

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

6 ASH, 2 for 3 'in the money' at the distance (3-0-2-0), drops, stretches out, and races without blinkers, after failing to fire vs. maiden special weight competition in her local debut at 6 furlongs. **7 QUALQUIN** drops \$10,000 on the dirt, and wears blinkers, after failing to fire in her local bow vs. \$35,000 maidens at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Bobby Ribauda has Alan Garcia handling the surface switch. **4 INITIAL CONTACT** is stepping up, and stretching out, after closing along rail to come within a head of defeating \$12,500 maidens at 5 ½ furlongs. **1 THEWORLDISMYSTAGE** drops, and turns back to a 1-turn mile on the dirt, after stalking the pace and retreating to finish just in front of Qualquin in their recent clash on the turf.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-4-1

SECOND RACE:

3 MIZ WHAM is stretching out to 9 furlongs with blinkers added after making a 4-wide bid to finish third vs. similar in her local debut at a mile. Trainer Ian Wilkes has red-hot jock Julien Leparoux penciled in for the return assignment. **1 WHO PLAYS BRAHMS** drops to the \$15,000 level, and stretches out to a mile and an eighth, after encountering early trouble (bumped, steadied) and finishing fourth vs. \$25,000 types in her local bow at 6 furlongs. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Shannon Uske handling the stretchout. **4 TRUFFULA** is eligible to show more with a proper start after breaking poorly and finishing fourth behind Miz Wham in their recent clash at eight furlongs. **5 SHOT GUN GEORGIE** is stretching out after rallying late, as the favorite, in her Calder finale vs. similar at a mile & 70 yards.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-4-5

THIRD RACE:

6 COMPLICITY, stakes-placed on the turf in the \$150K Jessamine at Keeneland, returns to the grass after failing to respond in a 'key' entry-level allowance on the Churchill main track that produced three next-out winners, including the winner Four Gifts, who won the Delta Princess in her next start. **1 FOXY BAILEY** is turning back to 5 furlongs after making a strong middle and finishing fifth in the 1-mile \$57K Caressing Handicap at Churchill. The turnback should do wonders for her chance to end up in the picture ceremony. **4 BEST LASS**, who has a first and a second at 5-furlongs on the Presque Isle Polytrack, turns back to five-eighths on the grass after stalking the pace and getting beat 3 ½

lengths vs. entry-level allowance competition at 6 ½ furlongs on the Churchill main track. **5 MISCHIEVOUS**, a half to Grade 1 stakes-placed sprinter Diabolical, tries five-eighths after winning 1 of 3 route races on the turf. Trainer Ron Spatz has Cornelio Velasquez at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-4-5

FOURTH RACE:

2 DEATH VALLEY is stretching out to 7 furlongs after stumbling at the start and finishing second vs. similar in his local debt at 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jimmy DiVito reunites the son of Gulch with jockey Inez Karlsson, who was aboard for his four victories last year. **10 TOY SOLDIER** will try to make it two and a row locally after edging away late to defeat Death Valley in their recent outing at 5 ½ furlongs. Note that the son of Came Home is 2-1-0-1 at the distance. **8 FIUMES** moved to the Luis Olivares barn via the claim after drawing clear to defeat \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimers at three-quarters of a mile. The new connections tab Eibar Coa to ride. **4 FLINT MOUNTAIN** added credence to the horse-for-course theory when he returned to win for the fourth time in seven local starts when he defeated \$10,000 claimers at 6 ½ furlongs (7-4-0-2).

SELECTIONS: 2-10-8-4

FIFTH RACE:

1 STORMALORY and **1A FLORENTINO** are parts of a Darley Stable entry that merit serious consideration. The former, trained by Bill Mott, and ridden by Julien Leparoux, makes his turf debut after facing stakes caliber competition in his 6-race campaign on the dirt while the latter, trained by Kiaran McLaughlin, faces winners after using his speed to break his maiden on the turf here last out. **4 PRIME DELIVERY**, another trained by Kiaran McLaughlin, makes his North American debut with Lasix after apparently bleeding and finishing far back in the Group 1 Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket. Note the sharp work tab on the Palm Meadows turf. **6 LOHAD** will shift back to the turf after recovering from a stumbling start to break his maiden at a mile, as the favorite, on the Turfway Polytrack. Leading trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux atop the son of Menifee. **2 SAFETY SQUEEZE** was game in defeat when he dueled for the lead and weakened to finish third - beaten 1 ¾ lengths at 38-1 - in his local allowance debut at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 1-1A-4-6-2

SIXTH RACE:

8 MAMBO JUMBO is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after a solid local bow at three-quarters of a mile in which she broke slow, was rushed up along rail - against a mid-path bias - to dispute the pace and finish third. Trainer Leo Azpurua Jr. has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **6 CLOUD OF SMOKE** is debuting locally for trainer Eddie Kenneally after finishing second in three consecutive sprints, at three different tracks, in the Bluegrass State. Julien Leparoux will guide the daughter of Smoke Glacken. **10 PRINCESS KAY-LYN** plummets on the claiming scale after showing speed and fading in her \$80,000 career debut here at 6 furlongs. Trainer Larry Rivelli readied her for this easier spot with a near bullet half-mile workout on Jan. 26th. **11 CHARY** will race for a claiming tag for the first time after setting the early pace and fading in her 1-mile local debut vs. maiden special weight competition. Trainer Frank Brothers has Edgar Prado in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-10-11

SEVENTH RACE:

12 MISS SHANGAI, beaten a length on the turf at the distance vs. similar at Calder, returns to the grass after opening a relinquishing a 3-length lead when finishing second vs. similar at 6 furlongs on the dirt. Trainer Wesley Ward removes the blinkers hoping to throttle down some of her keen early interest. **9 MYMISSJULIAC**, who broke her maiden at 5 furlongs on the Calder turf, renews the rivalry with Miss Shangai after finishing third behind her in their recent battle on the main track. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Eibar Coa in the saddle again. **1 BLOOD DIAMOND** will try conditioned claimers after showing speed and retreating vs. multiple winners on Arlington turf last July. Trainer Rebecca Maker, who has two in the race (Regal Bird), has Julien Leparoux atop the daughter of Cape Town. **8 STORMY LAKE** will return to the turf after edging away 4-wide to defeat \$30,000 maidens here at 5 ½ furlongs on the main track. Trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 12-9-2-8

EIGHTH RACE:

7 LIEUTENANT RON, a very impressive sprinter during his brief freshman and sophomore campaigns, makes his first start since he stalked the pace 3-wide and faded to finish fifth in the 9-furlong Grade 3 Discovery Handicap. Trainer Kieran McLaughlin has Alan Garcia returning on the son of Graeme Hall. **5 FIRST WORD**, who runs well fresh, makes his first start since defeating \$100K allowance optional claimers with a triple-digit Beyer performance (100) at Churchill about 15 months ago. Trainer Bobby Frankel has Julien Leparoux atop the swift 7-year-old son of Chester House. **9 GENTLEMAN JAMES**, second to classy Golden

Spikes in consecutive sprints at Calder, including the place showing in the Grade 2 Carry Back, makes his first start since finishing second to Ikigai, who won the Grade 3 Mr. Prospector here on Jan. 17th. **2 DRAGON FI** is a late-striding son of Gulch who used his patient running style to hit the board in 7 of 9 races at the distance. The stronger the battle is up front the better it will be for this Bruce Levine trainee.

SELECTIONS: 7-5-9-2

NINTH RACE:

9 SWEETSOUTHERNQUEEN will try \$12,500 starter allowance runners at a mile after encountering early trouble (steadied) and getting beat only a length in her local turf debut vs. \$50,000 claimers at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Vinnie Blengs has Edgar Prado penciled in for the return assignment. **3 GATOR'S TRACKS** steps it up a notch after posting her fourth consecutive turf victory when she defeated \$10,000 starter allowance competition here at a mile and a sixteenth. There's no need for me to tell you that this mare has never been better. **11 HURRICANE ANNIE**, a previous winner at the distance, stretches out after a successful 2008 turf sprint campaign in which she won 4 of 6 races. Trainer Linda Rice, the master of the 5-furlong turf races on the New York circuit, has Cornelio Velasquez handling the stretchout. **12 DOTTIE BOOTH** drops, and cuts back to five-eighths of a mile, after breaking from Post 12, stalking the action, and finishing fourth vs. \$16,000 starter allowance runners at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Mike Maker has Julien Leparoux in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 9-3-11-12

BEST BET: RACE 9 - 9 SWEETSOUTHERNQUEEN

LONG SHOT: RACE 5 - 3 JUST LIKE BISCUIT

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