

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

5 INDY KINGS DANCER moved to the Bobby Dibona barn via claim, and is turning back to 7 furlongs, after tracking the pace and finishing third vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Dibona, 20% with new claims, has Elvis Trujillo atop the son of Indy King.

1 HEATH'S STAR, 2 for 2 'in the money' at 7 furlongs (2-0-1-1), stretches out after threatening to notch this condition in three consecutive sprints at shorter distances. **4 OUT OF AFRICA** is expected to show more with a clean start after breaking slowly and finishing second vs. similar at a mile. Trainer Donna Green has Pedro Monterrey Jr. in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-1-4

SECOND RACE:

6 DRESSMAKER steps up, and turns back, after responding to a strong hand ride with a victory vs. \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at 7 furlongs. Trainer Chad Brown has Jose Lezcano atop the daughter of Elusive Quality. **1 STORMY LAKE** plunges into this conditioned claimer after following a 'two-lifetime' claiming victory at three-quarters of a mile with a set-the-pace-and-fade fifth place showing vs. entry-level allowance competition at 7 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track.

7 SPLIT THE CLOUDS is stepping up, and turning back to 5 ½ furlongs, after setting the pace and holding on gamely to defeat \$10,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at 6 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Larry Bates has Jermaine Bridgmohan going for two in a row.

SELECTIONS: 6-1-7

THIRD RACE:

11 SHOTEKA drops to the \$30,000 level with blinkers added after stalking the action and weakening to get beat 3 lengths in a 'key' \$50,000 claimer at a mile that produced a pair of next-out winners. **8 FEARLESS HONOR** is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after a solid local turf debut vs. similar at a mile in which he made a middle move and finished third.

4 BRAVE APACHE is hoping to rebound at the \$27,500 level after losing his best chance when he stumbled at the start of a \$45,000 maiden test at a mile. Trainer Ron Spatz has E T Baird named to ride. **9 ANSWER MAN** drops, and debuts on the turf, after racing greenly and finishing ninth vs. \$45,000 maidens at 6 furlongs on the dirt. Trainer Stan Hough has Javier Castellano handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 11-8-4-9

FOURTH RACE:

7 DISTORTEDAMUSEMENT moved to the Scott Lake barn via the claim after dueling throughout and holding sway to defeat

\$10,000 'two-lifetime' types at 6 furlongs on a track listed as 'good'. **5 UNCLE HERBIE** is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after returning from an extended layoff to finish third vs. this caliber of competition at seven-eighths of a mile. The gelding, a winner of back-to-back races vs. better at Penn National last summer, has found his niche vs. conditioned claimers. **3 SALZBURG** is plunging into this 'three-lifetime' claimer, and competing without blinkers, after ending his 2008 campaign with back-to-back double-digit length defeats vs. entry-level allowance competition. Trainer Peter Walder, 4 for 6 (67%) with a limited sampling of horses returning from a longer than 180-day layoff, has Ares Campos in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 7-5-3

FIFTH RACE:

3 OLLYOLLYOXENFREE is stretching out to a mile in the first start since she encountered trouble entering the turn and finished third - beaten three-quarters of length at 7 ½ furlongs - vs. \$40,000 maidens on Jan. 7th. Trainer Kelly Breen, 21% with the 61-180 day layoff, has Joe Bravo at the helm.

9 RUN JAMAICAN'S RUN is turning back after a solid mile and a sixteenth turf outing here on Jan. 25th in which she dueled for the lead against a closers bias and finished second - beaten a half-length vs. \$40,000 types. **7 PUTTINGONTHEMIST**, who finished in front of Ollyollyoxenfree when they competed on the grass on Jan, 7th, returns to the lawn after showing brief interest and fading in a 1-mile event on the dirt. Trainer Tim Ritvo has Paco Lopez handling the surface change.

1 TOPO GIGIO is a \$100K daughter of Theatrical debuting for trainer Linda Rice with a slew of solid Palm Meadows turf workouts showing. Jockey Javier Castellano will handle the inside post.

SELECTIONS: 3-9-7-1

SIXTH RACE:

5 ETHAN THE MONSTER will be outfitted with blinkers after encountering trouble at the start (pinched back) and finishing fourth vs. similar at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell has Jose Lezcano handling the mini stretchout.

4 MASTER TASSEL is stretching out to a mile after closing late to finish third - a neck in front of Ethan The Monster - when they hooked up at 7 ½ furlongs last out. Trainer Manny Tortora teams with Manoel Cruz. **3 CABAIGUAN** is stretching out to a mile for the first time after following his late-striding maiden win at 6 furlongs (March 6th) with a late moving fifth vs. this caliber of competition at 6 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 5-4-3

SEVENTH RACE:

1 EXCESSIVE HEAT plummets to the \$25,000 claiming level after posting speed figures good enough to wallop this caliber of competition when she defeated \$50,000 claimers here on Jan. 16th, and was fourth - beaten only 3 lengths - vs. \$62,000 optional claimers on Feb. 8th. **6 VUE DE CHAT** will try to make it two in a row at this level and distance after parlaying a 4-wide trip into a victory last out. Trainer Peter Walder, 25% with horses winning consecutive races, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **3 BIANCO** moved to the Wesley Ward barn via the claim after drawing clear on the dirt to defeat \$20,000 open-claimers at 6 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Ward, 25% with new claims, has E T Baird handling the surface switch. **9 ENJOYABLE** is hoping for a clean trip after getting blocked in the stretch and finishing third behind Vue de Chat last out. Trainer Scott Lake tabs Eibar Coa to ride.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-3-9

EIGHTH RACE:

3 A. J. MELINI drops to the \$6,250 level after finishing second in a monster \$10,000 'key' race that produced four next-out winners (2 at Gulfstream, 1 at Laurel, and 1 at Philly Park). Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Paco Lopez in the saddle. **1 SUAVE BARON** is turning back to a mile after a strong outing at 9 furlongs in which he broke from the tough outside post (9), rallied 4-wide, and finished second - beaten a neck vs. similar. Trainer Peter Walder teams with Jose Lezcano. **5 FIVE CARD MONTY** will start mid-pack after breaking from Post 12, setting the pace, and finishing second in his recent outing at this level and distance. Trainer Charlie Fontana has Wesley Henry Sr. at the controls. **11 SIR OSO** is turning back to a 1-turn mile after a solid outing at 9 furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track in which dueled throughout and finished third. Trainer Ralph Ziadie has Elvis Trujillo atop the little brother of the great Sir Bear.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-5-11

NINTH RACE:

8 IT'S NOT FOR LOVE has trained beautifully over the track in preparation for the first start since setting the pace and fading to finish sixth vs. entry-level allowance competition at a mile and a sixteenth on the Aqueduct turf (Oct. 30th). Trainer Tim Hills has Javier Castellano handling the turnback to 5 furlongs. **7 DANCES FOR TIPS** is stepping up the competition after rallying 4-wide to defeat a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' \$30,000 'two-lifetime' claimer at the distance on Feb. 5th. Trainer Scott Lake, 26% with horses winning consecutive races, has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **5 BROOKE'S VALENTINE** is facing winners after leading every step of the way to break

her maiden at 5 furlongs on a softened turf listed as 'good' Trainer Todd Pletcher has Chris DeCarlo atop the daughter of Fusaichi Pegasus. **1 SMARTGABRIELLE** moves from the outside to the inside when she departs from the rail after breaking from Post 12, dueling for the lead, and weakening to finish fourth vs. \$35,000 'three-lifetime' claimers at a mile on the grass.

SELECTIONS: 8-7-5-1

TENTH RACE:

10 CAN'T WATCH is a \$170K son of More Than Ready debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with a slew of Palm Meadows workouts showing. The colt, who can be haltered for \$25,000, gets Lasix and Chris DeCarlo. **11 TEMO'S DREAM** is turning back to 6 furlongs on the dirt after dueling for the lead and weakening to finish fourth vs. \$30,000 maidens at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. Trainer Bill Kaplan has Paco Lopez handling the surface switch. **6 PAPAL DECREE** drops a notch on the claiming scale after encountering early trouble (steadied after the start) and finishing fourth vs. \$30,000 maidens at 5 ½ furlongs on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **2 INDIAN SCOUT** is stepping up after posting the best last-race Beyer (68) when responding to both a drop in competition, and the addition of blinkers, with a vastly improved second vs. \$15,000 claimers at the distance. Trainer Joe Catanese tabs 7-pound apprentice Ares Capos to ride.

SELECTIONS: 10-11-6-2

BEST BET: RACE 8 - 3 A. J. MELINI

LONG SHOT: RACE 7 - 7 JUDGE'S PRIDE

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