

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

3 CHAMPAGNE LAKE should be bubbling with confidence after recovering from a mugging at the start (jostled) to come within a head of winning at this level and distance. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Jose Rivera II in the saddle again.

7 CACUN CACUN is hoping to find a little more stamina for the stretch run after stalking the pace and weakening late to finish third behind Champagne Lake in their recent confrontation at this 9-furlong distance. **1 A LITTLE HUMOR**, drops, and stretches out around 2-turns, after facing tougher in 7-furlong sprints both here and at Tampa. Trainer Rebecca Maker, 17% with horses stretching out in distance, has Chris DeCarlo in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-1

SECOND RACE:

5 KEEPIN COMPANY is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after surrendering a 2-length lead to finish fourth vs. similar at 7 furlongs. Trainer Allen Jerkens has the daughter of Mineshaft spotted perfectly. **3 STREET GOSSIP** makes her first start since her promising career debut at the distance here on Jan. 7th in which she bumped and checked at the start when finishing a distant second in a 'key' dash that produced a pair of next-out winners. **1 CHRISTINA'S DREAM** will depart from the rail after opening a quick 2-length lead and weakening to finish third vs. similar at the distance. She'll take them as far as she can.

4 CHEER UP, a half to multiple graded stakes-placed performer Change Up, debuts for trainer Helen Pitts with a string of solid local workouts showing. Trainer Pitts, 16% with her first-time starters, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-1-4

THIRD RACE:

5 MAS MUCHO is shortening up to a 1-turn mile after dueling throughout and yielding late to get beat a half-length vs. similar at 9 furlongs. The colt looks more than ready to exit the maiden ranks. **7 SNEAK PEEK** is another cutting back to a mile after showing speed and tiring late to finish third behind Toby The Coal Man in a 9-furlong maiden test. **3 SEVEN HALO'S** is hoping to run straight thru the lane after dueling for lead, bumping a rival, finishing second, and being placed third via a steward's disqualification. **4 OUR EDGE** has trained sharply at Palm Meadows in preparation for the first start since showing speed and tiring in his career debut at this level. Trainer Nick Zito has Julien Leparoux handling the stretchout to a mile.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-3-4

FOURTH RACE:

5 FROZEN PROSPECT should be primed and ready to score

after a solid local return from a 5-month layoff in which she dueled with the boys and finished second at this level and distance. Trainer Linda Rice, 24% with horses making the second start back from a 45-180 day layoff, has Kent Desormeaux handling the daughter of Suave Prospect.

2 PURELY BY CHANCE moved to the Steve DiMauro barn via the claim after making a 3-wide bid to defeat \$35,000 open claimers at the distance while still eligible for his 'two-lifetime' claiming condition. **8 CRACK THE COGNAC** will drop into this 'three-lifetime' claimer after hitting the board in 1 of 2 recent turf sprints vs. entry-level allowance competition.

9 FOOTLOOSE MAN is stepping up to the next logical level after encountering double-trouble (broke slow, steadied stretch) and still managing to defeat 'two-lifetime' foes at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-8-9

FIFTH RACE:

3 MATCHLESS ORINDA will try to make it two in a row at the distance, and notch her third consecutive victory, after defeating a field of 'two-lifetime' allowance runners by 6 lengths. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

2 WHIRLING AGATHA, another from trainer Allen Jerkens, is hoping find her way back to the winner's circle after finishing third behind undefeated Grade 2 Rampart participant One Caroline at a mile here on Jan. 15th, and following that with a third place finish vs. 'two-other-than' allowance runners last out. It's shaping up to be an all-Jerkens exacta.

4 HALO HOLLIE, now in the Kiaran McLaughlin barn, makes her first start since her 2-race win streak ended here last year when she stalked the pace and tired in the 2008 Grade 2 Bonnie Miss. Alan Garcia, riding in Dubai on Saturday, is named to ride her today.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-4

SIXTH RACE:

5 AWESOME SIX, 4 for 4 in the money on the turf during the spring of 2008 (4-1-2-1), returns to the turf, and to the Todd Pletcher barn, after finishing second in a 'two-lifetime' allowance test on the Mountaineer main track (Nov. 17th). Trainer Pletcher adds blinkers and jockey Chris DeCarlo for her 4-year-old debut. **6 POETIC PRINCESS** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after finishing second best, at 50-1, in her local turf debut vs. similar at a mile. **1 ASH** is stretching out after recovering from early trouble to finish a nose behind Poetic Princess last out. Trainer Frank Brothers has Rene Douglas handling the rematch. **3 DATTS BABY SELINA** is dropping into the claiming ranks after showing late interest when getting beat 5 lengths in consecutive entry-level allowance races at 9 furlongs. Trainer Mark Hennig tabs Paco Lopez to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-1-3

SEVENTH RACE:

6 KING'S FLEET is stretching out to 7 ½ furlongs after finishing second in front of a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' bottom level maiden test a 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Steve Standridge has Kent Desormeaux riding. **5 SATURN FIVE** drops a notch, and turns back a tad, after making a middle move and finishing fourth vs. \$20,000 maidens at a mile. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Jose Lezcano in the saddle again. **8 SWEETTALKINJEROME** debuts locally after hitting the board in 1 of 2 races vs. similar quality on the Kentucky circuit. Trainer Vicki Oliver tabs Rene Douglas to ride.

2 LIFEINTHETROPICS is stretching out an additional furlong after closing to get beat only 2 lengths vs. similar at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Jose Pinchin has Pedro Monterrey Jr. penciled in for the return assignment.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-8-2

EIGHTH RACE:

2 BELLE ALLURE, a Group 3 winner at Longchamp last April, gets a full compliment of changes (Lasix, blinkers) after breaking slowly and finishing seventh behind Vacare in the Grade 2 Dahlia Handicap at Hollywood Park (Dec. 21). Christophe Clement, 24% with the 61-180 day layoff, is now the trainer of the daughter of Numerous.

6 IMPRESSIONISM, a good second here vs. 'two-other-than' allowance competition on Jan. 4th, drops and turns back after closing to get beat 1 ¾ lengths in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 3 Endeavor at Tampa. Trainer Shug McGaughey adds second-time blinkers, and first-time Julien Leparoux. **7 NAMASTE'S WISH**, who was beaten only 2 ½ lengths in the Grade 3 Appalachian when returning from a similar layoff last April, makes her first start since coming up empty in the Rare Blend at Aqueduct on Nov. 5th. It's Mott and Desormeaux. **3 VANCY PANTS**, beaten 1 ½ lengths at this 1-mile distance in the aforementioned Grade 3 Appalachian last April, returns from the lengthy layoff for her new trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, who is 20% with the longer than 6-month layoff.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-7-3

NINTH RACE:

3 ONE CAROLINE is stretching out to 9 furlongs after keeping her record unblemished when she held sway, at even-money, to win the 1-mile Grade 3 Sabin here last out (4-4-0-0). Trainer Rusty Arnold II has her firing bullets for this assignment. **1 GINGER BREW**, beaten a head vs. the boys in the 10-furlong Queens Plate on the Woodbine Polytrack, makes only her second start on a traditional dirt surface after encountering trouble (boxed in) when beaten a length on the Tampa turf in the Grade 3 Endeavor.

6 STRIKING TOMISUE, stakes-placed at the distance in the 9-furlong Love Signal at Saratoga last August, stretches out after notching her second consecutive victory when she won the mile and a sixteenth \$65K Wayward Lass at Tampa last out. Trainer Nick Zito has Jermaine Bridgmohan going for the hat trick.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-6

TENTH RACE:

9 MYSTIC MIRACLE, part of an uncoupled entry from trainer Mark Hennig, is hoping for a clean trip after bumping at the start, and steadying in the stretch, when finishing fourth in a 'key' outing vs. similar that produced a pair of next-out winners. **10 POSNER GIRL**, the other entrant from Mark Hennig, drops into this high priced maiden event after stalking the pace and flattening out vs. maiden special weight competition at a mile. **11 COFFEE** drops to the \$80,000 level after setting the pace and fading vs. maiden special weight competition at 9 furlongs. Trainer Graham Motion, 26% with similar class drops, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle again. **3 SHESA BUD GIRL** will be outfitted with blinkers after making a subtle middle move and retreating in her maiden special weight turf debut at 9 furlongs. The recent string of bullet workouts, we assume with the blinkers added, indicates a much improved performance today.

SELECTIONS: 9-10-1-3

BEST BET: RACE 8 - 2 BELLE ALLURE

LONG SHOT: RACE 10 - 12 DAYANARA ROSE