

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

2 THRETIMESAWONDER, 2 for 2 'in the money' sprinting, turns back to three-quarters of a mile after ducking out at the start, stalking the pace, and fading to finish fourth vs. maiden special weight competition in a 2-turn mile at Calder. Trainer Bill Kaplan has Juan Leyva named to ride. **7 ONE HOT TODDY** is another dropping into the claiming ranks, and turning back to a sprint, after showing speed and retreating vs. maiden special weight competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the Churchill main track. **4 TRULY SPECTACULAR** is a daughter of Yes It's True who may have signaled her intentions when she worked a half-mile at Payson Park in :49 Breezing, which was the second best time of 21 horses at the distance.

10 PRINCESS KAYLYN is a daughter of Straight Man who has trained sharply at both Hawthorne and Gulfstream in preparation for her career debut. Trainer Larry Rivelli has E T Baird handling the outside post.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-4-10

SECOND RACE:

7 FLINT MOUNTAIN is turning back to a sprint after following a \$6,250 claiming victory at the distance with a stalk-and-close second place finish vs. \$10,000 claimers at a mile & 70 yards. Trainer Tom Schell keeps things light with 5-pound apprentice Jose Ortiz in the saddle. **8 SMOOTH VALENTINE** won for the second time in three starts at the distance (3-2-0-0) when he used his speed to defeat \$6,250 conditioned claimers by 4 ½ lengths. **3 REMEMBER ROBIN** should take the lion's share of the betting action after posting the best last-race Beyer figure (81) when defeating \$10,000 claimers at the distance.

4 MARQUIS STAR is stretching out an additional half-furlong after notching his second consecutive victory when he closed strongly to defeat \$10,000 conditioned claimers at three-quarters of a mile.

SELECTIONS: 7-8-3-4

THIRD RACE:

10 RUNNIN FOR A CURE drops to the \$40,000 level after making a mid-race move to finish fourth - beaten 3 ½ lengths - vs. maiden special weight competition at 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jose Pinchin has Cornelio Velasquez named to ride. **9 CHOSIN RESERVOIR** is stretching out an additional furlong after swinging out in the drive to finish second vs. \$32,000 maidens at 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Joe Catanese has Eibar Coa in the saddle. **5 HOMEROAD BOUND** is expected to show more after recovering from a troubled start (jostled) to finish fourth in her \$40,000 career debut at three-quarters of a mile.

3 RUBYS TUNE is a daughter of Concorde's Tune who is training consistently enough to be a factor in her career debut. Trainer Stan Hough has Javier Castellano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 10-9-5-3

FOURTH RACE:

2 STEPPEDOUTOFPLACE makes his first start of the year after a consistent 2008 campaign in which he won 4 of 7 races, including a pair of turf victories at the distance (2-2-0-0). Trainer Jessica Campitelli has E T Baird atop the son of Out Of Place. **12 CLOUD SPRINGS**, 2 for 3 'in the money' in his recent campaign on the turf, stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after making a 4-wide charge to finish sixth vs. \$16,000 'three-lifetime' claimers at 7 ½ furlongs. **3 HARRYS WESTGATEPUB** will return to the turf after a consistent 3-race campaign in which he followed his \$10,000 maiden victory with back-to-back second place finishes vs. \$10,000 conditioned claimers. **7 MAMA'S WONDER BOY** will give the turf a whirl after using his speed to defeat \$10,000 claimers at a mile & 70 yards on a fast Calder main track.

SELECTIONS: 2-12-3-7

FIFTH RACE:

12 TEXAS HEDGE drops, and turns back to a 1-turn mile on the main track, after following a couple of second place finishes on the dirt vs. \$50,000 maidens with a troubled start (broke out) vs. special weight competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the Calder turf. **5 LOVE ON A WIRE** makes his first start since he recovered from a slow beginning to finish a late-striding third behind Texas Hedge when they competed at the Meadowlands on Nov. 15. Trainer Kelly Breen has Elvis Trujillo handling the rematch. **10 TOMFOOLERY** is stretching out to a mile after responding to the addition of Lasix with a second place finish vs. \$25,000 maidens in his local debut at 7 furlongs. **1 BENGAL RIDGE** is returning to the main track after showing speed and encountering trouble on the backstretch (steadied) when finishing fourth vs. \$40,000 maidens on the lawn. Trainer Dave Braddy has Javier Castellano handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 12-5-10-1

SIXTH RACE:

1 RIVER FANCY, a game maiden winner on the Meadowlands turf on Oct. 13, returns to the lawn after a useful outing vs. \$75,000 allowance optional claimers at a mile & 70 yards on the Aqueduct inner track. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez in the saddle. **10 REV IT UP RHONDA** will try to keep her record unblemished after following her \$25,000 debut maiden win on the dirt with a \$40,000 'two-lifetime' claiming victory at a mile on the Calder turf. **6 ENTICE** will face winners after shaking off the effects of a slow start to defeat \$50,000 maidens in her career debut at a mile and a sixteenth on the Calder turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has Elvis Trujillo going for two in a row. **7 SPEED NOTE** became the only multiple turf winner in the field when she rallied from last in a field of eight to defeat \$40,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at a mile and a sixteenth. Jose Lezcano rides.

SELECTIONS: 1-10-6-7

SEVENTH RACE:

11 ACE UP MY SLEEVE is shortening up to a 1-turn mile after a ground saving trip produced a victory vs. similar in a 2-turn mile & 70-yard affair across town at Calder. Trainer Stan Gold has Eibar Coa named to ride. **6 POLAR STAR** is another turning back to a mile after dueling from start-to-finish and holding sway to defeat \$6,250 'three-lifetime' claimers at a mile & 70 yards. **7 SPEED AND HEART** is hoping to find just a little more at the wire after finishing second in back-to-back \$6,250 claimers at Calder. Trainer Andy Williams has Javier Santiago trying to improve on the recent spate of second place finishes. **3 ROBYN CHIEF** takes a sizeable drop on the competition scale after facing allowance optional claiming runners in a series of route races on the turf. Trainer Rudy Wolfendale has Cornelio Velasquez handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 11-6-7-3

EIGHTH RACE: THE SWEETEST CHANT

10 BANKER'S CHOICE hasn't missed a beat training on the Palm Meadows turf in preparation for the first start since she recovered from an early traffic situation (steadied) to come within a length of winning the \$57K Caressing Handicap at Churchill (Nov. 29). Trainer Ian Wilkes has Julien Leparoux atop the daughter of Canadian Frontier. **4 WEEKEND STRIKE**, a half to Grade 1 winner Court Vision, shows a series of strong workouts, which includes three bullets on the Palm Meadows turf, in preparation for her first start since raced 3-wide and finished fourth on a 'yielding' course, as the favorite, in an overnight stake at Belmont. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez atop the \$350K daughter of Smart Strike.

5 SAAR TREATY, now in the Tim Hills barn, makes her first start since she followed her impressive maiden win on the Laurel turf with a fast-closing second in front of Weekend Strike at Belmont on October 26. Note the bullet workout on the local turf. **6 EXE**, 1 of 2 in this ultra competitive field from trainer Ed Plesa Jr., (Ameribelle), cuts back to a mile after notching her first turf victory when she defeated her uncoupled stablemate in the \$100K Frank's Juvenile Fillies Turf at Calder.

SELECTIONS: 10-4-5-6

NINTH RACE: THE FIRST LADY HANDICAP (G3)

5 ANY LIMIT, the winner of the 2007 Grade 3 First Lady Handicap, who was very impressive winning the 6-furlong Grade 2 Honorable Miss Handicap at Saratoga on Aug. 1, turns back to her best distance (8-4-0-1) after dueling for the lead and tiring to finish sixth in the 1-mile Grade 2 Top Flight Handicap at Aqueduct (Nov. 28). **1 SLEWFOUNDMONEY** is back in South Florida after her 2-race winning streak ended when she shipped up to Aqueduct to finish second in the Top Flight Handicap (G2). Trainer Marty Wolfson has Edgar Prado quarterbacking the classic turnback move. **4 GAME FACE**, who returned from a similar layoff here last year to win the Grade 3

Old Hat Stakes, is training lights out at Palm Meadows in preparation for her 4-year-old debut. **2 J Z WARRIOR** is stepping up into graded stakes company again after rebuilding her confidence with back-to-back victories vs. overnight stakes competition. The 6-furlong specialist (6-4-1-0) has Joe Bravo trying to score the hat trick.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-4-2

TENTH RACE:

9 ROYAL TAPIT, a half to stakes winning New York-bred Certifiably Crazy, debuts locally for trainer Pat Reynolds, after setting a pressured pace and finishing second when blinkers were added for his \$75,000 maiden test on the Belmont turf (Oct. 17). **6 YOUNGOTALOVEME** proved he could win on the turf before he was disqualified and placed third for boring in during the stretch run of his short-lived maiden special score on the Calder turf. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell reunites the gelded son of West Acre with jockey Jose Lezcano. **12 MORETHAN FOURHOURS** was sent south to deal with \$80,000 maidens after the promising special weight debut on the Tampa turf in which he rallied from 11 lengths back to finish third. Trainer John Kimmel has Eibar Coa named to ride. **4 IL TERRAZZO** is hoping for a clean trip after he was boxed in on the far turn prior to finishing fourth behind disqualified winner Youngotaloveme. John Velazquez rides for trainer Rebecca Maker.

SELECTIONS: 9-6-12-4

BEST BET: RACE 9 - 5 ANY LIMIT

LONG SHOT: RACE 10 - 3 HONEST PROPHET

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