

Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday, July 20th, 2021

On Monday, the P5 paid \$306.63 and no one hit the jackpot super hi-five which means the carryover continues! There are eight races on tap so plenty of chances to get involved! Good luck to today's connections and those wagering on the races. -Ashley Mailloux

Race 1: #3 Summer Retreat has been quite consistent the past few years over the Fort Erie main track - he's racked up four wins from thirteen starts over the dirt and has hit the board in twelve of those starts. So far this year, he's raced twice against \$4.5k claimers and has hit the board in both. He has early speed and if he makes the lead and he's out front by himself, watch out. **#4 Amnesty** has had trouble in two of his three starts so far this year, as he's broken poorly in those two efforts. His race on June 22nd is certainly his best - he broke sharply, but tired in the stretch and finished third. He could be a contender against today's competition, but it depends what version of him shows up. **#5 Tobruk** has won four of fifteen races here over the main track and last season he picked up two wins. He typically finds himself just sitting off the pace setters and if the other two horses mentioned lock up early, he could find himself in the perfect spot. He also should move forward making his second start off the long layoff.

Race 2: #1 Strategic Vision will look to pick up where he left off last year - the 2020 Bob Summers Memorial Cup winner won three of his six starts last year and hit the board in five races. He faced tough competition in just about every start last year and held his own. His past performances say it all and if he's ready to roll off the long layoff, he could certainly start off 2021 in a big way. One of his rivals is **#5 Dynamite Karma**, who stepped up making his second start of the year on June 29th and beat a field of \$8k claimers. He posted an 81 Beyer in that race and won by two lengths. Similar to Strategic Vision, he faced tough competition last season and he's shown that he can win on the front end, or can sit just off the pace setters and can make a move late. **#3 Bay of Rum** raced at Woodbine on July 1st and while he didn't perform well, he ran a nice second in his Fort Erie debut (and first start of the year) on June 15th.

Race 3: #3 Ima Silent Force made his turf debut here last time out on July 5th and finished third, beaten by two and a half lengths. Looking at his trip, he was towards the back of the field early on and closed nicely to round out the trifecta. Today, he'll pick up an extra furlong as he stretches out to a mile and off his most recent performance, that should suit him well. **#8 American Driven** was part of the early pace scenario in his 2021 debut, but tired late. It was his first start since early November, so maybe he needed a start. Last year, he hit the board in two of his three turf starts at the Fort. Overall, he hit the board in eight of his thirteen starts last year. He'll drop slightly in class while also picking up a new rider, Juan Crawford who wins at 38% at Fort Erie when he teams up with trainer Paula Loescher. **#2 Trinity Thundah** has only raced one on the turf in his career and that was all the way back on September 22nd, 2019 against \$25k maiden claimers at Woodbine and he finished a nice second after setting the pace. His best races since then have always been when he's been forwardly placed and it appears that in his return to the races, he tired. Last year, his best races since returning to Canada were here at Fort Erie.

Race 4: #5 Tolerate will drop in for a tag after tackling tougher competition in his first two career starts, but it's worth noting he raced respectfully in both starts. In his debut, he closed from off the pace to finish third in the Sprint Into Summer Cup and last time out, he tired after setting the pace and ended up fourth, beaten by over two lengths. He has the best numbers in this race and finds himself in the perfect spot to graduate. **#1 Switching Sides** didn't show much in the cup race mentioned above, but last time out, he tackled this level at today's distance and ended up third. Helen Vanek will climb back aboard after piloting this gelding in his most recent start and when she teams up with trainer Nick Mileni Jr. at the Fort, they win at 32%. **#7 Optimystical** actually beat Switching Sides in that race on June 29th and since then, he's raced once on the turf, where he attempted to close from the back of the pack, but only could get up for fourth. His two dirt races at this distance and level last year both resulted in on the board finishes, so he's one that is certainly worthy of a look.

Race 5: #1 Charlie's Game has hit the board in two of his three turf starts and faced tougher competition when facing winners than he'll face today in terms of a class perspective. He has an inside post today and figures to be forwardly placed, maybe a length or two off the pace. At the five furlong distance, that's a good spot to be in and he seems to be training well for his 2021 debut. It's easy to see that a line should be drawn through the most recent race of **#3 Giantballs of Fire**. The race was scheduled for the turf, but moved to the main track and he wanted no part of the dirt. All of his on the board finishes have been over the Fort Erie turf course. The biggest challenge for him will be the five furlong distance, as typically he's rolling late and doesn't have enough ground to run at. **#5 Seamus** figures to be a part of the early pace scenario and in his seasonal debut, he tried to take them gate to wire at this level, but tired in the stretch and finished third. He's fared quite well over this turf course, as reflected by his 1-2-1 record from five starts and could show a little more stamina in his second start since late October.

Race 6: #1 Kozy Kat was claimed last time out for \$5k on July 9th up at Woodbine. She was part of the early pace scenario, but faded and was beaten by two and a quarter lengths as the favorite. Her only on the board finishes were over the dirt at Gulfstream Park and Gulfstream Park West. She broke her maiden at Gulfstream against \$25k maiden claimers in late 2019. She's had some significant layoffs through her career, but she could improve returning to the dirt. **#4 Lefootwostomps** will make her dirt debut after two turf starts this year. She broke her maiden here on June 15th at the seven furlong distance via a disqualification. In her first start facing winners, she chased from second, but flattened late to finish fourth. She's shown early foot in several of her career starts which could be advantageous in this one-turn dirt event. **#6 Fairy** broke her maiden in her career debut as a two year old against \$25k maiden claimers over the tapeta up at Woodbine. In fact, I'm a Ginger finished second in that race. In her following starts, she didn't show much and was sidelined after her race on April 5th, 2020 at Oaklawn Park. Her only start since then was on June 12th and she didn't show much. Today she'll get blinkers on.

Race 7: #3 Rosiejewel Dancer has raced twice this year, but both races were over the turf. She did step up in her second start off the layoff and was just caught late last time out, so she settled for second. She'll return to the dirt today, which has been kind to her in the past as she's won two of five races here over the main track. Her last win came facing similar competition at today's six furlong distance. **#2 Shamruckus** benefited last time out when the race was moved off the turf and onto the main track. After setting the pace, she held on for third. That race was going slightly longer over a sloppy main track, so assuming there is no rain, the cutback in distance and fast main track could help her improve. **#4 Sealed With a Kiss** raced on the turf last time out and showed little. It was her first start of the year and the trip that she got was maybe not ideal - her last two wins have been on the dirt, but in both races, she made the lead at the start. This will be her first time racing on the Fort Erie dirt since 2018.

Race 8: #3 Stardust Kitten has shown up in two of her three races this year and those races were on the turf. Even though last year her two on the board finishes were on the dirt, her pedigree screams turf, as she's a daughter of Kitten's Joy. In her turf races this season, she's closed from off the pace but two starts back, the big difference was she was closer to the pace early on and closed strong to draw clear by over four lengths. The barn wins at 20% on the turf. Last time out, **#6 Gosudarina** finished second on the turf course. She was last at one point, but she was flying late and missed by just a head. That race was at today's level and distance and she could certainly step up in her third start off the layoff and second over the FE turf. **#4 Forest Lass** took a decent amount of money last time out in the wagering, but simply didn't show up like she usually does. It was her first start of the year, so maybe she had an excuse. Last year, both of her career wins came at today's distance and even in her following starts when facing slightly tougher competition, she held her own. The barn wins at 30% with runners making their second start off a layoff of 6 months or more.