

## RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS



by *Ron Nicoletti*

**FIRST RACE:**

**6 MY DADDIO**, fourth on the turf behind three next-out winners in a monster 'key' race at the distance on Feb. 27th, returns to the grass after stalking the pace and weakening to finish fourth vs. similar at 6 ½ furlongs on the main track. Trainer Larry Pilotti has Manny Aguilar handling the surface switch. **11 IFITWASNTFOR TEXAS** is back vs. \$35,000 'two-lifetime' claimers after breaking from Post 11, rallying along the rail, and coming within a scant nose of defeating multiple winners in an open \$25,000 claimer at the distance.

**8 SEXTANT**, a New York-bred daughter of Orientate, makes her first since showing speed and fading vs. state-bred entry-level allowance runners in her only start in 2008. Trainer Linda Rice, 21% with the longer than 180-day layoff, has her training sharply for her first race since last July.

**4 STARSHIP SCOTT** will return to the turf after drawing clear to defeat next-out winners Skyebay and Bears General in a 'key' \$15,000 maiden test on the main track.

**SELECTIONS: 6-11-8-4**

**SECOND RACE:**

**1 FROZEN PROSPECT** will tussle with \$16,000 claimers from the rail after showing speed and tiring late in consecutive \$35,000 'three-lifetime' claimers at the distance. Trainer Linda Rice has Elvis Trujillo atop the daughter of Suave Prospect. **4 IN CLASSIC FASHION** drops a notch, and cuts back to 5 furlongs, after showing good speed and tiring vs. better in consecutive turf outings at a mile. Trainer Jessica Campitelli has E T Baird quarterbacking the classic turnback move. **11 DAY DEE** makes his first start since dueling from start-to-finish and getting beat a neck in a fruitful \$25,000 'three-lifetime' claimer at Calder 376 days ago. Trainer Joe Orseno has Jeffrey Sanchez handling the multiple turf winner (9-2-1-1). **12 LOX AND KIPPERS**, now in the Steve Towne barn, gets some class relief after stalking the action and fading vs. better in back-to-back sprints at the distance. Note that trainer that trainer Towne in 3 for 10 (30%) with new additions to his shedrow.

**SELECTIONS: 1-4-11-12**

**THIRD RACE:**

**5 FLASH THE SILVER** plummets to the \$15,000 level on the dirt after showing speed, steadying on the turn, and retreating to finish last - beaten 9 lengths - vs. maiden special weight competition at 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher has leading jock Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

**4 TAKE A REPORT** is a daughter of Greatness debuting for trainer Wesley Ward with a trio of sharp 3-furlong works showing in preparation for this assignment. Trainer Ward,

30% with his first-time starters, adds Lasix and Paco Lopez for this assignment. **6 SURPRISE KISS** drops, and cuts back to five-eighths on the dirt, after setting the pace and fading to finish last vs. 10 rivals in a \$30,000 maiden test at a mile on the turf. **2 SUGAR LAND** is a daughter of Red Bullet who has trained consistently at Calder in preparation for her career debut. Trainer Barry Croft starts her campaign with Lasix and Steady-Eddie Nunez added to the equation.

**SELECTIONS: 5-4-6-2**

**FOURTH RACE:**

**1 LAVER** is dropping to the \$25,000 level after responding to the addition of blinkers with a neck defeat in a 'key' \$80,000 maiden test that produced next-out winners Diplomatic Code and Calm Bake. The \$175K son of Grand Slam jumps off the page vs. this caliber of competition.

**5 SLEWSMARTSTRIKE** will be outfitted with blinkers after responding to a drop in competition with a wide fourth place finish vs. \$30,000 maidens at the distance. Trainer Marty Wolfson, 2 for 4 (50%) with first-time blinkers, has Elvis Trujillo in the saddle. **11 SUITE ERNIE B** is expected to show more after making a mid-race move and finishing fifth vs. similar in his first race back from a 10-month layoff. Trainer Linda Rice has Joe Bravo atop the son of Lemon Drop Kid. **7 BRAVE APACHE** is stretching out to a mile after a rough outing vs. similar at 7 ½ furlongs in which he bumped early, steadied on the turn, and still managed to finish third.

**SELECTIONS: 1-5-11-7**

**FIFTH RACE:**

**5 TREKKIE** transported to the Ferris Allen barn via the claim, steps up to the \$10,000 level after stalking early and drawing clear to defeat \$6,250 claimers by 3-plus lengths. Trainer Allen, 17% with new claims, has Jeffrey Sanchez named to ride. **1 HOLD'EM OR FOLD'EM** and **1A I'VE REPENTED** are both recent claims by trainer Bobby Dibona that merit respect. The former will face multiple winners after finishing a willing third - beaten a length - vs. \$10,000 conditioned claimers at the distance while the latter cuts back to 6 furlongs after stalking the pace and finishing fourth vs. \$10,000 conditioned claimers at a mile.

**3 MAX'S BEAU**, who posted a 91 Beyer when finishing second here on a sealed 'sloppy' track vs. \$10,000 starter allowance runners on March 21, returns to the dirt after getting beat less than 2 lengths vs. \$22,500 claimers at 5 furlongs on the turf.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-1A-3**

**SIXTH RACE:**

**7 IRISH COVE** drops to the \$10,000 level after a rough outing vs. \$20,000 types in which she broke slowly, and steadied on the first turn. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr. has Paco Lopez astride this 3-time turf winner (16-3-4-3).

**3 LUCKEY GREELEY** makes her first start of the year after a consistent end to her 2008 campaign in which she followed turf victories both here and at Calder with a couple of solid performances vs. allowance optional claimers on the Calder main track. Trainer Manny Estevez has 5-pound apprentice Eddie Dominguez in the saddle. **8 ALS BIG GIRL** has her claiming tag carved in half after shipping up to Tampa and finishing sixth vs. \$20,000 claimers at a mile on a 'firm' turf. Trainer Larry Bates teams with jockey Manny Aguilar. The last time **9 NENA BELLA** competed on the turf (July 2008) she used her speed to wire a field of \$10,000 'two-lifetime' claimers at a mile on the Penn National turf. She should be running and gunning as soon as they spring the gate latch.

**SELECTIONS: 7-3-8-9**

**SEVENTH RACE:**

**3 BARGE**, a \$280K son of Forest Camp, should be ready to score after a very promising 6 1/2-furlong career debut in which he set a pressured pace and finished second. The turnback to 6 furlongs should be the key to his success.

**10 GALLIGAN ROAD** was given some time to recharge his batteries after showing promise in three consecutive sprints here, which includes back-to-back third place finishes at the distance during January. **9 SAIL COVE**, a Peter Vegso homebred son of Gone West has trained sharply over the track in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Phil Gleaves adds Lasix and jockey Manoel Cruz for this assignment.

**8 HONEST WILDCAT**, a \$260K son of Yes It's True, has trained consistently over the deep stamina enhancing Payson Park training track in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Mark Hennig adds Lasix and leading jock Jose Lezcano to the mix.

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

**EIGHTH RACE:**

**3 BLUES STREET** wheels back at the same level and distance after responding to the addition of blinkers with a troubled (steadied first turn) - but well meant - head defeat at this level and distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher adds second-time shades, and first-time Chris DeCarlo for this event. **9 MURCH** will try to make it two in a row at the distance after closing strongly to defeat \$50,000 claimers in impressive fashion. Trainer Mark Hennig secures the services of jockey Joe Bravo as Jose Lezcano moves to **4 T HARRY**. The gelding steps up the competition after notching his second consecutive turf victory at the meeting when he defeated

\$35,000 claimers at a mile and a sixteenth. Note that the Peter Walder trainee is 3-2-0-1 at a mile.

**11 JUST PLAYIN AROUND** is stretching out to a mile (3-1-0-0) after defeating next-out local winners New Believer, Footloose Man, and Distortedamusement in a 'key' 5-furlong entry-level allowance dash here on March 1st.

**SELECTIONS: 3-9-4-11**

**NINTH RACE:**

**4 GOLD INDY** will be outfitted with blinkers after dueling throughout and finishing second at this level and distance. The recent workout pattern on the Palm Meadows turf, which includes a couple of bullet drills, indicates the \$500K daughter of A. P. Indy, is ready to exit the maiden ranks.

**6 SCHOLASTIC** makes her sophomore debut, with Lasix added, the first start since she set the pace and was beaten a neck in her mile and a sixteenth career debut on the Aqueduct turf. Trainer Christophe Clement, 22% with the 61-180 day layoff, and 23% with first-time Lasix, has Jermaine Bridgmohan at the controls. **5 THERE ARE RAINBOWS**, 1 of 2 in the race for Todd Pletcher (Gold Indy), stretches out after a rough outing at a mile, as the 4-to-5 favorite, in which she broke poorly, and steadied on the first turn. Jose Lezcano rides. **8 CHAPEL AFFAIR** will give the turf a try after a useful return to action here at 7 furlongs on the main track. Trainer Ken McPeck, 20% with the first-time turf angle, has Manoel Cruz handling the surface switch.

**SELECTIONS: 4-6-5-8**

**BEST BET: RACE 4 - 1 LAVER**

**LONG SHOT: RACE 8 - 11 JUST PLAYIN AROUND**