

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

11 SKIP AWAY BELLE has trained consistently in preparation for the first start since competing on the turf in a pair vs. similar during August and September. Trainer Wesley Ward, 26% with the turf-to-dirt angle, removes the blinkers, and has front running jock E T Baird handling the daughter of Skip Away. **3 WHO PLAYS BRAHMS** should take the bulk of the betting action when she drops to the \$25,000 level after rebounding from an eventful start (bobbled, broke in) to finish third vs. \$40,000 maidens at Calder. Hall Of Fame trainer Allen Jerkens reunites the sophomore with Shannon Uske. **9 VOODOO MOMMA** drops a notch on the maiden scale after stalking early and fading late in a 'key' 7-furlong dash at Churchill that has already produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Eddie Kenneally tabs Julien Leparoux to ride. **2 ECHOES RESOUNDING** has her maiden tag sliced in half, and gets Lasix, after apparently bleeding vs. \$50,000 maidens at Churchill.

SELECTIONS: 11-3-9-2

SECOND RACE:

4 SONOFAWITCH debuts locally for trainer Peter Walder after dueling for the lead and finishing second in front of a pair of next-out winners in a mile & 70-yard \$5,000 'two-life-time' affair at Delaware (Nov. 2). Note the trainer/jock combo of Walder & Velazquez wins races here at a 30% clip. **3 RADIO RELAY** is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after setting a contested pace and fading to get beat 2 lengths, as the favorite, vs. similar at 7 furlongs on the Woodbine Polytrack. Tino Attard, 17% with new additions to his shedrow, has Carlos Marquez Jr. at the controls. **6 COM-PRISE** is turning back after posting the best last-race Beyer (73) when finishing fourth - beaten 2 3/4 lengths - vs. similar in a 2-turn mile at Calder. **2 SWIFT BILLY** hasn't been seen since showing speed on the turf vs. considerably better during 2007. The bullet 5-furlong drill at Calder indicates he's ready to fire, albeit after 19 months on the sidelines.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-6-2

THIRD RACE:

6 PAY WRIGHT, 5 for 5 'in the money' at the distance (5-2-1-2), debuts locally after following a third behind red-hot multiple winner Fibberjibit with a second place finish - beaten three-quarters of a length - vs. a hard-knocking group of \$35,000 claimers on the Aqueduct turf. Eibar Coa rides for trainer George Weaver. **3 SAINT KNOWS**, who won back-to-back overnight stakes at Calder this summer, will try to flaunt her class at the \$50,000 level after finishing a troubled third (bumped top of stretch) vs. optional allowance claiming foes across town. **5 SPIRIT LINE**, who showed promise on the turf at Saratoga and Kentucky Downs, returns to the lawn after drawing clear on a sealed 'sloppy'

track at Churchill to defeat this level of competition. **2 MISS TRISS**, who showed a fondness for the local terrain last year, returns after hitting the board in three straight vs. allowance competition at Hawthorne. Strong turf rider Javier Castellano will be in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-5-2

FOURTH RACE: THE SPECTACULAR BID

2 YOU LUCKIE MANN is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after following a pair of thirds behind Calder superstar Big Drama in the Stallion Stakes series with a mashing triple-digit Beyer performance (107) winning the 5 1/2-furlong Birdonthewire by 11 lengths. Trainer Marty Wolfson has Jermaine Bridgmohan going for two in a row. **7 SILENT VALOR**, undefeated in a pair of races on traditional dirt surfaces, which includes a victory in the 6-furlong Grade 3 Sapling at Monmouth, turns back to a sprint after failing to earn a check on the Pro-ride surface at Santa Anita in both the Grade 1 Norfolk and Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile. It's Pletcher and Johnny Velazquez. **3 JAZZANDTHEMAGICIAN** is turning back to a sprint after following his 6-furlong career debut victory with a stalk-and-fade sixth place finish behind repeat winner Beethoven in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 2 Kentucky Jockey Club. Trainer Dale Romans, who has the colt firing bullets over the track, tabs Kent Desormeaux to ride.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-3

FIFTH RACE:

12 ON FIRE, who broke his maiden when leaving from an outside slot at Belmont, will depart from Post 12 with the ideal closing style needed to capitalize on what should be a hot and heavy pace scenario. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Elvis Trujillo atop the son of Pulpit. **6 GOLDEN WEEKEND**, who showed good speed when stretching out from 6-furlongs to a mile at Saratoga in August, makes his first start since setting the pace and finishing second in front of a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' 6-furlong dash at Belmont (Oct. 23). **9 SQUARE DEAL** shows back-to-back bullet workouts in preparation for the first start since he drew away to defeat a trio of next-out winners in a fruitful 7 1/2-furlong maiden test at Calder. **5 ROCK IN BAGE** will make his North American debut with Lasix the first start since finishing second in the Grade 1 Gran Criterium in Argentina last May 24. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has the colt firing bullets at Palm Meadows.

SELECTIONS: 12-6-9-5

SIXTH RACE:

12 MORE THAN WILLING is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after rallying 4-wide to finish third in front of three next-out winners in a 'key' 6 ½-furlong dash at Churchill on Nov. 8. Trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux navigating the outside starting position. **8 EXTINGUISH**, 1 of 2 from trainer Barclay Tagg (**5 Cozy Lion**), debuts locally after setting the pace and finishing second vs. New York-breds in his 6-furlong debut at Aqueduct. Eibar Coa rides. **11 CHECK-LIST** is a \$400K son of Gone West who has been training steadily at Palm Meadows since mid-November in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Todd Pletcher adds Lasix and John Velazquez to the mix. **1 TRUST THE DEPUTY**, a half-brother to Hal's Hope (G3) participant Delightful Kiss, gets both Lasix and blinkers after showing speed and fading in his eventful career debut across town. Trainer Henry Collazo has Alan Garcia named on the upset special.

SELECTIONS: 12-8-11-1

SEVENTH RACE:

1 STORMING MARINE will try money-allowance competition after notching his second consecutive turf victory when he defeated a pair of next-out winners in a mile and a sixteenth \$50,000 claimer at Churchill. Trainer Dave Kassen tabs Eibar Coa to ride as Julien Lejaroux opts to stick with **3 FURTHEST LAND**. The gelded son of Smart Strike will race with blinkers after making a successful 4-wide charge at the ¼-pole to defeat first-level allowance runners at 9 furlongs on the Churchill green. **10 ATWELL**, 6 for 8 'in the money' at the distance, which includes a head defeat in the \$100K Jersey Derby, debuts locally after ending his Fall campaign with a fifth place finish - beaten only 2 ½ lengths - in the Johns Gold at Belmont (Oct. 23). **11 CELESTIAL COMET**, who notched his entry-level allowance condition here last February, makes his first start since finishing second to stakes performer Nistles Crunch in a 'two-other-than' allowance at Keeneland on April 16. Trainer Bill Mott has the son of Smart Strike working smartly over the deep stamina enhancing Payson Park training track.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-10-11

EIGHTH RACE: THE HAL'S HOPE (G3)

12 BRIBON, who was game in defeat when he recovered from a mugging at the ¼-pole (checked) to close and come within three-quarters of a length of winning the Grade 1 Cigar Mile at Aqueduct, should sit a beautiful trip behind the abundance of world class speed in the race that includes **8 NOW A VICTOR**. The winner of 4 of 5 races, which includes the score in the 2007 Grade 3 Discovery Handicap, shows impressive back-to-back bullet workouts at Palm Meadows in preparation for the first start since returning from a 368-day layoff to win a 6 ½-furlong optional allowance test at Aqueduct. **4 DELIGHTFUL KISS**, who has given new meaning to the term hard-knocking campaigner, is back at Gulfstream (1-1-0-0) after splitting superstars Einstein and Commentator in the 9-furlong Grade 2 Clark Handicap.

Trainer Pete Anderson has Calvin Borel in to ride. **3 FEARLESS VISION**, who showed a true love for Gulfstream in 2007 with a 5-2-3-0 record, will try to rekindle the horse-for-course status after posting back-to-back 1-mile victories at Aqueduct.

SELECTIONS: 12-8-4-3

NINTH RACE:

3 BEAR ALWAYS, training beautifully at Palm Meadows, stretches out after closing to be second in his 7-furlong career debut on the Woodbine Polytrack. **4 TIGER TRACKS**, a beautifully bred son of Storm Cat, debuts for the productive team of owners Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith, and trainer and jockey Pletcher and Velazquez. **9 COLTRAIER** is turning back to a mile in the first start since coming within a nose of defeating repeat winner Rockland in a mile & 70-yard maiden test at the Meadowlands. Trainer Joe Orseno has Carlos Marquez Jr. in the saddle. **10 RULER'S VISION** makes his first start since closing 5-wide to finish third in his 6 ½-furlong career debut at Saratoga on Aug. 30. Trainer Nick Zito, 23% with the 61-180 day layoff, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-9-10

MINEBENDER BEST BET: - Race 8 - 12 BRIBON

LONG SHOT: - Race 6 - 1 TRUST THE DEPUTY

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