

### **Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

*Seven races on the Tuesday program and today's late pick four sequence appears to be tricky. Best of luck to all the horses, their connections, and everyone wagering on today's card!*

*-Ashley Mailloux*

**R1: #5 C J's Flair** took a decent amount of money last time out and attempted to rally from the back of the pack, but was called upon too late and missed by a length and a half. It was only her second start of the year and today, she'll stretch out an extra eighth of a mile and will drop in for a lower claiming price. With all of that said, she looks to be the one to beat. **#2 Alert Kitten** hit the board in her first two starts of the year, but last time out she finished fifth, about seven and a half lengths behind C J's Flair who was third. Two starts back, she won at today's distance and looking at the potential pace setup, it could be similar. **#3 Hilltop Harmony** won decisively last time, as she was able to take \$4k claimers, non-winners of two on the year in gate-to-wire fashion. It seems that her best performances have been when she's made the lead early on, so it wouldn't be surprising to see Kirk Johnson hustle her out of the gate today.

**R2: #3 Seal Team Two** has been the runner-up in his last two starts, but in his first start of the year, he won over the turf. He'll be stretching out today from six and a half furlongs to a mile on the turf and while he's struggled to dig in late on the dirt, in his turf race he had that extra kick. His main rival, **#5 Cape Nero** looks to be extremely tough shipping in from Woodbine after two dull finishes this year over the tapeta. Over the turf, he has a 1-1-1 record from six starts and in his most recent grass attempt, he finished sixth against \$15k non-winners of two lifetime. Even though he's dropping, he'll still need to show more than he has in his two starts this season. He does close from off the pace so hopefully he'll get some stronger early fractions than his most recent start. **#2 Prison Padre** made his first start at Fort Erie in nearly two years a week ago and finished third, beaten by two and a half lengths. He was several lengths off the pacesetters early on and had to go wide but was able to pick up a few spots to get up for third. His numbers from that seven furlong turf event (which might have been a slightly softer spot) put him in the hunt today.

**R3: #4 Snell Flicka** has raced in two allowance optional claiming events on the dirt this season and both have been strong efforts. In her first start of the year, she was the speed in the field and simply couldn't hold off About a Girl, who rallied late to win by a neck. In her next start, she faced the extremely tough Pachamama, who is still undefeated here this season. Looking at her most recent performance over the turf, she attempted to stalk and it didn't pan out well for her. Returning to the dirt, this four year old filly should be tough. **#6 Lil's Turn** was impressive in her first start here this season, as she went wide late and was able to continue rolling, drawing clear by two and a quarter lengths. After that performance, her connections sent her up to Woodbine for a \$10k claimer on the turf and she outran her 24-1 odds, as she overcame an awkward start and rallied from last to finish second. The Simms barn continues to flourish times meet, winning at 50% from 14 starts. **#1 Lenches Gimme** broke her maiden here last year against maiden special weight company and after that, she raced solely at Woodbine. In four starts this year, she's picked up three seconds and a third. Most recently, she was second to Not a House Frau in an allowance event for non-winners of two lifetime.

**R4:** Trainer Kevin Attard sends out **#1 No Ring**, who made her debut on July 5<sup>th</sup> for a \$10k tag over the tapeta. She didn't break well and really was never involved after that. While her work since that event isn't the strongest, the barn wins at 18% with first start on turf and 14% with maidens in their second start. She'll get Lasix today for the first time and could certainly step up in career start number two. Another Woodbine shipper is **#6 Sweet Society**, who also showed nothing in her debut. While the barn isn't know for scoring with maidens second time out, she has shown some ability in the mornings and will drop in class today. **#7 Vinpearl Valentine** was outdistanced last time out, but in her first start here over the turf, she showed potential,

finishing third against \$8k maiden claimers. She closed late in that race and while her most recent was disappointing, if she can rebound, she figures to be a contender.

**R5: #1 Midnite Snackattak** has been extremely game so far this season, winning both of his races. In his first start of the year, he really had to dig deep to find more, but he was able to do so and won by a slim nose over Flash Man. Last time out, he once again broke sharp and went to the lead and was able to draw clear by nearly three lengths in the end. While there are a lot of runners in here that want the lead, his grit and determination is why I give him the top spot endorsement. **#4 Grin n' Bear** has raced in two four and a half furlong events this season and most recently, he finished second. In both of those races, Big Band Benny was able to set the pace and kept to task. With there being more runners in here today that want the lead, the race might set up well for Grin n' Bear as he's been able to stalk this season and close some in the stretch. As mentioned, **#6 Big Band Benny** has been able to set the pace in his last two races and won both. Unfortunately for him, today there are plenty of other runners who appear to want the lead and unlike his other two starts, I have a feeling he'll be pressured early on, but he may be able to hang around for a minor share. Notice his regular rider, Helen Vanek has opted for Midnite Snackattak.

**R6: #5 Marriage Counselor** has hit the board in his two local appearances this season, most recently finishing second against \$6.25k claimers. Today, he'll cut back from six and a half furlongs to five and will take a drop in claiming price. This five year old gelding has faced tougher competition in the past, but he's always showing up in his races and at Fort Erie, he's yet to miss the board over the dirt. If someone presses **#6 Summer Retreat**, he could have some pace to run at, but regardless, he should be tough at this level today. As mentioned, **#6 Summer Retreat** has some early foot. His best races have been when he's made the lead early on and last time out against \$3k claimers, he was able to make the lead and stuck around to win by three-quarters of a length. Looking at the field on paper, it looks as though he might be able to replicate that most recent performance. This year, **#2 Mr Changue** hasn't shined in the same way that he did last season, but he's had some excuses. The turf effort can be excused, and last time out his regular rider was not aboard. Today, he'll reunite with Pierre Mailhot and their best performance this season was two starts back – a second place finish against \$6.25k claimers. While he doesn't have a win at the five furlong distance, he has picked up a slew of seconds and thirds.

**R7:** Last time out, **#3 Giovanna Ponti** had a huge rally in the stretch, but ran into traffic and in my opinion, that cost her the win. Melanie Pinto has done quite well with this filly, with now back-to-back second place finishes at the seven furlong distance, narrowly missing in both. Based on her local performances, she's the one to beat. **#2 I Miss You** finished mid-pack on the dirt last time out but was beaten by nine lengths. Looking at her turf effort two starts back, this daughter of English Channel is a major contender. She was closing late at this level over a good turf course and missed by a nose. This isn't a rarity, as she often finds herself closing late regardless of surface, but over the grass she seems to pack an ever more powerful punch. In a field that is filled with closers, **#5 Hansen's Girl** figures to be part of the pace scenario, if not the lone pacesetter. Two starts back at the seven furlong distance over the turf, she attempted to take them on the front end, but fell flat late and finished fourth, beaten by two lengths. If she can once again set the pace, she may be able to stick around for a piece.