

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

**FIRST RACE:**

**5 MAX MAN** is a son of Spanish Steps debuting for the leading trainer Ken McPeek with a string of solid Palm Meadows workouts showing. The colt starts his campaign with Lasix and red-hot jock Kent Desormeaux added to the equation. **6 OUTTA SPACE**, the most experienced runner in the field, turns back to three-quarters of a mile after rallying 3-wide to finish third vs. \$35,000 maidens in his local debut at 6 ½ furlongs. Note the bullet 3-furlong drill in preparation for this assignment (:35 & 3). **9 TAKE IT ON HOME** is turning back to 6 furlongs after breaking from Post 12, setting the pace, and fading to finish sixth behind Outta Space last out. Trainer Ferris Allen has Edgar Prado returning on the gelded son of City Zip. **3 ANSWER MAN** is a son of Strong Hope who is training consistently at Palm Meadows in preparation for his debut. Trainer Stan Hough adds Lasix and Cornelio Velasquez to the mix.

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

**SECOND RACE:**

**1 CAESAR BEWARE**, who has encountered trouble in three consecutive turf sprints, hopes to finally get a clean trip after searching for racing room from the top of the stretch to the 1/8th pole prior to finishing fourth - beaten 1 ¾ lengths - in his local debut at the \$50,000 level. **5 LORD ROBYN** plunges to the \$35,000 level after rallying late, as the favorite, to finish third here to stakes caliber Mr. Silver in a \$75,000 allowance optional claimer. **8 CHIHULYKEE**, now in the Wesley Ward barn, hopes to find a little more for the stretch drive after vying for the lead and weakening to finish a close-up fifth vs. similar last out. E T Baird rides. **10 MEAN DEMAND** was game in defeat when he rallied late, at 55-1, to finish third - two heads in front of Chihulykee last out. Trainer Joe Orseno has Jose Lezcano penciled in for the return assignment.

**SELECTIONS: 1-5-8-10**

**THIRD RACE:**

**1 ALL THE BASES** makes his first start since racing greenly and finishing second in his 7-furlong career debut at Belmont on Sept. 20th. Trainer Allen Jerkens has the son of Grand Slam training sharply over the track in preparation for the turnback to 6 ½ furlongs. **8 ZIFZAF** is turning back to a sprint distance on the dirt after making what looked like a winning bid and settling for third in his local debut at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has Elvis Trujillo handling the surface switch. **5 SMAX** is another cutting back to a sprint on the dirt after an eventful outing at a mile on the turf in which he bumped and steadied

at the start, was rushed up to set the pace, and faded from his earlier efforts to get beat 11 lengths. Trainer Bobby Ribaldo has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle again. **11 B Z WARRIOR**, a half to local stakes performer J Z Warrior, debuts for trainer Todd Pletcher with a series of useful Palm Meadows workouts showing. John Velazquez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 1-8-5-11**

**FOURTH RACE:**

**11 DIAMOND ISLE** drops to the \$16,000 level after an ambitious 2-race campaign here in which he was beat a half-length vs. \$25,000 starter allowance runners on Jan. 17th and reeled back four days later to finish third, as the favorite, vs. \$40,000 types at this 1-mile distance. **3 MOUNT WILTON** was game in defeat when he stalked the pace throughout and finished third - beaten a length - at this level and distance. Trainer Greg DiPrima has Cornelio Velasquez in the saddle again. **10 MINIDROP** is stepping up the competition after making a solid 3-wide charge to defeat \$10,000 claimers at the distance, and pad his local record to 8-2-2-2. Trainer Dan Hurtak keeps the status quo with Kent Desormeaux at the controls. **5 FIVE STAR JOHN** makes his first start since rallying to finish a respectable fourth in 'key' \$10,000 starter allowance at Calder that produced a pair of next-out winners, including repeat winner Even Raise, who won a starter handicap at Aqueduct in his next start.

**SELECTIONS: 11-3-10-5**

**FIFTH RACE:**

**1 KHUKURI** will be treated with Lasix in the first start since finishing second in his mile and sixteenth career debut on the Calder turf, despite the fact that he apparently bled. Trainer Christophe Clement has Alan Garcia atop the son of War Chant. **10 GLITTERMANS CARTEL** is a son of Champali debuting for red-hot leading trainer Ken McPeek, and that should more than enough reason to add the colt on your ticket. Note that the trainer/jock combo of McPeek and Desormeaux are winning here at a 37% rate. **7 TRIBAL BEAD** will face \$80,000 maidens in his career turf debut after hitting the board in 2 of 4 races vs. maiden special weight competition on either dirt or synthetic surfaces. Trainer Bill Mott has Julien Leparoux named on the \$400K son of Indian Charlie. **2 HOT ROD TUTT** is stepping up, and stretching out, after yielding late, at 52-1, to get beat three-quarters of a length vs. \$40,000 maidens here at 7 ½ furlongs on a 'firm' turf.

**SELECTIONS: 1-10-7-2**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**4 TIGER'S FROLIC**, one of only two 3-time winners in the field, moved to the Peter Walder barn via the claim after drawing clear, at 30¢ to the dollar, to defeat \$12,500 claimers at Calder. Trainer Walder, 30% with new claims, has Eibar Coa going for two in a row. **3 LUCKY LIZA** moved to the Scott Lake barn via the claim, and steps up to face multiple winners, after yielding late, as the favorite, to finish second in her local debut vs. \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at 5 ½ furlongs. **7 BRANDY BAI**, undefeated in two previous races at the distance, drops, and turns back, after finishing a ground saving fourth at 7 furlongs vs. \$40,000 starter allowance competition at Calder. Trainer Bill White has Elvis Trujillo named to ride. **10 SWING MUSIC**, the other 3-time winner in the field, turns back to three-quarters of a mile after hitting the board in one of two local sprints vs. similar quality at 6 ½ furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-7-10**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**4 CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH** is a hard-knocking 7-year-old who debuts locally after a productive 2008 campaign vs. similar in which he hit the board in 6 of 15 starts. Trainer Herman Wilensky has Kent Desormeaux named to guide the 7-time turf winner. **9 MECKE ME FREE** makes his first start since ending his 2008 turf campaign with victories in three of his last four races, with his only defeating coming when he finished fourth to Champagne Brunch in a \$16,000 claimer at Calder on Nov. 2nd. **7 WARRIOR'S WAY** makes his first start since threatening to win at this level in four consecutive turf races vs. similar at Calder. Trainer Phil Gleaves has Javier Castellano atop the son of War Chant. **5 THIS CAT'S UNREAL** is turning back to a mile after encountering trouble (steadied) in back-to-back starts vs. similar at 9 furlongs. However, the fact that he's zero-for-seven on the Gulfstream sod makes him a shaky call to win it all.

**SELECTIONS: 4-9-7-5**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**3 STEVIL**, beaten only 2 ½ lengths at this distance in the Grade 1 Blue Grass last April, stretches out after a very useful local return at a mile in which he rallied to finish third - beaten a neck. Trainer Nick Zito has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **4 SR. HENRY**, who has shown the ability to handle this distance on the turf, stretches out to 9 furlongs after closing to finish fourth - 3 ¾ lengths behind Stevil at a mile. Leading trainer Ken McPeek has go-to jock Kent Desormeaux handling the rematch. **9 CHINSEGUT BAY** is turning back to a mile and an eighth on the dirt after a stamina enhancing performance at 12 furlongs on the turf in which he was shuffled back on the turn and still managed to finish third. **8 PEGASIAN** shows a bullet 5-furlong drill on

the Palm Meadows main track in preparation for the first start since making a 3-wide bid and tiring to finish fifth behind Chinsegut Bay in that turf marathon last out. Trainer Phil Serpe adds blinkers for the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-9-8**

**NINTH RACE:**

**2 RAJPUR ROAD** is stretching out to 9 furlongs after a sharp local outing at a mile and a sixteenth in which she split horses to finish third - beaten only 1-¼ lengths for the whole thing. Trainer Frank Brothers adds second time Lasix and Rene Douglas for this assignment. **5 MIMI'S KIDS** should offer more after stalking the action and finishing sixth in her mile and a sixteenth career turf debut. Trainer Ken McPeek, 26% with horses making their second start, has Kent Desormeaux handling the stretchout. **9 GOLD D'ORO** is stretching out around 2-turns after showing promise in a pair of 7-furlong turf sprints at Belmont last fall. Trainer Bill Mott has the daughter of Medaglia d'Oro firing bullets at Payson Park in preparation for her sophomore debut. **3 TREASURE TRAIL**, a half to 2008 Eclipse Champion Zenyatta, with shift to the turf with blinkers added after breaking slowly and finishing a distant sixth in her local debut on the main track. Trainer Shug McGaughey, 5 for 18 (28%) with the first-time turf angle, has John Velazquez returning on the \$550K daughter of Pulpit.

**SELECTIONS: 2-5-9-3**

**BEST BET: RACE 9 - 2 RAJPUR ROAD**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 2 - 12 GREY GOOSE KID**

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