

Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday August 13th, 2019

Today's program features our first two cup races of the season: The Molson Cup (R3) and the Bob Summers Memorial Cup (R8)! Another extremely competitive race on the card is the seventh, which features some of the toughest female turf sprinters. Best of luck to all the horses, their connections, and everyone wagering on today's card!

-Ashley Mailloux

R1: #3 J M R Victory Lap has hit the board in all his starts since coming to FE, regardless of the surface. Today, he'll return to the dirt for the first time in two months. He's finished second in both of his dirt attempts, both of which were at this level. The winner of one event returned to the winner's circle in the following start and the third place finisher in his most recent dirt start broke the maiden next time out. The added distance should be just fine for him and on paper, he looks like one of two major players in this event. #2 Primary Surplus looks to be his main threat, after his most recent start which was at this level and distance. It was his first start since February and despite being far behind the winner and heavy favorite, he clinched second place by several lengths. With a performance like that first off the long layoff, one has to think he might improve today in his second race since the winter. #1 Cakeism exits the same race at Primary Surplus, where he finished mid-pack. It was his first career start and considering the poor, tardy start, it's not surprising he wasn't in contention. Worth a shot second time out.

R2: #3 Princess Moro has been extremely consistent here and comes into this race off one of her best efforts to date. She's typically found herself chasing hard but last time out over the turf, she found herself comfortably sitting in second, well behind the pace setter and was able to make a ton of ground up in the stretch to miss by just half a length. That effort was very respectable, considering the turf course has been playing quite well to front runners and the fractions were nothing that would help her that day. She'll return to the dirt today, but after such a strong effort going two turns over the turf, she should handle the distance over the dirt. #4 Cara Lucia found herself in a similar situation in her most recent start as she was trying to catch the pace setter over the turf but was simply second best that day. She'll be making her first dirt start, but the barn has done well with the turf to dirt angle, winning at 25%. It looks as though the connections of #1 Silvertail have opted for this spot over a race on Sunday. This three year old daughter of Flat Out has only three starts so far in her career, all of which were over the tapeta at Woodbine. Her best race was her debut, as she's failed to rally in her other starts. She certainly should like the dirt and the barn does well with new acquisitions, winning at a 42% clip.

R3: The Molson Cup attracted seven strong turf females, with three having turf wins here at Fort Erie this season. #6 Pulled the Goalie has been impressive in both of her starts here at Fort Erie, proving to be the best in both and recording strong figures in both. She's beaten several runners in the field today and has enough versatility to run from just about anywhere she's placed. There is some speed to her inside (Go Go Jak, Auntie Katherine) so she should be able to tuck in just being the front runners. If she can replicate her prior efforts here, she looks to be the one to beat. #1 Fleck will certainly be treading in deeper waters today, but she's two for two over this turf course. She broke her maiden here against maiden special weight company two months back and most recently picked up her second win. The added distance today should suit her well, as she has an extremely strong, late kick. #7 Lake Manitou hit the board for the first time this year in her most recent effort, finishing third to Pulled the Goalie. She's switched barns since that race and every bit of added distance should help this mare, as she's always in need of extra ground. Even though she missed the board against starter allowance company two back, she faced the boys that day and was beaten by only two and a half lengths.

R4: After two lack luster performances over the turf, #4 Perfect Ella will return to the dirt, the surface in which she has recorded 6 of her 11 lifetime wins. Last year, she won 8 of her 19 starts picking up wins here, at Mountaineer, and Mahoning Valley. While she hasn't appeared to be the same mare that she was last season, the drop in class and return to dirt could certainly turn things around for her. In her most recent race, #3 Miss Surprise opened up on the field but was unable to continue her run in the stretch. She managed to hang on for second, and while she was beaten by a considerable amount, she certainly improved off her previous start. It looks as though she'll make the lead again if she wants it, but the six furlong distance may be further than she wants to run. #1 Dance With Me Baby exits a last place finish over the turf, where she faced some tough turf sprinters, including Bangla Dancer and Orphan Queen. She's four

for six in the money over the main track and in her only dirt start this season, she finished fourth against tougher company than today. Looks capable of a minor share while in for the \$3k tag.

R5: #1 Fine Grind has made it clear that he can run over this turf course, posting a 1-1-0 record from 2 starts. He comes into this race off a second place finish against \$6k N3L where he settled towards the back and then found himself making an outside run in the stretch. He matched his career best Beyer in the effort and while he's technically stepping up a level today, he's not the only horse doing so and he's one of only two horses with turf wins in the field. **#6 Crumlin Night** finished second at today's distance two back over the tapeta at Woodbine while facing similar company. In his only local turf appearance, he faced a tough field of non-winners of three and ended up getting up for third. He hasn't been on the grass since that effort, but he's ran quite well at the distance in several of his starts and he has faced better in some of those. **#2 Shanty Town** failed as the favorite last time out while facing non-winners of two after lacking any sort of late kick. In his prior effort over the turf, he faced similar company at Woodbine and was able to get up for third. Last year, he picked up several minor shares and those races were going at least a mile and a sixteenth. He'll be facing tougher company today, but he should appreciate the stretch out in distance and has been known to round out the tri.

R6: #2 Hipp Smitt has been facing tough competitors all season, including Mr Changue, Selling Out, and Sniper all of which will race today in the eighth race, the Bob Summers Memorial Cup. He picked up a win in his first start here at Fort Erie and then moved up to face tougher competition in his next start, where he ended up a close second. While the starter allowance company ended up being too much for him last time out, he still ran respectably and against this group, he simply stands out as the class of the field. **#4 Fifth Thief** finally found his way to the winner's circle last time out in third start here at FE (6.5 F). He settled towards the back of the pack and as he usually does, he hit his best stride late. Even though he has one win the at the six furlong distance from two attempts, his run style suggests longer races. He'll hope that the two horses to his inside lock up early on and burn one another out. The front-running **#3 Smoltz** won a \$3k claimer here on July 14th, beating Fifth Thief that day. In both of his on the board finishes this year, he wasn't really pressed all that hard and today, he will likely be joined by a rival early on. He loves today's distance and worked nicely last week, covering the four furlong distance in :48.20.

R7: There's plenty of speed in this turf sprint, but the fastest two of the bunch appear to be **#8 Ishiyaya** and **#7 Lady of Moray**. Both runners do their best racing on the front end and it seems very likely that they'll meet right out of the gate. It's hard to separate these two, but I ended up on the **#8 Ishiyaya**. She's won at five furlongs and six furlongs this year and while those were over the tapeta, her form figures to transfer to the turf. She's faced tough competition throughout her career and her win going 5F furlongs was against \$25k claimers. Against this group, she's not a lock but is a major player. In her return to the turf, **#7 Lady of Moray** rushed out of the gate, as expected, and never looked back. The final time was a very swift :58 flat which equals the time of Ishiyaya's win earlier this year. She's always been a well-respected horse here sprinting and there's a lot to like about her most recent effort. With so much speed, the stronger closer **#4 Bangla Dancer** is worth a look. Her two wins this year have come over this turf course and two starts back, she was second to Lady of Moray (moved up from third due to disqualification). She demands respect over this turf course and figures to be flying late.

R8: The final race of the day is the highly anticipated Bob Summers Memorial Cup and features some of the best runners on the grounds. This will also mark the match-up of the season, as Gold Shark and Sniper will meet for the first time. In a race with a ton of speed, the tempo should be hot which looks to set up for **#8 Sniper**, who is undefeated over the main track at Fort Erie. Looking at the form, he doesn't appear to be the most versatile runner and often makes his one, big late move but the form also suggests a solid trip for him against this group. His win at six and a half furlongs on opening day was extremely impressive, with a solid time over an off track. His main competition, **#6 Gold Shark** could win this race for a second year in a row and he has a bit more versatility in his style. In his most recent win, he went to the front and won easily by eight lengths. Last year in the Bob Summers, he was just off the leaders early on and proved to be the best. The connections will obviously have options with where to place him early, but that could be a tricky decision to make. **#3 Mr Changue** has won his last two and has been extremely tough in both, refusing to give an inch. While he's clearly stepping up in class today, he's a specialist at today's distance. Doubtful that he's quick enough to go with the front runners, so a nice stalking trip might set him up for a minor share today.