

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

#### FIRST RACE:

**1 WALKER'S BEACH** is a daughter of Dixieland Band who couldn't have scripted an easier spot to start her career. Trainer Tony Reinstedler has the 4-year-old training consistently over the track. **8 MACGRAEME** is stretching out to 7 ½ furlongs after breaking slowly, steadying on the backstretch, and finishing fourth in her local debut vs. similar at 5 ½ furlongs. **7 GRANDEZA** will race without blinkers after an eventful outing from the rail in which she broke slow, rushed up to stalk the pace, and checked at the 1/8th pole when tiring from her earlier efforts. **2 NURSE GIGOLO** will race without blinkers in the first start since finishing third vs. similar quality at Calder during November and December. Trainer Wellesley Charoo has colorful jock W G De'Oliveira handling the closer.

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

#### SECOND RACE:

**5 KISSING CODE** is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after responding to the addition of Lasix with a second place finish behind class-dropper I'm It Wayne at 5 ½ furlongs. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Shannon Uske penciled in for the return assignment. **6 HOPEFORTHEBEST** is dropping into this \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimer after stalking the pace and fading to finish a distant fourth vs. multiple winners in a \$35,000 claimer at a mile. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Paco Lopez in the irons. **4 CALABRIA** moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via the claim after finishing a troubled third (steadied backstretch) behind Kissin Code last out. The new connections name Jose Lezcano to ride. **1A ANDREW HALL**, part of a Henry Collazo entry, returns to the main track after failing to show much vs. \$40,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at a mile on the Calder turf. The gelding may have tipped his hand with the recent bullet 3-furlong drill at Calder in :36 & 2.

**SELECTIONS: 5-6-4-1A**

#### THIRD RACE:

**4 CHOICE PLAY** makes her first start since finishing a troubled second (traffic upper stretch) - beaten only a head - in her Churchill Downs finale at this level and distance. **9 HALLOWEEN DANCE**, a 5-year-old daughter of Awesome Again, makes her first start since showing promise on turf and Polytrack during her 2-race summer campaign at Woodbine. Trainer Brian Lynch, 41% with the 61-180 day layoff, has Rene Douglas in the saddle. **5 KEEPIN COMPANY** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after a

useful local debut with first-time Lasix in which she stalked the pace and finished a distant fourth. Trainer Allen Jerkens readied the daughter of Mineshaft for the stretchout with a bullet 3-furlong drill over the track. **1 PERFECT EMPIRE** makes her first start since rallying to finish third in front of a pair of next-out winners in a mile and a sixteenth maiden test at the Meadowlands (Oct. 23).

**SELECTIONS: 4-9-5-1**

#### FOURTH RACE:

**2 METAL JACKET** is stretching out to a mile after getting shot down at the wire when beaten a head by Lincoln's Bullet in his local debut at 6 furlongs. Trainer Peter Walder, 26% with horses stretching out in distance, has John Velazquez in the saddle again. **11 BRUNO'S A BITER** is hoping to make amends after stalking 3-wide and finishing third, as the favorite, in his local debut at this level and distance. **9 PICK OFF** will face winners at 8 furlongs after drawing away to defeat \$15,000 maidens in his local debut at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Nick Zito has Julien Leparoux going for two in a row. **7 HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE** is a candidate to rebound after following a respectable third place finish in his local debut at the distance with a chase-and-fade performance in another 'two-lifetime' claimer at 6 furlongs. Trainer Rebecca Maker has Manoel Cruz handling the stretchout.

**SELECTIONS: 2-11-9-7**

#### FIFTH RACE:

**10 GRAN ESTRENO** is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after stalking the action and finishing third vs. similar at 9 furlongs. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Edgar Prado in the saddle again. **2 DRIVINGMAXANDMITZI** moved to the Peter Walder barn via the claim after his 3-race win streak ended when he faded to finish fifth behind Gran Estreno at a mile and an eighth. Trainer Walder, 30% with new claims, has John Velazquez handling the gelding at his preferred distance (11-6-1-2). **8 LEADWITHYOURCHIN** should be ready to offer more after closing to finish fourth - a half-length behind Gran Estreno last out. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Paco Lopez in the saddle. **6 TIGER WOODMAN** is plummeting to the \$25,000 level in the first start since facing stakes competition at Arlington during June and July. Note that trainer Rusty Arnold Jr. is 6 for 16 (38%) with the longer than 180-day layoff.

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

**SIXTH RACE:**

**10 MELLOW JOHNNY** drops to the \$15,000 level on the dirt after encountering double-trouble (bumped start, in tight on turn) in his local debut vs. \$35,000 maidens on the turf. **8 FREDRO** is a son of Three Wonders who has trained efficiently enough to be a factor in his career debut. Trainer Rich Arnold Jr. has Manny Aguilar in the saddle.

**9 FORMAL DEPUTY** is hoping for a clean trip at 6 ½ furlongs after steadying on the backstretch and getting beat double-digit lengths vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Henry Collazo teams with Eduardo Nunez. **5 WOULD AND COULD**, who couldn't handle a mile in his local debut, lures the services of Cornelio Velasquez when he cuts back to 6 ½ furlongs. Note that trainer Bill White has a 35% average with horses turning back in distance.

**SELECTIONS: 10-8-9-5**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**10 SHOW ME THE CASH**, Grade 3 stakes-placed on the turf in the Pilgrim at Belmont (Oct. 1), drops to the \$50,000 level after a troubled trip in the \$100K Dania Beach in which he stumbled at the start, and was forced to take up sharply on the turn. Trainer Tim Ritvo tabs Edgar Prado to ride as Rene Douglas sticks with **2 PAMPERED KING**. The son of Kingmambo stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after recovering from a slow start to come within three-quarters of a length of defeating similar at a mile. **6 PIT ALLEY** was game in defeat when he made a 3-wide bid, at 20-1, to finish only a head behind Pampered King last out. Trainer Dale Capuano has Javier Castellano in the saddle again.

**7 SCHLEPROCK** will face winners after drawing clear with enthusiasm to defeat \$40,000 maidens here at the distance. Trainer David Fawkes has Eibar Coa going for two in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 10-2-6-7**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**3 FORMIDABLE**, a half to Grade 2 stakes-placed runners Medallist and Air Commander, makes his allowance debut after drawing clear impressively to break his maiden here by 4 ½-lengths. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Jose Lezcano returning on the son of Sky Mesa. **5 VACATION**, who has a disturbing habit of finishing second or third (14-1-4-6), turns back to 7 furlongs after coming within a nose of winning the \$74K Pass The Tab on a 'good' Aqueduct main track (Nov. 16). Trainer Shug McGaughey has John Velazquez atop the son of Dynaformer, who is a half to Grade 1 stakes-placed Boca Grande. **1 MARIA'S CHARM** makes his first start since showing a fondness for Gulfstream last year when he followed his 7-furlong maiden victory on Jan. 28th with a length defeat vs. entry-level allowance competition at a mile (Mar. 17th). Trainer Carl Nafzger has the 5-year-old training

sharply at Palm Meadows in preparation for his first start in 11 months. **4 LORD LION**, a half to multiple stakes winners City Zip and Ghostzapper, makes his first start since breaking his maiden here at first asking 362 days ago. Trainer Brain Lynch has the son of Mr. Greeley training sharply for the return.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-1-4**

**NINTH RACE:**

**4 MIKOSHI** is cutting back to a mile after coming within a head, at 34-1, of winning his career turf debut here at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Michael Matz has Jose Lezcano in the irons. **7 SWEAT SHOP** makes his first start since he rallied wide to come within a length of exiting the maiden ranks at a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf (Nov. 22). Trainer Rick Violette Jr., 20% with the 61-180 day layoff, has Cornelio Velasquez returning on the son of Grand Slam. **6 BARYSHNIKOV** makes his sophomore debut after rallying to finish second on both turf and dirt in his brief 2-race 2-year-old campaign. Trainer Bill Mott, who has two in the race (Stroll For Acure), has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle again. **1 SLEEPLESS KNIGHT** shows a series of sharp workouts on the Palm Meadows turf in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Kelly Breen, 23% with his first-time starters, has John Velazquez at the helm.

**SELECTIONS: 4-7-6-1**

**BEST BET: RACE 3 - 4 CHOICE PLAY**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 7 - 9 TRIPOFALIFETIME**

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