

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

**FIRST RACE:**

**2 SACRIFICE BUNT**, the only multiple winner at the distance (11-3-0-3) plunges to the \$15,500 level after ending his 2008 campaign with back-to-back fourth placed finishes vs. \$40,000 to \$50,000 claimers at Churchill. Trainer Mike Maker has go-to jock Julien Leparoux in the saddle. **4 NORTHERN ACADEMY** is stretching out to 9 furlongs again (2-0-1-0) after posting the best last-race Beyer (84) when finishing second vs. \$16,000 allowance optional claimers at a mile & 70 yards on the Calder main track. **3 READY IN THE MORN**, 10 for 13 'in the money' last year, moved to the Rasharn Creque barn via the claim after hitting the board vs. similar in a series of 1-turn races on the New York circuit. The son of More Than Ready is bred to respond favorably to a mile and an eighth.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-3**

**SECOND RACE:**

**4 LAWLESS FALLS** is stretching out to a mile after following her promising 6-furlong career debut at Churchill with another solid sprint outing here on Jan. 4. Trainer Tom Proctor has the daughter of Fusaichi Pegasus firing bullets at Tampa in preparation for the stretchout. **5 MAGICAL AFFAIR**, a \$1.5-million dollar daughter of Giant's Causeway, should be primed and ready to score after dueling for the lead and finishing second in her local debut at this level and distance, which was her first start back from an 8-week freshening. **3 DISCREET EMPIRE**, a half to Grade 1 winner Discreet Cat and Grade 1 stakes-placed Pretty Wild, has trained very nicely in preparation for her career debut. Trainer Stan Hough adds Lasix and Cornelio Velasquez for this assignment. **2 TOUCH OF CHARM**, a full sister to multiple stakes-placed performer Elusive Diva, has trained strongly at Payson Park in preparation for her career debut. Trainer Bill Mott has Ramon Dominguez named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-3-2**

**THIRD RACE:**

**4 TALETOBETOLD**, 8 for 13 'in the money' at 5 furlongs on the grass, who hails from a barn that boasts a 33% win average with turf sprinters, makes her first start since she was beaten a half-length, as the favorite, in the \$65K Lightning City at Tampa on Dec. 13th. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has John Velazquez named to ride. **2 JUST FOR KEEPS** a top-notch turf sprinter from the Mike Maker barn, makes her first start since she set the pace and weakened late to get beat 1 ½ lengths in the 1-mile \$100K Lady Canterbury on Aug. 2. Note that the mare runs well fresh. **10 JAZZY**, 7 for 7 'in the money' at the distance (7-3-3-1), was ultra game in defeat when she closed fast to come within a neck of winning the Lightning City upstate at Tampa. Note that the mare should sit another dream trip

behind the oodles of speed in the race. **8 BEAU DARE** is turning back to five-eighths of a mile (6-3-2-1) after setting the pace and fading in the \$100K mile and sixteenth Marshua's River. The sprint specialist has Cornelio Velasquez handling the turnback.

**SELECTIONS: 4-2-10-8**

**FOURTH RACE:**

**1 CAPE GIRL**, a winner of 4 of 5 races since she was claimed by Peter Walder for \$5,000, returns to the claiming ranks after defeating entry-level allowance runners at a mile and sixteenth on the Laurel main track (Nov. 5). **7 EVEN ROAD** will tussle with \$25,000 claimers at 7 ½ furlongs after posting speed figures good enough to defeat this group in a string of \$25,000 allowance optional claimers at Calder. Trainer Stan Ersoff has Eibar Coa at the controls. **4 BEST TIGRESS** and **3 BIANCO** are an uncouple pair from trainer Ed Plesa Jr. that merit consideration. The former shortens up to a 1-turn sprint after her 2-race win streak ended when she was beaten 2 lengths vs. similar in a 2-turn mile at Calder. The latter stretches out to 7 ½ furlongs after finishing a troubled second (lacked room) in a 5 ½-furlong sprint across town.

**SELECTIONS: 1-7-4-3**

**FIFTH RACE:**

**10 GOLDEN WEEKEND**, now in the Phil Serpe barn, turns back to a sprint, and wears blinkers, after showing early interest and fading vs. similar at a mile on opening day. Trainer Serpe readied the gelding for this abbreviated distance with back-to-back bullet workouts on the Palm Meadows turf. **2 BIG RED HOPE** will make his career turf debut after posting a 96 Beyer when finishing second vs. similar quality in his local debut at 6 ½ furlongs on the main track. Trainer Eddie Broome has Eibar Coa handling the surface switch. **9 CROWDED GENERAL** makes the first start since finishing a ground saving fourth behind Golden Weekend in a 6-furlong turf sprint at Belmont on Oct. 23. Trainer Dale Romans has Javier Castellano handling the rematch. **6 SOUTHERN TERMINUS**, who showed speed in his only previous turf race (April 19), returns from the extended lay-off, for new trainer Helen Pitts, with Julien Leparoux named to ride. The \$300K son of More Than Ready is bred to respond favorably to both the surface and the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 10-2-9-6**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**7 PRINCESS ALESIA** makes her local return the first start since she came within a scant neck of defeating \$6,250 'three-lifetime' claimers at 5 ½ furlongs on the Calder main track. Trainer Wesley Ward, winning races at a 42% rate, has Paco Lopez at the controls. **8 JENNY CAT** makes her first start since she drew clear with enthusiasm to defeat \$10,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at Calder. Trainer Tommy Heard Jr. has Pedro Monterrey Jr. returning on the consistent daughter of Adcat. **9 HOLY LAND** is stepping up to the next logical level after drawing away to defeat \$6,250 'two-lifetime' claimers, as the odds-on choice, by 12-plus lengths. Trainer Henry Collazo has Manoel Cruz going for two in a row. **3 MAIN STREET GIRL** is cutting back to 5 ½ furlongs after dueling for the lead and fading vs. similar in her local debut at three-quarters of a mile. She'll take them as far as she can.

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

**SEVENTH RACE: THE SUWANNEE RIVER (G3)**

**7 CALLWOOD DANCER** makes her local debut the first start since she closed along the inside to finish second behind next-out Sunshine Millions Filly & Mare Turf winner Wild Promises, and 2 lengths in front of next-out Marshua's River winner Waquoit's Love, in the Grade 3 My Charmer Handicap on Dec. 6. **3 WAQUOIT'S LOVE**, beaten three-quarters of a length in the 2008 Suwannee River, stretches out after holding on to win the mile and a sixteenth \$100K Marshua's River here last out. **5 BALLYMORE LADY**, a troubled fourth (steadied top of stretch) in the Marshua's River, is stretching out with the ideal closing style needed to capitalize on what should be a spirited pace scenario, especially if Drop a Line and Flibberjibit hook up early. **9 TEJIDA**, 3 for 3 'in the money' at 9 furlongs (3-2-1-0), stretches out after recovering from a slow start to defeat \$75,000 allowance optional claimers with a strong 5-wide rally.

**SELECTIONS: 7-3-5-9**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**6 BIKER BOY** makes his 4-year-old debut after going undefeated in his two races during 2008, which included the maiden special weight victory here last March 16, and a condition-skipping 'two-other-than' allowance score in the 'mud' at Churchill on May 16. Trainer Nick Zito, 4 for 16 (25%) with the longer than 180-day layoff, has John Velazquez handling the return. **7 JOPPA FLATS** is stretching out to his most accomplished distance (6-2-2-1) after making a strong 4-wide bid to get beat 1 ¼ lengths in his local return at three-quarters of a mile. Note that trainer Bobby Ribaldo is 4 for 10 (40%) with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff. **1 SONG SHAN**, a half to Stronach Stables super stars Awesome Again and Macho Uno, makes his first start since his strong 2008 campaign here in which he won 2 of 3 races. Trainer Brian Lynch teams with Edgar Prado. **8 WICKED B. HAVIOR**, now in the Barclay Tagg barn, hasn't been seen since he posted back-to-back victories at Meadowlands in 2006. The William Schettino homebred is working strongly for his first race in 27 months.

**SELECTIONS: 6-7-1-8**

**NINTH RACE: THE GULFSTREAM PARK TURF HANDICAP (G1)**

**4 COURT VISION** is back on the east coast after shipping to California to win the Grade 1 Hollywood Park Derby, a race in which second place finisher Cowboy Cal won the Grade 1 San Pascual in his next start, and unplaced Gio Ponti won the Grade 3 Sir Beaufort in his next race. **8 KIP DEVILLE**, the 2007 Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Mile winner, has trained sharply in preparation for the first start since failing to handle the clockwise racing at Sha Tin in Hong Kong. Trainer Rick Dutrow puts the blinkers back for the stretchout to 9 furlongs. **5 RED ROCKS**, who shipped in from England to win the Grade 1 2006 Breeders' Cup Turf, returned to finish third in the 2007 edition, and then came back in July to win the Grade 1 Man O War at Belmont, turns back after failing to fire in the 2008 running of the 12-furlong Breeders' Cup Turf. **9 NERGA** is stretching out to one of his best distances (3-2-0-0) for the always-dangerous Christophe Clement barn. Kent Desormeaux rides.

**SELECTIONS: 4-8-5-9**

**TENTH RACE:**

**12 JUNE DAY**, a half to multiple Grade 1 winner Society Selections, has trained nicely in preparation for her career debut. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez handling the outside post (12). **10 REGGAE ROSE** is a Stronach Stables homebred daughter of Touch gold who is working consistently enough at Palm Meadows to be a major factor in her career debut. **11 SMART 'N SASSY** is hoping for a clean journey after stumbling soon after the start and finishing seventh and last in her Oct. 18 career debut at Delaware. Trainer Michael Matz, who has another daughter of Smarty Jones in the race (Artisan), has Alan Garcia atop this half of the uncoupled entry. **2 WINNIE'S SMOKER**, a daughter of Smoke Glacken, debuts for trainer Dale Romans with Kent Desormeaux named to ride. Tab the tote action for more clues about her readiness to win at first asking.

**SELECTIONS: 12-10-11-2**

**BEST BET: RACE 1 - 2 SACRIFICE BUNT**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 7 - 8 MUSKA**

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