

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

#### FIRST RACE:

**6 THIS GAL IS MINE**, knocking on the door vs. better at Calder, is back in South Florida after a couple of outings vs. \$25,000 maidens in Tampa in which she finished third at this distance on Dec. 13, and lost all chance when she broke in the air in her Jan. 16th race at three-quarters of a mile. **7 BARRINGTON HILLS** makes her first start since finishing fifth in a 'key' 7-furlong \$16,000 maiden test at Calder on Dec. 11th that produced three next-out winners' including repeat winner Miss Catrina. **5 HUSTLE** is a daughter of Greatness who has trained consistently enough to be a factor in her career debut. Trainer Seth Benzel adds Lasix and jockey Alan Garcia for this assignment. **9 BORSA** is stepping it up a notch after rallying late to finish third in her local debut vs. \$12,500 maidens.

**SELECTIONS: 6-7-5-9**

#### SECOND RACE:

**3 FROZEN PROSPECT**, an impressive winner vs. the boys in a 'two-lifetime' claimer at 5 ½ furlongs, and third - beaten a length vs. 'three-lifetime' claimers at a mile on the Saratoga turf last summer, is back vs. conditioned claimers after ending her 2008 campaign with a chase-and-fade performance vs. \$50,000 starter allowance competition at 6 furlongs on a 'yielding' Belmont turf. Trainer Linda Rice, who already has a couple turf sprint victories at the meet, tabs Eibar Coa to handle the mare. **9 BROOKLYN BOY** is turning back to 5 furlongs after hitting the board vs. similar in 1 of 2 local starts going around 2-turns. **8 OUR HONOR**, who beat entry-level allowance runners at this distance on the Monmouth turf last Sept. 25, returns to the grass after a useful outing on the dirt in which he set the pace and faded. Note that trainer Jason Servis has a 34% win average with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff. **10 BROADWAY ACTOR**, 3 for 6 'in the money' on the turf, is back on the lawn after dueling for the lead and fading to finish fourth behind a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' route on a sealed 'sloppy' track.

**SELECTIONS: 3-9-8-10**

#### THIRD RACE:

**3 MASTERWORK** drops to the \$10,000 level, and turns back to 5 ½ furlongs, after disputing the pace and fading to finish fourth here vs. \$30,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at a mile. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. has Mario Madrid named to ride. **7 SQUIRES WINGMAN** is back in South Florida after following a third place finish here at this level and distance with another third place finish vs. \$16,000 'two-lifetime' claimers

at Tampa. Trainer Bobby Dibona hopes jockey Jose Lezcano can get the 5-year-old out of third gear. **6 SHERIF** will face winners after holding on to defeat \$7,500 maidens on the Turfway Polytrack (Dec. 29). Trainer Dale Romans has Kent Desormeaux at the controls. **10 JUMBO JUMBO**, now in the Mario Morales barn, turns back to 5 ½ furlongs after skipping a condition when making a 3-wide bid and fading in a 'key' \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimer that produced next-out local winners Fumes and Delaware Manor.

**SELECTIONS: 3-7-6-10**

#### FOURTH RACE:

**11 HOUSE QUEST**, sharp when sprinting on the New York circuit, including a fourth place finish - beaten 1 ½ lengths - in the \$109K Extra Heat Handicap at Belmont in October, turns back after showing speed and fading in a pair of local outings around 2-turns. **3 MEGAWATTIE** is a 9-time winner at the distance, including the recent victory on the Tampa turf in which she defeated a pair of next-out winners on Jan. 4th. Trainer Dale Bennett has E T Baird named on the 5-furlong turf specialist (21-9-3-0). **12 ACQUIRED CAT** is dropping \$10,000 on the claiming scale after stalking the pace and fading to get beat 4 lengths vs. \$45,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Frank Alexander, 30% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Eibar Coa in the saddle. **7 MISS MECKE MOUSE** moved to the Larry Rivelli barn via the claim after encountering early trouble (bumped hard) and getting beat 2 ¾ lengths vs. similar competition at a mile. Junior Alvarado rides.

**SELECTIONS: 11-3-12-7**

#### FIFTH RACE:

**4 FEARLESS VISION**, 6-4-1-0 at the distance, drops after failing to hit the board for the first time in six races at Gulfstream (6-2-3-0) when he bobbed on the turn and finished fourth in the 'key' Grade 3 Hal's Hope, which included next-out Sunshine Millions Classic winner It's A Bird. **3 FOREFATHERS**, who runs well fresh, returns to action for trainer Nick Zito after ending his 2008 campaign with three consecutive losing efforts vs. graded stakes competition. The son of Gone West, 3-2-0-0 at Gulfstream, has John Velazquez in the saddle. **7 BRIBON** is hoping to bounce back after making a 3-wide bid and fading, as the tepid favorite, in the aforementioned Grade 3 Hal's Hope. Trainer Bobby Ribaudo reunites the gelding with Alan Garcia.

**SELECTIONS: 4-3-7**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**2 NICKEL PICKLE** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth with blinkers added after showing late interest and finishing fourth in his local debut vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Mike Maker, a strong 7 for 19 (37%) with first-time blinkers, has Julien Leparoux in the saddle again. **11 MOTION PLAY** drops, and stretches out, after breaking slowly, reaching the lead inside the 1/8th pole, and fading to finish third vs. allowance competition in his local debut at a mile. He classes up beautifully vs. this caliber of competition.

**7 ODE TO REVOLUTION**, 2 for 2 'in the money' at the distance, is stretching out after yielding late to finish second in his local turf debut vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Tim Hills has Alan Garcia in the saddle again. **3 AQAB** is stretching out to his best distance thus far (4-1-1-0) after rebounding from a slow start to finish third vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Mike Pino has Javier Castellano penciled in for the return assignment.

**SELECTIONS: 2-11-7-3**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**4 BOX OF CHARMS** moved to the Antonio Cioffi barn via the claim, and turns back to 5 1/2 furlongs, after dueling for the lead and finishing second vs. similar at three-quarters of a mile. The new connections tab Eibar Coa to ride.

**10 NOLA STAR** drops to the \$10,000 level after finishing a useful fifth vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers in her first race back from a 19-month layoff. You have to like the fact that Kent Desormeaux accepts the return riding assignment. **5 SHANGAI EXCHANGE** is debuting locally for the hot Wesley Ward barn after threatening to score vs. similar in consecutive sprints at Calder. Trainer Ward lightens the load with 10-pound apprentice B Pena. **11 FIVEHAILMARYS** plunges to the \$10,000 level with blinkers added after facing better at Oaklawn Park during January & February 2008. Trainer Chad Brown tabs Jose Lezcano to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 4-10-5-11**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**10 BALLAST** is stretching out to his most accomplished distance (8-4-1-1) after finishing a solid third in his local return vs. \$75,000 allowance optional claimers at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Graham Motion has Edgar Prado atop the 9-furlong specialist. **1 CELESTIAL COMET** is stretching out after making a 4-wide bid to finish second behind red-hot repeat winner Furthest Land in a money-allowance test a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Bill Mott has jockey Kent Desormeaux handling the move from the outside (Post 11) to the rail. **6 MARCH TO VICTORY**, who runs well fresh, steps up and turns back with blinkers added, after rallying late to finish third vs. \$32,000 optional claimers at 11 furlongs on

the Meadowlands turf. Trainer Christophe Clement has Joe Bravo in the saddle. **5 BLUES STREET** is stretching out to 9 furlongs after closing to finish fourth behind Celestial Comet last out. It's Pletcher and Velazquez.

**SELECTIONS: 10-1-6-5**

**NINTH RACE:**

**10 DOBRA** makes her first start since responding to a drop in competition with a second place finish - beaten a neck - vs. \$50,000 maidens at Churchill on Nov. 5. Trainer Carl Nafzger has Julien Leparoux in the saddle again.

**8 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE** drops, and turns back to 6 furlongs, after stalking the pace and fading vs. special weight competition in her local debut at a mile. Trainer Frank Alexander, 30% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **3 ROMACACA** is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after recovering from a slow start to finish second vs. \$40,000 maidens in her 6 1/2-furlong debut. **9 THREETIMESA WONDER** drops a couple of rungs on the competition ladder after showing speed and fading in her local debut at the \$70,000 level. She's spotted perfectly in the nightcap.

**SELECTIONS: 10-8-3-9**

**BEST BET: RACE 5 - 4 FEARLESS VISION**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 6 - 1 HARBOR RIDGE**

The advertisement is for Minebender Jewelers, a Certified Rolex Technician. It features a woman in a black top and necklace. The text includes: "We Buy Gold & Cash" repeated around the border; "MINEBENDER JEWELERS Certified Rolex Technician"; "We Repair Rolex - Movado - Tag Heuer Concord - Seiko - and all high-grade watches"; "Special Order on Jewelry and Diamonds"; "JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR DONE ON PREMISES"; "\*Call for GOLD - Pick-ups\*"; "450 Hollywood Mall, Hollywood FL 33021 Publix Shopping Plaza"; "954-962-0771"; and "Se Habla Espanol".