

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

#### FIRST RACE:

**5 PRINCE ALPHIE** is stretching out to a distance where he's never tasted defeat (3-3-0-0) after following a victory vs. this level of competition at 7 furlongs with a second place finish vs. \$20,000 claimers at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Peter Walder has John Velazquez atop the 9-year-old 1-mile specialist.

**1 YES HE'S THE MAN** will depart from the rail after disputing the pace and getting beat a neck by repeat winner Minidrop at this level and distance last out. **2 BANDIT PRINCE** is cutting back to a 1-turn mile on the dirt after opening and relinquishing a 4-length lead to finish sixth vs. \$25,000 claimers in a 2-turn mile on the lawn. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Eduardo Nunez handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-2**

#### SECOND RACE:

**1 BIDHAM** returns to the allowance ranks, and a traditional dirt surface, after rallying late on the Polytrack to finish third - beaten 1-¾ lengths - in the OBS Sprint at Ocala. Trainer Jose Pinchin has Cornelio Velasquez handling the South Florida return. **7 MYROSLAW** makes his 3-year-old debut after an inconsistent freshman campaign in which he started with a couple of sharp efforts on turf and Polytrack, and then failed to earn a check in couple of allowance sprints on the Churchill main track. Leading trainer Ken McPeck, 26% with the 61-180 day layoff, has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle. **2 HAVE ONE MORE** is facing winners at 5 ½ furlongs after parlaying an inside trip into an impressive \$50,000 maiden score at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer John Mazza has Joe Bravo penciled in for the return assignment.

**SELECTIONS: 1-7-2**

#### THIRD RACE:

**2 BIANCO**, devoid of speed after steadying at the start of a \$35,000 claimer at 5 furlongs on the turf, drops into a competitive spot on what looks like her preferred surface and distance (9-2-1-4), for the trainer/jock combo of Plesa and Lopez. **1 BELLA BELLA** will depart from the rail after stalking early and drawing clear late to defeat \$20,000 'three-lifetime' claimers by 6 ½ lengths. The daughter of B L's Appeal has never been better. **4 CINQUE TERRE** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after stalking the pace and tiring to finish fourth behind Bianco when they hooked up at

7 ½ furlongs on Feb. 1st. **3 SUMWHROVTRHERAINBOW** drops a notch after failing to show much when facing \$25,000 types in a pair on the winterized Aqueduct inner track. Trainer Frank Alexander has Javier Castellano handling the change in scenery.

**SELECTIONS: 2-1-4-3**

#### FOURTH RACE:

**6 HALFBETTERTHANNONE** drops into this \$20,000 'three-lifetime' claimer after stalking the pace and getting beat 1 ¾ lengths vs. \$35,000 claimers here at a mile. Trainer Angel Salinas, 19% with the 31-60 day layoff, has Javier Santiago in the saddle. **9 SKI SKY** drops a notch on the claiming scale after a ground saving trip produced a respectable fifth place finish in a 'key' \$25,000 claimer that produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Jonathan Sheppard has Julien Leparoux returning on the daughter of Sligo Bay. **3 MISS FLEETFOOT** makes her first start since showing promise on the turf vs. better both here and at Calder last spring and summer. Trainer Ralph Ziadie has Jose Lezcano handling the filly's first race in 9-plus months. **4 GLACIAL BREEZE**, 7-2-0-0 on the turf, makes her first start since showing speed and retreating to finish fourth in a 1-turn mile on the dirt here 366 days ago.

**SELECTIONS: 6-9-3-4**

#### FIFTH RACE:

**4 HE'S APPEALING** drops to the \$30,000 level, and turns back to 5 ½ furlongs, after showing improved speed when blinkers were added for a \$45,000 maiden test at three-quarters of a mile - a race in which he set the pace and faded late to finish fifth - beaten 4 ½ lengths.

**7 SILVER POWER** turns back to this abbreviated distance on the dirt after setting the pace and giving way to finish fourth - beaten 2 ¾ lengths - vs. \$45,000 maidens in a 2-turn mile on the lawn. **6 WISE VISION** is turning back slightly after stalking the action 4-wide to finish second vs. similar at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Joe Calascibetta has Wesley Henry Sr. atop the son of Wise Up. **3 MASCARON** is another cutting back to 5 ½ furlongs after dueling along the rail and finishing third at this level behind repeat winner Jay Mike at 6 panels.

**SELECTIONS: 4-7-6-3**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**4 MASK AND WIG** drops to a level where his tactical speed can be key after stalking the pace, checking in traffic at the top the stretch, and finishing sixth vs. maiden special weight competition at a mile. Trainer Barclay Tagg has the gelding working consistently on the Palm Meadows turf in preparation for this easier spot. **9 RIGHT OF WAY** drops to the \$50,000 level on the turf after responding to the addition of both Lasix and blinkers with a troubled (bumped start, steadied turn) but improved fifth place finish in a 'key' \$80,000 maiden test at 7 furlongs that produced three next-out local winners. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Shannon Uske handling the surface switch. **2 EL GRAN TONY** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after encountering early trouble (steadied after start) and getting beat 3 lengths vs. similar at a mile. **10 IRON DANCER**, 1 of 2 in the race for trainer James Jerkens (Have You Ever) tries the turf after squandering his best chance when he broke slowly in a 6-furlong \$80,000 maiden test on the main track.

**SELECTIONS: 4-9-2-10**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**5 LE GRAN CRU**, who broke his maiden here at first asking last March, is stretching out to 7 furlongs after an impressive return from the 11-month layoff in which recovered from a slow start to get beat a length, as the favorite, at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Allen Jerkens reunites the son of Dynaformer with Javier Castellano, who was aboard for the debut victory. **4 THE ROUNDHOUSE** should be primed and ready to score after returning from a 16-month layoff to finish second to impressive Formidable, who was beaten only 2 lengths in the Grade 2 Gulfstream Park Handicap last Saturday. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Edgar Prado in the saddle again. **6 BOOK OF Z** has trained sharply at Palm Meadows in preparation for the first start since defeating a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' maiden special weight test, at the distance, at Churchill (Nov. 20th). Trainer Dale Romans teams with Julien Leeparoux.

**SELECTIONS: 5-4-6**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**2 MIKOSHI** makes his allowance debut after a couple of sharp local turf outings in which he followed a head defeat to impressive winner Florentino with a virtual front running maiden special weight victory at a mile. Trainer Michael Matz has Jose Lezcano returning on the improving son of Orientate. **4 SWINGING BERNIE** is back in South Florida, and back on the turf (3-1-0-0), after shipping up to Ocala to run third on the Polytrack in the mile and a sixteenth OBS Championship. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 21% with the synthetic-to-turf angle, has John Velazquez in the saddle again.

**6 CONSERVATIVE** will face winners after rallying late, as the favorite, to break his maiden here at the distance. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Alan Garcia going for two in a row.

**7 APPALACHIAN TRAIL**, third in the \$200K Cradle Stakes on the River Downs turf last September, makes his first start since showing speed and retreating in the 'key' Grade 3 Bourbon at Keeneland that produced impressive next-out winner Jack Spratt and Dynamic Force.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-6-7**

**NINTH RACE:**

**11 BREWMAN** moved to the Peter Walder barn via the claim after rallying along the inside to finish second vs. similar in his 5 1/2-furlong career debut. Trainer Walder, 31% with new claims, has John Velazquez handling the stretchout to three-quarters of a mile. **6 BEHIND THE PEW** drops, turns back to a sprint on the dirt, and wears blinkers, after setting a pressured pace and faltering in a \$30,000 maiden test at a mile on the turf. Note that trainer Mario Morales is 1 for 2 with first-time blinkers. **3 BRANTZEN GONE WILD** is a son of Hard Buck debuting for leading conditioner Ken McPeek with a series of solid Palm Meadows workouts showing. Trainer McPeek adds Lasix and Kent Desormeaux for this assignment. **8 OSKI OSKI** plunges to the bottom on the main track after disputing the pace and fading vs. \$40,000 types at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Kathy Mongeon has Carlos Marquez Jr. handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 11-6-3-8**

**BEST BET: RACE 6 - 4 MASK AND WIG**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 5 AWESOME MICH**

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