

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

**FIRST RACE:**

**8 NOW AND FOREVER** is stretching out to 9 furlongs after a promising 1-mile debut at Laurel in which she took the overland route and rallied wide to finish second. Trainer Graham Motion has the daughter of Maria's Mon training consistently at Palm Meadows in preparation for this assignment. **7 MULTIPASS** is stretching out around 2-turns for the first time after stalking the action and finishing third in her local debut at a mile. Trainer Eddie Kenneally tabs John Velazquez to ride as Edgar Prado shifts to Now And Forever. **1 WACCAMAW**, part of a Darley Stable entry with Bill Mott-trained **1A RUTH E**, will give the dirt a whack after rallying 4-wide to finish a good second, as the lukewarm favorite, in her local debut at a mile on the turf. Trainer Pat Byrne has Julien Leparoux in the saddle again. **3 DISCREET EMPIRE**, a half to Grade 1 winner Discreet Cat, will compete with blinkers after breaking slowly and finishing fourth in her 1-mile career debut. Trainer Stan Hough has Cornelio Velasquez at the controls.

**SELECTIONS: 8-7-1-1A-3**

**SECOND RACE:**

**3 HOLY TROUBLE** is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after a game performance at three-quarters of a mile in which she broke from Post 11, dueled throughout, and was beaten a head. Trainer Scott Lake keeps the status quo with Jermaine Bridgmohan at the controls. **1 TIFFANY'S RODEO** is turning back slightly after stalking the pace and weakening to finish third vs. similar at 7 furlongs. Trainer Pat Reynolds has 10-pound bug B Pena named to handle the inside post. **4 BACK TO REALITY** is cutting back to 6 ½ furlongs after finishing a surprising second, at 73-1, in her local debut vs. similar at seven-eighths of a mile. **2 MIRACLE OF DREAMS**, 3 for 3 'in the money' at the distance (3-1-0-2), turns back after a stalk-and-fade performance vs. this familiar competition at 7 furlongs. Trainer Tom Schell lightens the impost with 7-pound apprentice Roan Vargas.

**SELECTIONS: 3-1-4-2**

**THIRD RACE:**

**2 CRITICAL** is plunging to the \$15,000 level in the first start since facing considerably tougher on the New York circuit. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Mario Madrid named on this shaky proposition. **4 SWEET CITY BABY** is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after responding to the addition of blinkers, and a drop in competition, with a much improved third place finish vs. similar at 5 ½ furlongs. **3 CACUN CACUN** is turn-

ing back in distance after a solid local debut vs. similar at 7 ½ furlongs in which she made a 3-wide bid to finish third - beaten a neck for second money. **7 PLATINA ROSE** drops to the bottom after showing early interest and tiring in back-to-back sprints vs. \$25,000 maidens. Trainer Dave Fawkes has Wesley Henry quarterbacking the dropdown.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-3-7**

**FOURTH RACE:**

**2 RED HOT BULLET** makes her first start since she rallied to come within a head of winning a 'key' outing at this level and distance that produced next-out local winners Sweetsouthernqueen and **9 LITTLE B ROSSON**. The latter, a daughter of Bernstein, stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after following her troubled outing behind Red Hot Bullet, in which she finished fourth but was disqualified and placed sixth, with a 'come-from-behind' victory vs. \$35,000 claimers at a mile. **4 DOUBLE DINGHY DAY**, 3 for 6 'in the money' on the Gulfstream turf (6-1-1-1), returns after finishing second behind repeat winner Nikkiandme in a \$25,000 allowance optional claimer at Calder on Dec. 31st. Trainer Frank Alexander reunites the daughter of Forestry with jockey Eibar Coa. **5 SPIRIT LINE** is hoping to find a little more for the stretch drive after finishing 3 ½ lengths behind Red Hot Bullet on Jan. 3rd. Trainer Wesley Ward, 24% with the 31-60 day freshening, has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle again.

**SELECTIONS: 2-9-4-5**

**FIFTH RACE:**

**7 MONEYMONEYMONEY** makes his local return the first start since defeating three next-out winners (2 at Philly and 1 at Charles Town) in a 6 ½-furlong \$25,000 starter allowance at Philly Park on Nov. 28th. Trainer Mike Lerman has E T Baird in the saddle. **1 GEORGIAN** was freshened after posting a speed figure (82) good enough to defeat this group when finishing third in a \$16,000 allowance optional claimer at Calder on Dec. 26th. Trainer Leo Azpurua Jr. has Elvis Trujillo handling the return. **3 REPENTHOUSE**, third at 7 furlongs vs. this level of competition on Jan. 17th, and second vs. \$25,000 open claimers at 7 furlongs on Jan. 31st, hopes to get his first victory at the meeting at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Frank Alexander teams with Cornelio Velasquez. **4 PAULLAC** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim after closing to finish third vs. \$25,000 conditioned claimers at Saratoga on Aug. 10th. Trainer Maker, 32% with new claims, has go-to guy Julien Leparoux in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 7-1-3-4**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**11 RADICAL SABBATICAL** is stretching out to his best distance thus far (3-1-1-0) after finishing a troubled second (shuffled back stretch) in his local allowance debut at a mile. Trainer Barclay Tagg is 18% with the 31-60 day freshening. **12 BOLD ABBOTT** is stepping up the competition after edging away along the inside to defeat \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at a mile. Trainer Graham Motion names John Velazquez to ride as Edgar Prado sticks with Radical Sabbatical. **9 SOUL SPIRIT** is stretching out after making a modest middle move and finishing fourth behind Radical Sabbatical in their recent clash at a mile. Trainer Brian Lynch has Rene Douglas in the saddle again.

**4 CONSTABULARY**, 3-1-1-0 on the turf, which includes a 2-for-2 'in the money' record at the distance (2-1-1-0), makes his first start since finishing ninth in a 'key' 11-furlong entry-level allowance race at Saratoga that produced three next-out winners. Trainer Bill Mott, 20% with the 61-180 day lay-off, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 11-12-9-4**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**9 TEXAS HEDGE** will face winners after a visually sharp victory at the distance in which he broke from Post 12, made a 4-wide move, and drew off to defeat \$30,000 maidens by 5 widening lengths. Trainer Terri Pompay has Joe Bravo in the saddle again. **2 CHAPEL RUN** is stretching out to a mile after an impressive local score at 6 ½ furlongs in which he broke from Post 10, made a 3-wide move, and drew off to defeat \$40,000 maidens by 8 lengths. Trainer Bill White has Cornelio Velasquez going for two in a row. **7 GULF CAT** is another facing winners for the first time after drawing off at 6 furlongs to defeat \$40,000 maidens at Calder by 8-plus lengths. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr., who claimed him out of his last race, keeps the status quo with Eibar Coa in the saddle.

**8 HIT A HOMER** moved to the Norm Pointer barn via the claim after bumping at the start, steadying on the turn, and still managing to defeat a group of \$20,000 maidens here at the distance. The new connections tab Edgar Prado to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 9-2-7-8**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**4 FLIBBERJIBIT** is back in the allowance ranks after setting the pace and tiring late to get beat 3 lengths in the 9-furlong Grade 3 Suwannee River Handicap last out. Trainer Marty Wolfson names Julien Leparoux to handle the winner of 9 of her last 12 races. **1 RUSTIC FLAME** is turning back to a mile after making a late move to finish a length behind Flibberjibit when they hooked up here at a mile and a sixteenth (Jan. 4th). Trainer Eddie Kenneally secures the services of jockey John Velazquez as Leparoux moves to

Flibberjibit. **9 SWAY** is hoping for a little racing luck after checking in traffic on the first turn, steadying when making a move on the far turn, and beaten 4 lengths vs. similar in her local debut at a mile and a sixteenth.

**3 ALPHA CHARMER**, who does her best running from 'off the pace', especially at a mile, can end up sitting a key trip behind the abundance of speed in the race, which includes Flibberjibit, Correntina, and Polar Circle.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-9-3**

**NINTH RACE:**

**12 TOMFOOLERY** drops to the bottom, and cuts back to 6 ½ furlongs, after opening a quick 2-length lead and tiring to finish fifth vs. \$30,000 maidens at a mile. His 7-furlong performance here on Jan. 4th, in which he finished second, points him out as the one to beat at this distance.

**5 IMA LOWRIDER** is turning back a furlong after breaking from Post 12, setting a pressured pace, and fading to finish fifth - beaten 3 ¾ lengths vs. similar at 7 ½ furlongs.

**8 WYO BANDITO** looks like a poster child for the bounce/rebound angle after following his lifetime best performance here at a mile on Jan. 10th with 5-wide chase-and-fade clunker at 7 ½ furlongs (Jan. 30th). Trainer David Fawkes has Elvis Trujillo named to ride. **2 EDDIE'S INK** is turning back after steadying on the backstretch and finishing fifth in a \$20,000 maiden test here at a mile. Alan Garcia rides for trainer Mario Morales.

**SELECTIONS: 12-5-8-2**

**BEST BET: RACE 8 - 4 FLIBBERJIBIT**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 6 - 8 EDGE OF A SHADOW**

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