



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

7 LOOKIN FOR MONEY is turning back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs after surrendering a late lead when finishing 2nd – beaten a neck – vs similar going a mile. Trainer Armando De la Cerda has Luis Saez in the saddle. **5 CHANNEL SURFING** is another turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after setting the early pace and fading to finish 4th behind the top choice last out. Trainer Tim Kelly has aggressive front-running jock Paco Lopez rationing her speed.

4 FOREVER FOR ALWAYS makes it a trio exiting the same race to merit consideration at this 7 1/2-furlong distance.

SELECTIONS: 7-5-4

RACE 2:

6 STILLBURNIN, who faced better on the main track with some success, is going back to the dirt after failing to earn a check in a pair of \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Nik Juarez handling the surface switch.

4 LAND HO is trying a dirt surface for the first time, and turning back to 7 furlongs, with the speed and the back class needed to succeed against this caliber of competition. Trainer Tino Attard has Jose Lezcano in the saddle. **2 HY DANDY** is turning back to seven-eighths of a mile after tracking the pace and finishing a distant 3rd against similar going a 1-turn mile.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-2

RACE 3:

6 MISS MASERATI should absolutely race away from the competition after responding to the addition of Lasix, and the stretchout from 5 ½ furlongs with a strong outing at this 1-mile distance in which she vied for the lead throughout and was beaten only a neck. **5 WILD DALTON**, who does her best running from 'off the pace', will be there to pick up the pieces if the top choice fails to negotiate the distance.

2 COLORINCOLONEL is dropping to the bottom, and stretching out to a mile, to merit consideration vs a field that offers more questions than answers.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-2

RACE 4:

6 JIVE DADDY is stepping up to face optional claiming competition after returning locally under the tutelage of trainer Dale Romans and proceeding stalk early and move away late to defeat \$16,000 '3-lifetime' foes at the distance. **4 MORNIN BREW** comes off a pair of solid \$16,000 claimers at the distance in which he followed a victory on December 18th with a game outing when finishing in a dead heat for 2nd - beaten only a head in a 3-horse blanket finish.

7 DOCTOR J DUB is getting some class relief after dueling through suicide early fractions of 20 & 4 and 43 flat before fading from contention in the \$125,000 GP Turf Sprint last out.

SELECTIONS: 6-4-7

RACE 5:

4 DYNAMIC DECISION is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying 3-wide to finish 4th - beaten 2 ½ lengths – against similar going 9 furlongs. Trainer Armando De la Cerda has leading jock Luis Saez atop the son of Dixie Union. **3 GRACIOUS PLENTY** moved to the David Nunn barn via the claim after his 2-race win streak ended when he battled for the lead and weakened to finish 5th behind the top choice in their recent tussle at a mile and an eighth. The new connections lighten the impost with 7-pound apprentice Carlos Hernandez named to ride.

1 I. C. LIGHTNING is making the 3rd start of his current form cycle after running an improved 5th at this level and distance last out when he stalked the pace before flattening out late. Trainer Guadalupe Preciado has Paco Lopez atop the son of Flatter, who should sit the trip behind the speed.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-1

RACE 6:

2 TWO STEP FLOR is the obvious choice to score after returning from the freshening to set a pressured pace and finishing a screw-tightening 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli is 22% with the 2nd start after a 45-180 days' layoff.

6 KEEKER is hoping for a clean trip after steadying at the 3/8th pole, altering course in the stretch, and still managing to finish 4th behind the top choice last out. Trainer Dave Kassen has Emisael Jaramillo handling the rematch. **7 SUM ROAR** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after encountering traffic along the inside (checked) and fading to finish 8th in a \$25,000 optional claimer at this 5-furlong distance. She's been competitive with this level of opposition in the past.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-7

RACE 7:

3 WILSHIRE STAR is turning back to a mile after dueling through questionable tepid fractions of 26 flat and 51 & 3 before getting caught at the wire and finishing 2nd – beaten a length at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Nick Gonzalez has Javier Castellano named to ride. **1 WRITE IN CANDIDATE** is dropping to the \$35,000 level after shipping in from Churchill, pressing the early pace, and fading to finish 7th in a maiden special weight test going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Dale Romans, winning races at a 21% clip, has Corey Lanerie handling the class relief. **5 ASSAULTER** is dropping to this level, and adding blinkers, after tracking the early action and fading in his \$75,000 career debut at the distance. Trainer Bill Mott, 17% with first-time blinkers, has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-5

RACE 8:

8 BISTRO MONCUR should be primed and ready to offer more after returning from the freshening to close from 10th and last to finish 3rd at this level and distance. Trainer Wesley Ward has Joel Rosario returning on the \$75,000 daughter of Lonhro. **6 PIRA** is hoping to make amends after getting parked 5-wide when finishing 5th - beaten 2 ¾ lengths as the favorite last out. Trainer James Bond has Paco Lopez in the saddle. **5 RUN TO GLORY** is returning to the turf with the great equalizer on her side – Speed! The daughter of City Zip should be in the first flight playing 'catch me if you can'.

SELECTIONS: 8-6-5

RACE 9:

1 YOURDREAMSORMINE is stretching out to one of his better distances (7-3-1-1), and starting from the rail again, after breaking last in the \$100,000 Sunshine Millions Sprint before rallying to finish 4th – beaten 2 lengths. He classes up nicely here, but breaking from the rail at 7 furlongs is always a shaky opposition. **4 SCARLY CHARLY** is cutting back to 7 furlongs after sitting behind the pace and finishing an even 3rd going a 1-turn mile last out. The 3rd start since arriving from Kentucky can be a winning affair. **3 DECORATED SOLDIER** has been training forwardly in preparation for the first start since stalking the pace and fading in the \$500,000 Ohio Derby last June. Trainer Todd Pletcher, 37% with the longer than 180 days' layoff, has John Velazquez in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-3

RACE 10:

4 MY GOOD VENEZUELA will face \$16,000 optional claimers at 7 ½ furlongs after an eventful journey in a \$50,000 starter allowance going a mile and a sixteenth in which she clipped heels at the 3/16th pole and finished 4th. Trainer David Jacobson has Javier Castellano named to ride. **7 FIRST GIRL** is breaking midpack after departing from a demanding outside post (11), rushing up to set the pace, and weakening from her earlier efforts to finish 3rd in a \$25,000 optional claimer at the distance. Trainer Sid Attard spots her where her speed can be the 'key' to her success. **1 WHIPNADE** is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs, and departing from the rail, after prompting the pace and finishing 3rd in front of the top choice going a mile and sixteenth last out; Julien Leparoux rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-1

BEST BET: RACE 6 – 2 TWO STEP FLOR

LONGSHOT: RACE 10 – 5 ELIZABETH AURORA