

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

9 WILD LISA is stepping up to the next level after dueling throughout and holding sway to defeat \$10,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at the distance. Note that her last race was given a boost when third place finisher **5 IT'S A MIRACLE** defeated similar at the distance, as the favorite, in her next start. Trainer Steve Dwoskin has Jose Lezcano returning on the former while trainer Luke Poulos has Cornelio Velasquez penciled in for the return assignment on the latter.

1 ITSAWONDAFULSECRET is stretching out to a mile after encountering traffic on the turn (steadied) when finishing second vs. 'three-lifetime' foes at 6 furlongs. Trainer Harry Benson has Eibar Coa handling the stretchout. **4 GIVE ME A SMOOCH** should be smack in the middle of things during the stretch run at a mile after rallying to finish second vs. \$16,000 conditioned claimers at 7 furlongs on the Calder main track.

SELECTIONS: 9-5-1-4

SECOND RACE:

8 STORMING MARINE will tussle with \$50,000 claimers at 9 furlongs after his 2-race win streak ended when he steadied three times and finished 11th in his local turf return vs. money-allowance competition at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Dave Kassen has Rene Douglas named to ride.

4 DIVINE MASTER, 6-5-1-0 on the turf, which includes a 2-for-2 record at Gulfstream, returns to his preferred surface after failing to show much on a muddy track at Laurel. Trainer Scott Lake, 24% with new acquisitions to his barn, has Jermaine Bridgmohan atop the grass specialist.

5 ELDOKTORI is stepping up, and stretching out, after getting mugged at the 1/16th pole, finishing fourth, before being placed third via a steward's ruling. Trainer Anthony Pecoraro has Eibar Coa atop the gelded son of Rahy.

7 HEADSANDTALES, drops to the \$50,000 level, and stretches out to a mile and an eighth, with the distinction of being the only horse in the race that can claim multiple victories at the distance (5-2-0-0). Trainer Dale Capuano has Javier Castellano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-5-7

THIRD RACE:

10 KULE WIND is stretching out an additional half-furlong after responding to the addition of Lasix with a much improved second place finish vs. \$12,500 maidens at 7 furlongs on the Calder main track. **12 WYO BANDITO** is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after dueling for the lead from the rail and weakening late to finish second vs. similar in his local debut at a mile. The concern is the tough outside post (12). **11 ANASHEED FLASH** renews the rivalry with Wyo Bandito after breaking a step slow, fighting with him for the lead,

and weakening to finish third in their recent clash at 8 furlongs. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle again. **5 CLASSY ORIENTATION** makes his sophomore debut the first start since ending his 2-year-old campaign with a third place finish vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth on the Churchill main track. Trainer Ian Wilkes has Julien Leparoux atop the gelded son of Orientate.

SELECTIONS: 10-12-11-5

FOURTH RACE:

4 SUSIES GAL makes her first start since following a couple of solid performances vs. allowance competition in the Bluegrass State with a troubled outing in a 'key' entry-level allowance race at Churchill that produced a couple of next-out winners. Trainer Dale Romans has Edgar Prado atop the Alphabet Soup mare. **8 CAME THROUGH**, a half-sister to Grade 1 Florida Derby runner up Noble Causeway, makes the first start since her head swirling mile and a sixteenth debut maiden victory at Monmouth, in which she received 87 Beyer for her effort. **7 B R'S GIRL**, now in the Marty Wolfson barn, debuts locally, and races without blinkers, after ending her summer campaign with a clunker at Arlington Park. Trainer Wolfson, 41% with new horses under his care, has the daughter of Pulpit firing bullets at Calder. **5 ON DEMAND**, a half to Sunshine Million Distaff winner Sweet Lips makes her first start since drawing off to break her maiden at the Meadowlands by 8 widening lengths. Trainer Alan Goldberg, 23% with the 61-180 day layoff, has the \$500K daughter of Giant's Causeway training like a winner.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-7-5

FIFTH RACE:

4 ALPHA CHARMER is stretching out to 9 furlongs after following a couple of sharp efforts vs. this caliber of competition on the Calder turf with a slow starting 8th place finish here in the \$100K mile and a sixteenth Marshua's River. Trainer Phil Gleaves reunites the mare with jockey Manoel Cruz, who was aboard for two of her three victories last year. **8 ABSOLUTELY CINDY**, 5 for 7 'in the money' on the turf, returns to the grass for trainer Christophe Clement after circling 6-wide on the Turfway Polytrack to get beat 2 ½ lengths in the \$50K My Charmer. **1 CORRENTINA** is stretching out to 9 furlongs after a keyed up outing at Calder in which she was rank early before she settled down and finished fifth behind Alpha Charmer on Dec. 20th.

6 STAR DIXIE, now 4-1-1-0 on the local turf, and 2-1-0-0 at the distance, stretches out after encountering trouble early (steadied), and rallying late to get beat 4 ½ lengths vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-1-6

SIXTH RACE: THE FORWARD GAL (G2)

5 FROLIC'S DREAM, a stakes winner at the distance, stretches out after recovering from an eventful start to come within two noses of winning the 6-furlong Grade 3 Old Hat Stakes. Trainer Marty Wolfson reunites the daughter of Smoke Glacken with Jermaine Bridgmohan. **1 GEMSWICK PARK** will try 7 furlongs for the first time after following a pair of set-the-pace-and-weaken-late performances vs. graded stakes at a mile on the New York circuit with a hard-fought victory over Elusive Heat and Frolic's Dream in the Old Hat. **3 C. S. SILK** has been firing bullets over the track in preparation for the first start since ending her freshman campaign with a speed-and-fade performance in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, and a second place finish in the 1-mile Grade 3 Delta Princess at Delta Downs. Trainer Dale Romans has Robby Albarado in to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-3

SEVENTH RACE:

6 CHECKLIST makes his allowance debut after a very impressive first-out maiden victory at the distance in which he took control early and drew clear to win by four widening lengths. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez returning on the \$400K son of Gone West. **1 FITZASLEW** is turning back to a sprint distance on the dirt after following his debut 5-furlong victory at Churchill (June 14) with a duel-and-weaken performance on the turf in the \$200K mile and a sixteenth Cradle Stakes at River Downs. Leading trainer Ken McPeck, 31% with the grass-to-dirt angle, who is on fire with his 3-year-olds, has Kent Desormeaux handling the surface switch. **5 KICKAPOO**, another from the stocked Todd Pletcher barn, makes his first start since defeating three next-out winners in a 'key' 4 1/2-furlong dash at Monmouth last May 18th. **4 BRAVE VICTORY**, 3 for 3 'in the money' sprinting last summer, turns back after failing to fire at a mile in both the Grade 1 Champagne and the Grade 3 Iroquois. Trainer Nick Zito has Julien Lejaroux named on the son of Lion Heart.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-5-4

EIGHTH RACE: THE HUTCHESON (G2)

3 CAPT. CANDYMAN CAN is cutting back to 7 furlongs after surrendering an early 3-length lead to get beat a half-length by rising superstar Beethoven in the mile and a sixteenth Grade 2 Kentucky Juvenile Cup. Trainer Ian Wilkes has the gelded son of Candy Man firing bullets at Palm Meadows. **4 HELLO BROADWAY**, a half to Grade 1 winner Nobiz Like Shobiz, makes his first start since finishing a troubled second to Break Water Edison in the Grade 3 Nashua at Aqueduct on Nov. 2nd. **1 BREAK WATER EDISON**, who was fourth to repeat stakes winner Vineyard Haven in the 7-fur-

long Grade 1 Hopeful, turns back after springing the 6-1 upset over Hello Broadway in the Nashua. Trainer John Kimmel has Alan Garcia in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-1

NINTH RACE:

2 SILVER SUCCESS, a good third in his 1-mile turf debut at Saratoga last August, cuts back to a sprint distance on the grass after finishing fifth in a 'key' 1-mile event on the Aqueduct main track that produced next-out local winners Formidable and Battle Plan. **1 MCGAULEY**, a full brother to a 3-time turf winner, makes his 5-furlong career turf debut for trainer Helen Pitts-Biasi with Lasix and Julien Lejaroux added to the mix. The son of Two Punch should be mixing it up as soon as they spring the latch. **8 IN A BREEZE** shows a sharp 5-furlong drill on the Palm Meadows turf in preparation for the first start since finishing a distant fourth in his local debut at three-quarters of a mile on the main track. Trainer Carl Nafzger has Javier Castellano handling the surface switch. **9 NOS MAN** is a son of Dynaformer who makes his career debut for trainer Eddie Kenneally with the breeding needed to succeed on the lawn. The connections add Lasix and Cornelio Velasquez to the equation.

SELECTIONS: 2-1-8-9

BEST BET: RACE 7 - 6 CHECKLIST

LONG SHOT: RACE 5 - 5 LEAP IN THE SUN

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