

Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday, September 20th, 2022

Tuesday's eight-race card features two turf races and the early pick three consists of races for maidens, which makes it a tricky sequence. Best of luck to all the horses, their connections, and everyone wagering on today's card! - Ashley Mailloux

R1: #5 Donnarumma is the morning line favorite and rightfully so - she enters this race with the best last out performance. That race was against maiden claimers at Woodbine on the tapeta and she closed late to claim third. The class relief really helped her step up and today, she'll drop a tad while trying the dirt for the first time out. Her half-sister, Fireball Baby, is a multiple stakes winner on dirt and in fact, has eight career wins, all of which are on the dirt. **#6 Dreaming of Jenny** has yet to hit the board, but she's solely been against maiden special weight competition in her three career starts. This will be her first time around two turns and the barn is 18% with the sprint to route angle. **#2 Princess Lavender's** best race was over a fast track going two turns on July 19th. She broke sharply, set the pace, and ended up finishing second, beaten by just a head. She's had a month to regroup and if she's quick out of the gate again, the rest of the field will be trying to reel her in.

R2: #5 Vermont Holiday has had her fair share of chances to graduate, but the return to maiden claiming competition should help her today. Last time out, she came up empty on the slop against maiden special weight competition, but prior to that, she finished second two races in a row. She's arguably the quickest in the field and will likely try to steal this race on the front end. **#2 Papa's Silver** dropped in for the \$4k tag in her most recent performance and failed as the favorite. She was a distant third, but in her defense, that race was at a two-turn distance. The cutback should help her today and she does have some of the better figures in the field. **#1 Cosmic Shot** ran her strongest race last time out, which resulted in a fourth place finish against this level and at today's distance. She was engaged early on, but tired late. She's eligible to improve second off the layoff. It's worth noting trainer Kendra Wiczorek picked up a win and a second on Monday's card!

R3: Trainer Julie Mathes will saddle two runners, one of which is **#2 Honeybunnybooboo**. This two-year-old filly ran quite well on debut, finishing second behind Big Investment. The barn is two for four with maidens second time out and she likely learned a thing or two on debut. The Fipke homered **#4 Super Follow** exits the same race as Honeybunnybooboo and she finished right behind her in third. She was third throughout and lacked a late punch. Over the past three weeks, the barn is three for eight (38%) and they've hit the board in seven of those eight starts (88%). **#3 Trajec Holiday** is another runner in today's field exiting that key race on September 6th. She finished fifth and really didn't show much at all. Today, Helen Vanek will ride for her new trainer Nick Mileni Jr.

R4: #1 Hold the Applause won the Horsepeople's Luminary Cup on September 5th and she did it quite nicely. The off track was certainly to her liking and she was able to draw clear by over two lengths. Her record at Fort Erie speaks volumes and her tactical, early foot makes her a major threat today. **#2 Pino in a Purse** didn't take to the Woodbine turf course in her most recent outing, but prior to that, she recorded a strong second place finish at this level. That race was her lone appearance locally over the main track and she handled the surface quite well. Trainer Elliot Sullivan will send out **#6 Cowgirl Kimmie** and this will be her first appearance at the Fort. So far in 2022, she's recorded two wins from four starts and both wins were at Mahoning Valley. She's found the allowance optional claiming races at Belterra to be a bit too salty for and today, she'll be making just her third start off a long layoff.

R5: (TURF 3-8-6, DIRT 6-2-1) **#3 Maverick Man** and **#8 Pepperoni** were both entered last week, but when the race was moved to the main track, they both opted to scratch. Maverick Man showed a great turn of foot last time out to rally late and that resulted in his second career win. Trainer Kevin Buttigieg had this gelding ready to roll off a long layoff and today, he finds himself in a logical spot to try for a third lifetime win. Pepperoni has been a “bag of mixed apples.” This year, he hasn’t shown much, but today he’ll make his first start since rejoining the barn on Elliot Sullivan and in his lone two starts for the barn in 2021, he won both. Those wins were locally on the turf and at today’s distance, so it wouldn’t be surprising to see him run well today, but his starts this year have been disappointing. The tote action on Pepperoni is worth a long look. **#6 Stribling** will make his Fort Erie turf debut after a lackluster performance on the main track last time out. It was an off track and looking at his wins this year, one was a decisive win on the tapeta at Woodbine. If he breaks sharply, he has a chance.

R6: **#1 Jamaican Jimmy** has been consistent in his career so far, posting a 1-2-0 record from four starts. Last time out on the slop, he ran a well meant second behind Quiet Wyatt, who opened up on the field. That race was at today’s level and from what we’ve seen so far, he obviously belongs here. Today, he’ll race with blinkers and Lasix for the first time and those changes could help him find another gear. **#2 Voyant** finished fourth last time out as the favorite against this level, but Doctor Wu, the unofficial winner was disqualified and Voyant was placed up to third. He’s five for five in the money on the main track and just needs to find a bit more late. His grit and determination have served him well so far, making him a must use in the exotics. **#3 Not a Game** is technically jumping up in class, but his Beyer last time out makes him a player at this level. He finished second and just missed by three-quarters of a length and in his prior effort, he was third behind Skills Test, who doubled up and returned to the winners’ circle in his following start. This son of Exaggerator should get a trip just off the pace and has shown the ability to close late.

R7: **#1 Paperback Hero** was a bit further back than usual in his latest appearance and with that said, he only could manage fourth, beaten by a length and three-quarters. It was a good performance and looking at his sprint races this year, he shows up just about every single start. Today, he’ll break from the rail and with a fair bit of pace in the field, he will hopefully be able to get into a better spot early on. **#6 Mammoth Spring** ran second last time out and simply could not catch Ready at Dawn. That race was certainly better than two starts back, when he tackled winners for the first time. Jockey Kirk Johnson lands here and it will be his first time back aboard this son of Tale of Ekati since his maiden victory earlier in the meet. **#5 Thy Kingdom** has stamped himself as a consistent horse to use in the exotics. So far this year, he’s hit the board in five of his seven starts. With that said, he runs a similar race just about every single time - he usually tries to close from off the pace and often settles for minor shares. Knowing that, it’s promising to see Melanie Pinto climb aboard him for the first time - maybe she can get more out of him in the final stages of the race.

R8: (TURF 1-4-5, DIRT 4-10-8) **#1 Our Stormy Suzie**’s best game is setting the pace on the turf - she showed that in her races two and three starts back. With that said, she will need to dig a bit deeper to sustain her bid late, as she often tires. Today, she has the rail which plays in her favor. **#4 Seeds of Grandeur** was only half a length behind Our Stormy Suzie on August 9th. It was her first race on the turf and it was her best race so far. She split that field of eight early on and did finish nicely to finish third. In her most recent start, she went long on the main track and was a distant third, but the winner was much the best and it’s a positive sign that the runner up came back to graduate next time out. **#5 Silent But Violent** has strictly raced on the Fort Erie turf course in 2022 and she’s hit the board in three of her five starts. Two starts back, she broke slowly, but managed to recover and closed late to finish second, beaten by less than two lengths. With her run style, it would help her chances if someone tried to push Our Stormy Suzie early on.