

TAMPA BAY DOWNS - January 11, 2026 - Race 2

CLAIMING - Thoroughbred

FOR FOUR YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NOT WON TWO RACES SINCE JULY 11. Weight, 122 lbs. Non-winners

Of A Race Since December 11 Allowed 2 lbs. Claiming Price \$5,000. (NW2 6M) **Claiming Price:** \$5,000

Distance: Six Furlongs On The Dirt **Current Track Record:** (It's Me Mom - 1:08.67 - April 7, 2012)

Purse: \$18,500

Includes: \$500 FOA - Florida Owners Awards

Available Money: \$18,500

Value of Race: \$18,000 1st \$10,800, 2nd \$3,600, 3rd \$1,800, 4th \$900, 5th \$180, 6th \$180, 7th \$180, 8th \$180, 9th \$180

Weather: Cloudy, 67° **Track:** Fast

Off at: 1:03 Start: Good for all **Timing Method:** Electronic



[Video Race Replay](#)

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt	M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin	Odds	Comments	
3Jan26	1	TAM ⁷	8	Protege (Marin, Samuel)	120	L f	8 2	2 ^{1/2}	2 ²	1 ^{Head}	1 ⁴	0.40*	prss 2w-3p,cleard 1/16
27Dec25	3	TAM ¹	7	Ikigai (Mejias, Kleiner)	115	L b	7 1	1 ¹	1 ^{1/2}	2 ³	2 ^{4 3/4}	4.40	ins winner,no mtch1/16
24Dec25	5	TAM ⁶	9	Mithridates (Aranguren, Johani)	110	L bf	9 8	6 ¹	5 ⁵	3 ^{Head}	3 ^{3/4}	70.90	trck 4p,duel show,held
24Dec25	8	TAM ⁵	4	Off to the Races (Leon, Sonny)	120	L f	4 5	5 ^{1/2}	3 ^{Head}	4 ^{2 1/2}	4 ^{1 3/4}	15.50	ins,duled show,denied
24Dec25	8	TAM ⁸	6	Hay Moon (Lara, Victor)	111	L	6 3	7 ¹	6 ²	6 ^{4 1/2}	5 ^{Neck}	130.70	saved ground,no avail
19Nov25	6	TAM ⁷	1	Rock City Rocket (Camacho, Samy)	120	L b	1 6	3 ^{1 1/2}	4 ^{Head}	5 ¹	6 ^{2 1/4}	5.00	chs ins-3p,fade btw1/4
3Jan26	3	TAM ⁶	5	Ghost Stalker (Hess, Sara)	120	L b	5 7	9	9	7 ¹	7 ^{7 1/2}	38.60	trailed 4p, no factor
19Dec25	8	TAM ¹¹	3	Verrazanointhesky (Quinonez, Alonso)	120	L bf	3 9	8 ²	8 ^{Head}	8 ¹	8 ⁶	25.60	beat slow,3-2p,outrun
27Dec25	3	TAM ⁸	2	Lee Ann's Warrior (Trejos, Joseph)	120	L	2 4	4 ^{Head}	7 ¹	9	9	34.70	chased 3p, faded turn

Fractional Times: 23.07 46.56 58.69

Final Time: 1:11.08

Split Times: (23:49) (12:13) (12:39)

Run-Up: 50 feet

Winner: Protege, Chestnut Horse, by Good Magic out of Taboo, by Forestry. Foaled Apr 25, 2020 in Kentucky.

Breeder: Merriebelle Stable, LLC

Owner: Paterpop Racing

Trainer: Simone, Michael

1 Claimed Horse(s): Protege

New Trainer: Jose H. Delgado

New Owner: Carole Star Stables

Claiming Prices: 8 - Protege: \$5,000; 7 - Ikigai: \$5,000; 9 - Mithridates: \$5,000; 4 - Off to the Races: \$5,000; 6 - Hay Moon: \$5,000; 1 - Rock City Rocket: \$5,000; 5 - Ghost Stalker: \$5,000; 3 - Verrazanointhesky: \$5,000; 2 - Lee Ann's Warrior: \$5,000;

Total WPS Pool: \$134,928

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool	Carryover
8	Protege	2.80	2.10	2.10	\$1.00 Exacta	8-7	3.20	123,169	
7	Ikigai		3.60	2.80	\$0.50 Trifecta	8-7-9	21.70	62,288	
9	Mithridates			10.00	\$1.00 Daily Double	5-8	17.40	22,608	
					\$0.10 Superfecta	8-7-9-4	21.77	41,572	
					\$1.00 Super High Five	8-7-9-4-6		2,701	2,215

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin
8	Protege	2	2 ¹	2 ^{1/2}	1 ^{Head}	1 ⁴
7	Ikigai	1	1 ¹	1 ^{1/2}	2 ^{Head}	2 ⁴
9	Mithridates	8	6 ^{3 1/2}	5 ^{2 3/4}	3 ³	3 ^{8 3/4}
4	Off to the Races	5	5 ³	3 ^{2 1/2}	4 ^{3 1/4}	4 ^{9 1/2}
6	Hay Moon	3	7 ^{4 1/2}	6 ^{7 3/4}	6 ^{6 3/4}	5 ^{11 1/4}
1	Rock City Rocket	6	3 ^{1 1/2}	4 ^{2 1/2}	5 ^{5 3/4}	6 ^{11 1/2}
5	Ghost Stalker	7	9 ^{7 1/2}	9 ^{10 3/4}	7 ^{11 1/4}	7 ^{13 3/4}
3	Verrazanointhesky	9	8 ^{5 1/2}	8 ^{10 3/4}	8 ^{12 1/4}	8 ^{21 1/4}
2	Lee Ann's Warrior	4	4 ³	7 ^{9 3/4}	9 ^{13 1/4}	9 ^{27 1/4}

Trainers: 8 - Simone, Michael; 7 - Hernandez, Enrique; 9 - Mendieta, Alejandro; 4 - Campbell, Joel; 6 - Escobar, Martin; 1 - Arnett, Jon; 5 - Waltke, Jr., Thomas; 3 - Martinez, Joel; 2 - Ochoa, Gerard

Owners: 8 - Paterpop Racing; 7 - Alex Kazdan; 9 - A.O.M. Racing Stables, LLC; 4 - Rafael Lopez; 6 - Martin Escobar; 1 - Susan F. Arnett; 5 - Thomas E. Waltke, Jr.; 3 - Los Martinez Racing Stable; 2 - GOP Racing Stable;

Footnotes | [View Glossary Of Terms](#)

PROTEGE pressed the leader from the three path, bid in upper stretch then drew clear at the sixteenth pole. IKIGAI set the pace in the two path as the eventual winner applied outer pressure around the turn, got collared by that one in upper stretch, proved no match a sixteenth from home and was second best. MITHRIDATES tracked in the four path, dueled for show with an inner rival through the final furlong and held. OFF TO THE RACES pursued along the inside, dueled for show with an outer foe through the final furlong but was turned away. HAY MOON saved ground off of the pace to no avail. ROCK CITY ROCKET raced close up along the inside, chased the top pair from the three path around the turn then faded between horses at the quarter pole. GHOST STALKER trailed in the four path and failed to factor. VERRAZANOINTHESKY broke a beat slow, lacked speed in the three to two path and got outrun. LEE ANN'S WARRIOR chased from midpack in the three path and faded around the turn.