

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

**FIRST RACE:**

**4 REGGAE ROSE** is hoping for a clean trip after an eventful career debut in which she bumped with the eventual winner at the start, steadied on the turn, and finished fourth at this level and distance. Trainer Brian Lynch, 22% with horses making their second start, has E T Baird in the saddle again. **2 MINISHAFT** is a daughter of Mineshaft who has trained consistently enough to be a major player in her career debut. Trainer James Jerkens has Edgar Prado handling the inside post. **3 SPECULATION** is turning back to 6 furlongs after breaking slowly, making what looked like a winning mid-race move, and tiring to finish eighth in her local debut at seven-eighths of a mile. **8 KIDDARI** is a daughter of Smarty Jones who has trained sharply at Payson Park in preparation for her career debut. Trainer Bill Mott adds Lasix and Julien Leparoux for this assignment.

**SELECTIONS: 4-2-3-8**

**SECOND RACE:**

**4 SNEAKY STEPHEN** moved to the Peter Walder barn via the claim after recovering from a bobbling start to win at this level and distance. Trainer Walder, 31% with new acquisitions to his barn, has John Velazquez named to ride. **9 MINIDROP** switches trainers but not barns when he goes from Dan Hurtak to Donna Green after notching his second consecutive victory at the meeting when he rallied 6-wide to win at this level and distance. Trainer Green has Kent Desormeaux going for the hat trick. **3 MOCORETA**, beaten a head by Minidrop at the distance here on Feb. 11th, stretches out after losing his best chance when he broke poorly vs. \$10,000 starter allowance competition at 5 ½ furlongs. **8 DIAMOND ISLE** moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via the claim after making a middle move and weakening to finish fifth behind Minidrop and Mocreata at the distance on Feb. 11th.

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

**THIRD RACE:**

**7 WEBCAST** is turning back to 7 furlongs with blinkers added after finishing a distant third behind impressive winner Alma d'Oro in a maiden special event at a mile. Trainer Eddie Kenneally, 22% with horses dropping from special weight to maiden claiming, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle. **9 ISLAND DRUMS**, a \$700K son of Tale Of The Cat, shows 10 Palm Meadows workouts in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez named to ride. **8 NEWPORT**, another from the Todd Pletcher barn, turns back to 7 furlongs on the dirt after setting the pace and tiring vs. maiden special weight competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Pletcher has Chris DeCarlo named to handle the combo dropdown/turn-

back/surface switch. **3 TACTICAL LIGHT** is shifting back to the dirt after a solid effort here vs. similar on the turf in which he finished a well-meant second at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Dave Brownlee has Alan Garcia handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 7-9-8-3**

**FOURTH RACE:**

**10 FLORENTINO** is turning back to a mile after a game outing vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth in which he broke awkwardly, rushed up to set the pace, and held on the finish second. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has Alan Garcia returning on the swift Japanese-bred son of Swept Overboard. **3 RESCUE SQUAD**, a half to multiple graded stakes-placed performer Criminologist, cuts back to 8 furlongs after closing to get beat a length in his local debut vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Shug McGaughey, 30% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Edgar Prado atop this major contender. **BRUCE N AUTUMN**, who proved his mettle on the turf when he defeated a pair of next-out winners in a maiden special weight test at Churchill on Nov. 26th, returns to the lawn after showing early interest and fading in a pair of 9-furlong outings on the dirt, including the sixth place finish in the Grade 3 Holy Bull here last out. **9 PIT ALLEY** steps up, and competes without blinkers, after threatening to defeat \$50,000 claimers in consecutive turf starts. Trainer Dale Capuano has Jeremy Rose named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 10-3-6-9**

**FIFTH RACE:**

**7 RIVER FANCY** drops, and turns back to 5 ½ furlongs on the dirt, after dueling for the lead and weakening to get beat 4 lengths vs. \$50,000 claimers at a mile on the turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez handling the turnback/surface switch. **4 LUCKY LIZA** is cutting back to 5 ½ furlongs after surrendering a 3-length lead to finish third vs. similar at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Scott Lake has jockey Jermaine Bridgmohan in the saddle again. **8 ELUSIVE APPEAL** is turning back slightly after setting the pace and finishing second best vs. \$25,000 starter allowance competition at 6 ½ furlongs on the Tampa main track. Trainer Kirk Ziadie, who won a 100 races last year, usually spots them where they can win. **1 HOPE FOR GOLD** and **1A SINGING ROSE** are a pair from the ultra competitive Wesley Ward barn. The former faces winners after defeating \$15,000 maidens at the distance while the latter makes her first start since defeating maiden special weight competition at Woodbine on July 10th.

**SELECTIONS: 7-4-8-1-1A**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**12 THERE ARE RAINBOWS** is stretching out to a mile after showing tons of promise when she rebounded from a slow start to finish a fast-closing third in front of a pair of next-out winners in her 5 ½-furlong career turf debut at Saratoga. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez atop the \$350K daughter of Dixieland Band. **11 LADY ZIEG** is a daughter of Touch Gold, and a half-sister to Ft. Lauderdale Stakes winner Classic Campaign, debuting for trainer Bill Mott with a steady Payson Park workout tab showing. Julien Leparoux rides. **3 SINGLE SOLUTION**, a half to Grade 1 & 2 stakes-placed turf performer Vacare, shifts to the turf after finishing a workman like seventh in her local debut at 7 furlongs on the main track. Trainer Ian Wilkes has Javier Castellano handling the surface change. **10 SMART TRADE** is a daughter of Smart Strike debuting on the grass for trainer Christophe Clement, and that should be more than enough to pique your interest.

**SELECTIONS: 12-11-3-10**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**3 CONSEQUENCE** is making her first-ever start on the dirt after winning 1 of 3 races on the turf, and finishing fourth - beaten a half-length - in the Grade 3 Miss Grillo at Belmont (Oct. 1). Trainer Shug McGaughey has John Velazquez handling the surface switch. **4 WAR KILL** has been firing bullets at Palm Meadows in preparation for the first race since breaking her maiden at Turfway on Dec. 3rd. Leading trainer Ken McPeck, 23% with horses winning consecutive races, has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle. **8 HONESTLY** is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after disputing the pace and tiring to finish fourth vs. entry-level allowance competition at Calder on Jan. 2nd. Trainer Marty Wolfson has Jermaine Bridgmohan atop the \$475K daughter of Yes It's True. **2 FRENCH DIP** will face winners after drawing clear to break her maiden here at first asking. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Jose Lezcano going for two in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-8-2**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**4 BLACKWATER LEGEND** is turning back to a sprint distance after a useful local turf outing at a mile in which he showed good early speed, steadied on the first turn, and was beaten only 3 ½ lengths. Trainer Eddie Kenneally, 42% with horses turning back in distance, and 30% overall with his turf sprinters, adds second-time Lasix for this event. **8 CRACK THE COGNAC** is an obvious choice to score after surrendering a late lead to get beat only three-quarters of a length in his most recent outing the distance. **6 NEW BELIEVER** is cutting back to five-eighths of a mile after stalking the action and retreating to finish sixth - beaten about 6 lengths - in a stamina tweaking performance vs. similar at 9 furlongs. Trainer Wesley Ward, 26% with his turf sprinters, has Rene Douglas at the helm. **1 JUST PLAYIN AROUND** is hoping to get a clean trip from the rail after getting bounced around between horses and beaten 2 lengths at the distance last out.

**SELECTIONS: 4-8-6-1**

**NINTH RACE: THE DAVONA DALE (G2)**

**4 FROLIC'S DREAM**, now in the Barclay Tagg barn, stretches out to a mile after notching her third career stakes victory when she used a strong middle move, and determination

during the stretch run, to win the 7-furlong Grade 2 Forward Gal here last out. **7 JUSTWHISTLEDIXIE** is stretching out to a 1-turn mile after notching her third consecutive score, and second stakes victory in a row, when she drew off under a vigorous hand ride to win the 6-furlong \$70K Ruthless on the Aqueduct inner track. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, 27% with horses stretching out in distance, has Alan Garcia in the saddle. **6 C. S. SILK**, a Grade 3 winner at the distance on the Arlington Polytrack, stretches out after a somewhat disappointing performance in the Forward Gal in which she showed early interest and faded. Trainer Dale Romans readied her for the rebound performance with a sharp half-mile drill over the track. **5 RENDA**, who won Monmouth's Jr. Championship at a mile last August, and the mile & 70-yard Brave Raj at Calder in September, stretches out after finishing a slow starting/late running second to Frolic's Dream in the Forward Gal.

**SELECTIONS: 4-7-6-5**

**TENTH RACE:**

**7 THOUGHTLESS MOMENT** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after a sharp North American debut at a mile in which she rallied to finish second to winning machine Flibberjibit. Trainer Christophe Clement, 30% with horses making the second after a 45-180 day layoff, adds second-time Lasix on the daughter of Pivotal. **1 B R'S GIRL**, who broke her maiden sprinting on the Santa Anita turf (Mar. '08), is back on the grass after a sharp return from a 6 ½-month layoff in which she drew off to defeat a money-allowance runners here at a mile on the main track. Trainer Marty Wolfson, 29% with horses winning consecutive races, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle again. **8 REMOULADE** is back in the southern part of the state after shipping up to Tampa to defeat entry-level allowance competition in her first race back from a 9-month layoff. Trainer Michael Matz has Alan Garcia in the saddle. **2 PASTEL GAL** was given ample time to recharge her batteries after rallying from far back to defeat allowance competition here at a mile (Jan. 4). Trainer Barclay Tagg has Jose Lezcano going for two in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 7-1-8-2**

**BEST BET: RACE 6 - 12 THERE ARE RAINBOWS**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 10 - 12 CHEROKEE QUEEN**

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