

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

**FIRST RACE:**

**4 U S TREASURY**, a half to Grade 1 Donn Handicap runner up Hesanoldsalt, and Grade 1 stakes-placed Mongoose, stretches out to a 1-turn mile after making a 3-wide bid to finish second in his local debut at three-quarters of a mile. Note that trainer Marty Wolfson and jockey Jermaine Bridgmohan are winning races here at a 30% rate.

**3 EMPIRIOR**, who posted a couple of sharp third place finishes in 1-turn route races at Belmont during the summer, returns to the main track after making a middle move and fading in his local return on the turf. Trainer John Kimmel has Eibar Coa penciled in for the return assignment.

**6 BET THE LIMIT** is stretching out to a mile in the first start since finishing third in a 'key' 6-furlong dash at Aqueduct that produced three next-out winners. Trainer Shug McGaughey has the son of Storm Cat training strongly for the return. **5 BLAZING TAURUS** will race without blinkers in the first start since he chased the pace and finished second vs. similar at Belmont on Sept. 11.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-6-5**

**SECOND RACE:**

**4 LANGLEY**, who hit the board in 1 of 2 turf sprints vs. entry-level allowance competition at Monmouth, will try 'two-lifetime' competition on the lawn after showing speed and weakening late vs. better in a pair of sprints on the Meadowlands main track. **3 WOODEN INDIAN** is turning back to five-eighths of a mile after opening and relinquishing an 8-length lead vs. similar in a 9-furlong turf outing at Calder. Trainer Scott Lake has Carlos Marquez Jr. handling the classic turnback. **5 MASHARKA**, who defeated \$32,000 maidens at 5 furlongs on the Calder sod, returns to the grass after showing speed and fading vs. similar in a 1-mile event on the dirt. **7 FIVE THOUSAND** will shift back to the grass after setting the pace and just getting nipped at the wire vs. similar in a 5-furlong sprint on the Calder main track.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-5-7**

**THIRD RACE:**

**1 CURRAGH** plunges to the \$25,000 level on the dirt, and races without blinkers, after setting the pace and fading vs. maiden special weight competition at a mile on the local sod. Trainer Ken McPeek, 41% with horses making similar class drops, has Kent Desormeaux handling the surface switch. **4 DESERT FALCON** is another trying \$25,000 claimers after failing to show much vs. maiden special weight runners at a mile on the main track. Trainer Joe

Orseno has Carlos Marquez Jr. atop the lightly raced 5-year-old son of Golden Missile. **2 COVE STAR** figures as a top-three choice after responding to a drop in competition with a second place finish here at this level and distance.

**7 B. B. JAZZ** is stretching out to a mile after breaking slowly and finishing a distant third vs. similar at 7 furlongs. Trainer Tino Attard has J S Mcaleny in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 1-4-2-7**

**FOURTH RACE:**

**3 SHOTEKA** drops in for a \$50,000 tag after rallying to get beat 2 lengths in his local turf debut vs. maiden special weight competition. Trainer Eric Coatrieux reunites the son of Rahy with jockey Javier Castellano. **5 MARL**, who showed promise on the grass last year, drops into the selling ranks after breaking slowly from the rail and finishing a distant sixth in his local debut vs. special weight runners on the main track. **6 JAY MIKE**, bred to respond favorably to the turf, the son of El Prado debuts on the grass after responding to a drop in competition with a second place finish vs. \$45,000 maidens in a race moved to a 'good' Aqueduct main track (Oct. 30). Trainer Nick Zito has Julien Leparoux in the irons. **9 ROMAN SILVER**, bred on both sides to love the turf, the son of Najran drops in for a tag after stalking the action and finishing a distant third vs. maiden special weight runners on a sealed 'muddy' Aqueduct inner track.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-6-9**

**FIFTH RACE:**

**4 WORKINONTRAILROAD** drops a notch, and stretches out to 9 furlongs on the main track, after finishing a useful fifth - beaten 4 lengths - vs. \$30,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at a mile on the turf. Trainer Mike Maker, 28% with the turf-to-dirt angle, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle.

**3 SILVER EXPRESS**, a former stakes performer, who is 1 for 3 'in the money' at the distance, who is now in the Rick Dutrow barn, makes his first start since coming up empty vs. entry-level allowance competition here about 13 months ago. **6 PALACE WIZARD**, who defeated \$32,000 maidens at a mile and sixteenth, returns to the main track with blinkers added after failing to fire vs. 'two-lifetime' foes at a mile on the turf. **9 HARRYS WESTGATEPUB**, third at this distance at Monmouth last August, stretches out after finishing a slow starting fourth vs. \$10,000 starter allowance runners on the turf.

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

**SIXTH RACE:**

**3 NIKKIANDME** has been a model of consistency since she arrived in South Florida in the September. The daughter of Orientate has won 4 of 5 races (3 on turf & 1 in the slop), and was beaten a neck in another turf race. Trainer Pablo Andrade has Cornelio Velasquez named to ride. **10 SAMMY VAN AMMY** moved to the Ken McPeck barn via the claim after notching her second consecutive victory when she defeated \$25,000 claimers in her local turf debut at the distance. **6 HONORABLE TRUTH** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying 3-wide, at 26-1, to come within a half-length of defeating \$35,000 claimers here at a mile. Trainer Greg Sacco secures the services of Julien Leparoux as Kent Desormeaux moves to Sammy Van Ammy.

**8 ROLL THE DI** is stepping up, and stretching out, after drawing clear with enthusiasm to defeat \$16,000 starter allowance competition at 7 1/2 furlongs on a 'firm' turf.

**SELECTIONS: 3-10-6-8**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**9 VOODOO MOMMA** is stretching out to a mile after rallying up the rail on opening day (Jan. 3) to come within a neck of defeating similar at 7 furlongs. Trainer Eddie Kenneally keeps the status quo with Julien Leparoux in the saddle.

**6 BEDDA VICTORIA**, 2 for 2 'in the money' vs. similar on the Calder main track, is back on the dirt after showing speed and faltering vs. \$50,000 maidens on the turf (Nov. 16). Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Paco Lopez handling the surface switch. **12 ENJOY THE WIN** gets some class relief after encountering early trouble (steadied), showing speed, and faltering vs. maiden special weight competition on the local turf. Trainer Graham Motion has John Velazquez in the saddle again. **1 A T M MELODY**, beaten a neck vs. similar at a mile & 70 yards on the Meadowlands main track (Oct. 17), drops into the claiming ranks after rallying late to finish a distant fourth vs. maiden special weight competition in another mile & 70-yard affair at the Meadowlands on Nov. 3.

**SELECTIONS: 9-6-12-1**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**2 REGARDLESOFOUTCOME**, stakes-placed in consecutive 5 1/2-furlong sprints on the dirt, debuts on the turf with strong grass breeding on both sides of the family tree. Trainer Wesley Ward has Elvis Trujillo atop his California homebred. **6 PUT IT BACK TWENTY**, 2 for 2 'in the money' sprinting on the Calder turf (2-1-1-0), is back on the grass after showing some early interest and fading to finish a distant seventh behind impressive winner Notonthesamepage in the 6-furlong \$100K Spectacular Bid on opening day. **9 UNDER CONTRACT**, 2 for 3 'in the money' sprinting on the Calder turf, returns to the lawn after stumbling at the start, rushing up to dispute the pace, and fading to finish fifth in the

Spectacular Bid. Trainer Brian Prichard has Juan Leyva handling the outside post. **1 BIG AL CORDES**, an impressive maiden winner at this distance on the Arlington turf, turns back after setting the early pace and fading in the 1-mile \$100K Dania Beach. Note that trainer Jimmy DiVito is 4 for 16 (25%) with horses turning back in distance.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-9-1**

**NINTH RACE:**

**2 SHARPSBURG SHUFFLE** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after steadying twice on the turn and finishing third vs. similar in his local debut at three-quarters of a mile. **12 PROUD RULER** shows back-to-back bullet workouts at Payson Park in preparation for the first start since stalking the pace, having to check at the 1/16 pole, and retreating to finish ninth vs. maiden special competition on the turf. Trainer Bill Mott has Julien Leparoux named to ride.

**10 THISONESFORRUTHIE** is stretching out an additional furlong after ending his freshman season with a second place finish vs. similar opposition at 6 furlongs on the Aqueduct main track. Trainer Tim Hills has Jose Lezcano in the saddle again. **6 SAN VALENTINO** may have signaled his intentions when he posted a 5-furlong bullet at Palm Meadows in preparation for his career debut. He's 1 of 5 first-time starters in the field with the credentials needed to win at first asking.

**SELECTIONS: 2-12-10-6**

**BEST BET: RACE 1 - 4 U S TREASURY**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 6 - 11 SKY FIVE**

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