

**Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

*The following selections were handicapped for **fast/firm** conditions. Good luck to all the horses, their connections, and those placing wagers today! -Ashley Mailloux*

**Race 1: #5 Wild Honey** is exiting a \$15k maiden claiming event over the grass at Woodbine, where she flattened out in the late stages. She has shown she has a turn of early foot, as she showed in her 2018 debut. If you look at her last race of 2017, the winner of that race was Our Miss Maggie who was impressive a week ago winning by almost 10 lengths. Pat Parente sends out **#1 Floral Clock** who most recently didn't show much as she could not overcome her trouble out of the gate. Her workouts before that race were quite strong and with the addition of blinkers, she could break swiftly out of the gate and be in contention early on. The four-year-old daughter of Bodemeister **#3 Winterveld** has steady works over the main track and did run here last season after moving to the barn of Anthony Alderson. In that race, she finished third beaten by six lengths. The cutback in distance and addition of Lasix could make all the difference.

**Race 2:** Coming off a win against a level higher than this, **#2 Tizmatized** has had a respectable amount of time off and the trainer wins at 25% fresh off a win. In her most recent race here, she ended up drawing off by 3 lengths after setting a hot pace. She'll be facing tough competitors in here, such as **#4 Grin n' Bear** and **#5 Flashy Margarita**. **#4 Grin n' Bear** was entered earlier this meet and ended up scratching. Since then, he has posted a fast breeze over the main in :36.20 and looks ready to roll. He drew off easily in his 2018 debut at Mountaineer, winning by almost seventh lengths after setting a half mile time of :45.6. If he can draw off that impressively at six furlongs, it appears five furlongs will be just as nice to him. **#5 Flashy Margarita** won opening day at the distance and on the step up in class, he ended up finishing second. After two gutsy efforts, he was given two weeks of rest to regroup and hopefully add to his impressive 3-2-1 record over the dirt at FE from 7 starts.

**Race 3:** Barbara Minshall sends **#5 Inside Man** down from Woodbine after he posted a flashy dirt work, going four furlongs over the Woodbine training track in :48 flat. He'll be dropping to his lowest level and is getting blinkers for the first time. In all of his starts, he's had problems breaking out of the gate quickly and has been tardy, so blinkers should assist him. If that breeze was with blinkers on, watch out. **#4 Pool Boy** will be dropping to his lowest level while trying the dirt for the first time. Off the drop alone and surface change, he's a contender against this group. His sire, Pool Play raced well over all surfaces, but his biggest win was arguably over the dirt when he won the G1 Stephen Foster Handicap at Churchill Downs in 2011. **#1 Hindianna Jones** broke last is his most recent effort and didn't have any kick. He's been inconsistent over the dirt here, but if he's going to try to rate like he has in the past and gets a hot pace, he can pick up a minor share as he's previously found success doing just that.

**Race 4:** The ten-year-old **#6 Executive Five** just missed last time out after attempting to reel them in coming for home. At Fort Erie, trainer Anthony Adamo and jockey Kirk Johnson win at about 26% and Kirk will be getting back on after not riding him in his most recent start. He's getting class relief today so combine that with the early speed in this race and it appears you have the perfect recipe for a trip to the winner's circle. **#5 Spanish Trick** rated in her most recent race, sitting second throughout but couldn't sustain her bid. She ended up finishing third to AC Effervescence who came from the middle of the back to surge by the field with ease. She has three wins from seven starts over the grass, all of which were at this distance. She'll have to keep to task in here, as there is a significant amount of early speed. **#7 Hombre Natural** finished second over the main track in the same level and today he'll be transiting to the turf for the first time since July 2017, in which he won that race in gate to wire fashion. While he has been known to gun it out of the gate, I think he could sit second or third right on the tails of the leaders and make a move in the lane.

**Race 5:** After failing to close in on Speedy Fox in his most recent start, **#5 More Than Shirl** and Helen Vanek team up again in hopes of getting the job against this field. He'll be getting a bit of an extra distance, going six and a half furlongs which may help him close in the later stages of the race. Looking at his past performances, it's evident that he's not only been a hot commodity among trainers on the Kentucky circuit, but that he is also a strong competitor. Last year, he recorded 4 wins and 6 third place finishes from 13 starts. **#4 Jimmies Truck** typically finds himself close to the front end and while he may have finished fifth at Woodbine on June 6<sup>th</sup>, he only lost by four and one quarter lengths. He seems to falter late in his races which is a concern, but it will be his first start on the dirt and if he's toward the front end, he may be able to sustain his run over this speed-favoring surface. **#1 Comedy Gold** will be getting class relief after being outrun on opening day. His most recent breeze was honest, where he recorded a time of :49 seconds flat for four furlongs, ranking him fifth out of twelve at the distance. He won back to back races in 2017, the first of which was at this distance over the main track. He flashed early speed and ended up drawing off against a field much tougher than this today. He looks as though he should be a price at the window and if he can return to that form, he's a logical contender.

**Race 6:** One of the best horses on the backstretch last season was **#4 Tiger Hall** who looks to defend that reputation this year. In his eight races here in 2017, besides a fifth-place finish, he was never off the board and ended up winning 4 races. While this may not be his favorite distance and I'd expect him to stretch out as the season progresses, I think it's a great distance for his first race off the long layoff. I love trainers who breeze every seven days and Kevin Buttigieg has done just that while prepping this talented runner for his 2018 debut. Dropping in class and traveling down from Woodbine, **#5 Bear On Fire** also had an impressive win streak last year, winning three in a row at Woodbine on the front end. It appears his connections have been taking their time getting him to the races this year, as he's been working very nicely for over a month and note all of those breezes were over the training track at Woodbine. Trainer Jim Ensom has only raced once here at Fort Erie so far this meet and that runner was Gasparilla Trove who found himself in the winner's circle on Sunday. Ensom wins at 42% from 19 runners when he races newly acquired horses for the first time. **#3 Smoltz** failed as the favorite on opening day and never challenged anyone. He may have needed a race after having six weeks off, so he could improve second time out since his last race at Tampa.

**Race 7:** Two weeks ago, **#1 A C Effervescence** ended up going off as the post time favorite, down from 10-1 morning line and proved the horseplayers to be smart as he blew by the field to win with ease. This mare loves the turf course and the additional two furlongs against this bunch is much to her liking. She recorded two wins at the distance last season and the way she won last time out so effortlessly makes the repeat trip to the winner's circle well within her reach. Entered on June 17<sup>th</sup>, **#3 Rebel Lioness** was scratched and finds herself facing a less fierce group compared to the field she would have faced Sunday. She ran nicely in her season debut against the same caliber, stalking throughout and moving up in the stretch to secure runner up honors. The winner that day, Annie O'Schiller is a consistent turf horse who is a strong competitor so one must respect Rebel Lioness. Exiting the same race, **#5 Poly Anna** broke last, gave the field a sizable advantage and came running late to round out the superfecta. I like that her connections have decided to give her another shot over this course and with a speedier break, she should find herself in a better spot.

**Race 8:** **#1 About a Girl** couldn't close last Tuesday but managed to continue her bid and finished second in a field that was strung out. She'll be getting a different rider today, Krista Carginan who continues to have strong meet and is known to get horses to the front without having to rush them. I think the rider change will aid this five-year-old mare and I make her my top selection against this field. After folding over the turf against a tougher group, **#3 Crazy Over Me** finds herself back over the dirt, where she has found success and recorded all three of her lifetime wins. With the main track playing to speed so nicely, the surface change could enable Crazy Over Me to retain the lead throughout. Late in 2017, **#5 Lucky Emerald** started to come alive, winning twice and finishing second once from four starts. One of her wins was against tougher company and some of her speed figures are better than those of several runners today. She'll be trying to run down the front runners.