

Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday October 9th, 2018

The pick 5 sequence gets started in R5 and it looks like it could set up for some prices. Good luck to all the horses, their connections, and those joining us at the track! -Ashley Mailloux

R1: #2 Mercury Rising has found the competition to be too much at Woodbine and takes a steep drop in her first start for her new connections. She's had some excuses in 2 of her 3 starts, clipping heels in one race and breaking slowly in another. While the barn does not fire with new acquisitions, this filly did have a nice breeze over the training track at Woodbine last month which may indicate she'll handle the dirt nicely. **#3 Zahara Double Fire** is the only runner in this race that has hit the board over the main track here at Fort Erie. She's finished second in both of her most recent starts and she comes into this race off her best race of 2018. She broke on top and managed to hang on for a minor share, just over 4 lengths behind the winner. While she's recently faced lesser quality than this group, at least she has dirt races under her belt. **#1 Regifiable** is another shipper who has found the company at Woodbine to be a bit too much. Should fit this level well and could maybe try a new tactic against this field.

R2: Speedy is the best way to describe morning line favorite **#3 Hombre Natural**, who has had a stellar year, winning his last four starts. He can run over just about any surface and he's just been in a league of his own at this level and distance. The only runner that looks capable of not only battling it out with him but sustaining his bid in the stretch is **#4 Too Many Egbert's**. He comes into this race off a second place finish to Ave Caesar, who was able to close in on the field after Too Many Egbert's and Gasparilla Trove locked up early on, posting the half in :45.60. His only other start over the main track resulted in a win against starter allowance company at this distance. He's capable of getting the best of the morning line favorite. A speed duel would certainly benefit **#6 Moon Doggie**, who usually finds himself closing late. In his win over this surface this year, he benefited from an early pace scenario and was able to close in. He reunites with jockey Juan Crawford, who guided him to that win.

R3: Trainer Ken Albu will saddle two runners in here and I think it's a toss up between the two for the top honors. I ended up giving the slight edge to **#3 Mr Changue** from a consistency angle. He's really fired the second half of the season since joining Albu's barn and he's proven himself at this level. He can go gate to wire or he can sit just off the leaders. Stablemate **#7 Ave Caesar** picked up his first win of the year last time out, closing from last to draw off by two lengths. Prior to this strategy change and rider change, he seemed to be pushed early and he couldn't get himself settled. While he's stepping up in class, the barn does extremely well with return trips to the winner's circle and maybe this son of Kodiak Kowboy has regained his confidence. I'd assume Flashy Margaritta and Doinmysongndance will be likely participants in the early pace scenario, which could set up for **#4 Im On It**. He will probably be a bit closer than Ave Caesar and a few others in here, which may put in the perfect position for a strong stretch drive. He comes into this race off a two race win streak and while he will be stepping up a level, he's proven himself to be much the best with his late kick. Extra half of a furlong should be no problem for him.

R4: #6 Clever Shot won last time out in her first start for her new owners and trainer, Sharon Ceccato. She stalked for a bit early on and then made her move in the stretch, where she held on by a head. She'll take a step up, facing non-winners of three lifetime for her first time, but the slight cutback in distance really should help this three year old filly, who almost was caught going 6 furlongs. **#7 Dance With Me Baby** hasn't been seen in some time, but in her most recent start on July 29th, she absolutely dominated, winning on the front end by over 7 lengths. She's been training very well, and I'd be shocked if she isn't the post time favorite, but the barn hasn't been the best off of layoffs, only winning 1 of 29 off a 61-180 day layoff. She might just blow this field away, but the stat makes me shy away from endorsing her on top. Claimed last time out for \$3k, **#3 Night Gathers (IRE)** has had a solid season, hitting the board at FE in 6 of her 9 starts. She'll likely try to push the morning line favorite and tends to be able to stick around for a minor share.

R5: #4 Dubhe broke her maiden three starts back ago up at Woodbine (\$10k tag). While she wasn't turning heads in her following starts, her most recent was a step up. She finished fourth beaten by less than 5 lengths against a big field. She fits this level well and if she can handle the dirt, she figures to be tough. **#10 Secretariats Honor** just missed last time after having to roll out wide. She'll be making her second start for trainer John Simms and while she's stepping up, she could improve and has been competitive against better earlier this year. Really like her against this group. **#8 Adios Mia** caught my eye as a longshot play, as she's been better since coming to Canada. She's hit the board in almost half of her starts this year and broke her maiden in July. She's certainly a closer, but in her maiden win she benefited from being closer to the front than usual. A similar trip to that and she may be just fine over this dirt course. She is 0 for 4 over the dirt, but maybe she's turned the corner and just didn't like that specific surface at GP.

R6: Today's starter allowance is anyone's race to win. At this distance, **#5 Lady of Moray** will be tough. This year, she's been one of the fastest at five furlongs and has set some sizzling half mile times. She's won half of her races this year at FE and while she hasn't faced starter company, she did race in the Andy Passero Cup, where she was second to my second choice, **#1 About A Girl**. She absolutely walked out of the gate last time out, giving the field a head start and was unable to recover. I like seeing her with an inside post position today, but once again, the 5 furlong distance may be a bit too short for her. While she's ran well on the lead, she's much better rating and may not have enough ground to run at. **#6 Madcap Duchess** has been a force to be reckoned, winning 9 of 20 starts over the main track. She's undefeated this year, winning on July 15th and September 2nd. She appreciates this distance and has beat a handful of runners that she will face again today, but I'm not sure she's the quickest runner in here and she may find herself leg weary in the stretch. Hard to ignore from her record here and at the distance.

R7: #2 Sweet Deal enters this race off a second place finish at this level and distance. She set the pace and was just caught in the final stages by Callielikedherbrew, who is in today. Her only bad race since March was in an optional claimer at FE, where she clearly was outclassed. She figures to be the likely pace setter and could go uncontested, which makes her dangerous. **#7 Ginger Candy** has yet to miss the board in 2018, posting a 1-3-2 record. She comes into this race off her win and while she'll be stepping up in class, she's been in for higher tags this year and has still performed strong. Off that most recent, the distance could be a bit short for her but she looks like a major player in the exotics. **#4 Aunt Sue** looks for a surface change and cutback in distance to get her first win of the year. She's only made three appearances in 2018, but she hasn't been too far out of her races. She's posted some decent numbers, but the dirt is a bit of a question with only one career start (which resulted in an off the board finish).

R8: #5 Majestic Heist made his first start for trainer Gary Chudobiak on September 25th and was just second best that day. Once again, he was not able to hold off Majestic Goldminer, who has won three races in a row and most recently, finished second in the mile and a half dirt race here last week. He will change riders today, which could be a key factor. He's found himself able to close nicely in the past and I wouldn't be surprised if Carignan allows him to rate or puts him on the front end. He's handy enough to run from either. **#3 Cadillac Red** has won over the dirt at Remington Park and Oaklawn, but recently has found himself backsliding at Woodbine. Gets major class relief and returns to his preferred surface. Watch out, as the barn wins at 30% with new runners. **#4 Fainne Geal** stretches back out after failing to fire at six and a half furlongs. Has yet to win over the dirt, but has been consistently in the money, beating several runners in here today.

R9: #4 Classic Daniel broke his maiden over this track against special weight company at the distance earlier this year and most recently found himself back here. He finished second, beaten by a length and might have benefited from more distance. He gets that today and with a fair amount of speed, he should be right there if he can rate comfortably throughout. **#5 Martinkelly** drops in for his lowest tag and will be making his first dirt start. He broke his maiden in August at Woodbine but has showed little since then. He seems to lack stamina, but out of his works over the training track at Woodbine, some have been decent enough to make him a contender against this field. **#10 Berkeley Boy** has hit the board in both of his dirt starts and in one of those, he recorded his maiden win at this distance. He's been facing much better over the grass and could step up getting back to this surface.