

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

#### FIRST RACE:

**4 RIVER KEY** is a son of Montbrook, and a half to multiple Grade 1 stakes-placed performer Val's Prince, debuting for trainer Cam Gambolati with a series of Palm Meadows workouts, on both turf and dirt showing, in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Gambolati, 3 for 10 (30%) with first-time starters, has leading jockey Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **8 MISSION GAP** is turning back to 6 furlongs after closing 5-wide to come within a neck of defeating similar at seven-eighths of a mile. Trainer Dale Romans has E T Baird in the saddle. **1 STORM'N WARRIOR**, a respectable third on the dirt behind runaway winner Presto Change O on Feb. 21st, returns to the main track after disputing the pace and tiring vs. maiden special weight competition at 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Dave Fawkes teams with jockey Elvis Trujillo. **2 SOTHEREIWAS**, now in the Gerald Procino barn, makes his first start since facing maiden special weight competition at Calder exactly 35 months ago. Yikes!

**SELECTIONS: 4-8-1-2**

#### SECOND RACE:

**5 MISS MECKE MOUSE** will try to make two in a row after responding to a major drop in competition with a 7 ¼-length victory vs. \$6,250 claimers at the distance. Trainer Wesley Ward has 7-pound apprentice Joseph Berrios in the saddle again. **1 LAUGHING MATTERS** was given ample time to recharge her batteries after dueling from start to finish and holding sway to defeat next-out winners Holy Trouble, Irish Gypsy Rose, and Reason to Rejoice in a 'key' \$6,250 level claimer at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Peter Walder names Jose Lezcano to ride. **2 FAVORITE BABY** is dropping to the \$10,000 level after squandering her best chance when she broke slowly and finished fifth in a \$14,000 claimer at 6-furlongs. Trainer Scott Lake has 7-pound apprentice Ares Campos in the irons.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-2**

#### THIRD RACE:

**7 LUCKY LULU** plunges to the \$30,000 level, and turns back to a mile, after dueling for the lead and tiring to finish seventh in a 'key' mile and a sixteenth \$80,000 maiden test on Feb. 4th that produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Chris DeCarlo atop the daughter of Grand Slam. **6 L'GIRAFE** will try to stretch her closing kick to the wire after rallying to come within a neck of defeating similar, at 34-1, in her career turf debut at this level and distance.

**12 JUST A DREAM** is hoping for a clean trip after searching for racing room in the stretch when finishing fourth - beaten a neck in a 4-horse blanket finish that included L'Girafe.

**4 NASTURTIUM** was game in defeat when she broke dead last in a field of 11, and then uncorked a furious rally to finish 2 lengths behind L'Girafe and Just A Dream last out.

**SELECTIONS: 7-6-12-4**

#### FOURTH RACE:

**2 DEALING LUCKY** drops to the \$25,000 level, and wears blinkers, after dueling for the lead and finishing second vs. \$40,000 starter allowance competition at the distance on Feb. 18th. Owner Wendy Maragh, and trainer Aubrey Maragh, have jockey Allen Maragh in the saddle.

**6 MR. DR. PROFESSOR**, a popular sort, claimed in consecutive races, returns to the starter allowance ranks for new trainer Scott Lake after tracking the action and fading to finish a distant fourth in a \$25,000 claimer contested on a tiring track listed as 'good'. **1 GRAND CENTRAL**, stationed at the rail, will cut back to a 1-turn mile on the dirt after stalking the pace and weakening to get beat 4 ¼ lengths vs. \$45,000 claimers in a 2-turn mile on the grass just 6 days ago.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-1**

#### FIFTH RACE:

**5 MORE MEMORIES** gets to break mid-pack after a solid effort from Post 11 in which she rallied up the rail to finish second vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Greg Sacco has Elvis Trujillo handling the stretchout to 9 furlongs. **11 SKY FIVE** will try to turn the tables on More Memories at a mile and an eighth after closing to finish fourth behind her when they hooked up at a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Jesus Chavez has Manoel Cruz handling the rematch. **7 SWEETBRIAR ACADEMY** drops a notch on the claiming scale after a couple of respectable performances vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at distances of a mile and a mile and a sixteenth, respectively. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has go-to rider Paco Lopez in the saddle. **4 KIM D**, third at this distance on the Arlington turf last Sept. 12th, who broke her maiden on the turf here on Feb. 25th, returns to the grass after showing little in a race moved to a sealed track listed as 'good'. Trainer Dave Kassen has Mario Madrid handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 5-11-7-4**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**3 INTENSE ELVIRA** is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after opening and relinquishing a 4-length lead when she was beaten a neck vs. similar at a mile on Feb. 19th. Trainer Dave Vivian, 3 for 9 (33%) with horses turning back in distance, has Eduardo Nunez in the saddle again.

**8 WITHMIXEDEMOIONS** is turning back to 6-½ furlongs after finishing second, and being placed first via a steward's decision, in a \$10,000 'two-lifetime' claimer at a mile.

**5 FOUR FOUR TWO** will try 'three-lifetime' claimers at 6 ½ furlongs after stalking the action and finishing third vs. multiple winners in a \$6,250 claimer at 5 ½ furlongs.

**4 SWEET LITTLE ROSE**, 5-0-2-0 at Gulfstream during 2008, returns to South Florida after hitting the board in 1 of 5 races vs. 'three-lifetime' types at Tampa. Trainer Barry Rose teams with jockey Wilmer Galviz.

**SELECTIONS: 3-8-5-4**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**12 EDEN'S SONG** looked like she needed a race when was rank early and finished fourth in her local debut at this level and distance, which was her first start since breaking her maiden on the Calder turf, on Nov. 27th, by 8-plus lengths. Trainer Christophe Clement, 28% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **10 STARFISH BAY** will face winners after a successful career turf debut in which she defeated next-out winner Ailbe after a hard-fought stretch duel (Feb. 14th). Trainer Todd Pletcher has the daughter of Elusive Quality training sharply on the Pal Meadows turf in preparation for this assignment. **6 SATIN THUNDER**, a daughter of Thunder Gulch, makes her allowance debut on the turf the first start since she defeated a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' maiden special weight test on the Churchill main track (Nov. 29th). Note that trainer/jockey combo of Ken McPeck and Manoel Cruz are winning races here at 29% rate.

**8 ROMIN ROBIN** is cutting back to a mile after losing a pair of mile and sixteenth turf races by combined 1-½ lengths. The consistent daughter of Pure Precision belongs on all your tickets.

**SELECTIONS: 12-10-6-8**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**7 SUN BELLE**, a sharp \$40,000 maiden winner at Calder in December, drops into this conditioned claimer after getting beat 4 ½ lengths in the \$50K OBS Sprint, and following that with a third place finish vs. 'two-lifetime allowance competition at Tampa last out. Trainer Bill White tabs E T Baird to ride. **5 VOODOO MOMMA** moved to the Peter Walder barn via the claim after getting up in the final jump to defeat \$30,000 maidens at a mile on Feb. 6th. Trainer Walder, 31% with new claims, secures the services of leading jockey Jose Lezcano. **6 TURNING SOUTH** is stretching out to 7

furlongs after rallying late to come within a half-length of defeating \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Mike McDonald teams with hot jockey Elvis Trujillo, who won three races on Sunday. **2 MASTER TRICKY** is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile after responding on a wet track listed as 'good' with a vastly improved performance vs. similar in which she dueled throughout and was beaten three-quarters of a length at a whopping 123-1. Watch the skies and bet accordingly.

**SELECTIONS: 7-5-6-2**

**NINTH RACE:**

**2 HITTERS COUNT**, a \$160K son of Smart Strike, drops to the \$30,000 level on the turf after breaking slowly and failing to get involved in a 'key' maiden special weight event that produced three next-out winners, including Dunkirk, who finished second to Quality Road in the Grade 1 Florida Derby last out. **10 CONCORDE'S CROWN**, a gelded son of Concorde's Tune, makes his career debut for trainer Stan Hough with a steady workout pattern showing, on both turf and dirt, at the Palm Meadows training facility. The sophomore starts his campaign with Lasix and Joe Bravo added to the mix. **3 SKY MAGIC** is a son of Sir Cat getting some class relief after failing to show much in his maiden special weight debut at this distance. Trainer Barclay Tagg, 33% with horses making similar class drops, secures the services of hot jock Paco Lopez, who won three races on Sunday. **12 LAST NOBLE** is a son of Buddha debuting for trainer Chad Brown with a slew of Palm Meadows workouts showing, on both turf and dirt, in preparation for debut. Tab the tote action for more clues about his readiness to win at first asking.

**SELECTIONS: 2-10-3-12**

**BEST BET: RACE 3 - 7 LUCKY LULU**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 7 - 1 HONESTLY**

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