

Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday, July 28th, 2020

The Tuesday program features eight races with some of the biggest fields this season! Best of luck to all the horses, their connections, and everyone wagering on today's card!

-Ashley Mailloux

R1: #1 Sophistication was second last time out going six and a half furlongs over the main track and he had to face a formidable foe by the name of Marcus, who is currently three for three this summer at Fort Erie. Looking at this one's turf races, he has some decent efforts last year, including a second place finish. At the seven furlong distance he picked up a third last summer and was just beaten by a length. **#7 Red September** disappointed in his only start this season, but it's quite possible he needed a race under his belt. He is one that likes this course, as he has a 1-2-3 record from nine starts and in his case, the seven furlong distance is his preferred distance so look for him to step up second time off the layoff. Last time out, **#4 Chiefroll'nthunder** finished second at this level which was by far his best performance in over a year. His dirt effort two starts back can be excused as he simply hates the dirt. While there is some uncertainty that he can replicate that most recent effort, one thing is for certain: when "the Chief" is in form, he'll be rolling late in the stretch. The veteran is worth a look against this field.

R2: #6 Strolling Posse started the year with back-to-back third place finishes, but last time out he fell flat. He's yet to try to the dirt and looking at his works, he should be just fine over the surface. Even though they're turf numbers, his Beyer numbers tower over many of his opponents. **#7 Maximum Sentence** is going to drop in for the lowest tag of his career today while also trying the dirt for the first time. Unlike Strolling Posse, his works aren't the sharpest, but his trainer does quite well with new acquisitions in the barn, winning at 22% and they continue to fire at the meet. **#3 Stone King** has faced maiden special weight company in both of his starts this season over the grass. Last year, his lone start came over the dirt and while he finished third, look at the number of runners in the field. The class relief from his races this year makes him worthy of consideration and it looks as though Chris Husbands chose this gelding over others.

R3: #9 Awesome Five has raced well in both of his starts this year. In his first race back since October, he found the four and a half furlong distance to be slightly short and he was unable to reel in the pacesetter Big Band Benny. On July 7th, the five furlong distance ended up being perfect for him as he was able to make his late move to win by a head in the end. He'll be getting even more ground to run at today and that should be to his liking. **#5 Marcus** has done nothing wrong in 2020 – since joining the barn of Sharon Ceccato, this son of Roman Ruler has won all three of his starts. He's tackled a fast track, an off track, a variety of distances and nothing seems to bother him. He'll certainly be closing from off the pace and there should be enough of that in this spot, so how can you not endorse a horse who has been firing each and every start? **#6 Bakersfield** appears to be part of the pace setup, as last time out Helen Vanek got him out of the gate and they were the best, winning by over five lengths in the end. My only concern is in that most recent effort, he didn't have any real pressure and, in this race, I think he will have to work a lot harder. Can he handle the pressure?

R4: #9 Easy Weekend made two starts as a two-year-old, where he didn't show too much, and in his lone start this year, he was only able to beat one rival. Looking at those efforts, the competition at WO and Tampa Bay Downs was certainly tougher than what he'll face today and overall, he seems to be training okay since that most recent start. He'll make his first start for his new trainer who does quite well here and when he teams up with Chris Husbands, they've been perfect – 3-for-3. He's been gelded and he will also race without blinkers for the first time. Trainer Paula Loescher sends out two in here and it appears that Pierre Mailhot chose **#1 American Driven**, who has hit the board in six of his eight career starts. In his last two races, the mile and one sixteenth distance has been a bit too long for him, as he hasn't been able to find enough late. With that said, today's seven furlong distance should be a great fit for him and he's the most proven turf horse in the field. **#8**

Doctor Uptown is Loescher's other horse and while his dirt effort last time was okay, his turf race is what's intriguing about him. On debut, he was fairly far back early on and was able to close late to get up for fourth, beaten by less than four lengths in the end. Off that performance, I'm curious to see what he can do getting back onto the turf at a longer distance.

R5: #2 Drena's Bullet had a troubled trip last time out at Woodbine, but in his prior effort here at Fort Erie over the dirt, he was much the best. Even though his pedigree suggests turf, his dirt races are some of his best and so far this year, both of his wins have come over the dirt. Looking at the pace scenario, he should get a perfect trip as **#6 Sent From Heaven** as well as some others have an early turn of foot. **#6 Sent From Heaven** has crushed his competition in both of his local starts this season, with his smallest margin of victory being three and three-quarter lengths. He is QUICK, but he'll have to get the six furlong distance and looking at his record, it's not encouraging. He seems to be doing so well in the barn of John Simms that he's hard to ignore, even on the jump up in class. **#4 Elusive Ro** is interesting, as all four of his lifetime wins have come over the dirt and he's been claimed several times in the past year... he's definitely a hot commodity and it's easy to see why. His most recent effort was clearly a tall order, but looking at his other races this year, he's been quite consistent and already has two wins. He's versatile and that should suit him well in this competitive spot.

R6: #5 Classy Vision was extremely impressive last time out against allowance level non-winners of two lifetime. She was last throughout and entering the turn, she started to circle the field, and managed to win by three lengths in the end. Nikki Alderson has done a great job piloting this filly and they've yet to miss the board over the turf. **#8 Gypsy Jazz** has picked up minor shares in her two most recent turf starts this season. While she's faced lesser competition, she's finding herself in a spot where many runners in the field are still trying to prove themselves and their recent form is lackluster. Last time out, she finished third, missing by just a half of length. She typically lacks a late kick so at the mile distance, I'm not sure she can win but a minor award looks likely. **#2 Ailis** has a 0-1-0 record from five starts over the turf, but she faced tougher competition when trying to break her maiden. She did have a nice second place finish going long on the turf up at Woodbine and an effort like that is good enough in this spot. This year since coming to Fort Erie, she hasn't stayed in a barn for long and will make her first start for trainer Joe Humber, who's won five races here this season.

R7: #1 Get My Gist disappointed last time out, as he finished fifth, beaten by nearly twelve lengths but in the past, he's need a start after having the winter off. Last year, he had a strong season and posted a 3-2-1 record from eight starts. Two of those wins came at a mile and a sixteenth, and one was at six and a half furlongs (via disqualification). Since that most recent effort, this gelding has had two bullet breezes over the training track at Woodbine. **#7 Sleek Idea** is my longshot play on the card. It's possible that this gelding might need a race or two, but his performances towards the end of last year are what caught my eye. Three starts back while going long, he was able to close from off the pace to win by a length and a half while recording his career best Beyer. In his final start of 2020, he attempted to do the same, but came up short. While I think this is a prep for something longer, he does have a 1-0-1 record from three attempts at the distance. I do think the win is a stretch for him, but I'll be using him underneath in my exotic tickets. **#2 Devil Magic** was claimed two starts back for \$5k and in his only effort for the barn, he disappointed and finished fourth. In his defense, the entire field let Big Band Benny get to the front and that horse is dangerous when on the front end. Also, this gelding typically wants the lead and has had the most success when forwardly placed, which did not happen last time out. Look at his four wins last year: each race was in gate-to-wire fashion.

R8: #3 Obliviously just missed last time out, finishing second beaten by a neck at this level. She really tried to hang in there, but One for Nicki was just a tad stronger. Since the level and distance today are the exact same,

she's a major player. This will be her second start for the Buttigieg Barn, who's winning at 28%. **#4 Marvel** exits that same race, where she was third beaten by three-quarters of a length and she was further back earlier on, but slowly made up ground all the way around the track. She attempted to do the same thing in her prior effort but was slightly less successful. The biggest concern for her is the tempo, as it doesn't appear that anyone really "wants" the lead. **#8 Doodle Dandy** has hit the board in both of her local appearances, but they were over the dirt. Last time out, she finished second to Not a House Frau, who was much the best and went on to win her following start. This is the barn's only starter this year, so not a lot to go off of, but I like seeing Emile Ramsammy climb aboard and I think this filly might offer some value.