

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

7 ELUSIVE SPARKLE makes her 4-year-old debut after ending her sophomore campaign with a couple of solid maiden special weight tests at Churchill in which she made a strong middle move to finish second at this distance on Oct. 31st, and then closed to finish second in a 'key' 1-mile test on Nov. 28th that produced a pair of next-out winners, including Stormy Lake, who won here on Jan. 17th.

1 KEEPIN COMPANY is turning back to 6 furlongs after attending solid early fractions and weakening to finish second at seven-eighths of a mile. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Cornelio Velasquez returning on this inside speed threat.

5 LITTLE MISS JULIEN is another who should be a part of the pace scenario when she stretches out after dueling for the lead and retreating late to finish fourth vs. special weight foes at five-eighths on the turf. Trainer Wesley Ward is 28% with the turf-to-dirt move.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-5

SECOND RACE:

6 INDY KINGS DANCER is the obvious choice to score after posting the best last-race Beyer (79) when closing to finish second in front of next-out winner Bruno's A Biter at this level and distance last out. **1 ALONE AT THE WALL** will face winners after drawing off in a 9-furlong bottom level test to win by 7-plus lengths. Trainer Barry Croft has Cornelio Velasquez trying to repeat. **7 REJOICE ROYCE** merits consideration on the ticket after almost pulling off a 78-1 shocker when he rallied to finish second in his local debut at this level and distance. Trainer Fred Warren has Daniel Coa named to ride. **3 HEEZ FOR DOC** is a late-striding type who can close out the superfecta with his best effort. Trainer Larry Bates keeps things light with 5-pound apprentice Jose Ortiz in the saddle (117 lbs).

SELECTIONS: 6-1-7-3

THIRD RACE:

7 TOBY THE COAL MAN should be ready to score after responding to an equipment change (blinkers off) with a strong - but slightly troubled (awaited room turn) - second place finish at this level and distance. Trainer Nick Zito has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **6 SNEAK PEEK**, from Ken McPeek, stretches out to 9 furlongs on the dirt after a useful local debut at a mile on the turf in which he rallied to get beat only 3 ¼ lengths. McPeek, 32% with the grass-to-dirt move, adds second-time Lasix, and has Kent Desormeaux

handling the surface switch. **5 WHAT A TOUGH KNIGHT** shows a solid half-mile maintenance work at Calder in preparation for the first start since breaking from an ultra tough outside post (11) and making a 5-wide charge to finish fourth at this level and distance. Trainer Marty Wolfson teams with hot jock Julien Leparoux.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-5

FOURTH RACE:

7 LOHAD drops to the \$50,000 level on the dirt after following his maiden special weight victory on the Turfway Polytrack with a seventh place finish - beaten 4 ½ lengths - vs. allowance competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the local turf. Leading trainer Ken McPeek, strong with the surface switch (32%), has main man Kent Desormeaux at the controls. **6 TRIPOFALIFETIME** is another shifting to the dirt after showing speed and weakening late to finish fourth - beaten 2 ¼ lengths - vs. this caliber of competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the lawn. **3 ZULOUSHE**, a previous winner on a fast dirt surface (4-1-0-1), shifts back to the main track after dueling with Tripofalifetime for the lead and yielding to finish sixth behind him in their recent clash on the lawn. Trainer Eddie Broome, 17% with the surface switch, has Joe Bravo at the helm.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-3

FIFTH RACE:

4 YES I AM AMERICAN plunges to the bottom of the maiden scale after hitting the board in 4 of 5 races vs. better during her productive - but frustrating - 2-year-old campaign. Trainer David Fawkes, 19% with the 61-180 day layoff, has Eibar Coa in the saddle. **1 LIZZIE GREY** takes an immediate drop to the bottom, and wears blinkers, after breaking awkwardly and finishing last in her 7-furlong career debut here vs. maiden special weight competition. Trainer Nick Zito has Julien Leparoux handling the Big Kahuna of class drops.

3 LILMAC'S ESSENCE is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after surrendering a mid-race lead to finish third vs. similar quality at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Dave Vivian keeps the status quo with Eduardo Nunez at the controls.

9 SHE'S TRIPPING is making her first start since hitting the board in back-to-back bottom level maiden sprints at Calder during December. Trainer Rodolfo Garcia has Paco Lopez named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-1-3-9

SIXTH RACE:

7 SCATTERING BREEZES plummets to the \$6,250 level on the dirt after hitting the board in 5 of 7 turf sprints vs. better during 2008 (7-1-2-2). The 10-year-old, 6-2-0-1 on the Gulfstream main track, who has run well fresh in the past, has Jose Rivera II at the controls. **9 WOODLAND**, now in the Mike DePaulo barn, makes his first start since he drew off in the mud to defeat \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimers at Mountaineer on Dec. 29th. The gelding, with Cornelio Velasquez in the saddle, is spotted perfectly vs. \$6,250 claimers. **6 TREKKIE** will try to make it two in a row after shaking off traffic on the turn (tight quarters) to defeat next-out winner B L's Papa Coo Coo in \$6,250 Fla.-bred sprint at 5 ½ furlongs. **1 CHICKEN WING** is hoping for a clean trip after bumping on the backstretch, steady on the turn, and finishing fourth behind Trekkie and B L's Papa Coo Coo last out.

SELECTIONS: 7-9-6-1

SEVENTH RACE:

3 THE STORM IS BACK makes her 3-year-old debut after a solid 2-race sprint campaign at Calder in which she defeated \$16,000 maidens at first asking by 5 ¼ lengths, and then followed that with a set-the-pace-and-fade a third place finish vs. \$25,000 starter allowance competition at 5 ½ furlongs (Dec. 12). Trainer Aubrey Maragh spots her nicely vs. 'two-lifetime' claimers. **8 ZAVABELLE** drops into this conditioned claimer after surrendering a 2-length lead to finish second vs. multiple winners in a \$16,000 claimer at 6 furlongs. **1 MONAVISTA** moves to the rail after breaking from Post 10, making a 5-wide move, and settling for fourth vs. similar at 6 ½ furlongs. The turnback to 5 ½ furlongs can be the key to her success. **5 ITS ALONG STORY** drops, and turns back, after dueling for the lead and tiring to finish fourth behind Zavabelle in their recent tussle vs. \$16,000 open claimers.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-1-5

EIGHTH RACE:

3 TRULYONBROADWAY is debuting locally for trainer Wayne Catalano after showing speed and fading vs. stakes caliber competition in a pair of 6-furlong sprints at the Fair Grounds. Trainer Catalano, 43% with new additions to his shedrow, spots the gelding perfectly. **6 HEY NOW** moved to the Angel Salinas barn via the claim after tracking the pace and finishing third on his local debut at this level and distance. Trainer Salinas, 1 for 4 with new claims, has Javier Santiago named to ride. **7 MEAN DEMAND**, beaten 1-½ lengths vs. a notch tougher on the lawn here on Jan. 15th,

is hoping to get away from the gate trouble free after stumbling at the start and dumping the rider when facing \$25,000 claimers on the dirt last out. Trainer Joe Orseno has Carlos Marquez Jr. at the controls. **5 GRANIZO**, a winner of 6 of 7 races in Brazil, is dropping into a competitive spot after dueling for the early leading and fading to finish fifth behind Ikigai in the Grade 3 Mr. Prospector (Jan. 17).

SELECTIONS: 3-6-7-5

NINTH RACE:

7 KULE WIND is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs after vying for the lead and weakening to get beat 3 lengths in a 'key' 7 ½-furlong sprint that produced a pair of next-out winners.

3 HOLD MY CALLS gets a ringing endorsement in this wide-open affair because of the steady work tab showing in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Eddie Kenneally adds Lasix and Julien Leparoux for this assignment.

1 GOLDEN RUSH, now in the David Fawkes barn, drops to the bottom after showing early interest and fading in a 'key' \$30,000 dash on the Turfway Polytrack that produced three next-out winners. **9 PERFECT FOR A RUN** shows a slew of Palm Meadows workouts in preparation for his career debut for trainer Cam Gambolati, who is a solid 3 for 9 (33%) with his first-time starters. The colt starts his campaign with Lasix added.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-1-9

BEST BET: RACE 4 - 7 LOHAD

LONG SHOT: RACE 7 - 10 TURNING SOUTH

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