

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

6 STORMY LAKE drops into this \$30,000 maiden test, and turns back to 5 ½ furlongs, after dueling for the lead and fading to finish fifth vs. maiden special weight company in a 1-turn mile at Churchill on Nov. 28. Leading trainer Ken McPeck readied the daughter of Salt Lake for this abbreviated distance with near-bullet half-mile drill. **5 SOPHISTICATED LASS** drops, turns back, and moves back to the dirt, after stalking the action and fading to finish seventh vs. maiden special weight foes at a mile on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Tim Ritvo has Eibar Coa named on the daughter of Halo's Image. **4 GYPSY CHIMES** will shift her focus to the dirt after finishing a workman-like third vs. maiden-allowance competition at five-eighths on the grass.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-4

SECOND RACE:

5 OUR HONOR is trying seven-eighths of a mile on the dirt after notching his second consecutive victory when he defeat entry-level allowance competition at 5 furlongs on the Monmouth turf (Sept. 25). Trainer Jason Servis, 25% with the 61-180 day layoff, and 23% with the turf-to-dirt move, has Kent Desormeaux named on the son of Double Honor. **7 ODE TO ROY**, 4 for 4 'in the money' at Gulfstream, returns after a couple of sharp sprint outings vs. \$16,000 types at Calder. The concern is his penchant for finishing second or third at seven-eighths of a mile (6-0-4-1). **1 BY SPOT** will try a traditional dirt surface after hitting the board in 4 of 9 starts on either synthetic or turf surfaces in California. Trainer Eduardo Caramori, 3 for 8 (38%) with horses going from a route to a sprint, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle. **2 REPENTHOUSE** stretches out after his 2-race win streak ended when he finished fourth at 6 ½ furlongs vs. \$16,000 allowance optional claimers at Calder.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-1-2

THIRD RACE:

9 JEHAN is turning back to 5 furlongs on the turf after setting the pace and finishing second in the mud at Churchill, and second on the Polytrack at Turfway. The daughter of Forest Wildcat, who is bred to respond favorably to the surface switch, has Kent Desormeaux handling the grass debut. **11 TRIPPLE ZIP** debuts locally after a promising turf performance at the distance in which she broke from a tough post (10) and finished a willing fourth - beaten only three-quarters of a length.

2 CASSIE'S BOOT, bred for the turf, the daughter of Storm Boot shows back-to-back bullet workouts in preparation for the first start since she dueled for the lead and finished third in her 6-

furlong career debut on the dirt. Trainer Jose Pinchin has hot-jock Elvis Trujillo handling the surface switch. **10 CELEBRATING LOVE**, a daughter of superstar turf sire War Chant, makes her career debut with a series of useful Payson Park workouts showing. Trainer Bill Mott teams with jockey Alan Garcia.

SELECTIONS: 9-11-2-10

FOURTH RACE:

5 AUSTIN LAVIVA BABY is stretching out to 7 furlongs (2-1-0-1) after encountering trouble on the backstretch (steadied) when finishing third vs. money-allowance competition just 6 days ago. **7 PARADISE DANCER**, 8 for 8 'in the money' at the distance (8-4-2-2), stretches out after blowing the doors off the competition in a 6-furlong \$25,000 allowance optional claimer at Calder. The 9-year-old son of Langfuhr, who was a Grade 3 winner at age 7, has Jose Lezcano at the controls. **2 CUBA** drops into a competitive spot after failing to menace in the Grade 3 Hal's Hope Handicap on opening day. Note that the last time the 8-year-old turned back from 8 to 7 furlongs he defeated this level of competition here last April. **3 DIAMOND ISLE** makes his first start since using his pushbutton speed to defeat \$20,000 claimers in a 1-turn mile at Aqueduct. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Edgar Prado in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-2-3

FIFTH RACE:

7 MR. O'TOOLE is turning back to 6 ½ furlongs on the dirt after setting the pace and faltering when facing maiden special weight competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Bill Mott, strong with horses dropping in class (38%), has Alan Garcia handling the combo turf-to-dirt/route-to-sprint move.

10 CHAPEL RUN is another dropping, and turning back to a sprint on the dirt, after dueling early and weakening late to finish fourth vs. maiden special weight competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Bill White has the colt firing bullets at Calder in preparation for this assignment.

4 WHITE BALANCE will make his first start on a dirt surface after a 4-race campaign on the Woodbine Polytrack, including the recent third place finish, as the favorite, vs. \$32,000 maidens at the distance. **11 CHAMP DE MARS** drops into the claiming ranks after a useful outing vs. maiden special weight foes in which he rallied late to finish fifth. The stretchout from 6 to 7 furlongs should help the son of Jump Start.

SELECTIONS: 7-10-4-11

SIXTH RACE:

6 HOUSE QUEST takes full advantage of the conditions in this \$10,000 starter allowance, when she makes her first start since following a respectable fourth in the 6-furlong Xtra Heat Handicap with a length defeat vs. \$35,000 claimers at a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct green stuff. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr., who claimed her last out, has Edgar Prado in the saddle. **7 SNICKLEBRITCHES** is dropping into a competitive situation after ending her productive 2008 campaign with a couple of respectable performances on the Laurel turf vs. entry-level allowance competition. **2 GATOR'S TRACKS**, makes her first start of the year after an interesting series of races in which she won a race, took a couple of months, returned to win again, then goes back to the sidelines, and returns to win another. It's hard to find fault with her start/stop 2008 campaign. **4 QUEENLY LUCK**, 10 for 24 'in the money' on the turf, returns for the always-dangerous Peter Walder barn. Jose Lezcano rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-2-4

SEVENTH RACE:

12 SWIFT TEMPER, graded stakes-placed in a pair at a mile, turns back to 7 furlongs for the first time after dueling for the lead and weakening to finish fourth in the 9-furlong Grade 2 Fall City Handicap at Churchill. Trainer Dale Romans readied her for this assignment with a bullet 5-furlong drill in :59 & 3. **4 UNFOLDING WISH** is stretching out to seven-eighths of a mile after following a couple of solid performances vs. stakes competition on the turf with a 4-wide fourth - beaten 1 1/2 lengths - in a 6-furlong overnight stake on the Aqueduct main track. **5 SO GLITZY** will try to flaunt her class at 7 furlongs after following a third place finish in the 9-furlong Grade 3 Turnback The Alarm with a late-striding fourth, at 51-1, in the 1-mile Grade 2 Top Flight Handicap. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Javier Castellano in the saddle. **7 STORMIN MON**, 1 of 2 from trainer Marty Wolfson (Indy's Alexandra), stretches out after closing to finish second vs. similar quality in her Calder finale at 6 1/2 furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 12-4-5-7

EIGHTH RACE: THE DANIA BEACH

9 KOPITAR looks more than ready to join the big leagues after following his debut maiden win with an even more impressive 'two-lifetime' allowance victory on the Churchill turf. The gelded son of Military has done nothing wrong yet (2-2-0-0). **4 DUKE OF HOMBERG**, a sprint winner on the turf in France, turns back to a mile after a couple of respectable mile and a sixteenth outings on a 'yielding' Belmont course in which he finished fourth in the Grade 3 Pilgrim, and third in the \$76K I Take It All. **12 SMART SHOT**, who broke his maiden at this distance in his career debut, turns back after closing to finish second in the mile and a sixteenth \$75K Grand Canyon at Churchill. Trainer Mike Trombetta teams with jockey Eibar Coa. **14 JACK SPRATT**, who finished a head behind Smart Shot in the Grand Canyon, will need deft handling to overcome the pitfalls associated with the tough outside post (14). Julien Leparoux is the man you want at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 9-4-12-14

NINTH RACE: THE MR. PROSPECTOR HANDICAP (G3)

4 BLACK SEVENTEEN, who shipped east to win the 6-furlong Grade 1 Vosburgh in September, returns after following his stalk-and-tire performance in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Sprint with a duel-and-weaken-late third place finish on the Pro-ride surface at Santa Anita in the Grade 3 El Conejo Handicap. **6 HE'S SO CHIC** drops 9 pounds after toting 127 when closing to finish second in the Fall Highweight Championship at Aqueduct, in which he received a 109 Beyer for his impressive performance. **5 IKIGAI** is stretching out to 6 furlongs after getting back to the winners circle in a big way when he drew off to win a 5-furlong money-allowance at Calder, in which he posted a 107 Beyer. Note that trainer Marty Wolfson has a 30% average with horses winning consecutive races.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-5

TENTH RACE:

10 LOVAMOR drops back in for an \$80,000 tag after following a third place finish vs. this caliber of competition at Saratoga with another third place showing vs. maiden special weight types at Delaware. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez handling her 3-year-old debut. **9 MAC SPEED**, who finished second in front of Lovamor at Delaware, debuts locally for trainer Kathleen O'Connell after coming within a nose of exiting the maiden ranks on the Laurel turf (Oct. 18). The new connections have Jose Rivera II handling the rematch. **12 SKY CAP**, a half to Calder Oaks winner Cozzi Capital, drops in for this high priced tag after finishing a distant third in her ambitious mile and a sixteenth career turf debut, a race that has produced a couple of next-out winners. **2 BEVY** is stretching out around two turns after threatening to break her maiden in consecutive sprints on the Laurel turf. Trainer Graham Motion has a 20% win average with horses stretching out in distance.

SELECTIONS: 10-9-12-2

BEST BET: RACE 6 - 6 HOUSE QUEST

LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 7 - BEACON HILL ROAD

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