

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

6 CALABRIA is stepping up, and stretching out, after drawing clear to wallop \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Bobby Dibona, who claimed him two back (Jan. 22), keeps the status quo with Jose Lezcano at the helm. **3 HIT A HOMER** will tussle with \$30,000 claimers after stumbling at the start, being rushed up to dispute the pace, and then tiring from his earlier efforts to fourth vs. \$40,000 starter allowance competition at the distance. Trainer Norm Pointer has Edgar Prado penciled in for the return assignment. **2 BOUNISSIMO**, now in the Rick Dutrow Jr. barn, gets some class relief after failing to earn a check in both local starts vs. allowance competition (1 on dirt & 1 on turf). Trainer Dutrow, 32% with new additions to his barn, has Elvis Trujillo handing the descent.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-2

SECOND RACE:

4 RADIO RELAY is stepping up to the next logical level after responding to an equipment change (blinkers off) with a front running victory vs. \$10,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at a mile. Trainer Tino Attard has Carlos Marquez Jr. handling the turnback to seven-eighths of a mile.

7 STIRRUP EXCITEMENT moved to the Tom Schell barn via the claim after a somewhat disappointing local debut vs. \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimers in which he opened and relinquished a 2-length lead. The new connections lighten the load with 5-pound apprentice Jose Ortiz at the controls. **1 MY PAL GRAPPO** will tussle with 'three-lifetime' types after finishing second and being placed first via a steward's decision vs. multiple winners in an open \$16,000 claimer at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-1

THIRD RACE:

3 CURRAGH wheels back at the same level and distance after dueling for the lead and yielding late to finish second - beaten a length by repeat winner Desert Falcon. Leading trainer Ken McPeek has leading jock Kent Desormeaux in the saddle again. **9 TO TELL THE TRUTH** is stretching out to a mile after posting the best last race Beyer (79) when rallying along the rail to finish second vs. a notch tougher at 7 furlongs. Trainer Nick Zito tabs Julien Leparoux to ride.

6 CHIEF BEAR, second at this distance on the dirt here vs. maiden special weight competition on Jan. 16th, returns to

the main track after prompting the pace and fading vs. \$50,000 maidens in a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Reade Baker, 22% with the turf-to-dirt move, spots the gelding perfectly for a \$30,000 tag. **8 DE CAT** should have the screws tightened in the second race back from a 5-month layoff after vying for the lead and tiring to finish third behind the Curragh last out.

SELECTIONS: 3-9-6-8

FOURTH RACE:

3 INDY'S ALEXANDRA is turning back to 7 furlongs again after setting the pace and yielding late to finish second vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Marty Wolfson readied her for the turnback with back-to-back bullet half-mile workouts at Calder. **1 CHORAGUS** will try to make it two in the row at the distance after posting her career high Beyer (93) when she edged away late to defeat money-allowance competition in her first race back from a 7-month layoff. People who subscribe to the 'bounce' theory will have some concerns.

5 ADORABLE JANE, who runs well fresh, is returning from the latest layoff under the tutelage of leading trainer Ken McPeek, after ending her 2-race 2008 campaign by hitting the board in one of two \$70,000 overnight stakes at Monmouth while in the Rick Dutrow Jr. barn. McPeek, 32% with the longer than 180-day layoff, has go-to jock Kent Desormeaux at the helm.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-5

FIFTH RACE:

2 VINDICAT will depart from the rail after dueling throughout and getting beat a neck vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Nick Zito has Paco Lopez handling the stretchout to 9 furlongs.

9 BIG BAD BLUE drops to the \$40,000 level on the dirt with blinkers added after showing early interest and fading vs. maiden special weight competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Note that trainer Ken McPeek is 8 for 19 (42%) with this type of class drop. **8 FIJI BOY** is getting some class relief after encountering trouble on the first turn (steadied) when finishing sixth vs. special weight maidens at the distance. Trainer Eddie Kenneally secures the services of jockey Julien Leparoux. **4 OSAGE** is another getting some immediate class relief after showing early interest and fading to finish fifth in front of Fiji Boy last out.

SELECTIONS: 2-9-8-4

SIXTH RACE:

4 THELMA'S SONGCAT, now in the Mike Maker barn, makes her first start since failing to fire in a 'key' \$15,000 'two-lifetime' claimer on the Turfway Polytrack that produced three next-out winners. Trainer Maker, 29% with new acquisitions, has second leading rider Julien Leparoux atop the daughter of Sultry Song. **10 OUR TIA DIA** is turning back to a 1-turn mile after posting the best last-race Beyer (67) when finishing second in a 2-turn mile at Calder on Dec. 21st. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle again.

12 SPINNAKER RUN drops to the \$10,000 level on the dirt after failing to fire vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers in her local debut on the turf. Trainer George Weaver has Eibar Coa handling the surface switch. **2 FIVEHAILMARYS** is stretching out after praying for more distance when she rallied to finish third vs. similar at 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Chad Brown adds second-time blinkers and jockey Jose Lezcano.

SELECTIONS: 4-10-12-2

SEVENTH RACE:

10 RAINFALL MISS moved to the Angel Medina barn via the claim after a troubled trip vs. similar on Jan. 25th in which she bumped at the start, checked on the turn to avoid running into a rival, and finished fifth - beaten 4 lengths. Trainer Medina, 1 for 2 with new claims, has Rene Douglas in the saddle. **5 PERPETUITY**, a daughter of Successful Appeal, is debuting for trainer Steve DiMauro with series of useful works showing at Calder. The sophomore starts her campaign with Lasix and jockey Jermaine Bridgmohan added.

7 EAST LEESTOWN, now in the Ian Wilkes barn, drop to the \$15,000 level after proving no match for the competition in a 'key' maiden special weight test at Laurel last August that produced a pair of next-out winners.

2 KAYLE'SLUCKYDANCE is a daughter of Dance Master who shows 10 workouts in preparation for her career debut. Trainer David Fawkes adds Lasix and jockey William Henry to the mix.

SELECTIONS: 10-5-7-2

EIGHTH RACE:

12 VACATION is stretching out to a mile after finishing second to a buzz saw named Formidable in his local return at 7 furlongs. Trainer Shug McGaughey, 30% with horses making the second start back from a 45-180 day layoff, has John Velazquez handling the outside post (12).

1 UNBRIDLED'S HEART makes his 4-year-old debut after a promising 3-race sophomore campaign in which he received a 101 Beyer when breaking his maiden at first asking (May 10), was third to repeat winner Mint Lane in the \$75,000 Postponed in his next start (June 13), and beaten a neck in a 9-furlong allowance optional claimer at Saratoga on July

26th. **5 JEDI CODE** is stepping up a notch after recovering from a slow start to finish second vs. \$37,000 money-allowance runners at the distance. **3 STEVIL**, is turning back to a mile, and competing without the blinkers, after finishing second vs. this caliber of competition at 9 furlongs. The colt, still searching for his second victory (12-1-4-2), has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 12-1-5-3

NINTH RACE:

9 PICK OFF is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after following his bottom level maiden score here at three-quarters of a mile with a third place finish vs. this caliber of competition at a mile. Trainer Nick Zito has Julien Leparoux in the saddle. **2 METAL JACKET** is turning back to a sprint after wanting no part of a mile when he showed speed and faded to finish a distant sixth last out. Trainer Peter Walder, 45% with horses turning back in distance, has John Velazquez in the saddle. **3 CHOBE** is stretching out an additional half-furlong after checking on the turn and finishing seventh in his local return vs. similar at 6 furlongs. Trainer Bruce Levine has Eibar Coa penciled in for the return assignment.

10 HEATH'S STAR is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after pressing the pace and yielding late to finish third vs. similar at 5 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 9-2-3-10

BEST BET: RACE 5 - 2 VINDICAT

LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 2 WAR OF THE RANGES

We Buy Gold & Cash • We Buy Gold & Cash • We Buy Gold & Cash

MINEBENDER JEWELERS
Certified Rolex Technician
 We Repair Rolex • Movado • Tag Heuer
 Concord • Seiko • and all high-grade watches

Special Order on Jewelry and Diamonds
 JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR DONE ON PREMISES
 Call for GOLD - Pick-ups

450 Hollywood Mall, Hollywood FL 33021
 Publix Shopping Plaza
954-962-0771 Se Habla Espanol

We Buy Gold & Cash • We Buy Gold & Cash • We Buy Gold & Cash