

# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by **Ron Nicoletti**

## FIRST RACE:

**6 D' WILD RIDE**, who became eligible for this condition at the Fair Grounds during 2007, gets some major class relief after recovering from a stumbling start to defeat \$75,000 allowance optional claimers at 7 furlongs. Trainer Joe Orseno has Carlos Marquez Jr. handling the stretchout to a mile. **4 SAMMY VAN AMMY** is turning back to a 1-turn mile on the dirt after disputing the pace and weakening late to finish third vs. similar in a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Ken McPeck, 30% with the grass-to-dirt move, has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle. **1 EVEN ROAD** is looking to get even with the recent steward's decision in which she disqualified from what would have been her second consecutive victory. Trainer Stanley Ersoff has Eibar Coa in the saddle again.

**SELECTIONS: 6-4-1**

## SECOND RACE:

**3 DR. PLEASURE**, who won his previous race at this level at Saratoga by 8 ¼ lengths (Aug. 10th), is turning back to a mile after an impressive local return at 9 furlongs in which he stalked early and drew clear to defeat \$62,500 allowance optional claimers. Trainer John Ward, 6 for 15 (40%) with horses winning back-to-back races, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle. **1 FOREFATHERS** is dropping a notch on the optional claiming scale after disputing the pace, steadying along the rail during the stretch run, and finishing a distant third vs. \$100,000 types at the distance. Trainer Nick Zito has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle.

**4 POWER GAME**, a stakes winner on the dirt, returns to the main track after a useful performance on the turf in which he tracked the pace and finished fifth. Trainer Shug McGaughey, 29% with the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Elvis Trujillo handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 3-1-4**

## THIRD RACE: *Turf Rail Set At 96 Feet*

**8 NEWPORT**, a \$350K son of More Than Ready, is returning to the turf after a helpful local return on the dirt in which he recovered from a slow start to finish third vs. \$50,000 maidens at seven-eighths of a mile. Trainer Todd Pletcher readied him for the surface switch with a sharp half-mile drill on the Palm Meadows turf. **5 FAIR CATCH** drops to the \$80,000 level, and races with blinkers, after making a solid middle move and weakening to finish fourth - beaten 3 ½ lengths - vs. maiden special weight competition at a mile on

the turf. **2 MORETHAN FOURHOURS**, a full brother to 5-time turf winner More Than Ever, is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after finishing fourth in front of a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' \$80,000 maiden test at a mile on the green stuff. **4 FLAT WATER** is dropping into this high priced claimer after a troubled outing vs. special weight competition in which he steadied both early, and on the first turn. Trainer Dale Romans has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 8-5-2-4**

## FOURTH RACE:

**8 UNTUTTABLE GAL** is cutting back to 7 ½ furlongs after finishing a 3-wide second, as the favorite, vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Peter Walder has John Velazquez in the saddle.

**6 BROS SIS** is dropping to the \$10,000 level after dueling for the early lead and fading to finish sixth in her local return vs. \$16,000 claimers at 6 furlongs. Trainer Eddie Broome, 25% with the 31-60 day layoff, has Carlos Marquez Jr. in the saddle. **3 EMMA'S CANDY** moved to the Pablo Andrade barn via the claim after rallying to finish a 3-wide third vs. \$6,250 claimers at a mile. The stretchout to 7 ½ furlongs looks like a positive move for the daughter of Concorde's Tune.

**4 TRES BIEN ENSEMBLE** is a somewhat consistent daughter of Gulf Storm who has hit the board vs. similar in 5 of her last 12 starts. Eibar Coa rides.

**SELECTIONS: 8-6-3-4**

## FIFTH RACE: *Turf Rail Set At 96 Feet*

**8 GRAN ESTRENO** is dropping a notch after a couple of well-meant turf outings at the \$25,000 level in which he was third at 9 furlongs on Jan. 24th, and a troubled third (checked sharply ¼-pole) at a mile and a sixteenth last out.

**10 MUSTFUHR** added credence to the horse-for-course theory when he returned to win for the second time in four local turf races when he led from start to finish to defeat \$20,000 claimers at a mile (4-2-0-0). **4 MASCOT** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth (7-1-2-0) after parlaying a 3-wide stalking trip into a victory vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Eddie Broome is 18% with horses winning back-to-back races. **2 FLEET APPEAL** will compete without the blinkers after getting forced out leaving the turn and finishing fifth - 4 ¼ lengths behind Mustfuhr last out.

**SELECTIONS: 8-10-4-2**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**9 AIUNI** is stretching out to 7 ½ furlongs after breaking slowly from the rail, rushing up to stalk the pace, and fading to finish third vs. similar at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Mario Morales has 7-pound apprentice Ares Campos in the saddle.

**6 QUALQUIN** is turning back slightly after bumping at the start and finishing a distant third, as the odds-on choice, vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Bobby Ribaudo has Jermaine Bridgmohan named to ride. **1 SECRET VENDETTA** is stretching out an additional furlong after making a 4-wide bid to finish a distant second vs. this caliber of competition at 6 ½ furlongs. **5 SILVER LULU** is hoping to show a little more with second-time blinkers after surrendering a lead in the stretch to finish fourth vs. bottom level maidens at 6 ½ furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 9-6-1-5**

**SEVENTH RACE: Turf Rail Set At 0 Feet**

**3 ARBEKA**, a \$430K daughter of Mr. Greeley, who is a half to Grade 1 stakes-placed Chimichurri, makes her career debut with Lasix and John Velazquez added to the mix. Trainer Todd Pletcher, who has two in the race (Lady Fingers), has her working consistently at Palm Meadows. **10 RUSHIN EMPIRE**, a beautifully bred \$425K daughter of Empire Maker, debuts for trainer John Kimmel with Kent Desormeaux in the saddle. **2 DWELLING PLACE**, 1 of 2 from trainer Barclay Tagg (Averymerrymoment), debuts on the grass after showing promise on the Delaware main track in her only start at age 2. The daughter of Forest Camp is training nicely on the Palm Meadows turf. **9 RAMYA** is a daughter of Mutakddim training consistently at Palm Meadows in preparation for the debut. Trainer Angel Penna Jr. adds Lasix and jockey Jose Lezcano for this assignment.

**SELECTIONS: 3-10-2-9**

**EIGHTH RACE: THE BONNIE MISS (G2)**

**6 JUSTWHISTLEDIXIE** is stretching out to 9 furlongs for the first time after drawing clear under a strong hand ride to notch her third consecutive stakes victory in the 1-mile Grade 2 Davona Dale here last out. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin secures the services of jockey Julien Leparoux. **1 CASANOVA MOVE** will try to turn the tables on Justwhistledixie at a mile and an eighth after rallying 3-wide to finish second to her in the 1-turn 1-mile Davona Dale. Trainer Jim Jerkens has Jose Lezcano handling the rematch.

**3 GATORETTE** will be tested for class and stamina when she makes her graded stakes debut after drawing off the win her 6-furlong career debut by 7 ¼ lengths, and following that with a 7 ¾-length allowance victory at 7 ½ furlongs. The daughter of Distorted Humor, who is bred to handle the distance, has Eibar Coa going for the hat trick.

**SELECTIONS: 6-1-3**

**NINTH RACE:**

**5 NOTECARD**, who broke his maiden for a \$50,000 tag on the Aqueduct main track (Nov. 21st), drops into this \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimer on the dirt after facing tougher on the grass in three local starts. Trainer Mike Trombetta, 29% with the turf-to-dirt move, has Jose Lezcano handling the surface change. **1 SCOTCHONTEROCKS** is an obvious choice to score at 6 ½ furlongs after dueling for the lead and finishing second vs. similar quality at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Scott Lake has Jermaine Bridgmohan handling the inside post. **7 B B'S SONG** will try 'two-lifetime' competition after encountering trouble at the start (bumped) and finishing fourth vs. multiple winners in a \$35,000 claimer at a mile. **2 HOLD MY CALLS** will face winners after breaking slowly, and closing late, to defeat bottom level maidens at the distance, at first asking. Julien Leparoux rides.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-7-2**

**BEST BET: RACE 5 - 8 GRAN ESTRENO**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 2 SUZ SLEW**

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