

Fort Erie Key Race Selections: Tuesday, September 15th, 2020

Some big prices yesterday, with two +\$30 winners on the program! Nine races on the card, with a competitive claiming event to close out the program. Best of luck to all the horses, their connections, and everyone wagering on today's card!

-Ashley Mailloux

R4:

#4 Midnite Snackattak – Last time out, he not only tackled extremely tough competition, but he raced on the turf. Keeping that in mind and the fact that all four of his wins have been on the dirt, I'm going to draw a line through that performance. Prior to that, he won all his dirt starts this season and in two of them, he drew clear. He's fast, but he doesn't need the lead to win and looking at the others in here, Big Band Benny is certainly going to go and Colleen's Sailor might as well, but this gelding is versatile enough to close from off the pace or take them gate to wire.

#1 Colleen's Sailor – This eleven year old gelding is three for four this year which is impressive. He's a war horse who has been quite strong this season and in his only dull effort this year, he tackled a tough field and broke poorly, which certainly didn't help his chances. Last time out, he inherited the lead quite early on, and was able to continue, winning by a length and a half. Certainly hard to ignore off his performances this year and the barn wins at 20% with horses that won last time out.

#6 Victor's Way – This four year old gelding will be making his first dirt start and looking at his record, he's been quite consistent throughout his fourteen race career, hitting the board in half of his starts. He's only made one appearance in 2020, which resulted in a fourth place finish against \$15k N3L. He was chasing hard throughout and unable to close the gap, as he tired. He should improve second time out and looking at his previous races, he has speed which should serve him well on the dirt today.

R6:

#1 Tropical Joy – This seven year old mare made her first appearance at the Fort on August 31st and proved to be much the best against the boys. While the field was extremely short, she set a decent pace and was able to draw clear by three lengths in the end. It was only her second performance of the year and it resulted in a career best Beyer. Looking at her two turn races, she's picked up some minor shares in the past year and a half at one mile and if she can set the pace once again, she should be tough. The mare to her outside will likely try to go with her, but she appears to be quicker on paper.

#7 Successful Saint – He's hit the board in all three of his starts and last time out was certainly his best performance, as he finished second behind Tropical Joy. Him and his stablemate, The Doc Is In are quite similar in my eyes, but this gelding has improved with each of his starts this year. He was successful going two turns last year and now he might be fit enough to tackle the distance while claiming a minor share.

#4 Spectacularsocio – In his first start of the year on July 20th, he was able to close from off the pace to score at 48-1 against \$5k claimers (N1Y). In his following start, he switched tactics and attempted to take them on the front end, but faltered to finish fifth, beaten by nearly 10 lengths. Last time he stepped up, to round out the tri despite a wide trip late. His last attempt at a two turn distance resulted in a fourth place finish but note that he was competitive in these Mass-bred races in 2019.

R8:

#2 Twirling Wind – In her first start since joining the barn of Kevin Buttigieg, she tired after battling on the front early on to finish sixth, beaten by two and a quarter lengths against the boys and last time out, she was part of the pace scenario and hung around for second, a length and three-quarters behind Fashion Flirt. She figures to be part of the pace scenario, but she'll need to find more late to win. If she's not challenged early, watch out.

#1 Miss Tea Blonde – Since joining the barn of Anthony Alderson, this daughter of Flashback has figured it out. She's yet to miss the board and has handled both the dirt and turf, but it certainly appears she likes the turf better. Last time out, she was last early on, but made ground up in the stretch to finish third. In her previous start, she got a similar trip and closed to finish second, just a length behind Perfect Mine who won her following start. That was at seven furlongs today and it appeared last time out she needed more ground at today's distance, but if she can be slightly closer early on, she has a big chance.

#3 My Final Trick - She tried the turf twice here while attempting to break her maiden and couldn't get the job done, but on the tapeta on July 25th, she broke her maiden in a maiden optional claiming event in gate to wire fashion. In her two starts since then, she's tackled very tough foes up at Woodbine and hasn't been able to make the lead and has had some problems (traffic, not a great break out of the gate, etc.), but getting back to the Fort, she could certainly improve at this level. At the five furlong distance, it appears her and Twirling Wind may lock up early.