

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

2 GRANDEZA drops, and turns back to a sprint on the dirt, after showing speed and fading late vs. considerably tougher in a pair of mile and a sixteenth \$32,000 maiden races on the turf. She looks awful strong in the opener.

1 SILVER ASHLEE is stretching out an additional half-furlong after encountering trouble on the turn (checked) and getting beat only a head vs. bottom level types at five-eighths of a mile. **11 KLONDIKE BELLE** is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after setting the pace and weakening to finish third, at even-money, vs. \$8,000 maidens at Tampa. **5 HAROLDS SISTER** exits a slow 5-furlong bottom-level maiden race at Calder, in which she finished second, to merit consideration in the opener. Trainer Larry Bates has Jermaine Bridgmohan in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-11-5

SECOND RACE:

5 CINQUE BELLA is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile after following her \$32,000 maiden score at three-quarters with a ground saving third vs. entry-level allowance competition at 6 ½ furlongs. **6 CHATTER WINE** is back on the dirt after closing late to finish third in a 'key' 5-furlong \$100,000 allowance optional claimer on the turf that produced three next-out winners, which included Entertaining, who won a \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claiming race here on Jan. 15.

3 EAST TO EDEN tries 7 furlongs after following a narrow defeat to Cinque Bella at three-quarters with a strong \$32,000 maiden victory at 5 ½ furlongs. The daughter of E Dubai is bred to love the distance. **8 CINEMA SHOW** makes her first start since responding to the addition of blinkers with a \$40,000 maiden win on the Woodbine Polytrack. Trainer Greg De Gannes has Alan Garcia atop the Ontario-bred daughter of Gulch.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-3-8

THIRD RACE:

9 SOUTH FORK LODGE drops into this \$50,000 claimer after following his career debut victory at a mile with a 5-wide sixth - beaten 4 ½ lengths - in the \$75K Grand Canyon Handicap at a mile and a sixteenth on the Churchill turf. Trainer Bill Mott reunites the son of Runaway Groom with jockey Kent Desormeaux. **1 IT'S OUT THERE** is turning back to a mile after setting the pace and giving way late to finish third and second, respectively, in a pair of mile and a sixteenth turf races at Calder. Trainer David Fawkes will have Eibar Coa rationing his speed on or near the front end.

7 PAMPERED KING, a half to Group 1 winner Aussie Rules, is back in South Florida after following his maiden victory on

the Calder turf with a third place finish vs. entry-level allowance competition at a mile on the Tampa turf.

8 DECAF AGAIN is returning to the turf after finishing third on the dirt in front of a pair of next-out winners, including Cinnamon Road, who defeated \$35,000 claimers here on Jan. 7.

SELECTIONS: 9-1-7-8

FOURTH RACE:

5 ITCHY TOES debuts locally after ending her 2008 campaign with back-to-back sprint victories at Hawthorne. Trainer Wayne Catalano, 46% with the 61-180 day layoff, has Jose Lezcano atop the daughter of Cimarron Secret.

3 HALCYON, who sleepwalked out of the gate before rallying to finish a second vs. \$14,000 claimers at Delaware in October, looks strong when she faces \$10,000 claimers in her local debut for trainer Peter Walder. John Velazquez rides. **6 HOLY LAND**, a previous winner here, makes her first start since she drew off to defeat \$6,250 'two-lifetime' claimers at Calder by 12-plus lengths. Trainer Henry Collazo teams with Edgar Prado. **9 SOPHISTICATEDEVENT**, another from Peter Walder, makes her first start since she was haltered for \$16,000 at Calder in Nov. 27. Trainer Walder, 29% with new claims, has Javier Castellano handling this half of his uncoupled entry.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-6-9

FIFTH RACE:

8 FAPPIES FOR CHANCE, turns back to a 1-turn mile after responding to both a drop in competition, and a surface switch from turf to dirt, with a rousing \$6,250 'three-lifetime' claiming victory in a 2-turn mile at Calder. **5 MIRACLE OF DREAMS**, an 8-time winner last year, which includes back-to-back victories in December, goes for third consecutive victory at a distance where she has won 50% of her races (6-3-0-1). **6 DANCIN SAMBA** debuts locally after a couple of solid efforts vs. similar at Calder in which she defeat 'two-lifetime' claimers on Dec. 19, and was third - beaten three-quarters of a length - vs. open competition on New Years Eve. **12 TRAIN TO GLORY** gets some class relief after failing to show much in her local debut vs. \$10,000 claimers. The fact that jockey John Velazquez accepts the return riding assignment indicates the mare should offer more this afternoon.

SELECTIONS: 8-5-6-12

SIXTH RACE:

8 NO SPEED LIMIT has her maiden tag sliced in half, and races without blinkers, in the first start since she chased the pace and tired vs. \$50,000 maidens at Churchill on Nov. 26. Trainer Wesley Ward, 5 for 14 (36%) with the blinkers-off angle, and 24% with this type of layoff, has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **5 WHO PLAYS BRAHMS** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after finishing a troubled fourth (steadied entering the turn) in her local debut vs. similar at 7 furlongs. **3 ARIEL ROSE** drops, turns back to a sprint on the dirt, and wears blinkers, after setting the pace and fading when facing maiden special weight competition at a mile on the Tampa turf. Trainer Steve Standridge has Carlos Marquez Jr. handling the surface switch. **6 WHY BECAUSE** is turning back to three-quarters after making an inside move to finish second at 6 ½ furlongs vs. similar at Calder. Eibar Coa rides for trainer Herman Wilensky.

SELECTIONS: 8-5-3-6

SEVENTH RACE:

8 LUCKY LIZA is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after a couple of interesting 6-furlong outings vs. similar at Hawthorne in which she was beaten only a length on Nov. 9, and finished fifth after stumbling at the start on Dec. 5. David Fawkes takes over the training and tabs Eibar Coa to ride. **11 WHO LOVES YA BABY** will try 'two-lifetime' claimers after pressing the pace and tiring to finish sixth in a 'key' \$12,500 claimer in which the first three finishers came back to win their next race. **2 MAREANA**, 2 for 4 'in the money' at the distance, is turning back after finishing second vs. multiple winners in a \$12,500 claimer at three-quarters of a mile. **12 ASTER** drops into a competitive spot after following her \$25,000 maiden win on the Woodbine Polytrack (Nov. 1) with a chase-and-fade performance vs. entry-level allowance competition at Churchill on Nov. 29.

SELECTIONS: 8-11-2-12

EIGHTH RACE:

11 RUFF AND READY, a perfect 2 for 2 on the Gulfstream turf, which includes a victory in the \$75K Shotintheheart overnight stakes last Valentines Day, makes his first start since finishing only 2 lengths behind classy Silver Tree in the Grade 3 Oceanport at Monmouth (Aug. 3). Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez in the saddle. **4 MAMBO MEISTER** is turning back to a mile after a rough outing in the \$100K Ft. Lauderdale in which he steadied both at the start and on the first turn, and was beaten only a length. **9 JET PROPULSION**, a disappointing ninth behind Ruff and Ready in the Shotintheheart, renews the rivalry after returning from a lengthy layoff to finish second behind Mambo Meister at Calder on Nov. 21, and defeating

\$75,000 allowance optional claimers on Dec. 21.

1 MINISTER'S JOY, 5-2-0-1 on the Gulfstream turf, returns hoping the change in scenery sparks a wake up call. The 7-year-old, a disappointing eighth in the 9-furlong Grade 3 Tropical Turf Handicap last out, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 11-4-9-1

NINTH RACE:

6 DARK CHEETAH, 6-2-0-0 at Gulfstream, returns after finishing second in the 'mud' in a 'key' \$35,000 claimer at Aqueduct that produced a pair of next-out runners. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Edgar Prado in the saddle. **2 BLACK SPOT**, a previous winner here, cuts back to a 1-turn mile after posting speed figures good enough to defeat these in a pair of 2-turn route races at Calder. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. reunites the gelding with Elvis Trujillo. **9 A. P EDDIE**, renews the clash with Back Spot after following a third place finish behind him on Dec. 6 with a victory over him last out. Jose Rivera II rides. **7 FANCY RUNNER**, owned, trained, and ridden by Clyde Martin, turns back after a stamina tweaking performance in the 13-furlong Coyote Lakes at Aqueduct on Dec. 3. This 1-turn mile distance will seem like a jog in the park.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-9-7

BEST BET: RACE 6 - 8 NO SPEED LIMIT

LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 5 - HYRACOTHERIUM