

Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday, July 27th, 2021

There were a few upsets on the Monday program, with the biggest price being Pepperoni, who won R4 and paid \$30.50 to win. Another seven race card on tap today, with a pair of starter optional claiming events on the program. Good luck to today's connections and those wagering on the races. -Ashley Mailloux

Race 1: #5 Sammy's Mineshaft will make his first local start at the Fort and has had a strong year so far, winning three of six starts. He disappointed last time out, but he took a big step up on the stretch out to a mile. Two starts back, he was a dominant winner at Mountaineer and if he's able to make the lead, watch out. The rest of the field will have to play catch me if you can. **#4 I Idolize You** raced here once this year and while the effort was lackluster, he had two big excuses - it was his first start of the year and more importantly, it was a five furlong sprint. His late-closing style has suggested in the past that he needs to go longer and in his two efforts since his 2021 debut, he's had two big races up at Woodbine at a mile and a sixteenth. He finished second in both and was defeated by no more than one length. **#2 What's On Tap** has recorded two solid performances so far this meet and his most recent resulted in a win in which he rallied from the back to get up in time to win by a neck. He's going to stretch out to two turns today, but based on his record and his late turn of foot, he should appreciate the additional distance. He has a 5-3-1 record from 14 starts at today's distance.

Race 2: #5 Lucky Street was forwardly placed last time out, unlike his first start of the year and the trip made it all the difference. He rated just off the pacesetter and was game in the stretch to score. He'll stay at the \$6k level and jockey Melanie Pinto will stay aboard after guiding him to victory last time out. Trainer Sharon Ceccato finds herself back in the winners' circle with winners last time out at a solid rate of 24%. **#3 Empty Talk** appears to have had the winter off after a pair of poor performances. On July 12th, he made his first start of the year and ended up third. He lacked a late punch in the stretch, but the effort seems to have been a good launching point for his summer campaign. Since the start of the meet, the barn has been red hot, winning at 38% and in the money 69% of the time from 13 starters. **#2 Marriage Counselor** picked up his first win of the year last time out while facing \$4k claimers on the dirt. He sat off the pacesetters early on and started to advance on the turn before drawing clear by over three lengths. He'll step up a bit today and will look to add to his Fort Erie resume.

Race 3: #4 Classy n' Silent finished an extremely game second last time out sprinting over the tapeta up at Woodbine and was picked out of that race for \$14k. She's been pretty consistent throughout her ten race career, hitting the board in half of her starts. Her best trait is her early foot and in this five furlong turf sprint, she's probably going to try to steal it on the front end. **#5 Whatswrongwithyou** broke her maiden last time out sprinting on the turf in her second start of the year. Both of her local races have been strong and so far in her career, her best performances have been on the turf, but the intriguing thing is that she's shown a bit of versatility in those efforts. **#6 Hasn't Hit Me Yet** has only hit the board in one of her four turf attempts, but all of them were up at Woodbine against some tough maiden competition. In her lone start of 2021, she tried to take her competition on the front end over the mud, but could not hold off Twomanyshots. Looking more at her pedigree, two of her three siblings that have raced have performed quite well over the grass.

Race 4: #1 Arcelor has had a phenomenal year so far, posting a 2-3-1 record from an equal number of starts and last time out in her Fort Erie debut, she proved to be much the best against this level of competition. The barn wins with last out winners at a big rate of 29% and she's done little wrong this year - she appears the one to beat. **#6 Snell Flicka** won her seasonal debut on the turf and last time out, she finished third behind Arcelor and Tropical Cat. She's only missed the board in one start over the Fort Erie dirt and this mare has a ton of heart. Looking at the horses that she's faced this season and last year, she deserves a look in the exotics. Last year, she finished second in the Andy Passero Memorial Cup. **#4**

Zoysia will make her dirt debut in her first start since being claimed by trainer John Simms. She's a three time winner in her career and all have been on some sort of synthetic surface. She's a two time winner at today's distance, but will need to tackle the new surface.

Race 5: #9 Dot's Vision looked great here on June 28th, winning a one mile turf event. He was forwardly placed from the start and geared down in the stretch to win as the favorite. He's only raced twice here at Fort Erie on the turf and he's won both of those races. His two turf outings this season have both been extremely strong and make him a logical contender for the top spot. **#5 Bold Animaux** has faced him in his last two starts and in his case, he stepped up big time in his local outing. He finished second in that race after being part of the pace early on and only missed by a length and a quarter. He made his first appearance here at the Fort last year and he's fared well in just about all his starts, which have been against similar competition. **#3 Remember the Maine** spent his winter and spring in South Florida at Gulfstream Park before transferring to the barn of Elliot Sullivan. He tackled \$16k claimers on the turf there, but found the waters to be too deep. In his second start since February and first for his new trainer, he went off favored against \$10k claimers at Mountaineer and closed late to win by a head. He'll be ridden by Chris Husbands, who continues to impress this meet, winning at 34% and at 21% when riding for trainer Elliot Sullivan.

Race 6: #3 Call Me Wally made his nine year old debut over the tapeta at Woodbine and finished fourth against competition that was slightly tougher than today's. He's never raced on the dirt in his career, but looking at his pedigree, he should be fine as a few of his siblings have raced on the dirt and he's out of a mare that raced primarily on the dirt and all three of her wins were over the surface. He's trained quite swiftly over the dirt training track at Woodbine. **#6 In a Twist** is his stablemate and he performed well in his local dirt debut, as he finished second against this level of competition on June 29th. Looking at that field, the winner came back to finish third next time out on the step up and the fourth place finisher ended up winning next time out at the same level with a 78 Beyer speed figure. He figures to improve second off the long layoff. **#1 Tale of Vienna** will step up one price level today and will look for his seventh career victory. He won last time out in gate-to-wire fashion in his first start since mid-November. He's won three of his four local starts over the dirt and over the last two year, horses in the John Simms barn who won last time out repeat at 17% and are in the money 83% of the time from a sample size of 18.

Race 7: #2 Gimbala has raced well here over the off-going, as reflected by her undefeated record over a wet main track, but her turf races are quite strong as well. She finished second in both of them and her career-best Beyer of a 70 was against this level and at today's distance. This will be her first start off the claim and she'll reunite with jockey Juan Crawford, who has piloted her two local wins. She figures to step up from her most recent performance while returning to the lawn. **#1 I Have Feelings** was well defeated last time out, but in her defense, the race was scheduled for the turf and moved to the dirt. All five of her career wins have been over the tapeta or turf, so she should appreciate getting back on the turf. Her second place finish two back would certainly put her in the mix today, as she'll get class relief from that allowance optional claiming event on the turf. **#10 Sprog** is a newcomer to the Fort, as most of her races have been out west at Hastings. She's won three of her nine career starts and in all her wins, she's taken her competition gate to wire. She'll try the turf for the first time today, but she's worth a shot, especially at a price in the exotics. On a fun sidenote, her half brother, Big Time Louie is set to race earlier today, in race 2!