

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

5 SHAKE THE MOON, now in the Christophe Clement barn, makes her first start since getting beat 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths in the fruitful Grade 3 Long Island Handicap, won by Criticism, who won the Grade 3 Very One here on Feb. 22nd. Trainer Clement, 24% with this type of layoff, has Joe Bravo in the saddle. **6 BAHIA GIRL** will try \$62,000 allowance optional claimers after rallying along the rail to defeat entry-level allowance competition at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Brian Lynch, 29% with horses winning consecutive races, has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **2 YIPPETY YIP** moved to the Jason Servis barn via the claim after rallying late to defeat a solid group of \$35,000 'three-lifetime' claimers in determined fashion. Trainer Servis, an amazing 6 for 12 (50%) with new claims, has Paco Lopez handling the stretchout to 9 furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-2

SECOND RACE:

6 CHIHULYKEE plunges to the \$10,000 level on the dirt, and races without blinkers, after showing speed and getting caught late when facing better in a trio of 5 furlong turf races. Trainer Wesley Ward, 33% with the turf-to-dirt move, has 10-pound apprentice Christian Santiago Reyes in the saddle. **4 SANTURI** is back in the Ed Plesa Jr. barn via a reclaim after finishing a 3-wide second vs. \$6,250 claimers in his one start under the care of trainer Wesley Ward. Paco Lopez handles the homecoming. **2 HOLD'EM OR FOLD'EM** will try conditioned claimers in South Florida after posting a speed figure good enough to compete here when finishing second vs. \$8,000 claimers at Tampa. Trainer Juan Arias has Manoel Cruz named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-2

THIRD RACE:

4 ROMAN SILVER takes a substantial drop to the \$30,000 level after a couple of respectable turf outings here during February. The colt, beaten a half-length vs. \$50,000 claimers at a mile on Feb. 6th, and 3 lengths vs. special weight competition on Feb 21st, has leading jock Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **6 MASK AND WIG** is another getting some class relief after finishing a troubled sixth (checked top of stretch) in a 'key' maiden special weight event that produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Barclay Tagg, who has two in the race (Ourwingman), has

Elvis Trujillo guiding the gelded son of Distorted Humor. **2 GALLOPING THUNDER** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after closing to get beat 3 lengths vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Dave Braddy has Joe Bravo in the saddle. **11 BIZZIE LIGHT** is dropping to the \$30,000 level after getting beat only 4 lengths when encountering early trouble (steadied) in an ambitious outing at the \$80,000 level.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-2-11

FOURTH RACE:

3 PRINCESS BUDDHA drops to the bottom on the dirt after following a distant fourth place finish vs. \$50,000 maidens on the main track with a fifth place finish vs. \$30,000 maidens at a mile on the turf. Trainer Ken McPeck, 30% with the grass-to-dirt angle, has Manoel Cruz atop the daughter of Buddha. **7 CACUN CACUN** is cutting back to a 1-turn mile after finishing third and second, respectively, in a pair vs. similar at 9 furlongs. Trainer Gilberto Zerpa has Javier Santiago handling the turnback. **5 OUT HOPPING** drops to the \$15,000 level after encountering double-trouble (steadied start & backstretch) and finishing eighth vs. \$27,500 maidens at the distance. Trainer Erik Posada has jockey Jose Rivera II penciled in for the return assignment.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-5

FIFTH RACE:

10 MY SWEET NATALIE drops a notch on the claiming scale after finishing third, as the favorite, behind repeat winner Purely By Chance in a \$35,000 claimer at the distance. Trainer Wesley Ward, 34% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Paco Lopez in the saddle. **8 TAVATA** drops to the \$25,000 level after rallying late to finish third vs. \$50,000 allowance optional claimers at 5 furlongs on the Tampa turf. **7 SARAH THETIGER**, now in the Danny Miller barn, turns back to 5 furlongs after setting the pace and getting beat three-quarters of a length vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at a mile and a sixteenth. E T Baird handles the turnback. **5 SOCA DANCER** will give the turf a try after a couple of solid 6-furlong sprints vs. similar on the main track. Trainer Jose Pinchin has Elvis Trujillo at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 10-8-7-5

SIXTH RACE:

4 ANANSI drops to the \$50,000 level, and stretches out to a mile, after stalking the pace 3-wide and tiring to finish fourth vs. maiden special weight competition, which happened to be his first race in 370 days. **1 JAZZ HANDS**, a half to multiple Florida Stallion Stakes winner Straight Faced, is certainly eligible to show more after getting mugged on the backstretch and finishing seventh - beaten 6 lengths - vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Steve DiMauro has Pedro Monterrey Jr. in the saddle. **6 BEDROCK BLUES** is stepping up the competition after recovering from a hesitating start to finish fourth vs. \$30,000 maidens at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer George Weaver has Javier Castellano named to ride. **7 MAREK'S CZECH**, 1 of 2 in the race for trainer Ed Plesa Jr. (Golden Stride), makes his career debut with a string of stamina enhancing local workouts showing. Joe Bravo rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-6-7

SEVENTH RACE:

2 BLACK MINK is stepping up into the allowance ranks after adding credence to the 'key' race angle when she exited a \$25,000 claimer, where she beat a pair of next-out winners, to defeat \$45,000 claimers at a mile last out. Note that red-hot daughter of Black Minnaloushe has never tasted defeat at this distance (2-2-0-0). **10 REATA'S VIXEN**, entered to run in the ultra competitive South Beach on Saturday, looks strong if trainer Joe Orseno opts to run her here. The improving daughter of Sligo Bay, who defeated \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers on Feb. 26th, should have won her recent outing at this level but was boxed in on the turn and had to settle for third - beaten three-quarters of a length. **6 BLISSFUL SONG** debuts locally with blinkers added threatening to win this condition in consecutive allowance races on the Tampa turf. Trainer Chad Brown, 27% with first-time blinkers, has Eddie Castro named to ride. **1 ICON PROJECT** should be ready to roll after encountering trouble in her North American debut at this level and distance (slow start, tight stretch). Trainer Marty Wolfson adds second-time Lasix on the \$775K daughter of Empire Maker.

SELECTIONS: 2-10-6-1

EIGHTH RACE:

3 WOODLAND moved to the Gillian Andreasen barn via the claim, and stretches out to his best distance (8-4-2-1), after just getting nipped at the wire by **2 KELLYS RX** at 5 ½ furlongs last out. The latter, trained by Ferris Allen, will try to win the rubber match with Woodland after finishing third behind him at this distance on March 5th, and a neck in front of him in their recent tussle at 5 ½ furlongs. **1 TAKING OVER** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile (4-2-0-1) after finishing fourth vs. similar at 6 ½ furlongs

last out, and third behind another group of \$6,250 claimers at 5 ½ furlongs on March 22nd. Note that the colt rarely runs a bad one in Hallandale Beach (4-1-0-2). **8 FLIGHT TO EDEN**, third behind Talking Over at this distance on Feb. 7th, and fifth behind Kellys Rx and Woodland last out, will try to reverse those outcomes in the first race after the claim by trainer Gilberto Zerpa.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-1-8

NINTH RACE:

9 SLEEPLESS KNIGHT is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after a very promising career debut at a mile in which he rallied to finish second on a 'firm' turf. Trainer Kelly Breen, 30% with horses making their second start, has Joe Bravo named to ride. **12 SNEAK PEEK**, beaten only 3 ¼ lengths on the turf here on Feb. 13th, returns to the lawn for trainer Ken McPeek after threatening to break his maiden in a pair on the main track (1 at a mile & 1 at 9 furlongs). Trainer McPeek, 20% with his turf runners, has Manoel Cruz in the saddle. **3 BARONSHILL** is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after an ambitious 9-furlong career debut in which he failed to sustain his late bid. Trainer Christophe Clement, 20% with horses making their second start, has leading jock Jose Lezcano named to ride. **13 CHAPIN BEACH** just needs to get in off the top of the also eligible list to merit serious consideration on the ticket. The beautifully bred son of Dynaformer will race with blinkers after encountering double-trouble (steadied early & stretch) when beaten 3 ¾ lengths at this level and distance.

SELECTIONS: 9-12-3-13

BEST BET: RACE 3 - 4 ROMAN SILVER

LONG SHOT: RACE 7 - 3 PRETTY ELUSIVE