

### **Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

*Today's program features eight races, including an allowance optional claiming event for three-year-olds and up as well as a maiden special weight event on the turf. Good luck to today's connections and those wagering on the races!*

*- Ashley Mailloux*

**Race 1: #6 Seven Is a Breeze** really thrived over the Fort Erie dirt last season and while a few in the field might have a fitness edge, this four-year-old has some really nice works in preparation for his first start of the year. Anything close to his races last year would put him in the winners' circle and it's worth noting that John Simms and Brandon Boulanger teamed up to win on opening day. **#4 Workin Out** tackled a tough group up at Woodbine earlier this month and will return to the dirt, which should play in his favor – he graduated on the dirt at Monmouth Park and late last season, finished third against this level. The class relief, a race under his belt this year, and a solid drill on May 21<sup>st</sup> suggest he's ready to roll. **#5 Haddassah's Devil** raced twice this winter at Tampa Bay Downs and while he didn't show much, he may have not handled the dirt at Tampa. The duo of Richard Davis and Pierre Mailhot is always one to watch at the Fort and if the pace is strong enough, even at a distance that is probably a tad shorter than he likes, he may be able to pick up a share.

**Race 2: #5 Artie My Boy** raced well here last season and recently has been racing at both Mountaineer and Mahoning Valley. Three starts back at Mahoning, he battled near the front in a six-furlong event and tired late to finish second. His most recent effort was slightly dull, but the event produced two next out-winners – The Cookie Man went on to win a SOC with a 69 Beyer and Crafty Conquest, his stablemate, won a \$7.5k claiming event with a 78 Beyer at Woodbine. Speaking of stablemates, the other Mathes trainee in this field, **#1 Summer Retreat** could get back into form returning to the barn as well as the Fort. Two of his last four starts were tough spots and he's had some down time since December. His record at the Fort over the main track says it all – watch out. Longshot **#2 Glitter Mountain** is training well for the Maynard barn, who had a strong showing on opening day. Looking at his races last year, he can be tactical from the gate and may get a good position early on – wouldn't sleep on this one.

**Race 3:** Trainer Richard Davis took a string of horses down to Tampa Bay Downs this winter and one of those horses was **#3 Timmins**, a four-year-old son of Mineshaft. His best start was his first one down there against \$16k maiden claimers and in his following starts, he didn't show too much. He figures to appreciate the drop as well as the surface switch – he raced well last summer on the turf at WO and pedigree wise, he's out of a Machiavellian mare who was a graded stakes winner on the turf. **#2 Breach of Trust** will make his Fort Erie debut for trainer Marty Drexler, who has had a sensational year so far. This five-year-old gelding hasn't shown much, but two starts back he raced quite well up at WO. The barn does well moving horses off the synthetic to the turf and he drops in class while getting a five-pound weight break. **#4 Joe Chrome** raced on opening day and was claimed by trainer Julie Mathes for \$4k. Looking at that effort, he flashed early speed, as expected, and tired late to finish second. He's going to stretch out around two turns for the first time which may be problematic, but there is potentially a scenario where he gets to the front and is able to slow it down.

**Race 4: #6 Paperback Hero** had an excellent year in 2022, posting a 2-4-1 record at the Fort from a total of nine starts and in the two starts where he missed the board, he had excuses. He appears to be training well for his return to the races and the Roy Agostino barn is off to a good start at the meet. He's shown the ability to be forward as well as close and pass horses in the stretch which makes him the top pick. **#2 Big Bad Beast** picked up his second lifetime win at Mahoning Valley on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was able to get a nice pace setup and kicked on nicely in the stretch to close and win by half a length. In his last two races, he's been a bit closer and has tired late, which has been a common occurrence. He figures to improve returning to the dirt at the \$5k level. **#5 Crumlin Experience** will make his four-year-

old debut for the Simms barn, who picked up this runner last July. He raced well in two of his efforts last year and in both, he was forwardly placed going six and a half furlongs. Today, it appears that he will be forward from the gate and if that's the case, he could be tough.

**Race 5: #2 Rememberoldtymes** came to life on the Fort Erie dirt late last year, winning all three of her starts. Prior to that, she had faced some big losses, but on the dirt she was unstoppable. The layoff will be her biggest obstacle, but she's hard to knock against this group. Her main rival, who is race-day ready, **#5 Pacenza**, will look to pick up her fifth career win and second on the year. She crushed her competition last time out at Mountaineer on the slop by ten lengths. She hit the front and continued to open on the field. Trainer Sharon Ceccato has done a good job with this mare and she seemed to appreciate the cutback in distance last out. It's worth noting with the exceptional weather forecast, this will be her first start over a fast main track. **#1 Is There A Forest** will make her dirt debut off the claim for her new connections. Throughout her career, she's been quite consistent shown the ability to close from towards the back of the pack as well as sit towards the front. She's had plenty of works to gear up for her first start since November 2022.

**Race 6: #2 Alacritous** looked good winning two starts back over an off-track at Mahoning Valley. He chased early on but dropped back after the opening quarter of a mile and somehow, rallied up the rail to get the job done. With races under his belt as well as a good trip off a potential hot pace, he's worth consideration. **#1 Marten River**'s natural speed should suit him well on the dirt, especially at today's five furlong distance. Last season, while he only won one race from nine starts, he had several strong performances on both the turf and synthetic. His siblings do not have much experience on the dirt, but one did win on the dirt. He figures to take a ton of play against this field. It's not often you see a twenty-time winner, but **#6 Super Garner** is that horse. In 2021, he had an amazing season, winning ten races total, nine of which were in a row. In 2022, he only made two appearances which resulted in one win at Charles Town and since then, he's missed the board in every start. He could improve second off the layoff and two of his races this year were against tougher.

**Race 7:** The morning line favorite, **#2 Brienne of TARTH** raced twice on the turf at Tampa this winter and while she didn't hit the board, she split both fields routing on the turf and in one of them, flashed some early speed. Focusing on that start, the cutback to five furlongs figures to be to her liking. **#7 Black Taffy** didn't hook the toughest group on July 5<sup>th</sup>, but she ran a good second at the level and distance. In her following start, she may have hit some distance limitations so the cutback should help. She has had a lot of time off, but she has a slew of workouts in preparation for her four-year-old debut. **#5 Tangerine Twist** ran a 40 Beyer on debut against this level at a two-turn distance. In her following start on the main track, she was forwardly placed and faded late to finish third. She now joins the barn of Julie Mathes, who is 16% with new acquisitions and picks up Melanie Pinto in the irons – when teaming up the past twelve months at the Fort, these two are 10/39 and have hit the board a total of twenty-six times.

**Race 8:** Trainer Nick Mileni Jr. sends out two runners in the nightcap, one of which is **#4 One Last Fling**, a three-year-old filly by Where's the Ring. She was consistently in the money all winter long at Penn National and not only faces softer competition today but shortens up in distance. Note that Helen Vanek has the mount. **#9 She's Astylish Katz** has some of the best figures in the field, but she's been on the shelf since mid-August. She's yet to miss the board locally and looking at her last start, today's field is certainly easier competition – the winner, Super Chianti went on to win the Molson Cup later in the meet and the third and fourth place finishers both came back to race well in their following starts. She could easily win this race, but might need a race. At 15-1 on the morning line, **#8 Penniesfromabove** is a major player in the exotics. Throughout her career, she really has tried and while she often settles for a minor share, her numbers are quite strong compared to others here.