

Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday July 16th, 2019

Another stellar Tuesday card with nine races in total. We're just a week away from our signature event, the Prince of Wales! Best of luck to all the horses, their connections, and everyone wagering on today's card!

-Ashley Mailloux

R1: My top two selections exit the same race on July 2nd. **#4 Skippy Is Back** was just narrowly defeated last time out by a head after setting the pace. She ran a great race and has been a very strong runner at today's distance. The horse to her inside also exhibits speed, but it's a plus to see the consistency of this mare over the turf. **#2 Benadette's Lady** enters this race off her best performance so far this year. She came to life returning to the grass where she rounded out the trifecta. She's a solid runner over this turf course, with a 1-2-3 record from 8 attempts and last year, she ran her best races after getting a few starts under her belt. **#3 Our Bernattete** put in a huge effort last time out in her second start since the spring of 2018. She sprung out of the gate first and never looked back. She worked very sharply on July 9th, but the turf is a bit of an unknown for her. It's been a while since she's been over it and in both of her two starts, she missed the board.

R2: **#5 Wild Honey** was sharp over this track in 2018 and her form has certainly carried into 2019. She broke her maiden here on opening day and in her following starts, she's finished second. With the way the main track has been playing and her ability to rate, she looks very live and figures to offer a bit more value than **#2 Sprung At Last**, who broke her maiden last time out against \$8k maiden claimers. The barn of Sprung At Last does extremely well with return trips to the winner's circle; 19% from 26 starts and there's room for improvement, as she's only making her third start since June 2018. **#3 Crumlin Express** made her FE debut here six weeks ago and after setting the pace, she was just second best that day. She'll be cutting back from 6.5 F which should be to her liking, but she tends to fold on the front end which is why I'll endorse her underneath.

R3: **#3 Bella Fabiana** spent the winner down at Mahoning Valley, where her best effort resulted in a second place finish against \$10k claimers. She's faced much better throughout the year and will drop in for a \$6.25k tag today in hopes of returning to the winner's circle. In her only local performance (2018), she romped over the slop against \$10k claimers. **#2 About A Girl** is also looking for her first win this year, after hitting the board in all three of her starts. She struggled to close last time out and, in her defense, the half mile was a bit slower than her other two starts. She worked very strong a week ago, but she'll need a stronger tempo than last time to get the job done. **#6 Madcap Duchess** has beaten both Sandys Hurricane and About A Girl over the years and finds herself running against both in her first start since October. This eight year old mare was lightly raced last year, where she won 2 of her 3 starts. She's 16 for 21 in the money over this dirt course and 9 of those efforts resulted in wins. Her recent two works have not been as sharp as her move here on June 18th, so she may just need this start as a prep.

R4: **#3 Shamruckus** tackled the dirt for the first time out, where she picked up her second lifetime win. She's in for the same tag today and off her most recent performance, the extra eighth of a mile should be fine. There is enough speed in her to suggest her connections may aim for a similar, stalking approach. **#4 Anthecrowdgoeswild** is the other runner who comes into this race fresh off a win here at FE. The pieces seem to have come together for this three year old filly, as she's performed well over both surfaces. **#6 Mega Monster** set the pace last time out but could not hold off the Hush Buffy, who hit her best strides late. She had some excuses in her local debut here on June 16th, but typically she finds herself getting leg weary late; still capable of a share.

R5: **#3 Celtic Singer** has made it known that she prefers the turf, which is reflected by her strong turf record and lackluster synthetic record. She made her first start since November two weeks ago and seized the lead

early but was just caught in the final few jumps which suggests she needed a race. **#8 Snell Flicka** has only missed the board twice in eight starts and those races were against much tougher. She picked up her second win two starts back over the tapeta going 5 furlongs against \$15k claimers. In her most recent, she once again found herself having to chase and settled for second. She has been facing better throughout her career, but the distance might be tricky. **#2 Hallucination** has won both of her races over the dirt and she has shown ability over the turf. She picked up a second place finish three starts back at Suffolk where she was beaten by less than two lengths. On paper, she figures to get a good trip in here and will be facing lesser competition than she has all year long.

R6: #1 Midnite Snackattak faced winners for the first time in his most recent and he didn't find himself in an easy spot. He tracked in second behind Aerial Attack throughout, but could not close in. The question for him and essentially the whole field is two turn distance. Another logical top selection is **#2 Alexander the Gray** who was determined in his maiden score. He gave up the lead in the stretch and it looked as though Seamus was going to go on by, but he was able to battle back gamely on the rail. It's worth noting that Seamus was very impressive on the grass here Sunday. His trainer has had a very strong showing, winning at 41% this meet. **#5 Robusto** has a ton of back class, as he was facing very tough competition as a three year old, including Carlino, who has been tackling graded stakes competition. Both of his efforts were disappointing this year, but he is taking a big drop in class and is returning to the dirt, which has been kind to him in the past.

R7: #3 Smooth Passage was set to run here recently, but was scratched at the gate. Both of his breezes, especially his first since then have been strong enough to suggest that he's set to go. He absolutely adores this turf course and has run some huge races over the surface, one of which was his win in the Puss N Boots. He's one of two clear pace setters in here and he's been able to pick it up on the front end and prevail, even when pushed. **#5 Dupes** started the year with a win but failed to fire in his following attempts. Last time out, he was far back early on and didn't pick it up in the stretch. Let's not ignore the fact that he won 5 races last year. **#4 Rebel Music** came from out of the clouds last time out to miss by just a neck in his second appearance over the grass here against starter allowance company. He takes a while to get rolling, but when he gets into gear, he really grinds away.

R8: #6 Been Waiting's only off the board finish this year came against starter allowance company where he was swimming in deeper waters. His first race in 7 months set up beautifully for him, as Smoltz set the fractions and Been Waiting was able to close in. This race looks as though it might set up very similar which would allow him to reel in the leaders. **#5 Two Stellas** has been a formidable foe over the years, winning 10 of 16 starts over this course, but he'll have a tall order to serve today. Not only has he not raced since the fall, he's typically found himself going two turns. He has never gone 6.5 F over the dirt in his career, but his connections may be using this race as a launchpad. The filly **#2 Cuatthefinishline** beat some of the top fillies and mares on the ground in her most recent race. She did face the boys in her first dirt start earlier this season, where she ended up fourth, beaten by 9. She faced quality runners in that event and was forced to tackle a muddy track.

R9: #2 Lil Old Forester has been tough as nails over the turf this season, picking up a win and second. He'll have to go a bit further over the dirt today, but he's proven on this surface and is just very quick. He'll be sandwiched by speed in this event, but he's been more consistent than the runner to his inside and he's beaten the one to his outside this year. **#4 Colby Ol' Fashion** drops down from a starter allowance company as his connections will try to get him back to his winning ways. He's faced such strong horses throughout the season, but he's needed more in all three starts. The class break might be all that it takes for him to get the job done. **#8 Neverquidreaming** ran third to Lil Old Forester last time out over a yielding turf course. He returns to the dirt for the first time since leaving the Hartman barn and both of his wins have come over surface.