

### **Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Seven races are on tap for the Tuesday program! The feature goes as race six, a five-and-a-half-furlong allowance event for non-winners of two races lifetime. Good luck to today's connections and those wagering on the races!*

*- Ashley Mailloux*

**Race 1:** **#1 Carpe Bellum** dropped down to this level in his Fort Erie debut and finished second behind the pace setter, Grand Gizmo. He finds himself against a field that he should be able to conquer and in terms of the flow last time out, the race played quite fairly, the pace setter just got away from them early. **#4 Glorious Tribute** also exits the same race as Carpe Bellum, but this gelding wasn't closing as well – he needed a bit more, but still claimed third. With that said, it seemed as though the drop helped him last time out and he figures to be better around two turns on the dirt with that most recent route under his belt. **#5 Collaborative** failed to fire in his first start since moving to the barn of Nick Mileni Jr., but that was sprinting. Today, he stretches back out in distance while also taking a drop in class and his connections spot their runners exceptionally well. It wouldn't be shocking to see him take a step forward trying something different than last time on the main track.

**Race 2:** On the return to a two-turn distance, **#5 Grand Gizmo** was able to take them all the way on the front end in his most recent outing. When this son of Giant Gizmo can get an easy lead, he can be extremely dangerous and looking at this group, the only company he may have early is the inside runner in this group, who's lacked stamina this year. He steps up in class here, but off the most recent effort with a 56 Beyer, he warrants a long look here. **#6 October Frost** took a nice step forward in his third start off the long layoff on July 8<sup>th</sup>, finishing second at this level and distance. The tempo wasn't all that quick early, but this gelding was able to close and makeup some ground to get his nose down in the second spot over Big Brown Brewski. With what figures to be a quicker pace than last time out, he should be rolling late. **#3 Redoute's Light** had a little bit of trouble last time out and ended up fourth in the same race that October Frost exits. This gelding consistently picks up checks, but his late running style often hinders him from finding the winners' circle.

**Race 3:** **#6 Tamana** has fired in each of her local starts this season – dirt or turf, it doesn't seem to matter to her, and she's been effective from five furlongs to one mile in those races. The mile distance may have been a little too far for her on the grass and her connections have decided to get her back on the dirt. The six-and-a-half-furlong distance should work well for her, as she can be forward, but she can also rate if needed. **#5 Speedy Johnny** was much the best last time out, winning her second career race by three and a half lengths. She sat just off the pace early, made a move, and continue to draw away. She gets the ten-pound weight break again and could get enough the right setup against this group, if she can string together two solid races in a row. **#1 Zafeather** consistently picked up minor awards last season against considerably tougher competition, including Can't Beat the Katz, Sneaky Rebel, and Green Gables. In her first start of the season, she just missed second after chasing the pace throughout. With a race under her belt, she figures to improve today.

**Race 4:** **#5 Quarky** had a bit of trouble from the gate once again, but he certainly took a huge step forward getting back on the turf, which really shouldn't have been much of a surprise looking at his resume – all six of his career victories have been on the grass. The slow start cost him position early, but he still managed to move up and finished second behind a salty veteran by the name of Grainger County. If he's anything near as good as he was at the end of June, he could be extremely tough here. His main rival on paper is **#3 Anarchy**, who picked up his third career victory on opening day and was three lengths behind Quarky last time out. His rider did lose his irons in that race, which may have hindered him, and his natural early foot has proven to work out quite well for him. **#2 Union Colonel** might have had some excuses in his two outings this year – he likely needed a race, and he absolutely prefers the turf over the dirt. Last season, he won three races, two of which were over this turf course sprinting. This is also a drop down in class from his latest performance, which figures to help him as well and similarly to Quarky, forward trips over this turf course sprinting have been generous to him.

**Race 5:** Like several in the field, **#5 Follow Me Home** will stretch out in distance for the first time in his career. He took a step forward in his second career start which in contrast to his debut, was at a longer distance and over a fast main track. Also, he was more forward second time out than he was on debut. He draws the outside in this dirt route and hopefully can get over before the run into the first turn to save some ground. The barn does very well moving horses from sprints to routes, winning at 27% over the past year (ITM 64%). **#3 Tonka Wakan** appears to have matured from four to five, as we saw in his first start of the year. He took a step forward figures wise and enters this race off a career best second-place finish, where he failed to hold late and just missed by a head. His lone try around two turns was a chase and fade performance, but as mentioned, he ran well in his first start since December and figures to be more fit with a race under his belt. **#2 Persevere** finished a length and a quarter behind Tonka Wakan in his first start of his three-year-old season. Similarly, he came to life in comparison to his other two career starts, both of which were on the tapeta and is a bit of a wild card in this group, as he has a limited number of starts and has yet to race around two turns.

**Race 6:** **#4 Spirit of Seattle** was simply second-best last time out against \$6.25k claimers at the six-furlong distance. His better races this year have been when he's been forward and while he jumps up in class today, he cuts back slightly and appears to be one of the two main speed horses on paper, which figures to aid him. **#6 Nameofthegame** won with ease in his Fort Erie debut and while he only hooked a field of three other opponents, he faces the runner-up of that event, Fajardo, who came back to win next out, and the third-place finisher raced well in his next outing on the grass. He'll race first off the claim for Lincoln Radhay and trainer George Newland, who has had a solid season, with two wins and five in-the-money finishes from ten starts. **#7 Back to Reality** has been second in his two starts this year, one of which was at this level and distance. In that race, he simply could not run down Bajan Bullet, who went to the lead from the gate and held his own. The former connections of Back to Reality then decided to drop him down to \$6.25k level and he surrendered late while going slightly further. That race was the first time Kirk Johnson was aboard and he's retained the mount for the new connections – maybe he learned something last out and can put together the perfect trip for this son of Uncaptured. The outside draw should also help this front-running type.

**Race 7:** **#7 Awildas Treasure** tired last time out at the seven-eighths trip, but last year, she raced very well locally in turf routes. In her other turf race of the year, she just missed with Michael David in the irons, who climbs back aboard this mare today and he's been her pilot for some of her best turf races at the Fort. She did face a tough group last time out, which featured Seeds of Grandeur and next out winner Mimi's Holiday, and while she faces some of the same runners, she does drop in claiming price. The runner that finished directly in front of her last time out, **#8 Little Fire** will make her second start since joining the barn of Roy Agostino. She did close late in that race and finished up nicely to finish fourth, beaten by three lengths. It looks as though in this spot, she may get some pace to run into, which will be key for her. **#4 Brienne of TARTH** also participated in that same race on July 1<sup>st</sup> and while she progressed in her second start of the year, it wasn't enough. This will be her second start going long in a row, which could aid her, but she'll also get a rider change – Juan Crawford, who piloted her to two wins last year and a slew of minor awards will climb back aboard her for the first time since the fall.