

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

8 FLINT MOUNTAIN, who added credence to the horse-for-course theory when he won of the fifth time in nine local starts when he held on gamely to defeat \$6,250 claimers at 6 ½ furlongs. Note that the gelding is 9 for 15 'in the money' at the distance. **2 CRUZATTE** is cutting back to a mile after using his pushbutton speed to defeat \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimers at 9 furlongs. Trainer Kerry Zavash has suddenly hot jock Junior Alvarado atop the son of Cozzene.

5 B L'S PAPA COO COO is stretching out to a mile after drawing clear to defeat \$10,000 'three-lifetime' types at 7 furlongs. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Eduardo Nunez at the controls. **7 I'VE REPENTED** has his claiming tag sliced in half after failing to earn a check in a 'key' \$20,000 claimer at the distance that produced next-out winners Mystery Prospect, High Brass, and Sneaky Stephen.

SELECTIONS: 8-2-5-7

SECOND RACE:

8 R LITTLE NUGGET will face winners after recovering from early trouble (steadied) to defeat \$15,000 maidens by 6 ¾ lengths. Trainer Larry Rivelli has E T Baird going for two in a row. **4 B L'S NOISE** is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after breaking from Post 10, setting the pace, and fading to finish fourth vs. similar at 5 ½ furlongs on Jan. 22nd. Trainer Peter Walder, 29% with the 31-60 day layoff, readied the colt for this assignment with a bullet half-mile drill on Feb. 28th. **2 HOPEFORTHEBEST** is turning back to 6 furlongs after finishing second to repeat winner Calabria at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **1 MYMAMACANMAMBO** will depart from the rail after closing to finish third behind Calabria and Hopeforthebest last out.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-2-1

THIRD RACE:

3 ROCKETING RETURNS is returning to the allowance ranks after his 2-race win streak ended when he pressed the pace and tired to finish fifth in the ultra competitive Grade 2 Hutcheson Stakes. Trainer Nick Zito, winning races in bunches lately has Joe Bravo in the saddle.

6 ECHO IN ETERNITY, now in the Todd Pletcher barn, shifts to the dirt after recovering from a bumping incident at the start to break his maiden on the turf while in the Ken McPeck barn. Trainer Pletcher keeps the status quo with Kent Desormeaux at the controls. **4 SABI SABI** is cutting back to 7 furlongs on a traditional dirt surface after closing from far back to finish second on a synthetic strip in the mile and a sixteenth OBS Championship. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Jose Lezcano handling the turnback.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-4

FOURTH RACE:

4 LORD ROBYN drops \$10,000 on the claiming scale after encountering traffic on the turn (lacked room) and finishing fourth - beaten 2 ½ lengths - vs. \$35,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Eibar Coa in the saddle again. **7 POSSETOTHEMAX** gets some major class relief after following an impressive \$16,000 allowance optional claiming score at 5 furlongs on the Calder turf with a late-striding eighth - beaten 3 ¼ lengths - vs. \$62,000 optional claimers here last out. **3 EXCHANGING KISSES**, a very consistent turf sprinter vs. similar on the New York circuit, turns back to five-eighths of a mile after encountering early trouble (broke slowly, steadied first turn) and finishing tenth - beaten 5 ¾ lengths - vs. \$35,000 claimers at a mile.

10 THAT'S MY MAN is hoping to save a little more for the stretch drive after setting the pace and weakening late to finish third vs. similar last out. Trainer Gillian Andreasen has journeyman Abdiel Toribio in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-3-10

FIFTH RACE:

2 GATORETTE is stretching out to 7 ½ furlongs after an impressive first-out maiden victory at three-quarters of a mile in which she drew off to win by 7 ¼ lengths. Trainer David Fawkes has Eibar Coa in the saddle. **4 PASSION DU COEUR**, now in the Todd Pletcher barn, makes her first start since dueling for the lead and weakening to finish third in front of a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' 1-mile allowance test at Churchill (Nov. 29th). **5 GOLDEN MYSTERY**, who was very impressive breaking her maiden here at first asking on Jan. 15th, is back in South Florida after getting beat 2 ½ lengths in the 6-furlong OBS Sprint. Trainer Jose Pinchin has Elvis Trujillo handling the synthetic-to-dirt move.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-5

SIXTH RACE:

9 TIGER WITH A T is hoping to make amends after setting the pace and just getting nipped at the wire at this level and distance last out. Trainer David Fawkes has Eibar Coa in the saddle again. **5 DELTA WEEKEND** will move to the next level after rallying late to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a fruitful \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimer at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Frank Alexander has Cornelio Velasquez handling the turnback to a mile. **3 YIPPETY YIP** moved to the Wesley Ward barn via the claim after losing her best chance when she broke slowly and finished fifth behind Tiger With A T last out. Trainer Ward, 25% with new claims, keeps the status quo with Elvis Trujillo at the helm. **1 KELLIHER** is turning back to a mile after rebounding from a disqualification on Jan. 23rd with a \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claiming score at a mile and a sixteenth. Alan Garcia is named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 9-5-3-1

SEVENTH RACE:

2 JUNE DAY, a half to multiple Grade 1 winner Society Selection, stretches out to 7 furlongs after stalking the pace and fading to finish third behind fifth race choice Gatorette in their respective 6-furlong debuts. Watch Gatorette in the fifth behind you plunk your money down on this daughter of Gone West. **4 FETCH YOU BACK** is a daughter of Maria's Mon who is training sharply at Palm Meadows in preparation for her career debut. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, 21% with his first-time starters, adds Lasix and Alan Garcia to the mix. **12 FIRST PASSAGE**, a \$1.2-million dollar daughter of Giant's Causeway, makes her North American debut for trainer Marty Wolfson after failing to show much in her one start on the Newmarket turf. The filly, working sharply at Calder, gets Lasix for this assignment. **3 HONEY SNIPPETS**, now in the Rick Dutrow Jr. barn, makes her first start since finishing fourth in a maiden special weight turf race at Kentucky Downs (Sept. 23rd). Trainer Dutrow, 31% with new acquisitions, has the \$240K daughter of Dixie Union training like a winner.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-12-3

EIGHTH RACE:

1 QUIET MEADOW is stretching out to 9 furlongs after encountering trouble leaving the backstretch (steadied) and finishing third vs. state-bred competition in the 1-mile \$75K Marion County. Trainer Chad Brown spots the daughter of El Prado where she can score. **11 KRISTI WITH A K** will race without blinkers after dueling throughout and getting beat a nose at the distance last out. Trainer Barclay Tagg, 2 for 4 (50%) with the blinkers off angle, has Eibar Coa trying to throttle down her keen early interest. **7 MANTEKILLA**, now in the Helen Pitts-Biasi barn, makes her first start since showing speed and fading in a 'key' entry-level allowance race here last April that produced next-out stakes winners My Princess Jess, who won the Gaviola, and Alpha Charmer, who won the Ga. Oaks at Calder in her next starts. Note the bullet 5-furlong drill (:59 & 4) in preparation for the return. **2 ICON PROJECT** is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after breaking slowly, and muscling her way through tight quarters in the stretch to get beat 3 ¼ lengths vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth.

SELECTIONS: 1-11-7-2

NINTH RACE: THE OCALA

4 VICTORINA made the long trek east to face Florida-bred competition after following her victory in the \$80K Paseana Handicap at Santa Anita with a victory in the \$75K Campanile at Golden Gate. Note that the well-traveled daughter of Delaware Township is an 11-time winner on a traditional dirt surface (19-11-5-1). **10 SO GLITZY** should be ready to score in third start of her current form cycle after closing strongly to finish third - 2 lengths behind repeat winner Striking Tomisue - at the distance last out. **4 ANNABILL**, supplemented into the race, the daughter of Outflanker returns to the dirt after shipping to Santa Anita to finish fifth

on the Pro-Ride surface in the Sunshine Millions Distaff, and returning to finish fifth on the turf here in the \$75K Marion County. **6 ZEE ZEE**, supplemented into the race by Zayat Stables and trainer Rick Dutrow Jr., the filly stretches out to a mile after making the pace and weakening late in what should prove to be a useful tune up at 7 furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 4-10-4-6

TENTH RACE:

6 STARSHIP ANGEL, now in the Kiaran McLaughlin barn, stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying to come within a nose of scoring vs. \$70,000 maiden at a mile. The new connections readied her for this assignment with a steady work tab, on both turf and dirt, at Palm Meadows. **12 RHYTHM AND RHYME** is stretching out after saving ground, reaching the lead during the stretch run, and settling for third vs. special weight foes at a mile. Trainer Todd Pletcher teams with jockey Chris DeCarlo. **9 MAGICAL AFFAIR** is a \$1.5-million dollar daughter of Giant's Causeway debuting on the turf after finishing second in her local debut on the main track. Trainer Michel Matz readied her for the surface switch with a couple of solid workouts on the Palm Meadows turf. **5 DEPUTY EMPRESS** races without blinkers after an eventful trip at the distance in which she broke slowly, and had to steady repeatedly while racing rank as the lukewarm favorite, in her local turf debut. Trainer James Bond has Edgar Prado in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS:

BEST BET: RACE 10 - 6 STARSHIP ANGEL

LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 4 SNICKLEBRITCHES

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