

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

**FIRST RACE:**

**3 CAPTAIN RIO** makes his allowance debut after a sparkling first out maiden effort in which he broke from Post 12, set the pace, and defeated next-out winners Presto Change O, Just A Coincidence, and Have One More in a 'key' 6-furlong dash. Trainer Tom Albertrani has Alan Garcia returning on the \$200K son of Cuvee. **5 CHECKLIST** is hoping to bounce back after following his impressive first-out maiden victory on opening day (Jan. 3) with a troubled allowance debut in which he stumbled at the start, rushed up to stalk the pace, and retreated to finish a distant fifth. Trainer Todd Pletcher has the \$400K son of Gone West training nicely for this assignment.

**7 PROUD RULER** is cutting back to 6 ½ furlongs after responding to a drop in competition with an \$80,000 maiden victory at seven-eighths, despite the fact he stumbled at the start.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-7**

**SECOND RACE:**

**2 DANGEROUS DIVA** is shortening up to 7 furlongs after dueling for the lead and finishing second in her impressive local allowance debut at a mile. Trainer Michael Matz has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **6 SUSIES GAL**, third behind Dangerous Diva at a mile on Jan. 30th, renews the rivalry after finishing second vs. 'two-lifetime' allowance competition at this 7-furlong distance. Trainer Dale Romans has Javier Castellano atop the daughter of Alphabet Soup. **3 SWANS NEST** shows a series of stamina enhancing Palm Meadows workouts in preparation for the first start since she tracked the pace 5-wide and finished third behind Susies Gal last out. Trainer Ian Wilkes has Jermaine Bridgmohan in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-3**

**THIRD RACE:**

**2 INDEEDINGLY**, a 200K son of Street Cry, makes his first start since finishing second in front of three next-out winners, including graded stakes-placed Beethoven (July 2nd). Trainer Todd Pletcher takes over the training and has John Velazquez in the saddle. **3 BIZET** fourth behind Florida Derby bound Dunkirk at this distance on Jan. 24th, turns back to 7 furlongs after vying for the lead and tiring to finish fourth behind impressive winner Santana Six at a mile last out. **8 GREAT CAUSE** shows nine local workouts, which includes three consecutive 5-furlong bullets, in preparation for the debut. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Mario Madrid atop the son of Congaree. **6 WEBCAST** is stepping up to the \$80,000 level after responding to the addition of blinkers with a much-improved performance vs. \$50,000 types at this distance.

**SELECTIONS: 2-3-8-6**

**FOURTH RACE:**

**1 BIRDBIRDISTHEWORD** makes his first start since parlaying an inside move to come within a length of winning the 12-furlong Grade 3 Louisville Handicap at Churchill on May 24th. Leading trainer Ken McPeck 28% with the longer than 180-day layoff, has Manoel Cruz named to handle the son of Pure Prize.

**4 PRAIRIE FOX** is stretching out to a mile and a half after recovering from a troubled start (shuffled back) to finish second vs. this caliber of competition at 9 furlongs. Trainer Brian Lynch has Rene Douglas handling the stretchout. **11 YAZAMAAN**, bred to run all day, the son of Galileo stretches out after a useful return from an 8-month plus layoff in which he dueled for the lead and weakened to finish seventh - beaten 4 ½ lengths - vs. similar at 9 furlongs. **8 MINISTER'S JOY**, third in his only previous race at this marathon distance, drops and stretches out, after making a solid late run to get beat 3 ½ lengths vs. \$100,000 allowance optional claimers at a mile.

**SELECTIONS: 1-4-11-8**

**FIFTH RACE:**

**7 PRETTY MISS TRIPPI** is cutting back to 5 ½ furlongs after rallying late to come within three-quarters of a length of winning the \$50K OBS Sprint on the synthetic surface at the Ocala Training Center. **3 GIBSONSFASTRICK** is facing winners after drawing clear at first asking to defeat \$30,000 maidens at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Dale Romans tabs E T Baird to ride. **4 GADDA DA VIDA** will try two-lifetime allowance competition after stalking the pace and fading to finish sixth vs. money-allowance runners at the distance, which was her first race back from an 8-month layoff. Trainer Marty Wolfson has Javier Castellano in the saddle. **8 THE STORM IS BACK** moved to the Mike Trombetta barn via the claim after setting the pace and yielding late to finish second vs. \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at the distance. Jose Lezcano rides.

**SELECTIONS: 7-3-4-8**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**3 FEARLESS EAGLE**, a stakes winner at the distance, stretches out after rallying to get beat 2 lengths in the 1-mile \$75K Tallahassee, a race that included next-out Grade 2 Gulfstream Park Handicap winner Smooth Air. **5 NISTLE'S CRUNCH** makes his first start since closing to win the Grade 3 Commonwealth Turf at Churchill on Nov. 9th. Trainer Ken McPeck, 25% with the 61-180 day layoff, has Manoel Cruz atop son of Van Nistelrooy. **1 BALTIMORE BOB** drops, and turns back, after following a \$75,000 allowance optional claiming score here at the distance with a troubled (steadied final turn) sixth in the 11-furlong Grade 2 Mac Diarmida Handicap. **8 SPORTING ART** is stretching out after returning from an 8-month layoff to get beat 5 ½ lengths in the 1-mile Grade 3 Canadian Turf Handicap. Trainer Christophe Clement, 36% with horses making the second start after a 6-month plus layoff, has the son of Doneraile Court training nicely at Payson Park.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-1-8**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**6 PENALTY KICK** drops to the \$30,000 level after breaking poorly and failing to recover in his \$80,000 career debut. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez atop the son of El Corredor. **5 TAPITBOUND** drops, and cuts back to a 1-turn mile on the dirt, after tracking the pace and weakening to get beat 5 ¼ lengths vs. \$80,000 types at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Dale Romans has Alan Garcia handling the surface switch. **10 MATIANYU** is a son of Lemon Drop Kid training consistently enough to be a factor in his debut. Trainer Ken McPeck has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **8 TRANSLUCENT SKY** is a late-striding type who should be able to close and grab a share vs. this level of competition. Trainer Manny Tortora has E T Baird in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-10-8**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**5 SOL A PINO** is turning back to a mile after his 2-race win streak ended when he encountered double-trouble (steadied early & first turn) and finished fourth vs. similar at 9 furlongs. Trainer Bill Mott has Javier Castellano atop the son of Dynaformer. **1 HOLD YOUR GROUND** will depart from the rail after pressing the pace and fading to finish third - a half-length in front of Sol A Pino. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez handling the rematch. **12 JUSTENUFFHUMOR** is facing winners after an impressive maiden victory at the distance in which he rallied 4-wide, as the favorite, to score by 1-½ lengths. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has Alan Garcia going for two in a row. **7 PLENTY COUPS**, a set-the-pace-and-fade fifth on the grass behind Hold Your Ground and Sol A Pino on Jan. 28th, returns to the turf after encountering early trouble (steadied start) and finishing a distant ninth at a mile on the main track. Trainer Barclay Tagg has Joe Bravo handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-12-7**

**NINTH RACE:**

**6 BIG RED HOPE**, who became eligible for this \$10,000 starter allowance when he broke his maiden at Monmouth last August, has gone on to hit the board in eight consecutive sprints vs. better, which includes the recent score here vs. \$42,000 money-allowance runners at the distance (8-3-3-2). **3 CHASING THE PRIZE** is stretching out to his most accomplished distance (10-7-2-0) after notching his second consecutive victory here when he finished in front of both Death Valley and **9 FIUMES** at 5 ½ furlongs. The latter, trained by Luis Olivares, turns back to 6 furlongs after following the second behind Chasing the Prize with front running score vs. \$12,500 starter allowance foes at a mile. **8 I'VE REPENTED** is turning back to three-quarters after recovering from early trouble (bumped) to come within a half-length of defeating \$10,000 claimers at a mile.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-9-8**

**TENTH RACE: THE PAN AMERICAN (G3)**

**4 QUASICOBRA** is stretching out to a mile and a half after closing to come within a half-length of catching brilliant front running Presious Passion in the 11-furlong Grade 2 Mac Diarmida. Trainer Dale Romans has Alan Garcia atop the stalker.

**5 PRESIOUS PASSION**, who won the 2008 Pan American in front running fashion, and did the same in the 12-furlong McKnight at Calder on Dec. 13, and again in the 11-furlong Grade 2 Mac Diarmida here last out, has one major problem. The ultra game gelding doesn't like a rain-softened turf, and we have had significant rainfall here on Wednesday and Thursday.

**1 SLIGOVITZ**, second at this marathon distance on the Woodbine turf last August, stretches out after making what looked like a winning bid and flattening out to finish fifth - beaten 1-½ lengths - in the 9-furlong Grade 1 Gulfstream Turf Handicap.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-1**

**ELEVENTH RACE:**

**4 MIGHTY SCORE** makes his first start since finishing second, as the favorite, behind first race choice Captain Rio on Jan. 31st. Watch Captain Rio in the opener before you bet this impressive son of Successful Appeal. **10 PURRFECT ALIBI**, a half to multiple Grade 1 stakes-placed performer Santa Catalina, has been firing bullets at Payson Park in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Bill Mott adds Lasix and Alan Garcia for this assignment. **7 RUNNINGFORSPEIGHT** is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after running into a buzz saw named Presto Change O when they hooked up at 5 furlongs last out. Trainer Tim Hamm readied him for the added real estate with a bullet 5-furlong drill at Calder. **8 DISGUISE** is a \$350K son of Dixie Union debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with John Velazquez named to ride. Need we say more!

**SELECTIONS: 4-10-7-8**

**BEST BET: RACE 1- 3 CAPTAIN RIO**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 4 - 3 SIR DAVE**

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