

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

5 CHAMPAGNE LAKE drops to the bottom on the main track, and stretches out to 9 furlongs, after failing to menace in a \$27,500 maiden test at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. **7 CONVERSE GIRL** has her maiden tag sliced in half, and receives Lasix, after apparently bleeding in her \$30,000 career debut at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Paco Lopez atop the daughter of Drewman, who is bred to respond favorably to the distance. **3 PERFECT CUP OF TEA** is steeping up the distance, and racing without blinkers, after stalking the pace and tiring in a \$20,000 maiden test at a mile. Trainer Ron Spatz has Juan Leyva handling the stretchout to a mile and an eighth.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-3

SECOND RACE:

5 JAY MIKE will face winners after responding to the addition of blinkers with a 'much the best' \$30,000 maiden victory in which he rebounded from a bobbling incident at the start to win by 5 lengths. Trainer Nick Zito has Joe Bravo going for two in a row. **3 DISTANT POINT** drops, and turns back to 7 furlongs, after steadying at the start and failing to recover vs. entry-level allowance runners at a mile. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **1 MR GOLD PROSPECT** is turning back to seven-eighths of a mile after making a middle move and fading to finish third vs. similar at a mile.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-1

THIRD RACE:

10 DOBRA drops, and stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth on the turf, after making a 4-wide bid to finish third in her local debut vs. \$50,000 maidens at 6 furlongs on the main track. Trainer Carl Nafzger has Julien Leparoux atop the daughter of Smoke Glacken. **2 MULTIPASS** is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth, and wearing blinkers, after tracking the pace and fading vs. maiden special weight competition at 9 furlongs on the dirt. The sophomore is spotted perfectly for a \$30,000 tag. **7 GATTA NIKKI** is a daughter of El Corredor debuting for the always-dangerous Peter Walder barn with Lasix and jockey John Velazquez added to the mix. **8 PLACID WATERS** will shift to the turf after an interesting bottom level outing on the dirt in which

she recovered from a poor start to finish a fast closing fourth - beaten a length - at 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jason Servis. 3 for 7 (43%) with the first-time turf angle, has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 10-2-7-8

FOURTH RACE:

1 CHAPEL RUN is dropping into this \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimer after following his \$40,000 maiden victory at this 6 ½-furlong distance with a track-and-fade fifth place finish vs. multiple winners in a \$40,000 starter allowance competition at a mile. **7 MY DADDIO** will tussle with 'two-lifetime' foes on the dirt after pressing the pace and weakening to get beat 2 ¾ lengths vs. open \$35,000 claimers at 5 furlongs on the turf. **4 TEN IS ENOUGH**, who defeated \$30,000 maidens on the dirt at this distance on Feb. 7th, returns to the main track after finishing fifth behind My Daddio on the lawn last out. Trainer Manny Estevez, 3 for 12 (25%) with the turf-to-dirt move, has Elvis Trujillo handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-4

FIFTH RACE:

10 BEAU JESTER plunges to the bottom of the maiden scale after failing to earn a check in a 'key' 1-mile maiden special weight event that produced next-out local winners War of the Roses, Desert Falcon, and Marl. Trainer Nick Zito has Julien Leparoux returning on the \$310K son of Distorted Humor. **7 FOG ISLAND** is stretching out around 2-turns after recovering from a slow beginning to come within a nose of defeating similar at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Dave Braddy tabs Edgar Prado to ride. **2 YULETIDE** will break from the advantageous inside post when he stretches out to 9 furlongs on the dirt after closing late to hit the board in one of two races vs. better at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Jonathan Sheppard has Junior Alvarado handling the surface switch. **9 PANTHERAS CHARGE** drops to the \$15,000 level, and stretches out, after closing to come within a half-length of defeating \$20,000 maidens at a mile on the Oaklawn Park main track (Feb. 15th). Trainer Elizabeth Gray has Elvis Trujillo handling the South Florida debut.

SELECTIONS: 10-7-2-9

SIXTH RACE:

5 BESO DEL SUR drops into this \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimer after losing her best chance when she broke slowly in her local turf debut vs. entry-level allowance competition at the distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher has go-to guy John Velazquez atop the daughter of Dixieland Band.

14 TRIQUETA, a sharp \$80,000 maiden winner here in her last start, just needs to get in off the top of the also eligible list to merit a top three spot on the ticket. Leading trainer Ken McPeck has Julien Leparoux named to ride.

7 MOLLYSINTHECLOUDS, sharp vs. \$100,000 allowance optional claimers at the Tropical-at-Calder meet, drops after finishing a disappointing 10th in her local allowance debut at the distance. Trainer Henry Collazo has Rene Douglas named to ride. **9 TUT'S TREASURE** discovered she could compete at this level and distance when she disputed the pace and finished third last out. Edgar Prado rides as Johnny V. shifts to Beso Del Sur.

SELECTIONS: 5-14-7-9

SEVENTH RACE:

5 STRATOSTAR, who won back-to-back starter allowance races vs. better here last year, fits the \$12,500 conditions perfectly when he makes the first start since facing tougher, on both turf and dirt, throughout his successful 2008 campaign (14-8-2-1). Trainer Mike Maker, 27% with the 61-180 day layoff, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle. **1 PYRAMYST** and **1A SONOFAWITCH** are an interesting pair from trainer Peter Walder for a few reasons. The former, who is entered to run against the gals in a similar race on Friday, steps up after boosting her record to 4-for-4 locally when she defeated \$10,000 starter allowance runners at the distance while the latter wheels back in 6 days hoping to rebound from a troubled third place finish (steadied entering turn) vs. 'three-lifetime' claimers at the distance. **3 FIUMES** is stepping up, and stretching out, after his 2-race win streak ended when he finished third vs. \$10,000 starter allowance competition at 5 ½ furlongs. **8 NOTICE ME NOW** moved to the Jose Garoffalo barn via the claim, and cuts back to a mile (6-2-2-2), after finishing a willing second in his local return vs. \$10,000 types at 9 furlongs. Note that the 5-year-old is 4-for-4 'in the money' locally (4-1-2-1).

SELECTIONS: 5-1-3-8

EIGHTH RACE:

4 JAMALUDIN, who has the perfectly stalking style needed to take advantage of both the race shape, and recent speed bias on the grass, stretches out to 9 furlongs after getting blocked through the stretch, as the favorite, in his local return vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Maker has Julien Leparoux in the saddle. **11 PICK SIX** drops into a competitive spot after prompting the pace and tiring

to get beat 3 ¼ lengths by Breeders' Cup winner Kip Deville in the Grade 1 Gulfstream Turf Handicap. The stalker should have clear sailing from his outside post (11). **1 EQUITABLE**, a Grade 1 stakes-placed son of A. P. Indy, should be primed and ready to score after breaking slowly and getting beat 2 ¼ lengths in his local debut at this level and distance, which was his first race since August 2008. Trainer Bill Mott teams with Alan Garcia. **9 MARCH TO VICTORY** is stepping up after an impressive outing with first-time blinkers in which he tracked early and drew clear late to defeat \$62,500 optional claimers at the distance. Trainer Christophe Clement has Joe Bravo going for two in a row.

SELECTIONS: 4-11-1-9

NINTH RACE:

9 DELRAY DIVA is turning back to 7 furlongs on the dirt after making what looked like a winning bid and fading to get beat 3 lengths vs. \$30,000 types in a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Terri Pompay has Jose Lezcano handling the surface switch. **2 CHOSIN RESERVOIR** drops a nickel, and stretches out to seven-eighths of a mile, after stalking the pace and finishing third vs. \$30,000 maidens at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Joe Catanese readied her for this assignment with a bullet 5-furlong drill at Calder. **6 CLOUD OF SMOKE** moved to the Steve DiMauro barn via the claim hoping to rebound from the fourth place finish behind Chosin Reservoir, as the favorite, last out. The new connections tab Edgar Prado to ride. **1 SOSSEGO** steps up, and stretches out, after posting the best last-race Beyer (64) when finishing second, at 70-1, in her \$15,000 career debut at 6 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 9-2-6-1

BEST BET: RACE 7 - 5 STRATOSTAR

LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 5 - HYRACOTHERIUM

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