



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

Thursday, January 12, 2017

RACE 1:

7 REGAL KITTEN is dropping into this 'non-winners of 2-lifetime' event after rallying to 'hit the board' in 2 of 3 \$50,000 starter allowance races in Kentucky. Trainer Joe Sharp has Luis Saez in the saddle.

2 MR. SAM, now in the Armando De la Cerda barn, the gelded son of Harlan's Holiday debuts locally after rallying to finish 2nd at this level and distance on a 'firm' Aqueduct turf. The new connections have Javier Castellano named to ride. **5 EKATI WILDCAT** is dropping into the conditioned claiming ranks after facing allowance level competition at Woodbine in the 2 races since defeating maiden special weight competition during the summer. Trainer Roger Attfield teams with jockey John Velazquez.

SELECTIONS: 7-2-5

RACE 2:

7 MAJESTIC MAIARA is stretching out to 7 furlongs after a couple of solid performances going three-quarters of a mile, which includes the 2nd place finish here last out. Trainer Alejandro Maymo has Paco Lopez in the irons. **3 CURLIN'S IMAGE** is trying to turn the tables on Majestic Maiara at 7 furlongs after showing speed and fading to finish 4th behind her in consecutive races at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Marty Wolfson has Nik Juarez rationing her tactical speed. **4 EVA LONDON** has trained sharply at Palm Meadows in preparation for the 1st start back from an 11-month layoff. Trainer Amy Tarrant has Elvis Trujillo named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-4

RACE 3:

3 WOLF GOURMET is dropping into this \$30,000 '2-lifetime' claimer after returning from the layoff to stalk the pace and fade to finish 6th in her local debut against \$50,000 conditioned claimers. Trainer Dale Romans has Corey Lanerie handling the stretchout to a mile and a sixteenth (3-0-1-1).

6 LILLIE'S ANSWER moved to the Mike Maker barn after the claim, and returns locally, after rallying 5-wide to come within a head of notching this '2-lifetime' when 3rd on a 'good' Aqueduct turf. The barn, 19% with new claims, has Paco Lopez named to ride.

9 KENITRA, a well-meant 2nd at this level and distance two starts back, is stretching out after breaking from an outside post and failing to offer a late charge when finishing 6th at 7 ½ furlongs.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-9

RACE 4:

1 CHARLIE THE GREEK, the only 2-time winner in the field, is dropping to the \$35,000 level on the main track after returning from the layoff and failing to fire in an ambitious outing vs \$75,000 optional claimers going 5 furlongs on the turf. **5 EPIC DRAMA** is dropping to the \$35,000 level after returning from the layoff to duel for the lead and fade at the 1/8th pole to finish 7th against a solid group of \$50,000 starter allowance runners. **2 VIVID IMAGE** is turning back to 6 furlongs, and adding blinkers, after returning from Gulfstream West to stalk the action and finish 3rd against \$25,000 open claimers going a mile.

SELECTIONS: 1-5-2

RACE 5:

4 CONSUMERCONFIDENCE, who flashed ability on the turf here, last year, is going back to the grass after returning from a layoff to stalk the pace and fade to 5th in a \$40,000 maiden test going 7 furlongs on the Aqueduct main track. Trainer Chad Brown has Javier Castellano handling the surface switch.

2 KITTEN'S DILEMMA is debuting locally after responding to a drop in competition by finishing 2nd at this level and distance on the Churchill turf. Trainer Mike Maker has Tyler Gaffalione atop the gelded son of Kitten's Joy. **6 CAPE FORCE**, who was beaten a half-length at this level and distance in his career debut here last January, is returning from the extended layoff with a string of useful Palm Meadows turf works showing. Trainer Brian Lynch has Julien Leparoux named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-6

RACE 6:

3 MUNTIJ, who displayed a touch of class here last year when 2nd to multiple stakes winner Catholic Cowboy in the restricted \$60,000 Old Hickory, is dropping into this conditioned claimer with a series of solid local workouts showing, including the recent half-mile bullet drill on Dec 27th. **6 MACH MY DAY** figures on the 'what have you done lately' angle after returning from the 2-month freshening to finish 3rd in a \$25,000 optional claimer at the distance. Trainer Allen Iwinski has Javier Castellano handling the 2nd start off the bench. **1 BROWN ALMIGHTY**, now in the Fernando Abreu barn, the 8-time winner, returns from the layoff to take full advantage of the conditions of the race when he tries to win for the first time here since last April; Edgard Zayas rides.

SELECTIONS: 3-6-1**RACE 7:**

9 READY STRIKE is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and returning to the turf, after following a narrow defeat against \$35,000 '3-lifetime' claimers on a 'good' Aqueduct turf with a clunker going a mile & 70 yards on the winterized inner dirt track. Trainer David Jacobson teams with jockey Javier Castellano.

5 HINES is dropping, and turning back, after stalking the pace and weakening against considerably tougher in a \$35,000 optional claimer going a mile & three-sixteenths. The son of Tapit has the ability to be prominently placed in a field that is extremely light in the speed department. **2 TO YOUR HEALTH** is a late-striding gelded son of Tapit that merits respect at 9 furlongs after rallying to finish 2nd at this level going a mile and a sixteenth last out.

SELECTIONS: 9-5-2**RACE 8:**

7 CROWNING AFFAIR, who ran well here last Spring, is turning back to 7 furlongs after ending her 2-race campaign in New York with a 3rd place finish against \$25,000 optional claimers going a mile at Aqueduct. Trainer Ralph Nicks has go-to jock Tyler Gaffalione handling the return to South Florida.

10 WHISTLE, who broke her maiden at GPW at first asking in October, is stretching out to 7 furlongs after returning from the layoff to finish a useful 4th in her allowance debut here going 6 furlongs. Trainer Marty Wolfson has John Velazquez atop the \$180,000 daughter of Hold Me Back.

1 JULERETTE, now in the David Fawkes barn, the daughter of Successful Appeal debuts locally, and breaks from the rail, after tracking the pace and finishing good 3rd at this level and distance at Churchill; Joe Bravo handles the demanding inside post.

SELECTIONS: 7-10-1**RACE 9:**

4 CANADIAN FLYER is training sharply at Payson Park in preparation for the first start since prompting the pace and weakening late to finish 6th in a monster 'key' race at Saratoga that has produced 4 next-out winners from 5 starters. Trainer Bill Mott has Jose Lezcano atop the lightly raced 5-year-old.

3 FORCED MOTION, undefeated in 3 previous turf races at the distance (3-3-0-0), is making his first start rallying to defeat \$30,000 conditioned claimers at GPW on Nov 20th. **1 FORGIVE** is stepping up to face winners after tracking early and drawing away late to defeat maiden special weight competition here at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-1**RACE 10:**

5 FORALL THE MARBLES is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and turning back to a mile (12-3-3-2) after setting the pace and fading when facing \$25,000 optional claimers going a mile and a sixteenth last out. **10 STAR CONTENDER** will try to make it two in a row at this level and distance after dueling early, and edging away late to win by 1 ½ lengths. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez tabs Javier Castellano to ride as Emisael Jaramillo sticks with the top choice.

6 GINGER GOOSE is stepping up to face open competition after a perfectly executed ground-saving trip produced a \$16,000 '3-lifetime' victory last out. Trainer Eddie Broome has Corey Lanerie going for two in a row,

SELECTIONS: 5-10-6**BEST BET: RACE 9 - 4 CANADIAN FLYER****LONGSHOT: RACE 10: - 3 STARSHIP ZORRO**