

Fort Erie Selections: Tuesday, October 17th, 2023

It's a bittersweet day, as it is our final day racing for the 2023 meet! We wrap up an exciting and memorable season with a nine-race program that features the Tour de Fort at two miles and seventy yards. Good luck to today's connections and those wagering on the races!

- Ashley Mailloux

Race 1: #3 Ashwicken has been racing well on the turf course this season but will look to graduate today on the main track. She's had a handful of decent dirt races throughout her career, mainly over an off-track. With that said, she has the best recent form and finds herself against a field that she might be able to handle, even on the dirt. **#1 Rumours Fly's** lone on the board finish this season was three starts back in a turf event against \$6k maiden claimers. Since then, she's needed to show a bit more in the stretch. She moves to the main track and while her dirt races aren't the greatest, they were both at one turn distances. All season long, the Buttigieg has been on fire, winning at nearly 40%. **#2 Smart Irene** finished fifth last time out at this level, but at the five and half furlong distance. It was her first time for the \$4k tag and primarily had been racing at longer distances prior to that effort. Late last season, she had a decent dirt race against maiden special weight competition.

Race 2: #4 C by the Sea was simply second-best last time out – he passed horses in the stretch, but just could not get to the winner. He typically finds himself attempting to rally from off the pace and at today's longer distance, if the track plays similarly to the Monday program, he could be in the perfect position to get his first win this year. **#5 Don't Stop Dreamin** failed as the favorite last time out at the \$8k N2L level and now finds himself in for half of that claiming price. The class relief should certainly help him, and he likes to be forward from the gate. With that in mind, he should be able to work out a good trip from the outside post in this compact field. **#1 Breach of Trust** finally broke his streak of second place finishes last time out in a seven-furlong turf event against \$4k maiden claimers – he found himself sitting just off the pace early on and rallied late to draw clear by over a length. He returns to the dirt today, but he'll cut back to six furlongs. His only try at the distance resulted in a distant second behind Don't Stop Dreamin. His turf race resulted in a 62 Beyer, which is considerably higher than his dirt numbers, but the win might have given this son of Souper Speedy some confidence.

Race 3: #2 Storming Lady has been consistent in 2023, posting a 1-3-1 record from nine starts. Her lone win was in the LongRun Aftercare, which she won quite easily. She comes into this race off back-to-back second place finishes, most recently at today's distance, but against starter optional claiming competition. She drops down to the \$4k level and figures to be extremely tough to beat in this spot. **#1 Jungle Goddess** draws the inside and takes a slight drop down in claiming price. She started off her 2023 season by winning two of her first three starts and since then, has been hit or miss. She typically has not fired over a fast main track, but last time out, she was second behind her stablemate, Natasha's Bizniz. Watch the tote board and weather with this mare. **#7 Reign by Rein** won last month at the six-and-a-half-furlong distance and in her following starts, it appears the conditions aren't what she wanted – she didn't excel around two turns and last time out on the turf, she tired late. She returns to a one turn distance on the dirt, which is where she has found all her success this season.

Race 4: #7 Take a Chance went gate-to-wire under Melanie Pinto last time out against non-winners of two on the year. His best races are when he's been able to make the lead, as he's been bold when loose on the front. He's faced some tough horses throughout the season and finds himself against a field that he is capable of beating. **#5 Paperback Hero's** lone off-the-board finish this year was last time out, when he tired going a mile and an eighth over the main track. His connections get him back to what he does best – sprinting around one turn. The last two seasons, he's only missed the board three times from eighteen starts and consistently shows up on race day. It's unlikely **#4 Mayito** will go off near his morning line odds - he's only missed the board once over the main track and that that was earlier in his career. So far this season, he's won a N3L event and finished second in the Le Cinquieme Essai Cup behind Vinnie Van Go. In that event, he was able to sit off the pace and rallied late to claim second, which was a change in tactics from his previous start.

Race 5: #4 Cant Beat the Katz has been a fun filly to watch all season long. After graduating late last season, she made her first start at the Fort on June 6th and cruised to a nine and a half length victory. Since then, she's picked up two more wins and her losses were respectable against salty, veteran mares. If she gets loose in this race, she very well could be gone. **#3 J M R Gemma** and Amanda Vandermeersch have clicked all season long, winning three races together. This filly likes to be close to the pace, but last time out, she found herself on the lead and she posted some quick splits. Even after setting swift fractions, this filly had what it took late in the stretch to prevail. She figures to sit just off the pacesetter(s) early on and will try to mow down the early speed. **#1 Jara** picked up her second win of 2023 last time out on September 19th. She was the horse to beat on paper and ended up winning nicely. Her other win this season was against starter optional claiming competition, where she defeated Gimbala and Khozzy Valentine, both of which came back to win their next outings.

Race 6: With the way the track played on Monday, **#4 Makes Sense to Me** might get the perfect trip – she typically finds herself closing late, which was the case last time out in a turf event. She returns to the dirt today, where she has yet to find the winner's circle, but she's 0-3-3 from seven attempts over the Fort Erie main track. She raced quite well two and three starts back and while she'll face the winners of both again today, if the tempo is right, she has a big shot. **#6 Heading West** had a bit of a trouble trip last time out at this level and distance, but she looks eligible to rebound here. Earlier this season, she was quite forward, but since stretching out a tad in distance, she's looked comfortable rating and it's worked well for her. **#5 Getting Ahead** has been swift out of the gate all season long and last time out, she almost picked up her third career win, but Charlottes Silver had a bit more left in the tank left. Her natural speed makes her a threat here to at least stick around for a piece.

Race 7: #2 Beyond Talented stretched out around two-turns on the dirt for the first-time last week and was just second best behind Flawless Ruler. He had problems out of the gate, which certainly didn't help him, but no one was getting to the winner. He figures to take a step forward second time going long for trainer Josh Robillard and will race without blinkers for the first time since 2022. **#1 Perfection Saver** has showed up in all her races at the meet but hasn't been able to find the winners' circle yet. Last time out, she was clear for second place and raced quite well around two-turns, which wasn't a surprise considering her best race was her career debut at a mile at Horseshoe Indy. **#6 Ein Wahrer Soldat** didn't race as well as expected last time out going long on the dirt, but today, he'll get blinkers off which might help him, considering his best races have been with them off. This will only be his second attempt routing on the dirt which suggests he can improve.

Race 8: (TURF 5-4-6, DIRT 5-8-7) **#5 Super Cool Storm** graduated two starts back over a muddy main track against maiden special weight competition. In her following start, she was far back early on and didn't show too much in the stretch. She's raced well on both the turf and the dirt, and her figures are competitive enough regardless of the surface. The small but mighty **#4 Mizz Gemma** has turned a corner over the Fort Erie lawn this season – she was able to graduate three starts back and in her last two, she's rattled off back-to-back second place finishes. She's a closer and will need some pace help, but it's hard to count her out, especially based on her huge effort two starts back at this level and distance. **#6 Hear Me Knocking** finished third last time out after setting the pace and in what appears to be a race that lacks pace, she could find herself forward from the gate and sticking around late for a piece.

Race 9: The Tour de Fort closes out the 2023 season and **#10 Redoute's Light** looks to be a major player from the outside post. This eight-year-old gelding won easily two starts back at a mile and eighth and last time out, he was far back early on and rallied to finish third. The winner was much the best that day and with this horse's running style, the distance figures to be to his liking – he can run all day long. **#1 A I Initiative** is another horse in the field that likes to go long, and he has finished right behind Redoute's Light in his last two starts. He has two wins this season around two-turns and when he's been defeated, sometimes it's seemed like he needed more ground, which is certainly what he'll get in this marathon event. Longshot **#7 Unilateral** has hit the board in over half of his starts this season and three starts back, was a clear second in a dirt route. He came back to win next time out and while it was on the turf, it was a very strong effort. He'll face some tough horses tough, but just seeing some of his route races, he might be worth a look in the bottom of the exotic, especially at a price.