

RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

FIRST RACE:

11 OISTINS BAY is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after posting the best-last Beyer figure (79) when getting bumped twice, finishing second, and being placed first via a steward's decision in a \$20,000 'two-lifetime' claimer at 5 ½ furlongs.

2 LINCOLN'S BULLET is stretching out to the distance where he broke his maiden by 10 lengths after recovering from a stumbling start to defeat \$10,000 'two-lifetime' claimers by a nose in his local debut at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Harry Benson has Eibar Coa going for two in a row.

10 KIERNAN'S LEGACY is stretching out an additional half-furlong after dueling for the lead and finishing second vs. similar in his local debut at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Barbara Pirie has Junior Alvarado penciled in for the return riding assignment. **5 COMPRISE** is stretching out after rallying to come within a nose of catching Lincoln's Bullet last out.

SELECTIONS: 11-2-10-5

SECOND RACE:

8 MAMA'S WONDER BOY is turning back to a mile after using his speed to defeat three next-out winners in a 'key' 2-turn \$10,000 mile & 70-yard claimer at Calder. Trainer Jose Pinchin has Cornelio Velasquez atop the son of Three Wonders. **9 A. J. MELINI** drops to the \$10,000 level after finishing fourth in a \$20,000 claimer here that has already produced next-out local winners High Brass and Sneaky Stephen, who both won here on Jan. 22. **10 ACCESS CODE** will try to make it two in a row locally after dueling early and drawing clear late to defeat \$10,000 'three-lifetime' claimers, at the distance, by 5 ¼-lengths. **3 BARLEY SUGAR** is turning back to a mile after a workman-like third place finish vs. similar in his local return at 9 furlongs. Trainer Peter Walder has leading jock John Velazquez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 8-9-10-3

THIRD RACE:

1 R LITTLE NUGGET, now in the Larry Rivelli barn, makes his first start since he dueled for the lead and finished third in front of a pair of next-out winners in a well-graded 5 ½-furlong \$16,000 maiden test at Calder on Dec. 8. The new connections have E T Baird handling the inside post.

2 YUKI'S RIDGE is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after contesting the pace and finishing a distant second vs. similar quality in his local bow at three-quarters of a mile.

7 BEACHMONT FASHION is shortening up to 5 ½ furlongs

after stalking 4-wide and finishing third behind Yuki's Ridge in their recent clash at 6 furlongs. **11 PLENTY OF GREEN** plunges to the \$15,000 level after breaking slowly, being rushed up to duel for the lead, and then fading from his earlier exploits to get beat double-digit lengths vs. \$40,000 types at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Leo Azpurua Jr. has Elvis Trujillo atop the son of Chapel Royal.

SELECTIONS: 1-2-7-11

FOURTH RACE:

1 ITCHY TOES drops to the \$6,250 level after her 2-race win streak ended when she dueled for the lead and faded to finish last, as the favorite, in her local debut vs. \$10,000 claimers. **11 MIRACLE OF DREAMS** moved to the Tom Schell barn via the claim, and turns back out to her most accomplished distance (6-4-0-0), after bobbling at the start, stalking the pace, and fading to finish fifth vs. similar at a mile. **9 IRISH GYPSY ROSE** is stretching out an additional furlong after rallying along the inside - against a mid-path bias - to finish third vs. similar at three-quarters of a mile. **10 CASUPA** is turning back to 7 furlongs on the dirt after stalking the action and fading to finish sixth vs. \$10,000 starter allowance runners at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf. She's a must-use for any card-carrying turf-to-dirt aficionado.

SELECTIONS: 1-11-9-10

FIFTH RACE:

12 DAZZLER is cutting back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs after dueling for the lead and yielding late to finish second in her local debut vs. this caliber of opposition at a mile. Trainer Joe Orseno has Carlos Marquez Jr. handling the outside post (12). **2 O WICKED ONE** drops into a competitive spot on the dirt after showing early interest and fading late when facing better in three straight route races on the turf. **1 ECHOES RESOUNDING** drops to the \$15,000 level, and stretches out an additional half-furlong, after making a middle move and fading when Lasix was added for her local debut vs. \$25,000 maidens at 7 furlongs. **3 MALL CHICK DENISE** is debuting locally after showing speed and faltering late in a series of sprints vs. bottom level foes across town at Calder. Trainer John Pinnock has 10-pound apprentice J C Castillo named to handle the speedster.

SELECTIONS: 12-2-1-3

SIXTH RACE:

4 POWER EXPRESS drops to the \$16,000 level, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile, after breaking from Post 10, dueling for the lead, and drifting in the stretch vs. \$25,000 types at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Norm Pointer lightens the load with 5-pound apprentice Jose Ortiz. **3 SECRET TRACKER** is another trying 6 furlongs after making a 3-wide bid and tiring to finish fifth behind Power Express last out. Trainer George Handy has Elvis Trujillo handling the rematch. **7 ZAVABELLE** will try \$16,000 claimers after ending her 2008 campaign with a second place finish vs. 'two-lifetime' allowance runners at Mountaineer. Trainer Dave Paulus has Junior Alvarado in the saddle. **2 MARGARET SMILE** will try for two in a row at the distance after notching her second career victory vs. \$12,500 claimers at Calder. Trainer Dave Vivian has a 21% win average with horses winning consecutive races.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-7-2

SEVENTH RACE:

3 FURTHEST LAND, is stretching out to 9 furlongs again after following his entry-level allowance score at the distance with a local money-allowance victory at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Maker has Julien Leparoux going for the hat trick. **4 TWILIGHT METEOR**, who won the Hallandale Beach here in 2007, makes his first start since finishing third last April 27th in the 'key' Grade 3 Ft. Marcy, a race that produced three next-out winners, including a pair of stakes winners. Trainer Todd Pletcher has the son of Smart Strike firing bullets on the Palm Meadows turf in preparation for the return. **7 TASTEFULLY SMART**, a previous winner at the distance, stretches out after a sharp local return vs. similar at a mile and a sixteenth in which he stalked the action and finished second at 21-1. Note that the consistent gelding has hit the board in 10 of his last 12 races. **8 ADAGIO** makes his first start since using his tactical speed to defeat four next-out winners in a 'key' \$62,000 allowance optional claimer here last March 29th. Trainer Rick Dutrow has him working sharply over the track in preparation for this assignment.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-7-8

EIGHTH RACE:

4 ELUSIVE HEAT, who has the look of a real special filly, faces allowance company after following her first-out maiden victory at Belmont with a nose defeat here in the Grade 3 Old Hat Stakes on Jan. 4. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has Alan Garcia atop the \$750K daughter of Elusive Quality. **1A FOOLS IN LOVE**, part of a Kelly Breen entry with **1 BOOM TOWN SALLY**, who was stakes placed in three consecutive sprints last summer, makes her first start since failing to

earn a check in a pair of races at a mile. Note that Breen is 2 for 6 (33%) with horses turning back in distance.

5 SAILING TIME is shortening up to 6 furlongs after getting beat a half-length vs. \$40,000 starter allowance competition at seven-eighths of a mile on the Calder main track.

SELECTIONS: 4-1A-1-5

NINTH RACE:

4 KRISTI WITH A K, a half to Grade 1 winner Bit of Whimsy, stretches out to 9 furlongs after a taxing local debut at a mile in which she broke slow, was blocked on the turn, and still managed to finish third. **8 LA MOUSSE**, a well-meant second at this distance at Churchill (Nov. 28), stretches out after making a 4-wide bid and finishing fifth behind Kristi With a K last out. Leading trainer Ken McPeck has Kent Desormeaux handling the stretchout.

11 VENETIAN CAUSEWAY, a \$550K daughter of Giant's Causeway, makes her first start since she closed to get beat 3 lengths in the 1-mile Grade 3 Pebbles at Belmont on Oct. 13. Trainer Shug McGaughey has Alan Garcia handling her first start in 14 weeks. **12 KISS THE QUEEN**, bred to love the distance, the daughter of Chief Seattle stretches out after stalking the pace along the inside and finishing fourth behind Kristi With a K at a mile. Julien Leparoux will handle the move to the outside post (12).

SELECTIONS: 4-8-11-12

BEST BET: RACE 2 - 8 MAMA'S WONDER BOY

LONG SHOT: RACE 9 - 1 ROSA DOS VENTOS

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