

Fort Erie Key Race Selections: Tuesday October 13th, 2020

And just like that, the 2020 comes to an end today. Ten races on the card, with some big, competitive fields, especially the nightcap. My third season at Fort Erie was certainly not the one I anticipated, as I can't remember a year that I never made it to the Fort. While it was a lot of fun to still handicap the races and share my selections, it simply wasn't the same without seeing everyone – the grooms, horsemen, jockeys, staff... you name it. The horses and everyone at the track make it what it is and are the reason I love Fort Erie so much. I hope to see you all next year in person and wish you nothing but the best the rest of the year. Best of luck to all the horses, their connections, and everyone wagering on today's card!

-Ashley Mailloux

R1:

#6 Krz Society – On paper, she's simply the one to beat. She's won her last three races and has yet to miss the board at Fort Erie. Yes, she's facing some tougher fillies and mares today, but she really hasn't done anything wrong locally.

#7 Jack's Memory – She started the season with two wins in her first three starts, but they were both on the turf. Since then, her best races have still been on the grass and she certainly was well defeated last time out. Her best dirt finish was three starts back over the mud while in for a \$4k tag, so maybe the class relief will help her step up.

#1 Aisle Altar Hymn – She exits the same race as Darling Daaher here on September 28th and it was just her second start of 2020. She's been lightly raced this year, but she's quite consistent at picking up minor shares and at a morning line price of 10-1, I'll endorse her for a minor share.

R2:

#7 Strategic Vision – He's won all of his starts this year at Fort Erie and has been flawless. His most recent win came in the Bob Summers Memorial Cup, which was certainly the tallest task he's had this year and he got the job done by a half a length. Trainer Julie Mathes has done a tremendous job with him and he should be able to rebound getting back on the dirt today.

#3 Souper Fly Over – He was simply second best behind Be Vewy Vewy Quiet last time out, but two starts back was his career best – he won by nearly seven lengths and posted an 89 Beyer speed figure. While he has speed, he also can close from off the pace.

#4 Four Nights – He was claimed two starts back for \$7.5k and in his one effort since then, he finished fourth but was placed third after a disqualification of the runner up was made. He faced extremely tough and talented turf runners that day and while he's 0-for-3 on the dirt, he should handle the surface quite well. The barn wins at 44% moving horses from the turf to the dirt.

R3:

#3 Town Dancer

#8 Handsome Guy

#9 Wiley O’Rielly

R4:

#9 Party Dress

#6 One for Nicki

#7 Miss Tea Blonde

R5:

#4 Staronthehorizon – She made her first start for trainer Julie Mathes here on October 5th, but it was over the dirt. She was part of the early pace scenario, which was pressured, and in the end, she finished third, beaten by two and a half lengths. Looking at her turf races, she had a solid turf race on August 8th up at Woodbine while trying to break her maiden and she’s taking a significant drop in class today.

#6 Einstein’s Babe – While she might be 0-for-19, this filly has some of the better turf numbers in the field and she’s been close several times this year. Last time out she finished second, beaten by a length and a half, while in for a higher claiming tag. She’s been known to close late and with her longest race being seven furlongs this year, I think if she can get a similar trip to some of her races this season, she can pick up her first career win at the mile distance.

#1 Marvel – Her turf form has been quite consistent, as she’s hit the board in three of five local turf attempts. Most recently, she was second going long on the dirt and in her most recent turf start, she was moved up to third, due to a disqualification. She can rally from off the pace or can sit just a few lengths off the leaders and a trip similar to the one she received on August 11th will put her in the mix here.

R6:

#5 Not a House Frau

#7 Twirling Wind

#3 Egyptian Nights

R7:

#5 Auntie Katherine – She’s won two cup races this season, one of which was against the boys and both were scheduled for the turf but moved to the main track. Combine that with her minor awards in distance races up at Woodbine and she looks as though she can make the lead in here and set soft fractions early on.

#8 World of Prospects – The last time the Tour de Fort was run, this son of Box Office Event was the winner. He has one win this year which came over the turf at a mile, but he’s done well in distance races in the past and it appears he was possibly claimed for this race in particular.

#4 The Other Breeze – In all his wins this year, he’s rallied from off the pace and all races have been going two turns. When he’s ready to roll, he can certainly fire a big race.

R8:

#1 Gideon's Sword

#8 Walkinaroundmoney

#4 C by the Sea

R9:

#3 Dynamic Force – He made his dirt debut a winning one last time out and he was simply the best. He rallied from mid-pack and after tipping a bit wide, he was able to draw clear by a length. In that race, he was close to the pace which is what I like in this spot. There is not a clear pace scenario on paper, so if he can be forwardly placed, that may be to his advantage.

#4 Kissoffire (IRE) – While he was winless in 2019, he's picked up two wins in four starts this year, both of which were over the tapeta. He hasn't been able to hang with the competition he's faced on the turf up at Woodbine, but we'll see what he can do in his second career dirt start while in for a \$3k tag.

#5 Cape Romance – We haven't seen him in over a year, but he's been a hard-trying horse and in his most recent start, he finished third in his local dirt debut. In his previous dirt starts, he picked up some minor placings against tougher competition than he'll face today.

R10:

#5 Seal Team Two – He's been one of the most consistent lower-level claimers that I've seen this year, and in several years at the Fort. What a cool horse that Even Stevens Stables and Sharon Ceccato have – his worst finish this season, besides when he lost his rider was a second place finish where he was beaten by two lengths. He consistently tries and has a huge heart. He enters this race off his career best performance and his first local win off the dirt... simply hard to ignore.

#12 Be the Change – He's had a strong 2020, hitting the board in all of his local performances (his only off the board finish was up at Woodbine). Last time out, he tried to close late, but couldn't get the job done and finished third, beaten by three lengths. In his two wins this year he's sat just off the pace early on and has made his move in the stretch. As his past performances reflect, many runners in this field have squared off this season and on many occasions, he's beaten several in here.

9 I Idolize You – He won two starts back against non-winners of one on the year while in for a \$3k tag and beat several in here, including Been Waiting and Hidden Artifact. Last time out, he made up ground late to round out the tri. He has a bit of versatility and it appears as though his rider may have opted for him over other(s).