

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

8 MISS FLEETFOOT, who showed promise on the turf during 2008 (2-0-0-2), is back on the lawn after a successful return from a 9-month plus layoff in which she rebounded from a slow start to defeat \$20,000 'three-lifetime' claimers at a mile on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Ralph Ziadie has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **4 GIRL SLEUTH** is cutting back to a mile after rallying to finish second vs. this familiar competition at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Steve Standridge has Manoel Cruz in the saddle. **3 EXCLUSIVE HOPPER**, the beaten favorite in five or her last seven races, will try to reverse that trend when she cuts back to a mile (21-5-4-2) after finishing third behind Girl Sleuth last out. Trainer Peter Walder lightens the load with 7-pound apprentice Ares Campos at the helm. **6 LADY TROPICANA** moved to the Rick Dutrow barn via the claim after closing to finish fourth behind Girl Sleuth and Exclusive Hopper in their recent clash at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Dutrow, 24% with new claims, has Mario Madrid at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-3-6

SECOND RACE:

1 UNBRIDLED CHEROKEE plummets to the \$15,000 level after facing maiden special weight competition in eight career starts, which includes the chase-and-fade performance here at the distance on Feb. 13th. **4 UNHOLY NIGHT** is eligible to show more after failing to fire vs. similar in her first race back from a 6-month layoff. Trainer Marty Wolfson has Joe Bravo atop the daughter of Najran.

7 WALKERS BEACH is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile after recovering from a slow start to finish second vs. similar at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Tony Reinstedler has E T Baird in the saddle. **5 SUNNY HORIZON** makes her first start since she was claimed here out of a \$25,000 maiden turf race last February. She's been working steadily on the farm in preparation for her first race in 14-plus months.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-7-5

THIRD RACE:

2 SEXTANT shows four Palm Meadows workouts, including the recent half-mile bullet in :48 & 2, in preparation for her first start since winning 1 of 3 turf sprints on the New York/New Jersey circuit for turf sprint specialist Linda Rice. Trainer Rice, 21% with the longer than 180-day lay-off, has Elvis Trujillo atop the daughter of Orientate.

5 KIT CAT CATON is turning back to 5 furlongs (5-1-0-1)

after opening and relinquishing a 5-length lead when weakening to finish third behind next-out winners Laffans Bridge and More Memories, and in front of next-out winner Majestic Wonder, in a monster 'key' race at a mile and a sixteenth. **11 JUDGE'S PRIDE** will try 'two-lifetime' competition after stalking the pace and finishing fifth vs. multiple winners in a \$22,500 claimer at the distance. **9 INDY CATE** makes her first start since showing speed and retreating vs. similar here last April. Trainer George Weaver, 5 for 18 (28%) with the longer than 180-day layoff, has leading jock Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-11-9

FOURTH RACE:

2 HOPEFORTHEBEST will tussle with state-bred 'two-lifetime' competition after making a mid-race bid and finishing third behind next-out winner Wild Blue Dreams at the distance last out. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. reunites the son of Best Of The Rest with jockey Elvis Trujillo.

4 BRANTZEN GONE WILD will face winners after drawing clear 4-wide to break his maiden vs. \$15,000 types at a mile. Trainer Ken McPeck, 27% with horses winning consecutive races, has Wesley Henry in the saddle.

6 B B'S SONG is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after stalking the pace and fading to finish fourth vs. similar at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Manny Tortora has Manoel Cruz in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-6

FIFTH RACE:

4 BOBBY B. GOODE is hoping to make amends after rallying 5-wide, as the tepid favorite, to finish second at this level and distance. Trainer Dale Romans tabs E T Baird to ride.

9 DEMOLITION is turning back to 5 furlongs with blinkers added after stalking the pace and tiring to get beat 5 ½ lengths in his 1-mile career debut on the grass. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 25% with first-time blinkers, has Chris DeCarlo in the saddle. **8 HOLY POPPI** shows a couple of sharp half-mile drills in preparation for the first start since breaking last in a field of 11 and closing to get beat 4 lengths at this level and distance. Trainer Tim Ritvo secures the services of jockey Paco Lopez. **3 ROCAMADOUR**, now in the Ed Plesa Jr. barn, is expected to show more after responding to the addition of Lasix with a sixth place finish - only a 1 ½ lengths behind top choice Bobby B. Goode last out.

SELECTIONS: 4-9-8-3

SIXTH RACE:

5 ODE TO ROY is turning back to 6 furlongs after drawing clear in impressive fashion to defeat next-out local winners By Spot and Post Time in a 'key' \$35,000 'three-lifetime' claimer at seven-eighths of a mile. **3 PIRATE KING**, a 6-time winner, takes advantage of the conditions of the race when he tries to win for the first time in 2009 after finishing second in three consecutive races this year. His current speed figures point him out as one of the fastest horses in the field. **4 NET PRESENT VALUE** will try \$35,000 conditioned claimers after failing to earn a check vs. state-bred competition in the \$75K Sunshine State. Trainer Joe Orseno has Joe Bravo in the saddle. **8 CASINO GAMBLER** was given some time off after posting the best last-race speed figure (89) when finishing second vs. \$22,500 claimers on Feb. 22nd.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-4-8

SEVENTH RACE:

2 HOLD YOUR GROUND, beaten 4 lengths on the turf here vs. entry-level allowance company on Jan. 28th, returns to the grass after chasing the pace 4-wide and faltering to finish last behind three rivals in an entry-level allowance test decimated by scratches when it was moved to a mile on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Todd Pletcher spots him perfectly vs. \$30,000 'two-lifetime' claimers. **7 MOTION PLAY**, claimed by Mike Pino when beaten a head at this level on Feb. 12th, drops down after tiring to finish seventh vs. entry level allowance competition at a mile and a sixteenth last out. E T Baird will guide the gelded son of Trippi. **3 SOUL SPIRIT**, now in the Wesley Ward barn, the Stronach Stables homebred son of El Prado turns back to a mile after making a 4-wide bid and finishing third vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Ward, 22% with new additions to his barn, tabs Ariel Smith to ride. **9 ODE TO REVOLUTION**, a strong second at this level and distance on Jan. 4th, stretches out after failing to earn a check vs. similar at 5 furlongs last out. Trainer Tim Hills has Manoel Cruz handling the stretchout.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-3-9

EIGHTH RACE:

5 MATCHLESS ORINDA is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after her impressive 2-race win streak ended when she broke slow and was beaten a head by Tenacious Gator, as the odds-on choice, at 7 furlongs last out. She's ready to make amends. **4 PIOUS ASHLEY**, a classy daughter of Include, who was second to undefeated superstar One Caroline here on Jan. 15th, drops, and turns back to 6 furlongs (4-2-1-1) after failing to fire when finishing fifth in the 7-furlong Grade 2 Inside Information last out. Trainer Marty

Wolfson has Jermaine Bridgmohan in the saddle.

6 CAMARA OCULTA, another from trainer Marty Wolfson, is turning back to 6 panels (2-1-0-1) after stalking the pace and finishing third vs. \$50,000 allowance optional claimers last out. Elvis Trujillo guides this half of the uncoupled entry.

SELECTIONS: 5-4-6

NINTH RACE:

9 COZY COTTAGE is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after a couple of troubled - but promising - outings vs. similar at a mile in which she broke slow and rallied late in her Feb. 4th debut, and encountered trouble at the top of the stretch (steadied) when finishing second - beaten a length - last out. Trainer Graham Motion has Paco Lopez named to ride. **3 SELENE'S DELIGHT** drops, and stretches out, after a solid local debut vs. \$80,000 maidens at a mile in which she made a strong middle move before getting beat 2 1/2 lengths. Trainer Barclay Tagg, 20% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle again. **4 LUCKY LULU** drops, and stretches out to 9 furlongs, after making what looked like a winning bid and tiring to finish seventh at a mile and a sixteenth in a 'key' \$80,000 maiden event that produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Chris DeCarlo atop the likely favorite. **2 THE BEST DAY EVER**, fourth on the turf vs. maiden special weight competition at Churchill on Nov. 13th, and third on the Churchill main track in a 'key' mile and a sixteenth race that produced a pair of next-out winners on the Nov. 29th, debuts locally for trainer Ken McPeck, who is 24% with the 61-180 day layoff.

SELECTIONS: 9-3-4-2

BEST BET: RACE 7 - 2 HOLD YOUR GROUND

LONG SHOT: RACE 9 - 7 POSNER GIRL

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