

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

5 BREWMAN jumps off the page in the opener when he turns back to 5 furlongs after surrendering a late lead to finish second vs. similar at three-quarters on sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Peter Walder has Jose Lezcano handling the turnback. **2 TOQUE** is a son of Alphabet Soup who can spell trouble for the top choice if he can run like he's been training up at Palm Meadows. **7 BEHIND THE PEW**, a duel-for-lead-and-fade fourth behind Brewman on March 19th, is hoping to rebound after falling on the turn in his recent outing vs. similar at 5 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-7

SECOND RACE:

6 CONVOY AHEAD, a son of Wildcat Heir, and uncoupled stablemate **7 YOGAROO**, a son of Bring The Heat, make their respective career debuts with identical bullet 3-furlong drills showing. Trainer Wesley Ward, 27% with his 2-year-old first-time starters, adds Lasix and Paco Lopez on the former, and Lasix and Elvis Trujillo on the latter. **5 RIB MOUNTAIN** is a gelded son of Snow Ridge debuting for trainer Manny Tortora with a 3-furlong gate work at Calder in: 37 & 2 showing. Trainer Tortora adds Lasix and jockey Manoel Cruz to the mix.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-5

THIRD RACE:

4 ROGUE MINISTER is turning back to the distance where he broke his maiden after stalking the pace and tiring to finish a distant fourth vs. \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at 7 furlongs. Trainer Kelly Breen has Elvis Trujillo penciled in for the return assignment. **5 FIVE THOUSAND**, beaten a half-length on the Calder main track vs. \$25,000 'two-lifetime' claimers on Dec. 22nd, returns to the dirt after a useful outing in which he vied for the lead and weakened to get beat 2 ¾ lengths vs. \$30,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at 5 furlongs on the turf (Feb. 6th). **2 OFFICER BILL** plunges into this \$15,000 'two-lifetime' claimer after facing tougher last year when he defeated \$50,000 maidens here on Feb. 29, 2008, and was fifth on the Polytrack in the \$99K Tall Ships at Presque Isle last May 10th. Trainer George Weaver has the colt training nicely at Palm Beach Downs for this major dropdown.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-2

FOURTH RACE:

2 CAIXA ELETRONICA is returning to the local turf (1-0-1-0) with the ideal stalking style need to capitalize on what should be a mad scramble for the lead. The colt, beaten a neck vs. \$40,000 claimers at a mile on the main track last out, has journeyman Sebastian Madrid named to ride.

6 INDIAN ARM, one of the many speed horses in the race, turns back to a mile after setting the pace and finishing second to repeat winner Steppedoutofplace in a \$16,000 starter allowance at a mile and a sixteenth.

7 GOOD PROSPECT, another speed merchant, now in the Linda Rice barn, makes his first start since finishing fourth - beaten 3 ¼ lengths - vs. \$30,000 state-bred optional claimers at Saratoga on Aug. 31st. Trainer Rice, 22% with the longer than 180-day layoff, has Javier Castellano in the saddle. **1 HIGH CEILING** is cutting back to a mile after stalking the pace and weakening late vs. similar in a pair at a mile and a sixteenth.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-7-1

FIFTH RACE:

6 IRISH GYPSY ROSE is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after rallying along the inside to finish third in a 'key' 6-furlong sprint vs. similar that produced a pair of next-out winners.

1 DANCIN SAMBA, part of an Acclaimed Racing Stable entry with **1A POLYNESIAN SUNSET**, is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after finishing second and being placed first when she was sawed off at the 1/16th pole in a \$6,250 claimer at a mile. Trainer Scott Lake has apprentice Ares Campos handling the inside post. **8 DARBY LEE** debuts locally after her 3-race win streak at Tampa ended when she stalked the pace and faded in a 'key' \$6,250 claimer upstate that produced a pair of next-out winners. **4 HOLY LAND**, now in the Priscilla Nichols barn, makes her first start since getting beat a length vs. \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimers here on Feb. 1st.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-8-4

SIXTH RACE:

4 WILD ENTRY should be ready to shed the maiden tag after recovering from a troubled start (pinched back) to come within a half-length of catching repeat winner Conservative at this level and distance (Feb. 8th). Trainer Christophe Clement has Joe Bravo named to ride. **8 SETTE E MEZZO** is another eligible to score after encountering trouble on the far turn (steadied) and finishing fourth - beaten 1 ¼ lengths - in a 'key' maiden special weight test that produced repeat winner Sudden War, and next-out winner Manitowish Waters. **7 PAGAN RULER**, a half to Bold Ruler, who finished second here in the Hutcheson Stakes at 3, and second in the Richter Scale at 5, steps up after coming within a head of defeating \$80,000 maidens here at first asking. Trainer George Weaver has Elvis Trujillo handling the stretchout from a mile to a mile and a sixteenth. **2 CHEROKEE SPEED** hasn't been in action since finishing second to Big Al, and in front of a pair of next-out winners, in a 'key' maiden special weight test on the Belmont turf last June 21st. Javier Castellano rides for trainer Jim Toner.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-7-2

SEVENTH RACE:

9 BRANTZEN GONE WILD is stretching out a mile after recovering from a slow start to finish third behind first race choice Brewman in a 6-furlong bottom level event contested on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Ken McPeck, 25% with horses making their second start, has Manoel Cruz named to ride. **11 DUKE OF HAZARD** merits serious consideration on the ticket after rallying 3-wide to finish second - beaten 1 ¼ lengths - in his career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Jose Pinchin is 20% with horses making their second start. **2 HENDERSON** is switching to the main track after stalking the pace and fading vs. \$30,000 maidens at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Eddie Kenneally is 21% with the grass-to-dirt angle. **1 WOULD AND COULD** drops to the bottom on the dirt after closing late to finish fifth - beaten 4 ¼ lengths - vs. \$27,500 types at a mile on the turf. Trainer Bill White plays the weight game with 7-pound bug Ares Campos at the helm.

SELECTIONS: 9-11-2-1

EIGHTH RACE:

5 MIDNIGHT RIDGE is stepping up the competition after an impressive turf debut in which he drew off to defeat next-out winners Bucket Head and El Poco Diablo in a 'key' \$35,000 'three-lifetime' claimer that was timed in :55 flat for the 5-furlongs on the grass. **7 AWAKINO CAT** is back in South Florida, and back in the optional claiming ranks, after following a perfectly timed \$62,000 victory here with a trou-

bled sixth place finish (bumped start) in the \$75K Turf Dash at Tampa on March 14th. Trainer Linda Rice has Javier Castellano in the saddle. **2 MR. SILVER**, the leading money winner in the field (\$355K), makes his first start since rallying to finish fourth - 1 ½ lengths behind Awakino Cat when they hooked up here on Feb. 7th. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Paco Lopez in the saddle. **4 BIG TRAIN** should be ready to roll after recovering early trouble (slow start, steadied) to come within a head of defeating \$50,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Phil Serpe has Joe Bravo in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-2-4

NINTH RACE:

2 PLACID WATERS drops, and turns back to a sprint on the dirt, after a 4-wide trip produced a seventh place finish vs. \$30,000 types on the grass. The daughter of Friends Lake, beaten a length on the main track here vs. similar on Jan. 25th, has Jose Lezcano handling the surface switch.

4 EMOTIONAL is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after making a bid and finishing third vs. similar at 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer John Kimmel teams with Joe Bravo.

8 LUNAR BEACH gets some major class relief after failing to earn a check in both local turf outings vs. considerably tougher. Trainer Jim Toner has Elvis Trujillo handling the combo dropdown/surface switch. **3 FELINE DELITE** drops to the bottom with blinkers added in the first start since she was eased in her mile and a sixteenth career turf debut at Belmont on Oct. 12th. Trainer Stan Hough has Eibar Coa handling her first start in 5-plus months.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-8-3

BEST BET: RACE 6 - 4 WILD ENTRY

LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 9 EDGE OF CHAOS

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