

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

#### FIRST RACE:

**2 CASEY'S ON CALL**, now in the Wesley Ward barn, drops in for a \$75,000 claiming tag after an interesting freshman campaign in which he broke his maiden at first asking on the Arlington Poly surface, defeated future stakes winner Beethoven in a 'two-lifetime' allowance test on the Keeneland synthetic surface, and then chased the pace and faded on a traditional dirt track in the 1-mile Grade 3 Iroquois at Churchill on Nov. 28th. **8 YES I'M CLEVER** is dropping into the selling ranks after encountering early trouble (steadied) and finishing fourth vs. allowance competition in his local debut at the distance.

**7 PUT IT BACK TWENTY** will return to the main track after stalking the pace and finishing fourth vs. allowance company at 5 furlongs on the turf. **1 LA VENGANSA** is another returning to the dirt after making a 3-wide bid to finish third in front of Put It Back Twenty in their recent clash on the lawn.

**SELECTIONS: 2-8-7-1**

#### SECOND RACE:

**3 FREEDOM BAY**, who returned from an extended layoff to defeat 'two-lifetime' allowance competition at Saratoga on Aug. 30th, will try to repeat that feat when he faces 'three-lifetime' runners in his first start in 7 months.

**4 ADMIRALITY**, 4 for 4 'in the money' last year, turns back to 6 furlongs after ending his 2008 campaign with a second place finish in the 1-turn mile and a sixteenth \$75,000 Postponed at Belmont on June 13th. Trainer Nick Zito, 5 for 17 (29%) with the longer than 180-day layoff, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle. **1 KEEP LAUGHING**, a stakes winner at Keeneland last April, should be primed and ready to offer more after dueling for the lead and tiring in his first start back from the 9-month vacation. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, who has a 25% win average with horses making the second start after an extended layoff, has Alan Garcia in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-1**

#### THIRD RACE:

**1 GUMPY** should be ready to exit the maiden ranks after responding to the addition of blinkers with a much improved second place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Dale Capuano has Pedro Monterrey Jr. penciled in for the return assignment. **5 SHE'S TRIPPING** makes her local debut at 5 ½ furlongs after ending her freshman campaign with consecutive second place finishes vs. similar at Calder. Trainer

Rodolfo Garcia has Carlos Olivero handling the turnback from 6 ½ furlongs. **11 BURNING ENVY** is a daughter of Burning Roma debuting for trainer David Fawkes with Lasix and 5-pound apprentice Jose Ortiz added to the mix. Tab the tote action for more clues about her readiness to win at first asking. **3 CARMEN'S KISS** is a daughter of Macho Uno debuting for trainer Read Baker with five Palm Meadows workouts showing. She starts her campaign with Lasix added.

**SELECTIONS: 1-5-11-3**

#### FOURTH RACE:

**7 IT'S A MIRACLE**, now in the Wayne Catalano barn, is hoping to find a little more after following a 'two-lifetime' score here on Jan. 7th with a third place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Catalano, 42% with new additions to his shedrow, has 7-pound bug Roan Vargas named to ride.

**8 INTENSE ELVIRA** has her claiming tag sliced in half after following a monster 'two-lifetime' score at Calder, in which she received an 81 Beyer, with a chase-and-fade performance here vs. \$20,000 'three-lifetime' claimers.

**3 AWESOME FROLIC** is hoping to save something more for the stretch run after opening and relinquishing a 3-length lead to finish second in her local return at this level and distance. **10 ITSAWONDAFULSECRET** is a late-striding type who is eligible to show more after closing to finish fourth behind Awesome Frolic and It's A Miracle last out.

**SELECTIONS: 7-8-3-10**

#### FIFTH RACE:

**11 FROLIC ON HOME**, drops, and turns back to 7 ½ furlongs, after breaking from an outside post (10) and making a strong middle move to finish third vs. \$20,000 maidens at a mile. **7 FOG ISLAND** gets second-time Lasix after recovering from a slow start to finish fourth at this level and distance. Trainer Dave Braddy secures the services of jockey Eibar Coa. **10 I'M DANCING TOO** is a son of Unbridled Affair debuting for trainer Javier Negrete with Lasix and 10-pound apprentice A Campos in the saddle. **8 EL SIMON** is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after finishing a distant fourth vs. similar at a mile and an eighth.

**SELECTIONS: 11-7-10-8**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**6 SUPER WHIPPER**, beaten three-quarters of a length at this level and distance on Jan. 7th, drops, and turns back, after dueling for the lead and finishing fourth vs. \$10,000 claimers at this 6-furlong distance. **12 SMOOTH VALENTINE** is dropping to the \$6,250 level, and turning back to three-quarters of a mile, after stalking the pace and tiring to finish fourth behind horse-for-course type Flint Mountain, who won again here last Sunday (Race 6). Trainer Bill White has Elvis Trujillo handling the outside post (12).

**11 ALICE'S HALO** is stretching out an additional half-furlong after finishing third vs. similar in a Florida-bred \$6,250 claimer at 5 1/2 furlongs. **5 SCATTERING BREEZES** is returning to the main track (14-3-2-2) after facing better in 10 consecutive races on the turf. Trainer Tim Hills has Jose Rivera II handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 6-12-11-5**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**4 DIVINE MASTER** is stepping up the competition with some pretty impressive turf credentials. The son of Montbrook is 7 for 7 'in the money' on the grass, which includes six victories (7-6-1-0), he's a perfect 3 for 3 on the Gulfstream sod (3-3-0-0), and a previous winner at the distance (1-1-0-0). Trainer Scott Lake has Jermaine Bridgmohan in the saddle again. **1 POWER GAME** makes his career turf debut after an impressive sophomore campaign in which he followed three consecutive victories, including a score in the \$59K Restoration at Monmouth, with a press-the-pace-and-weaken fifth place showing in the Grade 2 Indiana Derby. Note that trainer Shug McGaughey is 26% with his first-time turf runners. **9 AT THE DISCO**, a swift son of Disco Rico is turning back to a mile after setting the pace and giving way late to get beat only 1-1/2 lengths vs. similar at 9 furlongs. Jockey Alan Garcia will get him interest early from Post 9.

**6 WHY TONTO** shows a series of 5-furlong workouts on the Palm Meadows turf in preparation for the first start since winning the 2008 Hallandale Beach here 368 days ago. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Edgar Prado returning on the son of Indian Charlie.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-9-6**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**8 DUNKIRK** makes his allowance debut after a visually impressive first-out 7-furlong maiden victory here in which he broke slowly, waited for room on the turn, and exploded to win by almost 6 lengths. Trainer Todd Pletcher has 2008 Eclipse winning jock Garret Gomez handling the \$3.7-million dollar son of Unbridled's Song's first journey around 2-turns. **1 MORE THAN WILLING** will face winners after a hard-fought maiden victory at the distance in which he wore down rivals to win by three-quarters of a length. Leading

trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux atop one of the best 3-year-olds in his stocked barn. **5 ALMA D'OR** is stretching out to 9 furlongs after blowing the doors off the competition when he drew off to break his maiden here at a mile by 5 widening lengths. Trainer Rick Dutrow readied him for the stretchout with a 6-furlong bullet drill.

**4 THEY'RE LATE** should move forward after responding to the addition of blinkers with an improved third place finish at this level and distance. You can never count trainer Nick Zito out of what is by far the best allowance race for 3-year-olds anywhere in the world.

**SELECTIONS: 8-1-5-4**

**NINTH RACE:**

**10 FOR SALLY**, a troubled third at this distance (steadied) on Jan. 9th, turns back after rallying to finish second vs. similar in her recent outing at a mile and a sixteenth.

**7 KISS THE RING** certainly has room to improve after rallying to finish a neck behind For Sally in their recent clash at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Michael Matz, who has two in the race, has Joe Bravo atop the \$430K daughter of Touch Gold. **4 WITH FLYING COLORS**, a beautiful homebred daughter of A. P. Indy, who is a half to Grade 1 winner Storm Flag, debuts on the turf after earning a check in three consecutive dirt races on the New York circuit. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Julien Leparoux handling the surface switch. **11 COMMON CHANNEL**, the other entrant from Michael Matz, makes her first start since finishing second in front of For Sally at a mile on Jan. 9th. Jockey Jose Lezcano, who rode both Kiss the Ring and Common Channel in their last starts, opts to stay here.

**SELECTIONS: 10-7-4-11**

**BEST BET: RACE 1 - 2 CASEY'S ON CALL**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 7 - 2 - DYNHOCRACY**

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