

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

4 THE REDFOX, a distant second at this distance vs. \$5,000 maidens at Charles Town (Dec. 3), stretches out after finishing fourth behind a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' \$10,000 maiden test at a mile & 40 yards on the Tampa main track. **1 ALONE AT THE WALL**, bred to respond favorably to the distance, the gelded son of Hadrian's Hall drops, and stretches out to 9 furlongs, after breaking slowly and finishing fourth vs. \$16,000 maidens at a mile on the Calder main surface. Trainer Barry Croft has Cornelio Velasquez named to ride. **8 AMAZO'N** is hoping to bounce back after following a third place finish vs. similar on Dec. 1 with a clunker, as the lukewarm favorite, in a mile & 70-yard test across town.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-8

SECOND RACE:

6 BOX OF CHARMS drops into this \$10,000 'two-lifetime' claimer after showing speed and tiring to finish fourth in her local return vs. \$20,000 types, which was her first race in 11 months. Trainer Wayne 'The Cat' Catalano wheels her back in 7 days with Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

4 WITHMIXEDEMOTIONS is turning back to 6 furlongs after dueling for the lead and finishing second in her local debut vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Angel Salinas has Manoel Cruz named on the daughter of Editor's Note.

7 BARBARA'S ATTITUDE hasn't been seen since she finished third in a 'key' entry-level allowance test at Calder during November 2007 that produced four next-out winners. Owner/trainer Steve Dvoskin has Elvis Trujillo handling her first race in 14 months.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-7

THIRD RACE:

5 HEY NOW makes his first-ever start on a traditional dirt surface after using a high turn of speed to win two of his last three sprints vs. similar on the Woodbine Polytrack. Trainer Mike DePaulo has Javier Castellano atop the \$250K son of Forestry. **3 MANNINGTON**, a horse-for-course type, who won 2 of 3 races here last meet (3-2-0-0), drops in for a \$35,000 tag with the ideal stalking style needed to capitalize on what can turn out to be a demanding pace duel between Hey Now, Fate Takes A Hand, and Big Dealer. Trainer Terri Pompay has Jose Lezcano at the controls.

2 DARK CHEETAH, 6-2-0-0 at Gulfstream, and 7-2-2-1 at the distance, turns back after stalking the pace and finishing second in front of a pair of next-out winners in a 'key'

\$35,000 claimer contested at a mile on a sealed 'muddy' track at Aqueduct (Nov. 15). Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Edgar Prado in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-2

FOURTH RACE:

1 HIT A HOMER drops to the \$20,000 level on the dirt after encountering double-trouble (steadied start & turn) vs. \$40,000 maidens in his local turf debut at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Helen Pitts has Julien Leparoux handling the surface switch. **6 TRANSLUCENT SKY**, 2 for 6 in the money vs. similar on the dirt, returns to the main track after encountering trouble at the start (steadied) and getting beat 5 lengths, at 21-1, vs. \$40,000 maidens at 7 ½ furlongs on the turf. Trainer Manny Tortora lightens the impost with 5-pound apprentice Jose Ortiz named to ride. **12 NEW CROWN** will try a 1-turn mile after stalking the action and finishing third vs. similar in a 2-turn affair across town at Calder. Trainer Fred Warren has Jose Rivera II penciled in for the return riding assignment. **9 IT'S A LADIES LIFE**, should be a major piece of the pace puzzle when he stretches out to a mile after showing speed vs. similar in four previous sprints. He'll take them as far as he can.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-12-9

FIFTH RACE:

2 LAFFANS BRIDGE is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after dueling through the stretch and getting beat a head in her local turf return vs. similar opposition at a mile. Note her last performance was given a boost when third place finisher Granted Tiger won her next start.

3 SWEETBRIAR ACADEMY is stretching out after finishing second vs. similar on the Calder turf at 8 & 7 ½-furlongs, respectively. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Paco Lopez trying to notch the elusive second career victory. **11 RICH CITIZEN**, now in the Graham Motion barn, makes her first start since following her maiden turf victory here last March 27 with a series of respectable performances, from distances of 5 to 9 furlongs, vs. entry-level competition in Kentucky. Trainer Motion, 23% with the longer than 180-day layoff, has Julien Leparoux named to ride. **9 JACK'S GRACE** is facing winners after making a visually exciting 7-wide charge to defeat \$32,000 maidens on the Calder turf. Trainer John Kimmel has the daughter of Deputy Commander firing bullets at Payson Park in preparation for this assignment.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-11-9

SIXTH RACE:

8 CALL ME NOW is turning back to 6 furlongs after opening and squandering a 2-length lead, as the favorite, when blinkers were added for his local debut vs. similar opposition at seven-eighths of a mile. Trainer Alan Goldberg has Eibar Coa rationing his speed today. **7 WINTER WEATHER** looks like the poster child for the bounce/rebound angle after following a sharp second vs. \$32,000 maidens with a chase-and-fade performance vs. another group of \$32,000 maidens at Calder. Trainer Pablo Andrade has Ray Fuentes handling the stretchout from 5 ½ to 6 furlongs. **9 STARSHIP STEVE** drops a notch after bobbling at the start, chasing the pace, and fading to finish sixth vs. \$32,000 maidens at Calder, including eighth place finisher Winter Weather.

2 SONREA debuts locally after finishing third in back-to-back starts vs. similar at Delaware during October. Trainer Ron Voss has Eduardo Nunez atop the son of Alphabet Soup.

SELECTIONS: 8-7-9-2

SEVENTH RACE:

10 PAISANO CREEK makes his local debut after unfurling a strong inside rally to come within a head, as the favorite, of notching this 'two-lifetime' claiming condition at 9 furlongs on the Calder turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle again. **9 KIM'S DIXIE TUNE** should be primed and ready to offer his best after a solid return from a 7-week freshening in which he dueled through the stretch and finished third behind Paisano Creek last out. Trainer Ferris Allen has Jose Lezcano handling the rematch.

2 HABITUAL, who has the benefit of a race over the course, stretches out after rallying to finish third vs. similar in his local debut at a mile. Trainer Mike Trombetta secures the services of jockey Eibar Coa. **3 YAROSLAV**, in trouble in his previous race at the distance (Nov. 27), stretches out after closing to get beat 4 ½ lengths in his local bow vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez atop the beautifully bred son of Danzig.

SELECTIONS: 10-9-2-3

EIGHTH RACE:

2 EXTREME SUPREME, 9-3-3-1 at the distance, is back on a traditional dirt surface after making a middle move and fading in the \$50K Prairie Bayou on the Turfway Polytrack. Trainer John Ward has Cornelio Velasquez atop this 9-furlong specialist. **6 JUNGLE BREW** makes his 4-year-old debut after ending his sophomore campaign in Canada with three consecutive victories on the Woodbine Polytrack. Trainer Brian Lynch has Rene Douglas named on the Stronach Stables homebred son of Milwaukee Brew.

8 MR. UNSTOPPABLE makes his 9-furlong debut the first start since finishing a troubled second (tight quarters turn) behind Sunshine Millions Classic bound Hey Byrn in a 1-mile

\$100K allowance optional claimer here last out.

5 CHRIS GOT EVEN, 2 for 3 'in the money' at Gulfstream, returns after making a 4-wide bid to get beat three-quarters of a length vs. money-allowance competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the Churchill main track.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-8-5

NINTH RACE:

12 WACCAMAW, bred to a champion on the turf, the daughter of War Chant, out of the Lord At War mare Under The Rug, debuts on the grass after a couple of useful 6-furlong sprints in which she was second in her Keeneland Polytrack debut, and fifth in a monster 'key' dash at Churchill that has produced four next-out winners. Trainer Pat Byrne has Julien Leparoux handling the outside post (12). **8 SALLY'S SONG** is the logical choice of all the previous starters when she turns back to a mile after weakening late to finish third at a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf. John Velazquez will guide this half of the Todd Pletcher uncoupled entry (Rhythm and Rhyme). **6 SUZ SLEW** will shift to the lawn after showing marked improvement when stretching out around 2-turns on the Churchill main track. Trainer Dale Romans has Edgar Prado in the saddle. **4 CITY WAY**, a half to Grade 1 winner Lear's Princess, makes her career debut for trainer Bill Mott, and that should be more than enough to pique your interest.

SELECTIONS: 12-8-6-4

BEST BET: RACE 9 - 12 WACCAMAW

LONG SHOT: RACE 7 - 12 STORM MANDATE

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