

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

**FIRST RACE:**

**4 TIME WILL** a 4-time winner last year when facing this caliber of competition, drops after facing tougher, on both turf and dirt, in her last four starts. Trainer Steve Standridge spots her perfectly in the opener. **3 HONORABLE TRUTH** will return to the main track after knocking heads with repeat winners Nikkiandme and Little B Rosson in consecutive route races on the turf. Trainer Greg Sacco has Julien Leparoux handling the combo surface switch/turnback.

**1 TAZALIYA**, a 4-time winner at this distance on the main track (11-4-2-2), shifts back to the dirt after stalking along the inside and tiring to get beat 5 lengths by red-hot multiple winner Nikkiandme on the grass last out. Trainer Dave Braddy has John Velazquez handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-1**

**SECOND RACE:**

**4 BELLA BELLA** should have the proverbial screws tightened after making a solid middle move and tiring to finish fourth vs. similar in her first start back from a 13-week freshening. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Edgar Prado in the saddle again.

**2 SUNRISE CRUISE** is stepping up the competition after posting the best last-race Beyer (63) when dueling for the lead and giving way grudgingly to get beat a half-length vs. \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimers at the distance.

**3 ARIEL BRIGHT** plunges into this \$20,000 'three-lifetime' event after facing stakes competition last spring and summer. Trainer Milt Wolfson readied her for the first start in 7 months with a bullet half-mile drill at Calder (Feb. 15th).

**7 LADY LORI**, ignored at the window when she defeated 'two-lifetime' claimers here on Jan. 23rd, and sent off at 18-1 when finishing third at this level and distance last out, belongs somewhere on the trifecta or superfecta ticket.

**SELECTIONS: 4-2-3-7**

**THIRD RACE:**

**8 AUTUMN ASH** plummets to the \$20,000 level on the dirt after setting the early pace and fading in her \$80,000 career debut at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer George Weaver has Eibar Coa penciled in for the return assignment. **2 RUNNIN ON SUNSHINE**, a good third vs. this caliber of competition in a 2-turn mile at Calder on Nov. 7th, returns to the main track after hitting the board in 1 of 2 recent route races on the turf. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr., 17% with the grass-to-dirt angle, spots the daughter of Exchange Rate perfectly vs. this caliber of opposition. **6 WHO PLAYS BRAHMS** is turning back to a 1-turn mile after surrendering

a late lead to finish second - beaten three-quarters of a length - vs. \$15,000 maidens at 9 furlongs. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Shannon Uske in the saddle. **10 SIG'S HAPPY DANCER** is cutting back to a mile after dueling with Who Plays Brahms for the lead and fading to finish a length behind her in their recent clash at a mile and an eighth.

**SELECTIONS: 8-2-6-10**

**FOURTH RACE:**

**6 STEPPEDOUTOFPLACE** is stepping up to the next logical level after keeping his record at the distance unblemished (3-3-0-0) when he notched his second consecutive turf victory vs. \$10,000 starter allowance competition.

**8 MECKE ME FREE** is stretching out to his best distance (7-4-0-0) after a solid local return at a mile in which he rallied from 10 lengths back to finish third - beaten 1 3/4 lengths as the favorite - vs. \$12,500 starter allowance foes.

**7 MUNITION** is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after making a 4-wide charge to finish third - beaten a couple of lengths - vs. \$25,000 claimers at a mile and an eighth. Cornelio Velazquez rides. **10 PERFECT ARRIVAL** is turning back to a distance where he has hit the board in 12 of 14 races (14-4-2-6) after failing to earn a check in his local debut vs. \$25,000 claimers at 9 furlongs. Trainer Phil Gleaves has Jose Lezcano in the saddle again.

**SELECTIONS: 6-8-7-10**

**FIFTH RACE:**

**6 PYRAMYST**, undefeated in three races at Gulfstream last year (3-3-0-0) makes her first start since she defeated \$12,500 starter allowance competition in a 2-turn mile & 70-yard affair at Calder. Trainer Peter Walder has John Velazquez handling the homecoming. **2 DOTTIE BOOTH** drops a notch, and cuts back to a 1-turn on the dirt, after closing to be fourth in consecutive route races on the turf. Trainer Mike Maker has go-to guy Julien Leparoux handling the surface switch. **7 IMELDA OH**, a well-meant second behind Pyramyst at Calder on Dec. 19th, returns to the main track after breaking slowly and failing to get untracked vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth on the grass. Trainer Bobby Hale has Manoel Cruz named to ride. **1 ILLUSTRATER** is stepping up the competition after hitting the board in five straight races (5-3-1-1) vs. \$6,250 types. Consistency is the name of the game.

**SELECTIONS: 6-2-7-1**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**11 PROMULGATION** drops, and turns back to a mile and a sixteenth, after getting beat 3 ½ lengths in her local debut vs. special weight competition at 12 furlongs. Note that trainer Graham Motion has a 29% win average with similar class drops. **7 SHOSHONE GIRL** drops a notch on the maiden scale after failing to hit the board for the first time in five turf races when she finished in fifth in her local debut at the \$35,000 level. **6 MAGNIFICENT TRUTH** is stretching out around 2-turns again after threatening to break her maiden vs. better in three consecutive turf sprints during her fall campaign on the New York/New Jersey circuit. Trainer Mark Hennig has Alan Garcia handling the stretchout.

**8 QUALQUIN** will give the turf another try after responding to both a drop in competition, and the addition of blinkers, with an improved second place finish vs. this caliber of opposition on the main track. Trainer Bobby Ribauda has Edgar Prado named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 11-7-6-8**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**6 WORKINONTHERAILROAD** is turning back to his best distance thus far (3-1-1-0) after rallying 3-wide to finish second vs. similar quality at 9 furlongs. The Beyer figure that he posted in his last race (79) makes him jump off the page in this spot. **2 DESERT FALCON** is facing winners after making a 4-wide charge to defeat \$25,000 maidens in his recent outing at the distance. Trainer Joe Orseno has Carlos Marquez Jr. atop the 5-year-old gelded son of Golden Missile. **7 MR GOLD PROSPECT** is stepping up, and stretching out, after a solid local debut vs. \$10,000 'two-lifetime' types in which he encountered trouble on the turn (checked) and was beaten a length at 6 furlongs. **1 UNLIMITEDCASH** is turning back after closing to finish a distant third behind Workinontherailroad in their recent race at 9 furlongs.

**SELECTIONS: 6-2-7-1**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**4 STRIKING DANCER** makes her sophomore debut the first start since she rallied to come within three-quarters of a length, as the favorite, of winning the \$57K Caressing Handicap on the Churchill turf (Nov. 29). Leading trainer Ken McPeck has leading jock Kent Desormeaux atop the daughter of Smart Strike. **1 EDEN'S STORM** is facing winners after a monster maiden victory on the Calder sod in which she recovered from a slow start to defeat a pair of next-out winners by 8 ¼ lengths. Trainer Christophe Clement adds second-time Lasix on the beautifully bred daughter of Stormy Atlantic. **12 BLUEGRASS PRINCESS**, third on a 'yielding' turf in an overnight stake at Belmont in October, returns to the grass after failing to show much on the dirt in the 9-furlong Grade 2 Demoiselle at Aqueduct.

Trainer Kieran McLaughlin has Alan Garcia returning on the \$285K daughter of Dynaformer. **7 SEMINOLE LASS** is stepping up after notching her second career victory when she rebounded from a poor showing behind Striking Dancer in the Caressing with a \$50,000 claiming victory here last out (6-2-1-0).

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-12-7**

**NINTH RACE:**

**6 MAMBO JUMBO** wheels back at the same distance after disputing the pace and giving way to finish third behind No Speed Limit, who defeated \$25,000 starter allowance competition here on Saturday (Race 8). **4 JUST JANE'S GIRL**, third vs. \$30,000 maidens in her career debut, drops after ending her freshman campaign with a chase-and-fade performance vs. \$50,000 types at Churchill. **12 CHARY** drops into the selling ranks after setting the early pace and fading vs. maiden special weight competition here at a mile (Jan. 4). Trainer Frank Brothers has Edgar Prado named to ride. **11 YOUCAN'TTEACHHEART** drops, and cuts back to a sprint on the dirt, after an eventful outing vs. better at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf in which she encountered trouble at the start (bumped, steadied) and was beaten only 3 ¼ lengths. Eibar Coa will handle the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 6-4-12-11**

**BEST BET: RACE 6 - 11 PROMULGATION**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 6 BAMBOLINA**

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