

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

7 CINNAMON ROAD will face starter allowance competition after following a very impressive \$35,000 claiming score on Jan. 7th with a chase-and-fade third place finish vs. allowance competition at the distance. Trainer Milt Wolfson has John Velazquez in the saddle again.

1 ANYTHINGYOUWANT is stretching out to a mile after opening a 3-length lead, bumping on the backstretch, and holding on to finish third - beaten a neck - vs. similar at three-quarters of a mile. **2 IRISH SPORT** is turning back to a 1-turn mile on the dirt after setting the pace along the rail and tiring to finish sixth vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Gerald Procino has Carlos Olivero in the saddle. **3 RED HOT CANDY** drops into a competitive spot after following a front running score vs. \$25,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at Calder with a chase-and-tire outing vs. \$50,000 claimers on the lawn.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-2-3

SECOND RACE:

11 ARNAUDVILLE is a speedy son of Maria's Mon who drops to the \$30,000 level after failing to show his usual turn of foot when he was forced to check twice vs. allowance level competition at a mile. The recent speed bias on the turf should bolster his chances. **8 YULETIDE** drops to the \$30,000 level after altering course in the stretch to find racing room en route to a fast closing third vs. \$40,000 types at the distance. He's the logical choice to pick up the pieces if Arnaudville fails to stretch his speed to the wire.

2 INTAGLIO should have the screws tightened after rallying late to finish fourth - two necks behind Yuletide last out. Trainer Barclay Tagg, 20% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Eibar Coa in the saddle again. **7 STARBOARD SIDE** left the gate first, set the pace until deep stretch, and then faded to finish fourth - a neck behind Yuletide last out. He's a major player if the grass continues to favor speed.

SELECTIONS: 11-8-2-7

THIRD RACE:

2 FAPPIES FOR CHANCE totes 119 pounds including apprentice Jose Ortiz after her 2-race win streak ended when she was beaten a neck vs. similar while carrying 124 pounds. **8 SATIRA** plunges to the \$6,250 level after setting the pace and faltering late to finish fourth vs. \$16,000

claimers at the distance. Trainer Eddie Broome has the mare spotted for success. **3 PAGO ISLAND** is hoping to find a little more for the stretch run after finishing fourth and third, respectively, vs. behind Fappies For Chance in both local starts at the distance. **4 DAZZLING PRINCESS** gets some class relief after showing speed and fading late, on turf and dirt, vs. \$10,000-12,000 types. Trainer Luis Olivares has Eibar Coa at the helm.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-3-4

FOURTH RACE:

3 OPTIMER drops a couple of notches on the claiming scale, and turns back to a mile (3-1-2-0), after rallying to finish third vs. \$35,000 claimers at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Edgar Prado in the saddle. **7 TRANSIT OF VENUS**, 4 for 8 'in the money' at the distance, turns back after stalking the pace and finishing second vs. \$25,000 claimers at 9 furlongs. Trainer Bruce Levine has Eibar Coa rationing the gelding's speed. **10 FLEET APPEAL**, 8-3-1-2 at a mile, shortens up after tracking the pace and weakening to finish fourth behind Transit Of Venus in their recent clash at a mile and an eighth. **12 DAVID K** will wear blinkers after steadying on the first turn and finishing sixth behind Transit Of Venus and Fleet Appeal last out. Trainer David Kassen has Elvis Trujillo handling the outside post (12).

SELECTIONS: 3-7-10-12

FIFTH RACE:

6 IL POSTINO, a \$300K son of Distorted Humor, plummets to the \$20,000 level with blinkers added after stalking the pace and tiring in his local debut vs. maiden special weight competition. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 26% with first-time shades, has John Velazquez handling the major dropdown. **4 SATURN FIVE** is turning back to a 1-turn mile after responding to a drop in competition, and the addition of blinkers, with an improved second place finish vs. \$15,000 maidens at 9 furlongs. **5 MAESTRO AND MASTER** is turning back to a mile on the main track after setting the pace and giving way late to finish fourth vs. \$40,000 maidens in a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Frank Brothers has Julien Leparoux handling the surface switch. **12 TRUSTING HEART** drops, and stretches out to 8 furlongs, after facing tougher in back-to-back sprints. Trainer Stan Hough has Cornelio Velasquez negotiating the added real estate.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-5-12

SIXTH RACE:

10 LAFFANS BRIDGE is cutting back to a mile after finishing third, and being placed second via a steward's ruling, in a roughly run 'key' race that produced a pair next-out local winners. Trainer Barclay Tagg has go-to jock Eibar Coa in the saddle. **4 SWEETBRIAR ACADEMY** is certainly eligible to show more after getting checked late and placed third when second place finisher -and next-out winner - Kelliher impeded her during the stretch run. **1 REATA'S VIXEN** drops into this conditioned claimer after pressing the pace and fading in consecutive starts vs. allowance competition. Trainer Joe Orseno spots the filly where she can notch the elusive second career victory (16-1-2-3). The hot pace caused the death of **3 SMOOCHY'S** chances when she dueled for the lead and retreated vs. allowance runners at 9 furlongs. Her speed can be key vs. this caliber of competition.

SELECTIONS: 10-4-1-3

SEVENTH RACE:

10 THENPUTITBACK moved to the Angel Salinas barn via the claim, and receives Lasix, after disputing the pace and apparently bleeding when finishing third vs. similar opposition at a mile. Trainer Salinas, 1 for 3 with new claims, has Javier Santiago handling the turnback to 7 ½ furlongs. **7 BABYLONIAN** moved to the Dave Vivian barn via the claim after making a 4-wide charge to finish second in her recent outing vs. similar at 6 ½ furlongs. The added distance can be the key to her success. **6 DAZZLER** will face winners after drawing clear impressively to defeat bottom level maidens at the distance. Trainer Joe Orseno has Carlos Marquez Jr. going for two in a row. **5 SEA SPIRIT** is hoping for a little racing luck after getting caught in tight quarters on the turn on Jan. 7th, and losing all chance when stumbling badly vs. similar in her last start (Jan. 28). Trainer Ian Wilkes has Julien Leparoux aboard for the third consecutive race.

SELECTIONS: 10-7-6-5

EIGHTH RACE:

2 HELLVELYN, a Group 1 & 2 stakes-placed sprinter in Europe, who was beaten a head in the 5 ½-furlong Quick Call at Saratoga on Sept. 1st, turns back to five-eighths after breaking slowly and finishing fourth - beaten 2 ½ lengths as the favorite - in his local debut at a mile. **5 PIRATESONTHELAKE**, who set blistering fractions of :21 & 2 and :43 & 4 when finishing second in a 5-furlong turf sprint at Churchill, looks like the controlling speed when he returns to the grass after fading to finish fifth behind next-out Grade 3 Mr. Prospector winner Ikigai in a money-allowance test on the Calder main track (Dec. 13). Strong

front running jock E T Baird is the man you want at the controls. **1 CANNONBALL** and **1A TALENT SEARCH** are an interesting pair from owners Ken and Sarah Ramsey. The former, trained by Wesley Ward, who is 7 for 9 'in the money' on the turf, proved he could sprint when he beat New York-breds in the 6-furlong Pebo Guy at Belmont (May 31) while the latter, conditioned by Mike Maker, debuts on the turf after a world-class campaign vs. the best sprinters in the country during 2007, and briefly in 2008.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-1-1A

NINTH RACE:

7 MORGANS BOY drops to the \$30,000 level after a rough outing in a 'key' maiden special weight dash in which he bumped and steadied at the start and had to avoid a fallen jock. Note that the only two starters to come out of that race thus far have won their next starts (Presto Change 0 and Have One More). **5 HAPS ALPHABET SOUP** can be a major piece of the pace puzzle when he drops, and turns back to 6 furlongs, after dueling for the lead and fading vs. maiden special weight competition in a 2-turn mile at Calder on Dec. 13th. **11 DANICK** will be outfitted with blinkers after breaking slowly and finishing fourth vs. \$40,000 maidens at 6 ½ furlongs. **6 TEMO'S DREAM** drops a dime on the maiden scale after breaking slowly, rushing up to dispute the pace, and tiring to finish fifth behind Danick last out.

SELECTIONS: 7-5-11-6

BEST BET: RACE 2 - 11 ARNAUDVILLE

LONG SHOT: RACE 6 - 5 PRAIRIE MELODY

