over the grass at Penn National against slightly better company. The cutback in distance and transition back to flat racing could prove to be lethal. The horse's most recent breeze was at Fair Hill and with the connections shipping in from that far, they must think he's a contender for the top spot.

**Race 6:** In the first route race over the dirt this season, **#2 Been Waiting** looks to be a major player. Last year he recorded wins at two different distances, one mile and 70 yards as well as six and a half furlongs. He's never cared for the turf, so it appears the connections wanted to get him out once before this at a longer distance than the dirt races offered. The way the main track will play in these longer route races is a huge question, but this gelding is good enough that he can be close to the front end or middle of the pack and still run his race. **#5 Two Stellas** was lightly raced last season and she returned to her form later in the season, winning at a similar distance. I really like that she can close from off the pace or set blistering fractions going long and draw off in the end. She showed last season that she wasn't fit enough off the shelf, but she is strongly capable of hitting the board. **#1 Tuition** found himself predominately sprinting in 2017 and will be stretching out in distance, as he is exiting a sprint race from opening day where he finished third. He does have a win at the distance and has a few solid works. I'm not sure I see him hanging around in the lane if he hooks up with other speed horses, but he seems to like it here.

**Race 7:** **#1 Neil's Diamond** will be making his first start for Julie Robillard fresh off the claim in which he won the race. All three of his races in 2018 have been quite good and he's shown he likes the turf, as he rallied from the back of the last year at Woodbine to end up claiming the runner up spot in a race there. Jockey Pierre Mailhot won last Tuesday on **#5 Perfetto** but ended up taking the mount on **#3 Gold Shark**. This horse won over the dirt at Tampa against \$25k claimers. His connections tried him over the turf at Tampa before transitioning him to the dirt and he found himself on the front end there but couldn't sustain his run. He seems to be one of the main speed horses in the race and the allowance race last Tuesday over the grass was won easily by a horse on the front end. **#5 Perfetto** is looking for another win after winning last week against a group of \$6.25k claimers. He rallied from the middle of the pack to blow by the pace setters. I really liked his stretch run as he overcame going 5 or 6 wide and buckled down to kick clear. He should offer value because of the large jump up in class but the exotics are not out of his reach.