

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

#### FIRST RACE:

**6 MAREANA** drops into this 'two-lifetime' event after rallying late to finish second vs. multiple winners in a \$22,500 claimer at the distance. **4 MASTER TRICKY** is hoping for clean sailing through the lane after bumping at the 3/16th pole and finishing second at this level and distance. Trainer Walter Rosa-Canessa has Jeffrey Sanchez in the saddle again. **1 THENPUTITBACK**, a popular daughter of Put It Back, claimed in three consecutive races, who was fourth in her only previous turf race, cuts back to five-eighths on the carpet after showing speed and fading to finish third in three straight sprints on the dirt. **8 RAINFALL MISS** is turning back to 5 furlongs on the turf after opening and relinquishing a 3-length lead when finishing third vs. similar at a mile on the main track.

**SELECTIONS: 6-4-1-8**

#### SECOND RACE:

**3 PRINCE ALPHIE** will face \$10,000 starter allowance competition after keeping his record at the distance unblemished (4-4-0-0) when he defeated \$16,000 claimers on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Peter Walder secures the services of leading jockey Jose Lezcano. **5 STARSHIP DESTROYER** drops to the \$10,000 level again after following a \$10,000 claiming victory at the distance with a narrow head defeat vs. \$16,000 starter allowance at the distance. New trainer C O Pena keeps the status quo with Javier Santiago in the saddle. **7 FIUMES**, a 3-time winner at the meeting, is hoping to get back to his winning ways after stalking the pace and weakening to finish third behind Starship Destroyer in their recent battle at the \$16,000 level.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-7**

#### THIRD RACE:

**4 ZEE ZEE**, 7 for 10 'in the money on the turf, albeit at longer distances, turns back to 5 furlongs on the grass after dueling throughout and finishing second on the dirt vs. state-bred competition in the 1-mile \$75K Ocala. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr., 28% with horses turning back in distance, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **5 AHVEE'S DESTINY**, one of two from trainer Linda Rice, who notched one of her six career victories at the distance here last April (13-6-1-1), returns to the allowance ranks after chasing the pace and fading to get beat 2 ¾ lengths in the \$65K Lightning City

at Tampa. **6 MOHEGAN SKY**, the other entrant from Linda Rice, returns to her favorite course (3-2-1-0) after ending her 2008 campaign with a couple of sixth place finishes at three-quarters of a mile on the grass. The Grade 3 stakes-placed daughter of Straight Man is firing bullets in preparation for her return to action.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-6**

#### FOURTH RACE:

**3 SAVING GRACIE** is dropping a notch on the maiden scale after recovering from a stumbling incident at the start to finish second behind repeat winner Romacca, and in front of next-out winners Princess Buddha and Wishful Star in a 'key' \$30,000 maiden test at the distance. Trainer Dave Brownlee has Daniel Coa named to ride. **2 RIGHT SPECIAL** was game in defeat when she closed from last in a full field of 11 to come within a head of exiting the maiden ranks. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Manny Cruz in the saddle.

**5 NASTURTIUM** is eligible to show more after rallying 3-wide to finish third vs. \$30,000 maidens at the distance. **10 NORMA CLAIRE** merits respect after recovering from early trouble (bumped) to finish fourth behind Right Special last out. Trainer Manny Uriza has Jose Rivera II in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-5-10**

#### FIFTH RACE:

**3 SALT SYN** drops to the \$16,000 level after setting the pace and weakening late to get beat 2 ¼ lengths vs. \$25,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Larry Rivelli, 24% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day lay-off, has E T Baird in the saddle. **5 BETTY IS READY** is dropping to the \$16,000 level in the first start since closing wide to finish third vs. \$35,000 claimers at a mile on the Monmouth turf. Trainer Joe Orseno has Daniel Centeno named to handle the combo dropdown/turnback.

**4 HURRICANE ANNIE** drops into a winning spot after making a 3-wide bid and fading to get beat 4 lengths vs. \$25,000 claimers last out. Trainer Linda Rice has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **8 FOUR FOUR TWO** will give the turf another try after hitting the board vs. similar in a couple of sprints on the main track.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-4-8**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**1 OPTIMER** and **1A TRUE DANCER** are a winning combo for trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. The former has his claiming tag sliced in half after coming within a neck of defeating \$20,000 claimers at the distance while the latter drops, and turns back to a mile and a sixteenth, after surrendering a mid-race lead to get beat 3 ¾ lengths in a 'key' \$20,000 claimer at 9 furlongs. **6 MECKE ME FREE** exits the same 'key' race as True Dancer, a 9-furlong affair that produced next-out winners Hard Top and Grand, to merit consideration vs. this caliber of competition. **4 FLEET APPEAL** is another dropping in for a \$10,000 tag after rallying to finish third - beaten 2 lengths - vs. \$20,000 claimers at the distance. **10 INSTINCTIVELY** will try \$10,000 types after rebounding from an eventful start (threw head) to get beat 3 lengths vs. \$12,500 starter allowance runners at a mile.

**SELECTIONS: 1-1A-6-4-10**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**5 LOVAMOR** drops a peg, and cuts back to a mile, after setting the pace from the rail and finishing second vs. \$30,000 maidens at a mile and a sixteenth. The filly, favored in her five previous races, has Jermaine Bridgmohan trying to repair her reputation as a chalk burner. **4 SKY CAP** is dropping a notch after rallying to finish third in a 'key' \$30,000 maiden test at the distance that produced three-next-out winners. Note that the horse that finished second in that race, Saving Gracie, is my fourth race choice. **3 GO GO PINK**, beaten a nose on the turf here in February vs. \$50,000 maidens, continues her descent through the maiden ranks after showing brief interest and fading vs. \$30,000 types at 6 ½ furlongs on the main track. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Chris DeCarlo handling the surface switch. **1 YOU CAN'T TEACH HEART** will depart from the rail after dueling for the lead and tiring to get beat 4 ¾ lengths vs. \$30,000 maidens at the distance.

**SELECTIONS: 5-4-3-1**

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**9 CASTLES IN THE SKY**, a winner of 3 of 4 turf sprints this year (4-3-1-0), debuts locally after notching his second consecutive victory at the distance when he defeated many of these in the \$75K Turf Dash at Tampa. Trainer Jamie Ness has Daniel Centeno going for the hat trick. **7 AWAKINO CAT**, 5-3-0-0 at the distance, which includes a victory here on Feb. 7th, renews the rivalry with Castles In The Sky after bumping at the start and finishing 3 lengths behind him in

the Turf Dash at Tampa. **4 OUR FRIEND HARVEY** is hoping to find some more for the stretch drive after rallying to finish third behind Castles In The Sky upstate. Trainer Tim Hills has Jose Lezcano handling the stalker. **10 MR. SILVER**, a winner of \$359K, with a ton of back-class, has been knocking on the door in both sprint starts at the meeting. He was fourth behind Awakino Cat on Feb. 7th, and beaten three-quarters of a length last out.

**SELECTIONS: 9-7-4-10**

**NINTH RACE:**

**1 WILD ENTRY** should be more than ready to exit the maiden ranks after encountering trouble and finishing second in consecutive turf races at the distance. Trainer Christophe Clement has Joe Bravo handling the inside post. **10 TREVELYAN** is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after responding to the addition of blinkers with a neck defeat vs. similar at 9 furlongs. **9 CHAPIN BEACH** will be outfitted with blinkers after encountering double-trouble (steadied early & stretch) when beaten 3 ¾ lengths vs. similar last out. The son of Dynaformer, who shows back-to-back bullet workouts at Payson Park, we assume shades added, indicates a winning performance is in the cards. **6 STAY RED**, fifth behind Trevelyan on March 7th, and third behind Wild Entry last out, merits a spot on the final superfecta ticket of the 2009 meeting. Trainer Juan Rizo has Jose Rivera II in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 1-10-9-6**

**BEST BET: RACE 4 - 3 SAVING GRACIE**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 9 - 4 RUN FOR SAMI**

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