

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

3 MASTER TASSEL drops, and turns back to a 1-turn mile, after breaking slowly from the rail, dueling for the lead, and fading to finish sixth vs. \$25,000 'two-lifetime' claimers in a 2-turn mile at Calder. Trainer Manny Tortora has Cornelio Velasquez named to ride. **8 WIN GRAMMY BOY** is stretching out vs. 'two-lifetime' foes after recovering from a bumping incident at the start to finish third vs. multiple winners in a 6 ½-furlong \$12,500 claimer across town. **5 TWENTY FOR TEN** is another cutting back to a 1-turn mile after bobbling at the start and finishing sixth - a half-length in front of Master Tassel - in their recent clash across town. Trainer Fred Warren keeps it light with 5-pound apprentice Jose Ortiz in the saddle (117). **9 OKLAHOMA JOHNNY** will face winners in the first start since defeating \$16,000 maidens at 5 ½ furlongs on the Meadowlands main track. Trainer Joe Orseno has an 18% win average with the 61-180 day layoff.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-5-9

SECOND RACE:

7 CALL ME NOW drops to the \$25,000 level with blinkers added after an eventful fourth place finish vs. \$50,000 maidens at Belmont (Sept. 19) in which he encountered trouble at the ¼-pole and finished fourth (traffic, bumped, steadied). Trainer Alan Goldberg has Alan Garcia named to ride. **3 JUNGLE RAJ** has his maiden tag sliced in half, and receives first-time Lasix, after showing speed and apparently bleeding in a \$50,000 maiden event at Churchill. Trainer Frank Brothers tabs Edgar Prado to ride. **6 GIANT** is stretching out to 7 furlongs after making a 4-wide bid and flattening out to finish fifth - beaten 2 ¾ lengths - vs. similar on a sealed 'sloppy' track at the Meadowlands. Trainer Jason Servis, 24% with the 31-60 day layoff, has Jose Lezcano atop the son of Point Given. **1 TOMFOOLERY** will try open competition after dueling for the lead and finishing third in front of a pair of next-out winners in a 'key' New Jersey-bred sprint test at Monmouth in July.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-6-1

THIRD RACE:

1 LAFFANS BRIDGE should be primed and ready to score after stalking the pace and finishing second vs. similar on the Aqueduct turf, which was her first race in 14 weeks. Trainer Barclay Tagg has Eibar Coa handling the daughter of West Acre, who should be able to dictate the pace from the inside post. **3 DRESSMAKER** drops into this \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimer after finishing fourth in a pair of entry-level allowance races, including the recent effort in the 'slop' at the Meadowlands in which she finished fourth in front of a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Chad Brown, 3 for 12 (25%) with the dirt-to-turf angle, has Jose Lezcano atop the Elusive Quality mare. **9 MORE MEMORIES** drops into this conditioned claimer after rallying late to finish second vs. multiple

winners in a \$32,000 claimer at the Meadowlands. Trainer Greg Sacco has 'Jersey' Joe Bravo at the controls. **7 DANCES FOR TIPS** is stretching out around 2-turns after showing speed and weakening to finish third vs. similar in a 6-furlong turf sprint at the Meadowlands. Trainer Scott Lake trainee should be a major piece of the pace puzzle.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-9-7

FOURTH RACE:

1 LAWLESS FALLS is cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after a solid 6 ½-furlong career debut at Churchill in which she broke from the rail and rallied to finish second. Trainer Tommy Proctor, who has the daughter of Fusaichi Pegasus working sharply at Tampa, reunites the newly turned sophomore with jockey Julien Leparoux. **4 LIGHT GREEN** has been stretching her legs at Palm Meadows in preparation for the first start since threatening to break her maiden in a pair of 5 ½-furlong sprints this summer. Trainer Todd Pletcher, who has two in the race (3 Iberian Gate), reunites the daughter of Pleasantly Perfect with jockey John Velazquez. **7 ANZELITA** is a daughter of Macho Uno who is training nicely at Palm Meadows in preparation for her career debut for Stronach Stables and trainer Brian Lynch. Javier Castellano rides. **8 DAME ELLEN** is a daughter of Elusive Quality training like a winner over the Palm Meadows surface. Trainer Chad Brown adds Lasix and jockey Jose Lezcano on this intriguing possibility.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-7-8

FIFTH RACE:

11 LA MOUSSE is turning back to the distance where she broke her maiden by 3 ½ lengths after departing from Post 11, dueling throughout, and getting beat only three-quarters of a length, as the favorite, in her 9-furlong allowance debut at Churchill. Trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux in the saddle again. **1 KISS THE QUEEN** shows a couple of useful local workouts in preparation for the first start since she rallied 3-wide to get beat a nostril in her 1-mile allowance debut on the Churchill sod. Trainer Helen Pitts has Julien Leparoux atop the daughter of Chief Seattle. **6 KRISTI WITH A K** is turning back to a mile after following her impressive maiden victory on the Belmont turf with a narrow entry-level allowance defeat to seventh race participant Flibberjibit, who was at the tail end of a 5-race win streak. Edgar Prado rides the speedy daughter of Petionville. **7 PRETTY ELUSIVE**, who broke her maiden on turf here last April, makes her first start since getting beat 3 ¾ lengths in a 'key' entry-level allowance at Belmont on May 23 that produced three next-out allowance winners. Trainer Stan Hough has Javier Castellano atop this upset possibility.

SELECTIONS: 11-1-6-7

SIXTH RACE:

3 OUR DAHLIA debuts locally after closing wide to finish third, as the favorite, in her Churchill finale at this 1-mile distance. Trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux penciled in for the return assignment. **9 MAGICAL AFFAIR**, a \$1.5-million dollar daughter of Giant's Causeway, shows three Palm Meadows workouts in preparation for the first start since setting the pace and finishing second in her 1-mile career debut at Laurel (Oct. 31). Trainer Michael Matz has Jose Lezcano named to ride. **5 PAST TWILIGHT** is stretching out to a mile after making a 3-wide bid to finish third in a 'key' 6 ½-furlong sprint at Churchill that has already produced a pair of next-out winners. Trainer Eddie Kenneally teams with jockey Julien Leparoux. **2 TREASURE TRAIL**, a daughter of Pulpit, who is a half to multiple Grade 1 winner Balance, and a half to Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic (G1) winner Zenyatta, is hoping to get untracked in Florida after finishing a disappointing fifth in her Aqueduct finale at the distance. Trainer Shug McGaughey reunites the sophomore with John Velazquez.

SELECTIONS: 3-9-5-2

SEVENTH RACE:

6 IMPRESSIONISM will try money-allowance competition after making what looked like a winning bid and settling for second in a \$50,000 allowance optional claimer contested on a 'good' Aqueduct turf. Her biggest challenge will surely come from **4 LOCATA**. The daughter of Stravinsky, who finished behind Impressionism when they hooked up at Saratoga in August, and a neck in front of her at Keeneland on Oct. 17, shows five useful workouts on the Palm Meadows turf in preparation for the rematch. Trainer Shug McGaughey has John Velazquez on Impressionism, while Graham Motion has Rene Douglas returning on Locata. **3 FLIBBERJIBIT** debuts locally after her impressive 5-race win streak ended when she finished third behind Impressionism at Aqueduct last out. Trainer Marty Wolfson, 45% with new acquisitions to his shedrow, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **7 BELLE'S HOME** makes her first start since launching a strong 4-wide charge to defeat entry-level allowance competition on the Meadowlands turf (Oct. 20). Eibar Coa rides for trainer George Weaver.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-3-7

EIGHTH RACE: THE OLD HAT (G3)

5 ELUSIVE HEAT signaled she would be a major player in her sophomore season when she made a monster 5-wide move to win her career debut by 5 ½-lengths, and got a 103 Beyer for her effort. **2 FROLIC'S DREAM**, the most accomplished runner in the field, goes for her fourth consecutive score, and third straight stakes victory, after winning the \$100K Cassidy, and the \$150K Joe O'Farrell Juvenile Fillies at

Calder. Trainer Marty Wolfson has Jermaine Bridgmohan going for the 4-peat. **7 GEMSWICK PARK** is turning back to a sprint after following her 6-furlong maiden victory with a third place finish in the Grade 1 Frizette, and a second place showing in the Grade 3 Tempted, both contested at a 1-turn mile.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-7

NINTH RACE:

4 NICKEL PICKLE drops into this \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimer after following his maiden special weight victory with troubled third place finish (carried out) vs. entry-level allowance competition at 9 furlongs on the Churchill turf. **6 SOL A PINO** will try to make it two in a row after closing wide to defeat \$35,000 maidens at Belmont on Oct. 16. Trainer Bill Mott has Edgar Prado in the saddle again. **10 DOC MAGOVERN** is back on the turf after a successful return from a 10-month plus layoff in which he defeated maiden special weight competition on a sealed 'muddy' track at Philly Park. Trainer Michael Trombetta has Eibar Coa handling the surface switch. **12 STORM MANDATE** is turning back to a mile after showing a positive late move when finishing fourth vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth on the Calder sod. Trainer Joe Orseno has Joe Bravo in the saddle again.

SELECTIONS: 4-6-10-12

MINEBENDER BEST BET: RACE 9 - 4 NICKEL PICKLE

LONG SHOT: RACE 4 - 5 ROYAL AMBITION

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