

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

2 MIGHTY SCORE was given some time off after couple of sharp outings at the distance in which he finished a slow starting fourth in his career debut on opening day, and followed that with a second place finish in a 'key' dash that produced a trio of next-out local winners. **6 JUST BEN** is eligible to show more after a useful career debut at the distance in which he broke slow and finished fourth. Trainer Nick Zito has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle. **1 RAMBLIN BOY**, another from trainer Nick Zito, and a half to graded stakes winners Early Warning, Vivid Sunset, and Wanderin Boy, starts his career with a series of solid Palm Meadows workouts showing. **3 LEAN MACHINE**, a \$160K son of Grand Slam, makes his first start since an eventful career debut at Arlington in which he was fractious in the gate and finished seventh. It's Pletcher and Velazquez.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-1-3

SECOND RACE:

3 SANTANA SIX, third behind Florida Derby 9-to-5 morning line favorite Dunkirk in their respective debuts on Jan. 24th, faces winners after dueling throughout and holding sway to break his maiden at the distance. Trainer Nick Zito has John Velazquez atop the son of Hold That Tiger. **1 STOMP** moved to the Ed Plesa Jr. barn via the claim after an impressive \$80,000 maiden victory at 6 furlongs in which he drew clear under a strong hand ride to win by 4 ½ lengths. Eibar Coa rides. **2 ENDYMION** makes his first start since he defeated a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' mile & 70-yard maiden test at the Meadowlands on Oct. 10th. Trainer Christophe Clement, 24% with the 61-180 day lay-off, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-2

THIRD RACE:

4 NOS MAN drops, and turns back to 5 ½ furlongs, after stumbling at the start and finishing last vs. \$30,000 maidens at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has go-to jock Julien Leparoux handling the son of Dynaformer. **6 TRE ALPHA** is a son of Omega Code debuting for the trainer Ed Plesa Jr. with string of useful Calder workouts showing. Paco Lopez rides. **2 BEHIND THE PEW** is turning back after setting a pressured pace and tiring to finish fourth vs. similar at 6 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Mario Morales has Juan Leyva in the saddle. **10 SENOR LECHE** is hoping to rise to the top vs. this level of competition after showing speed and fading vs. \$27,500 maidens in a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Ron Spatz has E T Baird in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-2-10

FOURTH RACE:

2 HEDGEFUND INVESTOR is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after a useful return from an approximate 11-month lay-off in which rallied wide to finish a strong fifth - beaten 2 ¼

lengths - in a 'key' 5-furlong entry-level allowance test that produced next-out local winners Big Red Hope and Just Playing Around. **7 SOUL SPIRIT** drops into this \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimer after finishing fifth and fourth, respectively, in a pair vs. entry-level allowance competition. Trainer Brian Lynch finds a nice spot for the son of El Prado. **12 YAROSLAV** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after breaking slowly, and rallying wide, to finish second vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Peter Walder has John Velazquez in the saddle. **10 BENEATH THE CROWN** should be primed and ready to score after a nice local return in which stalked the pace and finished third behind Yaroslav in their recent clash at a mile.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-12-10

FIFTH RACE:

3 NICANOR, the much ballyhooed little brother of Grade 1 Florida and Kentucky Derby champ Barbaro, is stretching out to a mile after showing marked improvement when he set a pressured pace and finished a game second in career start number two. Trainer Michael Matz has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

8 JULIANO is stretching out to a mile after showing promise when he rallied to finish second in his 6-furlong career debut. Trainer Dave Kassen has Junior Alvarado in the saddle.

5 GLITTERMANS CARTEL will give the dirt a try after a promising career turf debut in which he came within a nose of defeating \$80,000 maidens at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Ken McPeck, 29% with the turf-to-dirt move, has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle. **4 IN MY PRAYERS** will race with blinkers after bumping at the start and finishing sixth in his 7-furlong debut vs. similar. The recent 5-furlong gate work in :59 & 3 indicates an improved performance is expected.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-5-4

SIXTH RACE:

6 SOL A PINO is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after his 2-race win streak ended when he finished a troubled fourth (steadied early & first turn) vs. this caliber of competition at 9 furlongs (Jan. 28th). Trainer Bill Mott has Garrett Gomez in the saddle. **12 BOLD ABBOTT** is hoping to find a little more after proving he could compete in the allowance ranks when he finished third - beaten 1 ½ lengths at 15-1 - in his recent outing at this level and distance. **4 RUBAIYAT** is stepping up into the allowance ranks after posting back-to-back victories on the Tampa turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has Julien Leparoux named to ride. **8 JUSTENUFFHUMOR** will face winners after rallying 4-wide to defeat maiden special weight competition in his career turf debut here at a mile (Jan. 14th). Trainer Kieran McLaughlin is 26% with horses winning consecutive races.

SELECTIONS: 6-12-4-8

SEVENTH RACE:

11 MOTOVATO should be ready to fire the winning salvo after dueling for the lead and weakening to finish third at the distance vs. similar, which was his first race since he posted the 'Beyer Super Trainer' figure of 111 when he defeated allowance competition at Calder last April. **5 ADMIRALITY** is turning back to 7 furlongs after dueling for the lead and tiring to finish fifth vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Nick Zito has Carlos Marquez Jr. in the saddle. **7 PARADISE DANCER** will try optional claiming allowance competition at one of his most accomplished distances (9-4-3-2) after hitting the board in back-to-back stakes races at Tampa. He's a major player if trainer Kirk Ziadie sends the 9-year-old across Alligator Alley. **4 MANNINGTON**, a previous winner at the distance, is stretching out after finishing second vs. similar at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Terri Pompay has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 11-5-7-4

EIGHTH RACE:

8 BROAD RIVER is turning back to a mile after getting edged at the wire by repeat winner - and Grade 3 Appleton participant - Artic Cry in a 'two-other-than' allowance test at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Maker, 33% with horses making the second start back from a 45-180 day layoff, has John Velazquez atop the son of Broad Brush. **4 ROGUE VICTORY** will compete in this \$62,500 allowance optional claimer after rallying wide to come within 2 3/4 lengths of winning the Grade 3 Canadian Turf Handicap last out. Trainer George Weaver secures the services of jockey Kent Desormeaux. **11 RADICAL SABBATICAL**, second behind Rogue Victory at this distance on Jan. 7th, turns back after using every ounce of his speed to defeat entry-level allowance runners at a mile and a sixteenth. **12 BIG STICK** is turning back to a mile after making a 4-wide charge and weakening to finish sixth - 2 1/2 lengths behind Artic Cry and Broad River last out.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-11-12

NINTH RACE: THE SWALE (G2)

1 THIS ONES FOR PHIL, who shook up the racing community when he won the 6-furlong Sunshine Millions Dash and was awarded a 116 Beyer for his effort, turns back to 7 furlongs after setting the pace and retreating to finish a distant fifth in the 1-mile Grade 2 Fountain Of Youth last out. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Garrett Gomez in the saddle. **6 BIG DRAMA**, a winner of five consecutive races, including a sweep of the Florida Stallions Stakes series at Calder, and the Grade 3 Delta Jackpot at Delta Downs, makes his first start since he was sent to the sidelines with an injury. He's the obvious choice if ready. **5 BRAVE VICTORY**, who broke his maiden at this distance at Belmont in October, returns to the graded stakes ranks after a useful local return at 6 furlongs in which recovered from early trouble to score by a head. Trainer Nick Zito has Julien Leparoux in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-5

TENTH RACE: THE FLORIDA DERBY (G1)

2 QUALITY ROAD is stretching out to 9 furlongs after responding to the addition of Lasix with an impressive 4-1/4-length victory in the 1-mile Grade 2 Fountain Of Youth. The son of Elusive Quality is reunited with jockey John Velazquez. **4 DUNKIRK**, a \$3.7-million dollar son of Unbridled's Song looked like he was worth every penny when he won his 7-furlong debut by 5 3/4 lengths, and followed that up with a 4 3/4-length allowance victory at the distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Garrett Gomez in the saddle. **6 THEREGOESJOJO** is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after finishing second to Quality Road in the 1-mile Fountain Of

Youth. Trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux atop the son of Brahms. **7 DANGER OF SOCIETY**, now in the Rick Dutrow Jr. barn, makes his first start since his 2-race unbeaten streak ended when he faltered to finish seventh in the Fountain Of Youth. Note that trainer Dutrow has a 29% win average with new additions to his barn.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-6-7

ELEVENTH RACE: THE APPLETON (G3)

3 KISS THE KID is turning back to 7 1/2 furlongs after following victories at a mile and a sixteenth in the Grade 3 Cliffhanger at the Meadowlands, and in the \$100K Ft Lauderdale here on Jan. 10th, with solid fourth place finish behind Breeders' Cup winner Kip Deville in the 9-furlong Grade 1 Gulfstream Park Turf last out. **2 VANQUISHER** is turning back slightly after his 2-race win streak ended when he finished a troubled fourth (steadied) in the 1-mile Grade 3 Canadian Turf. **5 BOLD START**, 3-2-0-0 at the distance on the turf, should be a major part of the pace scenario when he stretches out after stalking the action and finishing third in the 7-furlong Grade 2 Richter Scale on the dirt. **1 PASSAGER** is turning back after a solid North American debut in the Canadian Turf in which he made a 3-wide move and weakened to get beat 2 1/4 lengths. Trainer Roger Attfield adds second-time Lasix today.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-5-1

TWELFTH RACE:

1 AUDEAMUS is turning back to a 1-turn mile after losing a protracted stretch duel to get beat a nose by Florida Derby participant Toby The Coal Man at 9 furlongs. **3 JACOBY'S RUN** is stretching out after recovering from a poor start to finish a well-meant second vs. \$80,000 maidens at 6 furlongs. **5 STREET TALK'N MAN** is expected to show more after stumbling after the start and still managing to finish fifth behind repeat winner Just A Coincidence at this level and distance last out. **7 DANCING LUCA**, owned in part by South Florida legend - and ESPN analyst - Hank Goldberg, turns back after encountering trouble at the start (bumped, steadied) and finishing fourth behind Audeamus at 9 furlongs. Trainer Nick Zito has hard riding Paco Lopez in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-5-7

BEST BET: RACE 6 - 6 SOL A PINO

LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 5 TASTEFULLY SMART

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