

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

7 B. B. BEST, the winner of \$630K, who runs well fresh, makes his first start since prompting the pace and finishing second vs. \$50,000 allowance optional claimers at Monmouth on June 4th. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Edgar Prado atop this hard-knocking campaigner. **3 MR. UNSTOPPABLE** figures on the 'what have you done lately' angle when he follows a second place finish to stakes caliber Hey Byrn here at this distance with a slow starting ninth place finish vs. a solid group of \$75,000 optional claimers at 9 furlongs. Trainer Phil Gleaves has Manoel Cruz named to ride. **5 HIGH BRASS** is stepping up the competition after parlaying a 4-wide trip into a \$30,000 'two-lifetime' claiming victory at the distance. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Cornelio Velasquez going for two in a row. **6 AIR LORD** an allowance winner on the dirt, and stakes-placed on the turf last summer, debuts locally after rallying to finish third on the Turfway Polytrack in a \$32,500 claimer at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-5-6

SECOND RACE:

10 STIRRUP EXCITEMENT, now in the Peter Walder barn, jumps off the page when he drops into this \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimer after facing allowance level competition during his fall campaign at Hawthorne. Trainer Walder, 30% with new additions to his shedrow, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle.

9 B L'S PAPA COO COO, a troubled starting fourth (stumbled) in a 'key' 6-furlong sprint at this level on Jan. 10th, stretches out after rallying 5-wide to come within a half-length of defeating \$6,250 Florida-breds at 5 ½ furlongs. **3 L M ALWUHUSH RUBY** makes his local return after threatening to notch this condition when he finished second in a 7-furlong 'three-lifetime' test at Calder on Dec. 18th. **7 SONZUL** drops a few notches on the competition scale after setting the pace and fading in his local debut vs. \$14,000 open-claimers at a mile.

SELECTIONS: 10-9-3-7

THIRD RACE:

6 AMANWELLA, beaten only 2 ½ lengths in her 5 ½-furlong career turf debut at Saratoga, returns to the grass after following an ambitious fifth place finish in the Grade 1 Alcibiades with a second place finish in a 6-furlong maiden test on the Keeneland Polytrack. Trainer Graham Motion has Edgar Prado handling the surface switch.

10 HALF A SURPRISE, a half sister to Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies winner Halfbridled, makes her career debut for trainer Todd Pletcher with series of useful workouts showing, on both turf and dirt, at Palm Meadows. The daughter of A. P. Indy starts her campaign with Lasix and Julien Leparoux

added. **1 PROVEN RIGHT** should be primed and ready to offer more at a mile after closing to get beat 2 ¾ lengths in her local debut vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mark Hennig has Cornelio Velasquez in the saddle again.

8 GLADSONG is a daughter of Tale Of The Cat debuting for trainer Bill Mott with string of stamina enhancing workouts showing on the deep Payson Park training track. She starts her campaign with Lasix and Jermaine Bridgmohan added to the mix.

SELECTIONS: 6-10-1-8

FOURTH RACE: THE RICHTER SCALE (G2)

2 TALE OF EKATI, who won the Grade 2 Futurity at age 2 in his only previous race at the distance, makes his first start since finishing second by a nose, and being placed first via a steward's decision, in the Grade 1 Cigar Mile. Trainer Barclay Tagg has the colt training beautifully over the track in preparation for this assignment. **5 IKIGAI** is stretching out to 7 furlongs for the first time after sending the speed figure boys into a frenzy when he won the 6-furlong Grade 3 Mr. Prospector and got a 112 Beyer for his effort. The son of Whywhywhy, from the Marty Wolfson barn, is reunited with jockey Jermaine Bridgmohan. **3 BOLD START**, 6-2-2-1 at Gulfstream, and 4-1-1-0 at the distance, steps up and stretches out, after finishing second vs. \$100,000 allowance optional claimers at 6 ½ furlongs. Leading trainer Ken McPeck has Manoel Cruz handling the son of Jump Start.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-3

FIFTH RACE:

7 ROMIN ROBIN is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after a rough local debut vs. similar at a mile in which she steadied twice and finished fourth - beaten 3 ½ lengths. Trainer Dave Kassen has Julien Leparoux in the saddle again. **1 FULFILLING** and **1A ENTERTAINING** are a solid pair from trainer Phil Gleaves. The former drops into the claiming ranks after dueling for the lead and tiring vs. allowance competition in her local turf debut while the latter steps up the competition after surviving a stretch duel to defeat \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers here at a mile. **5 PRINCESS TOWN** is eligible to show more after making a solid middle move and fading to finish third vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Dubis Chaparro has Javier Santiago named to ride. **2 ROGER'S JULIE** is back in South Florida after following her \$40,000 maiden debut at Calder with a third place finish vs. \$50,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at Tampa.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-1A-5-2

SIXTH RACE:

8 CHEF, a \$400K son of Smarty Jones, makes his career debut for trainer Alan Goldberg, who has a 26% win average with his first-time starters. The colt starts his career with Lasix and jockey Carlos Marquez Jr. added to the mix. **4 CONVOCATION** is a \$340K son of Pulpit debuting for trainer James Jerkens with a string of solid Palm Meadows workouts showing. Trainer Jerkens, 14% with his debut runners, has Alan Garcia in the saddle. **12 PEACEFIELDS** is a son of Belong To Me who has trained sharply at Payson Park in preparation for his debut. Trainer Bill Mott has Cornelio Velasquez handling the outside post (12). **5 CITIZENS BRIGADE** makes his local debut the first start since finishing a bothered third (carried out) in his 5 1/2-furlong career debut at Ellis Park on Aug. 30th. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Edgar Prado atop the son of Proud Citizen.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-12-5

SEVENTH RACE:

6 FILLAZZENE is cutting back to a mile after a solid mile and a sixteenth career turf debut in which she rallied 3-wide to finish second at a whopping 62-1. Trainer John Kimmel reunites the daughter of Tocchet with jockey Alan Garcia. **12 STARFISH BAY** is a daughter of Elusive Quality who has trained consistently on both turf and dirt in preparation for her career debut. Trainer Todd Pletcher adds Lasix and Edgar Prado to the equation. **11 TANTAMOUNT** is a beautifully bred daughter of Lemon Drop Kid debuting for trainer Vickie Oliver with Lasix and jockey Elvis Trujillo added. Note that trainer Oliver is 3 for 9 (33%) with her first-time turf runners. **2 AILBE**, who was beaten only three-quarters of a length in her career debut at 6 1/2 furlongs on the Woodbine turf, shifts back to the lawn after chasing the pace and finishing fifth at a mile and a sixteenth on the Woodbine Polytrack. Trainer Mike Doyle has Manny Aguilar atop this interesting long shot.

SELECTIONS: 6-12-11-2

EIGHTH RACE:

8 IMPERIAL COUNCIL makes his allowance debut the first start since he cruised away under a hand ride to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' 7-furlong maiden test at Belmont on Oct. 4th. Trainer Shug McGaughey has the son of Empire Maker training sharply at Payson Park track in preparation for his sophomore debut. **9 Z DAY** shows a sharp half-mile drill over the track in preparation for the first start since setting the pace on a muddy Aqueduct inner track to break his maiden on Dec. 28th - and get a 93 Beyer for his performance. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Mario Madrid named to ride. **3 JOIN IN THE DANCE** makes his 3-year-old debut for trainer Todd Pletcher after an inconsistent freshman campaign in which he showed signs of being the real goods when he set the pace and weakened to finish fourth in the Grade 2 Saratoga Special on Aug. 14th, and finished fourth in the \$200K NATC Futurity at Monmouth on Sept. 27th. **2 PRIMARY WITNESS** will try to make it two in a row at the distance after rallying 3-wide to break his maiden here at first asking. Trainer Mark Hennig tabs Alan Garcia to ride.

SELECTIONS: 8-9-3-2

NINTH RACE: THE HALLANDALE BEACH

5 TAMBORIN makes his first start since holding to defeat next-out winners Adari and This Ones For Phil, the latter coming back to win the Sunshine Millions Dash here like and international good thing, in the \$100K Appleton Juvenile Turf at Calder. Trainer Bill Mott has Edgar Prado in the saddle again. **4 INTO MY SOUL**, 3-2-1-0 on the turf, which includes a second place finish in an overnight stake at Belmont (Oct. 26), makes his first start since posting the best last-race Beyer (85) when he defeated entry-level allowance competition on the Aqueduct sod. **8 LIME RICKEY** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after shaking off trouble on the first turn (steadied) to come within a half-length of winning the inaugural 1-mile \$100K Dania Beach. Julien Leparoux rides. **1 DUKE OF HOMBERG** may have been best when he failed to get though at the 1/8th pole and was beaten 1 3/4 lengths in the Dania Beach. Trainer Tom Albertrani has Alan Garcia in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 5-4-8-1

TENTH RACE:

7 THE BIG DUNKIN is stretching out to 9 furlongs after a sharp 2-turn return at Calder in which he dueled through the stretch and was beaten a head vs. maiden special weight competition. Trainer Nick Zito has the \$310K son of Giant's Causeway training like a winner. **6 BEAR'S PROSPECTOR** was game in defeat when he was blocked in the stretch and still managed to finish second to repeat winner Saratoga Sinner here at this level and distance. **12 EVOLUTIONIST** will shift to the dirt after dueling throughout and finishing second when blinkers were added for his local debut at a mile on the turf. Trainer Bill Mott has Alan Garcia handling the surface switch. **1 MAS MACHO** is hoping for a clean trip after steadying on the first turn, the backstretch, and the far turn, prior to finishing ninth behind Saratoga Sinner and Bear's Prospector last out. Manoel Cruz rides for trainer Rodolfo Garcia.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-12-1

BEST BET: RACE 8 - 8 IMPERIAL COUNCIL

LONG SHOT: RACE 9 - 10 - ADARI

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