

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

8 EUROPE, a \$2.6-million dollar son of Unbridled's Song, who is a half to Grade 2 Richter Scale Handicap winner Half Ours, debuts for trainer Todd Pletcher with high expectations. The colt, working consistently at Palm Meadows, starts his campaign with Lasix added. **5 MISSION GAP** makes his sophomore debut after a useful career debut at Churchill in a 'key' 6 ½-furlong maiden test that produced next-out winners Captain Cherokee and ultra impressive local winner Alma d'Oro. Trainer Dale Romans has Rene Douglas in the saddle. **6 STORM'N WARRIOR** will shift to the dirt after dueling for the lead and giving way to finish third - beaten 3 ½ lengths - in his 5-furlong career turf debut. Trainer David Fawkes has 5-pound apprentice Jose Ortiz handling the surface switch. **9 PRESTO CHANGE O** will race with blinkers after clipping heels and dumping the rider in his 6-furlong career debut here. Trainer James Jerkens, 25% with horses making their second start, has Alan Garcia named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 8-5-6-9

SECOND RACE:

5 KEEP THE PEACE will face 'three-lifetime' allowance competition after a frustrating sophomore campaign vs. graded stakes competition in which she was beaten a nose here in the Grade 2 Forward Gal, finished fourth in the Grade 2 Beaumont at Keeneland, beaten a neck in the Grade 3 La Troiene, and a half-length in the Grade 3 Dogwood at Churchill. **3 CAMARA OCULTA** is turning back to 6 furlongs after posting her lifetime best Beyer (89) when finishing second vs. allowance competition at seven-eighths of a mile. Trainer Marty Wolfson, who has two in the race (Pious Ashley), has Jermaine Bridgmohan in the saddle. **4 VALIDAIN**, now in the Brian Lynch barn, makes her first start since using all her speed to defeat first-level allowance runners here last March 24th. Note that trainer Lynch has a 27% win average with new acquisitions to his shedrow.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-4

THIRD RACE:

3 MANITOWISH WATERS, who was competitive with stakes caliber competition during 2007, including Cowboy Cal, Adriano, and Titan Of Industry, turns back to a mile after a very useful return from a 15-month layoff in which he finished fifth - beaten 1 ½ lengths at a mile and a sixteenth. **6 ROMAN SILVER** is stepping up the competition after recovering from a mugging at the start (jammed back) to come within a half-length of defeating \$50,000 maidens here at the distance. Trainer Tom Albertrani has Edgar Prado in the saddle again. **10 UNACCOUNTABLE** is stepping up after posting

the best last-race Beyer figure (80) when beaten a half-length in his local debut vs. \$40,000 maidens. Trainer Chad Brown has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **2 EXCESS CAPITAL** is stretching out around 2-turns on the turf after making a 4-wide bid to finish third behind very impressive repeat winner Formidable in a 'key' 6-furlong maiden test on the dirt. Trainer Mark Hennig has Eibar Coa handling the surface change.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-10-2

FOURTH RACE:

2 STORMY LAKE drops into this \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimer on the dirt after following her \$30,000 maiden score on the main track with a troubled (steadied entering turn) sixth place finish vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' types at 5 furlongs on the turf. Leading trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle again. **8 BLOOD DIAMONDS** is hoping to show more on the dirt after finishing three-quarters of a length behind Stormy Lake when they hooked up on the grass last out. **5 SKIP THE DEPOSIT** is back vs. 'two-lifetime' foes after skipping a condition and finishing second vs. "three-lifetime" competition at the distance last out. **3 TRIPPIN' EASY** moved to the Anthony Pecoraro barn via the claim after finishing second to repeat winner Itobe in a "two-lifetime" claimer at 5 ½ furlongs. The new connections have Cornelio Velasquez handling the mini stretchout.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-5-3

FIFTH RACE:

2 REV IT UP RHONDA moved to the Diane Alvarado barn via the claim after rallying to finish a well-meant second in her local turf debut vs. \$50,000 claimers at the distance. The new connections tab Paco Lopez to ride. **10 CAUGHTNTHEMOMENT**, second to Rev It Rhonda when they competed at this distance on the Calder turf (Nov. 30), returns to the lawn after finishing sixth on the Tampa main track in the \$65K Gasparilla. Trainer George Mikhalides has Juan Leyva at the helm. **7 TAVATA** is stretching out around 2-turns after dueling for the lead and finishing second vs. \$50,000 allowance optional claimers at 5 furlongs on the Tampa sod. Trainer Mario Morales has Alan Garcia handling the stretchout. **9 WILD AWAKE** will face winners after closing from far back to break her maiden here vs. \$40,000 maidens at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Barclay Tagg, 22% with horses winning back-to-back races, has go-to jock Eibar Coa at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 2-10-7-9

SIXTH RACE:

4 NO DETOUR has been training up a storm in preparation for the first race since he stumbled at the start, was rushed up to duel for the lead, and faded to finish a distant sixth behind impressive winner Alma d'Oro. Trainer Mike Maker has Julien Leparoux in the saddle again. **11 FLYING WARRIOR** is turning back to a 1-turn mile on the dirt after pressing the pace and tiring to finish sixth when blinkers were added for his local turf debut at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Bill Mott has Kent Desormeaux handling the surface switch.

7 JUST A COINCIDENCE is stretching out to a mile after an eventful local debut at three-quarters of a mile in which he bumped at the start and backstretch prior to finishing fourth vs. similar. Trainer Nick Zito has Paco Lopez in the saddle.

6 SINGLE MALT is eligible to score in his second career start after closing from far back to finish third at this level and distance. Note that trainer Phil Serpe has a 24% win average, with an \$8.24 return of investment, with horses making their second start.

SELECTIONS: 4-11-7-6

SEVENTH RACE:

8 IN CLASSIC FASHION drops into this \$20,000 claimer after posting the best last-race Beyer (83) when setting the pace and tiring to get beat 4 lengths vs. money-allowance competition at the distance. Trainer Jessica Campitelli has E T Baird returning on the speedster. **2 NOTE TO HARRY** is stretching out to a mile after rallying to finish second vs. \$16,000 starter allowance runners at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Ralph Ziadie has Javier Santiago at the controls. **3 SHANCLIF** is a consistent turf performer who just can't seem to find a way to the winner's circle. The son of Maria's Mon, looking for his first victory since 2007 (9 races) is back in South Florida after dueling for the lead and weakening to finish fourth vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth on the Tampa turf. **12 MASCOT** is stretching out to his most accomplished distance (10-4-3-1) after finishing a willing fourth - a nose and a head behind Note To Harry in their recent outing at 7 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 8-2-3-12

EIGHTH RACE:

1 GREEDY DEBBY and **1A NO SPEED LIMIT** are a complimentary pair from trainer Wesley Ward. The former turns back to a sprint on the dirt after dueling for the lead and faltering vs. \$45,000 claimers at a mile on the turf while the latter faces these multiple winners after posting the best last-race Beyer (86) when defeating \$25,000 maidens. Note that Ward is 29% with the turf-to-dirt move, and 27% with horses winning consecutive races. **3 SERENITY GIRL** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after setting the pace and getting caught late vs. similar at 6 ½ furlongs. **6 TASHIDA** is hoping for a clean trip after following a \$25,000 claiming victory here on Jan. 9th with a troubled third place finish (tight quarters) behind Serenity Girl last out. **9 SWING MUSIC**, one of two 4-time winners in the field (13-4-5-0), should see the same early pace scenario that afforded her the 'come-from-behind' victory at the distance last out. Jockey Eduardo Nunez handles her perfectly.

SELECTIONS: 1-1A-3-6-9

NINTH RACE: THE MAC DIARMIDA (G2) - Rail Set At 0 Feet

3 SPICE ROUTE, a Grade 1 stakes-placed son of King's Best, is stretching out to 11 furlongs after closing strongly to win the 9-furlong Grade 3 Tropical Turf Handicap at Calder last out. Note that the gelding should sit an ideal trip behind the speed, which includes **12 PRESIOUS PASSION**. The classy gelding, who won the 12-furlong Grade 3 Pan Am here last year, won the Grade 11-furlong 1 United Nations at Monmouth in July, and the 12-furlong Grade 2 McKnight at Calder in December, stretches out after getting caught late at Santa Anita in the 9-furlong Sunshine Millions Turf. He needs to stay out of a duel with Finallymadeit to offer his best.

6 ALWAYS FIRST debuts locally for trainer Tommy Voss after rallying from far back to finish third behind Presious Passion in the McKnight. Rene Douglas rides. **4 SUMMER PATRIOT** is hoping to recapture the form he displayed winning the 13-furlong Johns Call at Saratoga after failing to reel in Breeders' Cup winner Kip Deville in the 9-furlong Grade 1 Gulfstream Park Turf Handicap.

SELECTIONS: 3-12-6-4

TENTH RACE:

5 SANTANA SIX is stretching out to a mile after running into a buzz saw named Dunkirk and finishing second to him in their respective 7-furlong career debuts. Trainer Nick Zito tabs John Velazquez to ride. **4 BERRY BERRY BUENO** shows back-to-back bullet workouts in preparation for the first start since posting the best last-race figure (73) when finishing a promising fourth in his 6 ½-furlong career debut here on Jan. 14th. **3 SPANISH FORTUNE** is stretching out to a mile after closing to finish third behind Dunkirk and Santana Six last out. Trainer Christophe Clement has Alan Garcia in the saddle.

1 EAGLE POISE, a son of Empire Maker, trained by Bobby Frankel, gets the services of jockey Julien Leparoux for his career debut. Note that the colt has trained beautifully over the track.

SELECTIONS: 5-4-3-1

BEST BET: RACE 6 - 4 NO DETOUR

LONG SHOT: RACE 9 - 7 SLAMBINO

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