

One-turn mile suits Tenderfoot in Friday feature

By: David Grening



OZONE PARK, N.Y. – Though Tenderfoot would have been eligible for the \$80,000 Caixa Eletronica Stakes on Saturday's Claiming Championships card at Aqueduct, trainer and part-owner Charlton Baker opted for Friday's second-level allowance feature at Aqueduct for his 4-year-old gelding.

"I think the mile is a little better than the seven-eighths," Baker said.

Tenderfoot was a 10 1/2-length winner of a maiden \$40,000 claiming race going seven furlongs on Oct. 29 at Belmont. In his two subsequent starts, both going one mile at Aqueduct, Tenderfoot won a starter allowance and a first-level allowance.

:: Bet horse racing on DRF Bets. Double Your First Deposit Up to \$250. Join Now.

In January, Baker stepped Tenderfoot up into the Jazil Stakes going 1 1/8 miles, and he was no match for Mr. Buff, finishing second and losing by seven lengths. On Feb. 28, Tenderfoot finished a well-beaten second at this same level behind Zoomer, who earned a career-best 104 Beyer Speed Figure.

Though Zoomer ran a big race, Baker wasn't overly pleased with the trip Tenderfoot had in that four-horse field.

"We probably weren't going to beat [Zoomer], but we got pinned down on the rail in a four-horse field," Baker said.

Baker said he believes that Arch Cat, who ships up from Parx Racing for Daniel Velazquez, could have enough speed for Tenderfoot to stalk him. Eric Cancel rides Tenderfoot on Friday for a sixth straight time.

Per Capita came within a nose of Zoomer in December when he was trying this condition for the first time. That race was at 1 1/8 miles. Friday, he is cutting back to a one-turn mile. In spring 2020, Per Capita twice finished first in maiden races going a one-turn mile. He was disqualified from one of those victories.

Per Capita, trained by Todd Pletcher, breaks from post 5 under Kendrick Carmouche in this six-horse field.

Chestertown, a stakes-winning New York-bred, finished third, 18 1/4 lengths behind Zoomer, in the same race in which Tenderfoot finished second. He is 3 for 4 at Aqueduct, with two victories coming at a one-turn mile.

Sunny Ridge, the millionaire New Jersey-bred gelding, has been beaten a combined 65 lengths in two starts since coming off a 13-month layoff.