

Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday July 10th, 2018

This stellar card consists of nine races with very competitive fields. The nightcap is my race of the day as it is wide open with a field of twelve runners! This race features my longshot of the day, #10 Cape Mist. Good luck to all the horses, their connections, and those placing wagers on the card! -Ashley Mailloux

Race 1: **#5 Gabby's Ballerina** has had two starts over the Fort Erie turf course and both efforts resulted in her only on the board finishes in her career. Most recently, she was second to Scat Gamble, who was quite impressive for Josie Carroll under a confident ride by Melanie Pinto. Coming out of a maiden special weight and into this level, this five-year-old mare looks to have found herself in a solid spot. **#6 Cassandra's Girl** will be making her second start of 2018 for a barn that fires at 33% with horses off a 61-180 day layoff. On May 6th, she finished mid-pack in a maiden claiming event at Woodbine where she didn't seem to fire. She has shown speed in the past and would expect her to do so today. She is a younger filly that may have needed some time to develop. A sleeper in this race for the exotics is **#9 Winterveld**. In her first start since September, she was second to Floral Clock who ended up coming back to win after breaking her maiden. She could step up in her second race and looks to offer value.

Race 2: I'll try to beat the favorite in here with **#5 Divine Nectar**. This three-year-old daughter of Milwaukee Brew was disqualified from first and placed third in her 2018 debut when trying the dirt for the first time. She ended up opening by almost three lengths, but she did drift in on Bella Loco. In her follow up race, she was a bit too far behind the pacesetter Night Gathers (IRE) and couldn't reel in on her in time. She'll be trying to catch **#6 Forever Bold**, who has flashed early speed in all five of her lifetime starts. In her FE debut, she was fourth to Holdonweregoinhome who won Sunday and proved to be much the best. The drop in class should help this filly, but the concern with her will be her stamina. The addition of blinkers for **#4 I Want S'mores** may put this mare closer to the front runners. She'll be making her second start for Josh Robillard and exits the same race that **#5 Divine Nectar** was disqualified from. She ended up finishing fourth but couldn't close in on the leaders. It does seem that her best races have been when she was closer to the front end targets.

Race 3: Shipping down from Woodbine, **#2 Majestic Heist** has been racing over the tapeta where he hasn't missed the board yet and did record a win. Prior to the spring and early summer, this gelding was racing in Pennsylvania and Maryland and had two decent races at Laurel Park finishing third and fourth. He's stepped it up a notch since those races, so I don't see his form regressing when returning to the dirt. **#5 Gasparilla Trove** will be making his first start for trainer Anthony Adamo after being claimed for \$4.5k last time out. He ended up winning that race nicely and that was his first time facing winners. He has no published workouts since that race, but his record speaks volumes. He's 12 for 18 in the money and looks to be a large player in this race. **#4 Canada Wise Don** will be switching to the dirt after recording a win on July 1st over the turf. He closed from the back of the pack to move by the front runners in the late stages. While he has 2 off the board finishes over the dirt, he wasn't far behind the winner of his dirt race on October 7th, so I won't read into his previous dirt performances too much.

Race 4: The additional distance of a furlong and a half looks to be perfect for **#3 Miss Honeypotts** who has two back to back turf races under her belt at the 7-furlong distance. She's shown she can rate just off the leaders or can be at the back of the pack and still make her move in the stretch. She exits a win against non-winners of 2 lifetime where she beat My Rosebud, who won the first race on Sunday. She looks to be a tough daughter of Silent Name (JPN) who has found her niche racing on the grass. Paula Loescher sends out **#1 Philly's Gold** who finished second on June 26th, three and a half lengths behind the winner Determined Dancer. She rated mid-pack throughout, but the race had soft fractions early which made it difficult for her to close. She has been over this surface 3 times and recorded a decisive win over it last season. Pierre Mailhot stays aboard after riding her nicely last time out. **#7 May Pen** finished third last time out when facing better and has proven to be a valuable player for exotics such as the trifecta or superfecta. She has a 0-3-4 record from 9 starts and her most recent race resulted in a career high number. It's highly unlikely she'll be on the front end, but she should just find herself a few lengths off the leaders in a comfortable position to close.

Race 5: A horse that caught my eye in this open race was **#3 Into the Mystic** who won three races in a row at Penn National in the late winter and early spring. I really like that this horse can close hard and has an impressive record on the dirt, posting 3 wins from five career attempts over the surface. While he hasn't been seen in some time, the barn does well off this layoff, winning at 17% from 35 starts when having 61-180 days off. The likely pacesetter **#1 Smoltz** enters this race off a win against non-winners of 1 race on the year. He got the lead from the start and kept going, holding off Tiger Hall. A repeat is not out of his reach and the barn wins at 21% with horses exiting a win. **#4 Ninth Symphony** hasn't been seen since 2017, but his workouts suggest he's ready to roll. He has never raced on the dirt, but he recently breezed :47.80 over the training track at Woodbine. He looks like he will sit just off the leaders and will make his move turning for home.

Race 6: After just missing last time out against the same level, the Fort Erie specialist **#4 Tiger Hall** looks ready to pounce. He's an ultra-consistent runner at this track, winning 6 of 18 races here and furthermore, he's only missed the board four times. He will be right off the leaders and should improve second time out, as he did not race this winter and may have needed one. His run style should set up beautifully for him as there are two runners that figure to battle it out on the front end. The quick **#5 Colby Ol' Fashion** will be taking a drop in class after flashing early speed but folding on the front end when facing tough company in an optional claiming (40k) at Woodbine. He broke his maiden impressively over a sloppy track at Mahoning where he dusted a field of 12 by nine and a half lengths. He'll surely try to take command from the start and should love the return to the dirt. **#1 Ave Caesar** looks to get back on track while facing this group. He recorded four wins here last season but has struggled to find his step so far in 2018. It appears he has excuses to make up for these performances as his first race was respectable, finishing fourth in a starter allowance. The following start they ran him on the grass and he clearly didn't take to the surface. Most recently, he gave the field a sizeable advantage after breaking slow and just couldn't get going. He's 3-1-2 from six starts at the distance and I like that Kirk Johnson will stay aboard, who currently is winning at 22%.

Race 7: #7 Midnite Snackattak almost took them gate to wire in his most recent but ended up losing by a neck to Sexy Business. While that race was on the dirt, his 2018 debut was over the grass and he tried to do the same thing, but ended up third, beaten by just under three lengths. He's had several weeks off and fits this level well but will need to sustain his bid late in the stretch. In his first race, **#6 Frozen No Salt** rated towards the back of the pack and was able to get up for show behind Stormy Leo and Hope Vision who had themselves a match race in the stretch. He could move up off of that solid debut that was against very respectable runners. Do note that they have recently decided to geld this son of Not Bourbon. **#5 Holtz** looks to test his hooves over the Fort Erie turf after primarily spending his time at Woodbine over the tapeta. He should take to the turf in his second attempt over grass as he is by Silent Name (JPN). In September and October 2017, he really seemed to come around and recorded several nice efforts. I like his run style, as he can find himself rating throughout and having a bit of extra distance to run at won't hurt him.

Race 8: #5 Hombre Natural has two strong races this season, one over the grass and one over the dirt. This is a two-furlong race, so it's all about who is the fastest. He has run some very quick quarters in his life and should love this short distance. An interesting runner who should be a price is **#3 Big Band Benny**, who was much the best last time out winning by almost seventh lengths. He does have one win at this distance from four attempts and just like Hombre Natural, he has played a part in some sizzling early fractions. Breaking poorly in his most recent race, **#7 Flashy Margarita** was able to recover and ended up second, beaten by one length. He loves this surface, is speedy, and has one second at this distance from his only attempt.

Race 9: This full field of 12 runners looks to be wide open and an exciting turf route. I'll give a slight edge to **#11 Lady Brie** who enters this race fresh off the claim and a win. She has faced strong company at Woodbine the past two seasons, racing in optional claiming events (40k tag) and was competitive. She was 2-3-3 from ten efforts last season and after a few starts this season, her former connections dropped her in class and lost her. The trainer has strong numbers with horses first off the claim. **#4 Miss Forester** was almost able to take a field of optional claimers on the front end over this course in her most recent race. She switched up her run style in that race as she took the lead early. She usually tries to rate and close, which is what the connections may opt for in this race. She has one other race over this surface, which resulted in a win on October 17th when facing comparable. A live longshot in this race is **#10 Cape Mist**, who finished just behind Miss Forester. She was very wide in the stretch while arriving late to the scene, but finished very well, beaten by just under two lengths. A slightly closer trip in this race should put her right with the top runners and she seems to be training well since that effort.