

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

3 SOPHISTICATED LASS, beaten a half-length at this level and distance on Jan. 17th, returns to the main track after breaking slowly, clipping on the backstretch, and getting beat 4 lengths in a 'key' maiden special weight test on the grass that produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Tim Ritvo has Paco Lopez handling the combo dropdown/surface switch. **7 OPENEDFORBUSINESS** drops to the \$30,000 level after encountering trouble at the start (broke slow and awkwardly) and finishing seventh in her 6-furlong \$50,000 career debut on Feb. 12th. Trainer Alan Goldberg readied her for this assignment with a bullet half-mile gate work on Feb. 26th. **1 JUST JANE'S GIRL** is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after finishing a useful fifth in her local debut vs. similar at three-quarters of a mile.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-1

SECOND RACE:

1 BIKER BOY will try to make it four victories in a row after returning from a 9-month layoff to trounce allowance level competition in his local debut at the distance. Trainer Nick Zito has John Velazquez going for the four-peat.

3 FOREFATHERS, another from trainer Nick Zito, turns back to 7 furlongs after dueling for the early lead and fading to finish a distant third behind very impressive winner Bribon at a mile. Mr. Zito names Alan Garcia to ride as Johnny V sticks with Biker Boy. **2 HAL'S MY HOPE** was game in defeat when he set the pace and weakened to finish a respectable third behind state-bred runners Hypocrite and Yesbyjimminy in the \$75K Sunshine State. Trainer Barry Rose has Jose Rivera II in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-2

THIRD RACE:

6 LA ROCCA will race with blinkers after rallying on the OBS Polytrack to finish third - beaten 2 lengths - in the OBS Championship. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 27% with first-time blinkers, has John Velazquez in the saddle. **3 MIMI'S KIDS** is turning back to a 1-turn mile on the dirt after stalking early and closing late to finish second, as the favorite, in a 2-turn 9-furlong maiden special weight test on the lawn. Leading trainer Ken McPeck, 30% with the turf-to-dirt move, has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle. **1 FUNNY MOON** is stretching out to a mile after closing from far back to finish second here in her 7-furlong career debut. Trainer Christophe Clement has Alan Garcia penciled in for the return assignment. **5 ZESTY BREW** is a Stronach Stables homebred daughter of Milwaukee Brew who is training nicely at Palm Meadows in preparation for her career debut. The sophomore starts her career with Lasix and Edgar Prado added to the mix.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-1-5

FOURTH RACE:

5 CONNIE MAC, beaten a neck on the turf in the 5-furlong Group 2 Queen Mary Stakes at Ascot last June, shows a string of sharp Palm Meadows turf works, which includes three bullets, in preparation for the first start since she dueled for the lead and faded in her North American debut here at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, 30% with his turf sprinters, names Elvis Trujillo to ride as Alan Garcia sticks with **8 STAYAWAYSTELLA**. The daughter of Strong Hope should be ready to score after closing to finish second in her local turf debut at the distance. Trainer Mark Hennig has her training sharply over the stamina enhancing Payson Park surface. **2 STORM TEASE** is stepping up into the allowance ranks after finishing third in front of next-out local winners Gypsy Love and Acquired Cat in a 'key' \$50,000 claimer at the distance. It's the old 'key race' angle. In keeping with the 'key' race theory **10 QUIET HARBOR** makes her first start since rallying 3-wide to defeat a pair of next-out local winners in a fruitful maiden special weight race at the distance. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Edgar Prado astride the 4-year-old daughter of Silver Deputy.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-2-10

FIFTH RACE:

4 BOX OF CHARMS moved to the Antonio Cioffi barn via the claim after dueling for the lead and finishing second, as the favorite, vs. similar at the distance on Jan. 23rd. The new connections have Eibar Coa atop the lightly raced 4-year-old. **7 SPLIT THE CLOUDS** is dropping into a competitive spot after following a chase-and-fade performance vs. entry-level allowance competition on the Tampa main track with a failed outing vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers on the local turf. Trainer Larry Bates has Jermaine Bridgmohan handling the surface change. **6 TIFFANY ROCK** has her claiming tag sliced in half after showing speed and fading late vs. \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimers last out. **3 RUBY LIPSTICK**, who finished third in front of Box Of Charms at 5 ½ furlongs (Jan. 16th), renews the rivalry after proving no match for \$20,000 'two-lifetime' sprinters last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-6-3

SIXTH RACE:

4 BETELO, now in the Rick Dutrow Jr. barn, shows six Palm Meadows workouts, which includes four bullets, in preparation for the first start since showing speed and retreating vs. entry-level allowance competition in a 7-furlong turf sprint at Belmont last June. The colt, who broke his maiden on this course last year, should have the tactical speed needed to get position with the turf rail set at 96 Feet. **9 AQAB** drops to the \$20,000 level after closing to earn a check in 1 of 2 local turf outings vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers.

6 ALYCERO drops, and stretches out, after a useful but troubled 5-furlong sprint vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers in which he was forced to check on the turn, and was blocked in the stretch. Trainer Liz Gray has Cornelio Velasquez handling the stretchout. **2 SAMMY'S TOY** gets some class relief after showing early interest and fading vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' types in both local turf outings. Trainer Tim Ritvo has Julien Leparoux in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 4-9-6-2

SEVENTH RACE:

6 MAMA'S WONDER BOY moved to the Greg DiPrima barn via the claim, drops to the \$6,250 level, and stretches out to 9 furlongs, after dueling for the lead and finishing third in a strong 'key' \$10,000 claimer that produced four next-out winners, including repeat winner Minidrop. **1 JAZZAHOLIC** will depart from the rail after a game performance, from an ultra tough outside post (10), in which he rallied 4-wide to finish second vs. \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimers at this 9-furlong distance. **9 SUAVE BARON** debuts locally for trainer Peter Walder, and races without blinkers, after ending his 2008 campaign with a second place finish in a 'key' \$5,000 conditioned claimer at Delaware that produced three next-out winners. Jose Lezcano will quarterback the stretchout. **8 SIR OSO**, a proven commodity at the distance (3-1-0-0), is stretching out after finishing third vs. state-bred competition at a mile. Trainer Ralph Ziadie has Juan Leyva named on Sir Bear's little brother.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-9-8

EIGHTH RACE:

2 JUST LIVIN A DREAM returns to the allowance ranks after finishing fourth in the Coconut Grove behind Gozzip Girl and Obsequious, who ran one-two in the Grade 3 Herecomesthebride on Sunday. The class drop should be key for the Ritvo/Coa collaboration. **4 GOLD RECORD** is hoping for a clean trip after encountering early trouble (steadied 1st turn and backstretch) and finishing fifth - beaten 2 ¼ lengths - vs. similar last out. Trainer Stan Hough

has Javier Castellano named to ride. **3 TRUE BIRKIN** must be respected on her ability to set or stalk the pace with the turf rail set at 96 Feet, and field size limited to 10 runners. Trainer Bill Mott has E T Baird atop the swift daughter of Silver Deputy. **6 TRIQUETA** will tussle with winners after drawing away with enthusiasm to defeat \$80,000 maidens last out. Leading trainer Ken McPeek, 24% with horses winning consecutive races, has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-3-6

NINTH RACE:

11 PLATINA ROSE is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after surrendering a late lead to finish second vs. similar quality at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer David Fawkes has Eibar Coa atop the daughter of Point Given. **13 MAMBO JUMBO**, a good second at this level and distance last out, just needs to get in off the top of the also eligible list to take the lion's share of the betting action. The only concern is the demanding outside post. **6 DIAMOND DANZIG** makes her career debut for trainer Ken McPeek with 10 Palm Meadows workouts showing. The sophomore starts her career with Lasix and Kent Desormeaux added to the mix. **4 PORLAMAR** hopes to recapture the form she displayed finishing second in consecutive sprints vs. similar quality at Calder during December. Trainer Rodolfo Garcia has Paco Lopez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 11-13-6-4

BEST BET: RACE 4 - 5 CONNIE MAC

LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 9 MISCHIEVIOUS

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