



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

BY RON NICOLETTI



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RACE 1:

6 ROYAL ROCKER should be primed and ready to score after vying for the lead and finishing 2nd in her career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Mark Casse, 5 or 12 (42%) with his freshman runners thus far, has Miguel Vazquez up. **2 KNOWN BY HEART (IRE)**, another from Mark Casse, the daughter of the late great sire Galileo, debuts with a solid work tab showing on the Palm Meadows turf: Emisael Jaramillo rides. **1 SOLAR GIRL** is a daughter of Greenpointcrusader debuting for leading trainer Saffie Joseph Jr, who has an 18%-win average with turf sprinters, but is only 9% with his debut turf runners. The tote action should tell us more.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-1

RACE 2:

7 RICKI TICKI TAFFI, a rejuvenated son of Field Commission, faces \$6,250 open-claimers after cruising through his 2 and 3-lifetime conditions in winning fashion. Trainer Antonio Sano has Jesus Rios going for the threepeat. **3 MUSTANG CAT** is dropping to this level, and cutting back to 6 furlongs, after coming up empty when being eased in a \$16,000 starter optional claimer going a mile. Peter Walder, 25% with the route to sprint angle, has Miguel Vazquez atop this shaky proposition.

4 GREEN MANSIONS is another cutting back to three-quarters of a mile after returning from the layoff to finish a screw-tightening 3rd vs this level of competition at a mile. Note the gelding is 3 for 4 'in the money' at the distance.

SELECTIONS: 7-3-4

RACE 3:

2 GRAN RUNNER is looking for clear sailing after breaking outward at the start, and brushing in the stretch, when beaten only a nose – as the favorite – at this level and distance: Edgard Zayas rides for Victor Barboza Jr. **3 EMPEROR'S CAUSE** is wheeling back after brushing and bumping in the stretch when finishing 3rd – a nose behind Gran Runner last out. The rematch should be fun to watch. **5 MYSTERY MO**, a well-meant 2nd on a fast track 2 starts back, and 3rd behind the top 2 on a good track last out, should offer more if Mother Nature cooperates.

SELECTIONS: 2-3-5

RACE 4:

5 LOYAL LOUIE is sitting on go after pressing the pace and finishing 2nd to repeat winner, and 2nd race participant Ricki Tiki Taffi, at this level and distance last out. Peter Walder has Chantal Sutherland named to ride.

7 VISIONS OF THANOS is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile, and returning locally, after finishing a troubled starting 2nd vs \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimers going 5 ½ furlongs at Delaware Park. Note the gelding faced much tougher in his only previous race here.

1 PERSONAL MEADOW is stepping up to face winners after using his speed to defeat \$12,500 maidens last out. Trainer Oscar Gonzalez has Emisael Jaramillo controlling the inside speed.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-1

RACE 5:

5 AMERICAN PHENOM is dropping into this \$20,000 conditioned claimer in the first start since finishing 4th vs \$50,000 starter allowance runners here during February. Trainer Rohan Crichton, has Jose Morelos handling the return. **9 KICKS ON SIXTY SIX** moves to the Joe Orseno barn via the claim, and steps up, after finishing 2nd – as the favorite – behind repeat winner Mr. Tito's in a \$12,500 '2-lifetime' claimer going a mile. The new connections tab Samy Camacho to ride. **8 POLITICAL RIOT** is freefalling to this level after finishing a sightseeing 6th vs state-bred allowance runners going a mile. The son of Two Step Salsa has always faced better on the local turf.

SELECTIONS: 5-9-8

RACE 6:

4 THE SKIPPER TOO is dropping to the \$50,000 level, and cutting back to three-quarters of a mile, after rallying to finish 2nd – at 31-1 – in a special weight affair moved from the grass to 7 furlongs on a wet-fast main track. Trainer Juan Alvarado has Edgard Zayas atop the son of Brethren. **8 HEY PORTER** is a son of Upstart debuting for trainer Jorge Delgado, who has a strong 27%-win average with his 2-year-old runners: Chantal Sutherland rides. **6 SWIFTWISH** is a gelded son of Mshawish debuting for trainer Tim Hamm with a solid work tab showing at Palm Meadows: Romero Maragh rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-6


RACE 7: THE MR. STEELE

6 CARIBOU CLUB, a multiple graded stakes winner, who has banked over \$742,000, stretches out to 8 ½ furlongs after following an overnight handicap score going 5 panels with a poor showing – as the favorite – in the \$100,000 Bob Humphrey Turf Sprint on July 4th. Trainer Tom Proctor, 24% with the sprint to route angle, has Keiber Coa named on the 2-time winner at the distance (4-2-0-0). **5 VOW ME NOW**, beaten only a half-length on the turf in a \$70,000 overnight handicap 2 starts back, is going back to the grass after breaking poorly and calling it a day in a \$16,000 starter allowance going mile in the slop last out. Trainer Ed Plesa Jr has Samy Camacho handling the previous winner at the distance.

3 RENAISSANCE FROLIC, 1 of 3 entered for the turf by Saffie Joseph Jr, is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after returning from the layoff to finish a rallying 3rd – as the tepid favorite - behind Vow Me Now going 8 furlongs last out: Edgard Zayas rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-5-3

RACE 8:

4 OCTANE is sitting on winning effort after vying for the lead and finishing 2nd in his career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Carlos David, 35% with maidens making their 2nd start, has Emisael Jaramillo returning on the Arindel homebred son of Brethren. **3 FISHING FOR FUN** is stepping back up to special weight competition after following the 3rd place finish behind Octane in his career debut with a 2nd place finish vs \$50,000 maidens last out. Trainer Ron Spatz has Miguel Vazquez handling the rematch. **6 CAJUN LOVER**, a gelded son of win-early sire Cajun Breeze, debuts for trainer Kathleen O'Connell with a quartet of so-so workouts showing over the track. The tote action can help point us in the right direction.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-6

RACE 9:

1 HALCYON DIGEST is dropping into this conditioned claimer after vying for the lead and tiring – as the favorite – in a \$35,000 starter optional claimer at the distance. David Fawkes has Emisael Jaramillo handling the class relief. **4 YOUNG FLINT**, who defeated this level of competition 2 starts back, drops after making a middle move and fading vs \$16,000 starter allowance runners going a mile last out. Trainer Ralph Nicks has Edgard Zayas atop the only 2-time turf winner in the field.

5 BUENISIMO is turning back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs after returning from the 5-month layoff to finish a solid 2nd vs \$20,000 claimers going a mile. Trainer Juan C Avila has a \$3.22 ROI with the 2nd start back from the 45-180 days layoff.

SELECTIONS: 1-4-5

RACE 10:

5 KOZY DREAMS is making the usually fruitful 3rd start back from the layoff, and stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs, after back-to-back 2nd place finishes – as the favorite – going three quarters of a mile. Amador Sanchez has Hector Berrios trying to remedy the chalk-burning status.

6 SPECIAL COUNSEL drops a notch, and wears blinkers, after surrendering a late lead when finishing 3rd vs \$10,000 conditioned claimers going 6 ½ furlongs in the slop. Peter Walder has Miguel Vazquez at the controls.

4 GRACE'S DRAMA is cutting back to a sprint distance, and dropping into this dated claimer, after hitting the board in back-to-back \$6,250 open-claimers going a mile. Gary Jackson has Jonathan Gonzales up.

SELECTIONS: 5-6-4

RACE 11:

4 BREAKTHROUGH is dropping a level after leading every step of the way to defeat \$35,000 starter optional claimers at the distance. Juan C Avila has Jose Morelos going for 2 in a row. **9 KANTHAROS' IMAGE** has been knocking on the door in consecutive races at this level since rallying to defeat \$25,000 conditioned claimers during March. Trainer Steve Klesaris, 20% with turf sprinters, has Emisael Jaramillo atop the consistent 8-year-old. **8 ROMARIO**, who rallied to finish 2nd in front of Kantharos' Image at this level 2 starts back, drops after failing to fire in the \$100,000 Bob Humphrey Turf Sprint on Independence Day.

SELECTIONS: 4-9-8

RACE 12:

1 LAST MINUTE DEAL should have the screws tightened after returning from the layoff to 4th at this level and distance. The colt goes from the outside (Post 9) to the rail with Romero Maragh at the controls. **8 DR. ROGER**, the beaten favorite in 4 consecutive races, may have found the spot where he can cure the chalk-burning status. Juan C Avila has Emisael Jaramillo rationing the gelding's speed. **7 HIERRO** is dropping to the \$12,500 level looking to sit a 'key' stalking trip behind the suspect pace scenario in the finale. Dan Pita has Cristian Torres in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 1-8-7

BEST BET: RACE 7 – 6 CARIBOU CLUB

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 4 BREAKTHROUGH