



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, January 24, 2009

FIRST RACE:

5 INDY KINGS DANCER moved to the Ferris Allen barn via the claim, and drops into this 'two-lifetime' claimer, after following a sharp effort vs. 'three-lifetime' claimers on Dec. 20 with a troubled trip (steadied 1st turn) vs. another group of 'three-lifetime' foes on Jan. 1. **6 HEEZ FOR DOC** drops into a competitive spot on the dirt after following his \$16,000 maiden win with a chase-and-fade out-ing vs. \$30,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at a mile on the turf. **2 RADIO RELAY** should improve in his second trip over the track after shipping in from Woodbine to face similar on opening day. The colt, a slow starting fifth last out, is reunited with jockey Carlos Marquez Jr. **11 RAINBOW GLIDER** debuts locally after finishing a game second vs. \$6,250 'two-lifetime' claimers across town. However, his previous record makes him look better on the bottom half of the ticket (29-1-6-7).

SELECTIONS: 5-6-2-11

SECOND RACE:

8 ROAD TRACK'S DREAM debuts locally for trainer Wayne Catalano after a consistent campaign in which she hit the board in 3 of 4 turf races at Hawthorne, which includes the victory in Nov. 20th. Note that the barn has a 46% win average with the 61-180 day lay-off. **4 EXCLUSIVE HOPPER**, 4 for 4 'in the money' on the local turf, makes her first start since coming within a head of defeating \$18,000 claimers on the Meadowlands turf. Trainer Peter Walder has leading jock John Velazquez handling the homecoming. **2 TALENTED PRINCESS**, another from Peter Walder, debuts locally after rallying to finish third behind repeat winner Nikkiandme in a \$25,000 optional claimer on the Calder turf. Alan Garcia rides. **6 FANTASTIC LISA** is stepping up after using her speed to wire \$12,500 'three-lifetime' claimers at a mile on the Calder sod.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-2-6

THIRD RACE:

5 RUN ALL DAY turns back to 7 furlongs on the dirt after threatening to break her maiden in three starts on the Woodbine Polytrack, including the second place finish at a mile & 70 yards (Nov. 2). Trainer Brian Lynch has Edgar Prado atop the Stronach Stables homebred daughter of War Chant. **3 LA ROCCA**, a daughter of Toccet (Awesome Again) has trained sharply at Palm Meadows in preparation for her career debut for trainer Todd Pletcher, who adds Lasix and John Velazquez for this assignment. **7 AFTER THOUGHT** makes her sophomore debut after showing promise in her 7-furlong debut at Churchill in which she rallied from last in a field of 12 to finishing third. Trainer Rusty Arnold has a 19% win average with horses making their second start. **4 CHARGINGTOOMUCH** is stretching out after stalking the pace and finishing third in her promising 5 ½-furlong debut at Calder. Trainer Cam Gambolati has Joe Bravo in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-7-4

FOURTH RACE:

8 GRAN ESTRENO plunges to the \$25,000 level after stalking the action and getting beat only 5 ½ lengths in the 12-furlong Grade 2 McKnight Handicap. Trainer Rick Dutrow has Edgar Prado handling the major drop. **12 NATIONAL CAPTAIN**, 2 for 2 'in the money' on the local turf, makes his first start since using his speed to defeat \$60,000 claimers at Aqueduct last April 25th. The Grade 3 stakes-placed performer looks strong, unless the big drop has you reluctant to pull the trigger. **9 LORD LOUIS** stretches out to 9 furlongs after a useful mile and a sixteenth tune up on the Calder turf. Trainer Walder, 28% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has John Velazquez in the saddle again. **3 DRIVINGMAXANDMITZI**, a reclaim by trainer Larry Rivelli, makes his first start since reeling off three consecutive turf victories vs. similar at Hawthorne. Rene Douglas guides the winner of 5 of 10 races lat year.

SELECTIONS: 8-12-9-3

FIFTH RACE:

3 DUNKIRK, a \$3.7-million dollar son of Unbridled's Song, debuts for trainer Todd Pletcher with a series of sharp Palm Meadows workouts showing. Trainer Pletcher, who has two in the race (Denver), tabs Edgar Prado to ride, as his usual first-call rider John Velazquez guides **12 KINGS VILLAGE**. The son of A. P. Indy, trained by Tom Albertrani, is another who is working consistently enough at Palm Meadows to be able to win at first asking. **4 CAIRIENE**, now in the Rick Dutrow barn, makes his first start since finishing second behind repeat winner Bittel Road at 6-furlongs on the Belmont turf (July 11). Trainer Dutrow, 36% with the turf-to-dirt move, which included Big Brown switching surfaces here last year, has Robby Albarado at the controls. **9 HENNIGAN** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after encountering trouble at the start and finishing fourth in his 6-furlong career debut at Calder. Trainer Michael Matz has Jose Lezcano in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 3-12-4-9

SIXTH RACE:

1 BIG STICK is back in the allowance ranks after his 3-race winning streak ended when he shipped to Keeneland and finished fourth in the Grade 3 Bryan Station. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin reunites the gelding with jockey Alan Garcia. **2 POLO ARGENTINA**, who broke his maiden here last February, then returned from a lay-off to defeat entry-level allowance competition at Monmouth, and finish second in an overnight stake at Belmont on July 10, returns to action for the productive tandem of Pletcher and Velazquez. **7 ROGUE VICTORY** highlighted his tenacity when he rebounded from a troubled trip at Aqueduct (shut off) with a money-allowance victory here, despite the fact that he checked at the start, and steadied on the turn. Javier Castellano rides today. **10 MR. SIDNEY**, a model of consistency vs. allowance level competition, turns back to a mile after failing to muster a late response when finishing 10th in the 9-furlong Grade 3 River City Handicap at Churchill. Trainer Bill Mott has the son of Storm Cat training sharply at Payson Park.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-7-10

Saturday, January 24, 2009



SEVENTH RACE: THE DASH

1 SOUTHERN EXCHANGE, a top notch sprinter, who was beaten only 1 ¼ lengths by Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Midshipman in the 7-furlong Grade 1 Del Mar Futurity on Sept. 3, turns back after coming up empty when stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth in the Grade 3 Grey at Woodbine on Oct. 5. Trainer Greg De Gannes readied the colt for his sophomore debut with a bullet 5-furlong workout at Palm Meadows. **11 YOU LUCKIE MANN** should be primed and ready to offer his best after a useful return in which he chased the pace and finished second to impressive winner Notonthesamepage in the \$100K Spectacular Bid on opening day. The concern for the Marty Wolfson trainee is the demanding outside post (12). **4 JU JITSU JAX** is stretching out to three-quarters after an undefeated 3-race freshman campaign at the 5 & 5 ½-furlong distances. Trainer Scott Lake readied the son of Tiger Ridge with a bullet 5-furlong drill over the track in :59 & 3. **2 BACKBACKBACKGONE**, a winner of 4 of 5 races, including a pair at 6 furlongs, was sent east after a game score in the \$75K Golden Bear at Golden Gate.

SELECTIONS: 1-11-4-2

EIGHTH RACE: FILLY & MARE TURF

2 WILD PROMISES, a winner of five consecutive turf races, including a pair at 9 furlongs, proved she could travel east and be successful when she used her speed to win the 9-furlong Grade 3 My Charmer Handicap at Calder on Dec. 6. **8 BEL AIR SIZZLE**, who used her patented late run to finish second in the Grade 1 Del Mar Oaks on Aug. 16, and then failed to handle the 'soft' turf in the 'key' Grade 3 Pucker Up at Arlington on Sept. 6, makes her South Florida debut hoping to reap the spoils if a taxing speed duel develops between Wild Promises, Julia Tuttle and Zee Zee. **3 SNOW CONE**, fourth in this race last year at Santa Anita, is hoping to recapture her back class after failing to muster a late response behind Wild Promises in the My Charmer. Trainer Joe Orseno has Joe Bravo named to ride. **5 ZEE ZEE**, now in the Rick Dutrow Jr. barn, is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after showing early interest and fading in the 1-mile Pebbles at Belmont on Oct. 13. The new connections have the Grade 2 stakes-placed performer training consistently over the local turf.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-3-5

NINTH RACE: THE HILL 'N' DALE FILLY & MARE SPRINT

9 MISTICAL PLAN, the winner of the 2007 Sunshine Millions Oaks at Santa Anita, who kept her record at the distance unblemished when she won the Grade 1 Princess Rooney at Calder in during July (2-2-0-0), makes her first start since she set blistering early fractions and faded in the 7-furlong Grade 1 Ballerina at Saratoga on Aug. 24. Trainer Doug O'Neill has Javier Castellano named to ride.

1 HIGH RESOLVE, undefeated sprinting in 2007, and 5 for 5 'in the money' sprinting in 2008, turns back to three-quarters after dueling throughout and finishing second in the 6 ½-furlong Kalookan Queen at Santa Anita. **10 DEAREST TRICKSKI** the defending champ, was sent east to defend her title after her impressive 2-race win streak ended when she set the pace and faded in the 7-furlong Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint, and disputed the pace and weakened in the 6 ½-furlong Kalookan Queen last out. **6 LOVELY ISLE** punched her ticket to the East Coast when she rallied 3-wide to defeat both High Resolve and Dearest Trickski in the Kalookan Queen.

SELECTIONS: 9-1-10-6

TENTH RACE: THE OBS SUNSHINE MILLIONS CLASSIC

12 DELIGHTFUL KISS, impressive when closing from last to win the 1-mile Grade 3 Hal's Hope and keep his local record unblemished (2-2-0-0), will need one of jockey Calvin Borel's classic ground saving trips to overcome the ultra tough Post 12 in the 9-furlong Classic. **7 DRY MARTINI**, beaten 1 ½ lengths here in the 2007 Classic, turns back after finishing third, vs. only four rivals, in the mile & three-sixteenths Grade 3 Queens County on the Aqueduct inner track. **8 ATONED**, one of the leading 3-year-olds in the country last year, makes his first start since closing to win the 9-furlong Grade 3 Pegasus at the Meadowlands (Oct. 24). Trainer Todd Pletcher has jockey Chris DeCarlo returning on the son of Repent. **4 HEY BURN** added credence to the horse-for-course theory when he returned to win a 1-mile \$100K allowance optional claimer, and pad his local record to 5-4-0-0.

SELECTIONS: 12-7-8-4

BEST BET: RACE 8 - 2 WILD PROMISES

LONG SHOT: RACE 4 - 4 ST. IMPERIAL

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SANTA ANITA ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Saturday, January 24, 2009

SIXTH RACE: THE SAN MIGUEL INDIAN AND BINGO TURF

8 SOLDIER'S DANCER, second in this race last year at Gulfstream, was sent west after rallying strongly, as the favorite, to come within a nose of winning the Grade 3 Tropical Turf Handicap at Calder. The winner of more than \$400K in 2008 has Rafael Bejarano in the saddle.

7 ICY ATLANTIC, 4-2-1-0 on the Santa Anita turf, returns after making what looked like a winning bid before flattening out and finishing fifth - 2 ½ lengths behind Soldier's Dancer in the Tropical Turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Eibar Coa handling the rematch. **3 PRESIOUS PASSION**, fresh off his front running victory in the 12-furlong Grade 2 McKnight Handicap at Calder, the gelded son of Royal Anthem will try to win for the first time in six tries at 9 furlongs (5-0-0-0). Trainer Mary Hartmann has Elvis Trujillo trying to throttle down this distance specialist. **10 LUCKY J. H.**, third behind Soldier's Dancer at Gulfstream last year, will try to parlay his horse-for-course status (3-2-0-1) into a victory in the 2009 edition of the Sunshine Millions Turf. Note that trainer Carla Gaines and jockey Victor Espinoza are a combined 7 for 18 (39%) at Santa Anita.

SELECTIONS: 8-7-3-10

SEVENTH RACE: THE OAKS

7 EMMY DARLING, 3 for 4 'in the money' on synthetic surfaces, including a victory in the 6-furlong Landaluce at Hollywood Park in June, will give the Pro-Ride surface a try after getting beat 3 ½ lengths on the turf in the Breeder's Cup Juvenile Fillies turf, and three-quarters of a length in the Grade 3 Miesque on the Hollywood sod. Trainer John Sadler, 22% with the synthetic-to-turf angle, has Rafael Bejarano quarterbacking the surface switch. **4 LEIGH MCLOVIN** makes her sophomore debut after a very promising 2-year-old campaign in which she returned from a lengthy layoff at the Fair Grounds to win consecutive sprints, including the \$60K Letellier Stakes on Dec. 20. Trainer Ronny Werner teams with Eibar Coa. **3 TEN CHURROS** is turning back to three-quarters after setting the pace and fading late to finish third in the 7-furlong Cal Breeders' Challenge last out. The previous stakes winner at the distance will be mixing it up early. **1 SPANISH ICE** will depart from the rail again after hopping at the start and closing to finish second in the Cal Breeders Challenge last out.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-3-1

EIGHTH RACE: THE SPRINT

9 IN SUMMATION, who bobbled at the start when finishing fourth behind Midnight Lute in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Sprint, got back to his winning ways when he rallied 4-wide to score in the Grade 3 El Conejo Handicap here last out. The 6-year-old loves both the Pro-Ride surface (6-3-0-1), and the distance (9-4-2-1). **11 YESBYJIMMINY** was sent west after notching his sixth consecutive victory when he edged away to win the 7-furlong Grade 3 Kenny Noe Handicap in impressive fashion. Elvis Trujillo will guide the 6-time winner at the distance (10-6-2-1). **7 GEORGIE BOY** is turning back to three-quarters after stalking the pace and finishing third in the 7-furlong Grade 1 Malibu Stakes last out. The classy Cal-bred has the perfectly stalking style needed to reel in the hot pace expected. **5 SOK SOK**, an amazing son of Trippi, was sent west after returning from an 11-month layoff to win the Thanksgiving Day Handicap at the Fair Grounds. Trainer Steve Asmussen has Shaun Bridgmohan atop the multiple stakes winner at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 9-11-7-5

NINTH RACE: THE DISTAFF

3 LEAH'S SECRET is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after notching her second consecutive Grade 2 victory at a mile when she won the Top Flight Handicap at Aqueduct on Nov. 28. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Eibar Coa handling the daughter of Tiger Ridge, who is 6-2-2-1 on synthetic surfaces. **2 BRIECAT**, a versatile daughter of Adcat, makes her first start since notching her third consecutive victory in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 2 Bayakoa Handicap at Hollywood Park (Dec. 7). **12 AMAZING** made the long trek west after notching her third consecutive victory when she defeated Florida-breds in the \$200K Elmer Heubeck Distaff at Calder on Nov. 8th. Trainer Terry Oliver has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. Last but not least **7 UNFORGOTTEN**, 6-1-2-2 on synthetic surfaces, makes her first start since splitting a pair of next-out winners when finishing second in the 'key' \$100K Treasure Chest at Delta Downs. Note that the daughter of Northern Afleet finished a fast-closing second to Leah's Secret in the 1-mile Grade 2 Chilukki at Churchill on Nov. 2nd.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-12-7

BEST BET: RACE 9 - 3 LEAH'S SECRET

LONG SHOT: RACE 6 - 2 EPIC POWER