

## **Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

*On Sunday, the cooler weather rolled in and it seemed as though the track started playing differently, with less of a speed bias. Let's see what happens today! Good luck to all the horses, their connections, and those joining us at the track! -Ashley Mailloux*

**R1:** In the opener, I'm going to take a chance and go for a horse that I think will offer value over some of the other runners. **#3 Rare Gem** took her sweet time to break her maiden, but after handling the dirt so well in both of her attempts, I think she could be on the right track. She's the only runner to win going two turns this year and at this distance, she's never missed the board in 3 attempts. It seems trainer Michael Mattine has been able to get her going on the dirt and the barn has had a very strong meet so far, winning at 46% from 13 starts. **#1 Princess Macy** finally went two turns here last time out and landed on the board for her first time this season. She simply was not going to catch Run for Shantelle, who won by almost 9 lengths. I'm surprised at the 9-2 ML, as I think she could move up from that most recent effort when dropping in for a lower tag today. Morning line favorite **#5 Spunsational** broke her maiden at Tampa in February but has since failed to hit the board. She'll stretch out in distance today and will drop in class. While she has a nice workout since her most recent start, I'm not convinced she's capable of top honors today. Seems worthy of exotics.

**R2:** In her most recent start, **#3 Wild Honey** really took to the dirt and found herself closing in the stretch, to just miss the win by a head. She needed a bit more distance and today she'll get an extra eighth of a mile. She's performed well at this level and it's reassuring to know she can handle the dirt unlike the morning line favorite, **#4 Gossip Isle**. While this well bred daughter of Algorithms has been competitive against better at Woodbine, she's gradually been dropping and has yet to get the win. I wouldn't be surprised if this filly wins, but I doubt she'll offer value and with the dirt being a bit of an unknown even though pedigree suggests she'll be fine, I'll take a chance with the mare to her inside. **#1 Super Spice** is one of the least experienced in the group, but she has hit the board over this course. While she was against lesser last time out, she held on to be a distant third at an abbreviated distance. She was a bit of a ways back throughout, so I'd expect the connections to aim to send this filly a bit closer to the front in this event which could make room for improvement.

**R3:** I'd be shocked if races were on the grass, so I looked at these races for the main track. **#5 Majestic Heist** has been over the FE dirt course twice this year and on the slight stretch out, he seemed to take to the dirt nicely, finishing third behind Do Your Math, who has since won again. He's faced stiff competition in 2018 and for this tag, he looks capable of the top honors. He needed more distance in his most recent so it'll be interesting to see him go two turns today. **#2 Majestic Goldminer** broke his maiden quite impressively, closing from last to end up drawing off in the end. The third place finisher, Ciminio has since broke his maiden and the Simms barn has repeated wins at 14% and is winning at 24% this meet. In his only dirt race, **#1 Kitten's Dilemma** didn't take to the surface to well, but the dirt course at Tampa is unique and very sandy, so he could turn it around over the course here if he opts to stay in (assuming races are moved to the main). He's had 2 nice races up at Woodbine this year and just missed 3 starts back going this distance over the tapeta. Capable of exotics, but skeptical of him winning against this bunch.

**R4:** **#2 Hope Vision** tries each and every start and he often finds himself just missing the mark. He's finished second in his most recent five starts, all of which were over this dirt course. He's dropping down to the lowest level and looks likely of breaking the maiden against this group. He's the most consistent runner of the bunch and has proven himself over the dirt, hitting the board over this course *more times than the rest of the field combined*. If anyone were to threaten his chances today, I think it would be the outside entrant, **#8 Cepelinas**. He really handled the off track well here on Prince of Wales Day, finishing second to Grand Poobah. In the following start, Berkley Boy proved to be much the best, but Cepelinas ran a nice third. I'd expect him to race along side Hope Vision instead of rating further back like he has in his most recent races. Trainer Josh Robillard has had a stellar meet, not only winning at 28%, but also winning 2 cup races. In this race, he sends out **#6 Barbican Road**, who hasn't showed much in his four lifetime attempts, but may be able to turn it around trying the dirt and receiving Lasix for the first time. Could sneak into the bottom of the trifecta.

**R5:** **#2 South Beach Sassy** really transitioned to the dirt nicely in her most recent start and finished second, beaten by just over one length. She'll stay at this same distance and level, which certainly means she is a live runner in here. She'll be making her second start since July 9<sup>th</sup> and the barn has been known to have them ready to roll second time off this length of a layoff, winning at 25% from 16 starts. In his most recent start, **#1 Friendly Giant** simply could not get to Happys Causeway, who looked to be much the best on paper. This son of Giant's Gizmo has recently started to show he's capable of performing, as prior to going 2 turns on the dirt, he never hit the board. He hasn't missed the board in his two dirt routes and nothing in his form suggests he will backtrack against this group. **#6 Dundurn** didn't really buckle down enough in the lane going 5 furlongs, as he had too much work to do late. Today, he'll stretch out and if he can repeat his race here on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, I'd expect him to be closing hard turning from home. Looms a chance for a piece of the trifecta.

**R6:** Returning to the \$3k tag today, **#2 Tap Speed** has been the runner up in his two starts at FE this year. He was unable to reel in Like Your Excuse who went gate to wire on August 28<sup>th</sup> as well as this past Sunday. In his first race of the season, he was second best to Let's Play, who was just behind Like Your Excuse on Sunday. After seeing how well the winners of that race returned, I think Tap Speed has faced better runners this meet when compared to other runners in here and more importantly, he's been competitive against them. In my opinion, he's simply the one to beat. **#5 Ciminio** set the pace in his most recent race and was able to hold on, breaking his maiden in start number 7. As mentioned earlier on the sheet, the barn has done well this year and from a statistics standpoint, the barn repeats at an impressive rate of 36% from a sampling of 11. **#6 Brady O' Brady** has had some time off and has switched barns after dropping his rider on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Prior to that race, he finished second when in for a higher tag than today's race. His most recent workout on September 4<sup>th</sup> (4F in :48.80 breezing) suggests he ready to return to the races.

**R7:** Since I expect this race to be on the dirt, **#9 Run for Shantelle** looks to be the one to beat. She's been crushing her competitors since running on the surface, winning both of her races here at FE by a combine 26 lengths. She is jumping up in class, but she's facing a lot of runners that either lack experience over the surface or who haven't taken to it too well. **#5 Classy Scarlett** has dirt experience and broke her maiden over the dirt this winter down at Laurel Park at the distance of 1 mile. She's faced very tough dirt females this season, in an optional claiming event as well as the Andy Passero Cup. I like to see that this mare is stretching out and will be going two turns. She seems to try each start and in 2018, she's been a big part of the exotics, finishing in the top three 5 times in 9 races. **#8 Pasture Curfew** comes into this race off a third place finish, as she was unable to continue on the front end. She does have a win this season at FE, but all her dirt races in 2018 have been sprints. She's been known to switch things up as she's found herself going on the front end as well as closing from the back of the pack. Going two turns, I wouldn't be surprised if she rates today and hopes that someone pushes the filly to her outside.

**R8:** Woodbine shipper **#4 McCulley** has a handful of nice races under his belt this year, finishing second twice and third once in 5 starts. Two starts back, he closed from a few lengths off to find himself on the lead before being caught by Subliminal in the final jumps. He's versatile enough to either rate or try to take thing near or on the front and with a decent amount of speed in here, I think this race sets up for him nicely. He's a major player in this field, but I don't think he should be singled on top, as it is his dirt debut. While he may be 20-1 on the morning line, **#3 Redliner** has yet to really do anything wrong. With four starts under his belt, this three year old son of Signature Red has yet to miss this board and comes into this race off a dominant maiden win at this distance where he went to the front early and continued to open on the field. He's facing winners for the first time which is no easy task but considering the fact that the runners he's faced have continued to perform well, he appears to be very intriguing and capable of a share. Morning line favorite **#8 Trapper's Delight** broke his maiden at first asking on the front end against maiden special weight company. He's shown early speed in his following starts but has yet to hit the board even though he's dropped in class each and every start. While the main track has played well to speed, he has quit quite dramatically over the tapeta and his workouts the past month or so haven't been eye-catching. I doubt he'll offer value, so I'll look to others that may offer a price. Frankly, there are too many question marks around him.