

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

2 KING'S FLEET is turning back slightly to 5 ½ furlongs after a solid debut vs. similar in which he surrendered a late lead to finish second at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Steve Standridge tabs Kent Desormeaux to ride. **4 INTRUSIVE** renews the rivalry with King's Fleet after dueling with him for the lead and fading to finish third - 1 ¾ lengths back. Trainer Terri Pompay has Jose Lezcano named to ride.

11 BEER BOY has his claiming tag sliced in half after showing marked improvement when facing \$30,000 maidens on the Turfway Park Polytrack. Trainer Dale Romans teams with jockey Jose Lezcano. **7 ROGUE MINISTER** hasn't been since he stalked the pace and faded in a 'key' \$30,000 maiden test at Monmouth that produced a pair of next-out winners on the Jersey Shore. Trainer Kelly Breen has Elvis Trujillo named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-11-7

SECOND RACE:

9 ITOBE is stepping up, and stretching out, after using her speed to defeat \$15,000 'two-lifetime' claimers in her local return at 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Stan Hough has Cornelio Velasquez going for two in a row. **8 INTENSE ELVIRA** was given ample time to recover after posting a monster \$16,000 'two-lifetime' score at Calder in which she drew off to win by almost 9 lengths and got an 81 Beyer for her effort. **6 BELLA BELLA** will try condition claimers in the Sunshine State after a competitive campaign vs. allowance competition at Suffolk in which she hit the board in 2 of 3 starts at the distance. Larry Pilotti takes over the training and tabs Javier Castellano to ride. **1 RUBY LIPSTICK** is stretching out to three-quarters after rallying 3-wide to finish third behind Itope at 5 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 9-8-6-1

THIRD RACE:

1 JELLY ROLL is turning back to a mile (4-0-1-2) after recovering from early trouble (steadied) to get beat a half-length, as the favorite, in her local turf debut at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Marty Wolfson reunites the daughter of Smart Strike with sizzling jock Julien Leparoux.

5 GO GO PINK is dropping to the \$45,000 level in the first start since she was beaten 2 lengths vs. maiden-allowance competition, as the favorite, here last March 27th. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez returning on the daughter of Forest Camp. **12 CLEVER THOUGHT** is turning back to a mile after making a solid 3-wide bid and weakening to finish fourth behind Jelly Roll and also eligible Trippi's Holiday.

Trainer Vicky Oliver teams with Alan Garcia. **8 LUNAR BEACH** drops into the selling ranks after closing to get beat 4 ¼ lengths in her local bow vs. special weight competition. Trainer Jim Toner readied her for this assignment with a bullet half-mile drill on the Palm Meadows turf.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-12-8

FOURTH RACE:

10 RED HOT CANDY drops to the \$16,000 level, and turns back to 7 furlongs on the dirt, after dueling for the lead and tiring vs. \$50,000 claimers in a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Dave Braddy has John Velazquez handling my favorite turf-to-dirt move. **11 NANA'S APPEAL** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after hitting the board in three straight vs. starter allowance competition at Calder. Trainer Dave Vivian spots him perfectly for a \$16,000 tag. **1 GRAEME OF GOLD** moved to the Pablo Andrade barn via the claim after using his speed to defeat \$12,500 claimers at Calder in Dec. 18th. He's the inside gas on a track that has favored inside speed runners over the last few days. **3 IL DIVO** has his maiden tag sliced after losing all chance when he broke slowly in his local debut vs. \$35,000 claimers at a mile. Note that he's the only entrant in the race that can claim multiple victories at 7 furlongs (4-2-0-1).

SELECTIONS: 10-11-1-3

FIFTH RACE:

5 TRIQUETA drops to the \$80,000 level after a solid local debut vs. maiden special weight company in which she broke from Post 10, dueled for the lead throughout, and weakened late to get beat only 1 ¼ lengths. Leading trainer Ken McPeck, 27% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Kent Desormeaux penciled in for the return assignment. **1 LUCKY LULU**, a beautifully bred daughter of Grand Slam, makes her career debut for trainer Todd Pletcher with a series of useful series of workouts, on both turf and dirt, showing at Palm Meadows. The sophomore starts her campaign with Lasix and John Velazquez added to the mix. **6 GLASLYN** renews the rivalry with Triqueta after steadying on both turns and finishing only 2 lengths behind her last out. She can reverse the previous outcome with a clean trip. **2 REGRETABLE ROMANCE** is stepping up, and stretching out, after a rough local outing vs. \$40,000 maidens at 7 ½ furlongs in which she steadied on the backstretch and was blocked throughout the stretch run.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-6-2

SIXTH RACE:

8 CHORAGUS, an impressive first-out winner on a 'good' track at Hawthorne last April, returns to a traditional dirt surface after a couple of sharp outings on the synthetic stuff at Arlington in which she crushed allowance optional claimers on May 16, and was third in the \$53K Sweetest Chant on July 5th. Trainer Ian Wilkes has Julien Leparoux handling her first start in 7 months. **3 PIOUS ASHLEY** figures on the 'what have you done lately' angle when she turns back to 7 furlongs after finishing second best in her local debut at a mile. Trainer Marty Wolfson, who has two in the race (Camara Oculta), tabs Alan Garcia to ride. **5 WISH ME SUCCESS** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after a consistent 3-race sprint campaign on the New York circuit in which she defeated 'two-lifetime' allowance runners, and was second and fourth in a pair of overnight stakes at Aqueduct. **4 TEMBISA**, sharp sprinting on the dirt at Monmouth, shifts back to the main track after a chase-and-fade performance at 5 furlongs on the Meadowlands turf. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Paco Lopez handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 8-3-5-4

SEVENTH RACE:

7 PULL DANCER makes her career turf debut after ending her freshman campaign in the 'key' Grade 3 Tempted at Aqueduct in which the second place finisher Gemswick Park won the Grade 3 Old Hat here, and third place finisher Morning Chatter broke her maiden at Laurel in January by 9 lengths. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has Alan Garcia atop the daughter of Pulpit, who is bred to love the turf. **9 OUR DAHLIA** is making her career turf debut after shaking off trouble on the backstretch to break her maiden here at a mile on the main track. Trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux atop the \$100K daughter of Belong to Me. **10 BESO DEL SUR** will face winners after recovering from a slow start to defeat maiden special weight competition, on the Calder turf, by 5 1/2 lengths. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Eibar Coa going for two in a row. **6 TAILBYTHERAIL**, stakes-placed on the grass at Calder, is hoping to bounce back after steadying on the first turn and retreating to finish last in her local turf debut vs. money-allowance competition (Jan. 15).

SELECTIONS: 7-9-10-6

EIGHTH RACE:

3 DR. PLEASURE finds a nice spot to return after ending his 2008 campaign with an interesting 3-race span in which he defeated \$75,000 allowance optional claimers on a 'good' track at Saratoga, was fourth to Commentator in the \$500K Mass Cap, and was stalking the pace when he clipped heels and fell in the Grade 3 Fayette at Keeneland on Oct. 25th.

4 ALAAZO, fourth to Big Brown in the Grade 1 Haskell at Monmouth in August, makes his first start since ending his '08 campaign with a poor showing on the Keeneland Polytrack. He can bounce back on a regular dirt surface for Pletcher & Lezcano. **10 FOR YOU REPP0**, 3-1-2-0 at Gulfstream, and 6-2-2-0 at the distance, returns after finishing a 5-wide sixth in the \$50K Prairie Bayou at Turfway. The Pitts/Leparoux collaboration looks better on a real dirt surface. **2 DUBAI GOLD** turns back to 9 panels on the dirt after defeating a pair of next-out winners in a 12-furlong 'key' race at Woodbine.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-10-2

NINTH RACE:

6 LITTLE MISS JULIEN, owned in part by Goodfellow Joe Pesci, debuts locally for new trainer Wesley Ward, after returning from a lengthy layoff to finish second in a 5-furlong maiden special weight sprint on the Calder turf. **4 DISPERSE**, bred strongly for the turf, the daughter of Najran debuts on the grass after finishing a late-closing fourth in a 'key' dash at Keeneland that produced three next-out winners. Trainer Ian Wilkes has Julien Leparoux named to ride. **10 VALID HUMOR**, beaten 2 lengths when sprinting on the Belmont turf in 2007, makes her first start since showing speed and retreating in a 'key' dash in the 'mud' at Aqueduct that produced three next-out winners. **12 QUIET HARBOR**, a half to 7-time turf winner Minister's Joy, and a half to Grade 3 winner Hunting, debuts on the turf after hitting the board in 2 of 3 dirt sprints here last year. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Edgar Prado handling her first start in 11 months.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-10-12

BEST BET: RACE 4 - 10 RED HOT CANDY

LONG SHOT: RACE 5 - 2 REGRETABLE ROMANCE

