



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by Ron Nicoletti

FIRST RACE:

2 STAR COMMANDO moved to the Scott Lake barn via the claim after rallying to finish third in his local debut at the distance. Trainer Lake, 25% with recent acquisitions, has Josue' Arce named to ride. **6 EVEN RAISE** is stretching out to a mile after skipping a condition and defeating this caliber of competition when blinkers were added for his local debut at seven-eighths of a mile. **1 TREKKIE** is stretching out to a mile after following a \$16,000 'two-lifetime' score at seven-eighths of a mile with a second place finish vs. this caliber of competition at 6 furlongs. Trainer Stan Gold has Manoel Cruz handling the stretchout.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-1

SECOND RACE:

5 HEIRLOOM THIEF is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after posting by far the best last-race Beyer figure (53) when stalking the pace and finishing second vs. similar in a 5 1/2-furlong affair contested on a wet track listed as 'good'. **7 IMPULSIVE BID** is a \$47,000 son of Kafwain who shows four local workouts, including a sharp half-mile drill out of the gate, in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Phil Gleaves adds Lasix and Mario Madrid for this assignment. **4 KING PALANCE** is turning back to a sprint distance after showing improved early speed when both Lasix and blinkers were added for his local debut vs. similar at a mile. **3 LE GRAND CHIEF** is a son of Homebuilder who finds an ideal spot to start his career. Trainer Manny Estevez has Junior Alvarado named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 5-7-4-3

THIRD RACE:

4 VALIANT HUMOR is turning back to three-quarters of a mile after responding to the addition of Lasix with a third place finish in a 'key' 6 1/2-furlong dash that produced repeat winner Sergeant Silver, who defeated \$62,500 claimers on Jan 28, and next-out winner Jacks Eleven, who defeated \$50K maidens on Jan. 24. **2 MANUEL R**, third on the dirt vs. a notch tougher on Jan. 14, returns to the main track after finishing third vs. similar quality in a 5-furlong event contested on a 'good' turf. The half to stakes-placed Prohibido Olivardar has Eddie Castro handling the surface switch. **5 HONOUR ABOVE SELF** drops a rung on the competition ladder after losing his best chance when he broke slowly, as the favorite, in his local debut at the \$62,500

level. Trainer Allen Jerkens has Josue Arce named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-5

FOURTH RACE:

1 QUILLIGAN is stretching out to 6 furlongs after tracking the pace 3-wide and finishing third vs. similar at five-eighths of a mile on a sealed 'sloppy' track. Red-hot trainer Dan Hurtak secures the services of equally hot jock Eibar Coa. **9 LEWICKI** will depart from the outside after breaking from the rail, dueling throughout, and finishing second - 3 lengths in front of Quilligan in their recent clash at 5 furlongs. Trainer Alec Fehr has Joe Bravo handling the rematch between speed and stalker. **6 SWEETWESTERNSAINT** drops to the \$10,000 level with blinkers added for the first start since he rallied 5-wide to finish fourth vs. \$25,000 claimers in the 'mud' at Laurel on Dec. 12. Trainer Mike Gorham spots the previous winner at the distance (3-1-0-1) where he should be effective. **2 TAIL A BLAZE** will face 'two-lifetime' competition after surviving a stretch-long duel to defeat \$12,500 maidens at this 6-furlong distance.

SELECTIONS: 1-9-6-2

FIFTH RACE:

7 STRAIGHT BLUES is hoping to rebound at a mile (4-1-1-1) after showing speed and faltering late, as the favorite, when facing \$25,000 claimers at 9 furlongs on a 'firm' turf. Hot trainer Peter Walder, who won two races on Monday, including one on the grass, has Javier Castellano named on the daughter of Straight Man. **1 CATCHING**, fourth behind Straight Blues at the distance on Jan. 3, cuts back to 8 furlongs after stalking the pace, encountering traffic on the turn, and still managing to finish second in front of her in their recent outing at 9 panels. Trainer Nick Gonzales has Elvis Trujillo handling the rematch. **5 STAG DANCER** is cutting back to a mile after dueling for the lead and tiring to finish third behind Catching last out. Trainer Rich Dutrow Jr., a strong 28% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Eddie Castro at the controls. **10 GRAIN OF TRUTH** was game in defeat when she dueled from start-to-finish and was beaten only a neck vs. \$10,000 starter allowance competition at the distance. The Beyer figure (78) that she posted in her last race indicates that she's fast enough to defeat this group.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-5-10

Thursday
February 14, 2008



GULFSTREAM
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SIXTH RACE:

6 KASTORICAL drops to the bottom again after breaking from Post 11, dueling for the lead, and finishing second, as the tepid favorite, vs. \$16,000 maidens at the distance. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Jorge Chavez named on the son of Katwain. **3 UNCLE EMIL**, a \$50,000 son of Touch Gold, starts his career at the bottom of the maiden scale for trainer Nick Zito, who always spots them where they can win. The colt starts his campaign with Lasix and Eddie Castro added to the mix. **8 SUMTER COUNTY** will face \$12,500 maidens after willing performance along the rail in which he stalked the action and finished second vs. \$16,000 Florida state-bred maidens at this 6-furlong distance. **5 STEPHEN'S TRICK** was game in defeat when he turned back from 8 to 6 furlongs to come within a length of springing a 33-1 upset vs. this caliber of competition. Jose Lezcano rides.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-8-5

SEVENTH RACE:

11 IMPOSSIBLE TUNE is looking for her third consecutive victory after leading every step of the way to defeat this level of competition by 1 1/2 lengths. Trainer Michel Pino has leading jock Eibar Coa returning on the daughter of Concorde's Tune, who is a ultra consistent 6 for 6 in the money at the distance (6-4-0-2). **1 QUEEN AMIRA** is stepping up the competition after showing speed and fading to finish fifth behind my fifth race choice Straight Blues in a 1-mile \$25,000 optional claimer on the Calder turf. Trainer Bill Mott has Eddie Castro handling the turnback in distance. **7 SWEETEST KISS** is turning back to 5 furlongs after a solid local turf debut at a mile in which she dueled for the lead and weakened to finish fifth - beaten 2 3/4 lengths - vs. this caliber of competition on a 'firm' turf. Trainer Barclay Tagg, solid with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff (21%), has Elvis Trujillo returning on the daughter of Thunder Gulch. **5 I LOVE TO FLY**, a consistent 6-2-1-1 at the distance, makes her local return after following an entry-level allowance win at Laurel on Oct. 6 with a second place finish vs. \$25,000 optional claimers at Calder on Dec. 30. Trainer Linda Rice has Javier Castellano handling the sprint specialist.

SELECTIONS: 11-1-7-5

EIGHTH RACE:

6 HARLEM ROCKER, a Stronach Stables homebred son of Macho Uno, has trained sharply at Palm Beach Downs in preparation for his career debut. Trainer Todd Pletcher adds Lasix and leading jock Eibar Coa to the mix. **2 EXCESS CAPITAL** moves to the rail, and stretches out to seven-eighths of a mile, after stalking the pace from Post 11 and finishing

second behind impressive winner Jockey Ridge in their local debut at 6 1/2 furlongs. Trainer Mark Hennig has Joe Bravo named on the son of Distorted Humor. **3 A DIEHL** is stretching out after chasing the pace and fading to finish third behind Jockey Ridge and Excess Capital, which was his first start since Sept. 1st at Saratoga. **4 SIN NOVEDAD** is expected to show more in career start number two after breaking slowly and finishing fourth behind Jockey Ridge and the others last out. Trainer Nick Zito, 20% with horses making their second start, names Eddie Castro to ride the son of Cherokee Run.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-3-4

NINTH RACE:

7 SILVER TREE, a perfect 6 for 6 in the money on the Gulfstream turf (6-4-1-1), returns to action after his impressive 3-race win streak, which included a victory in the Fourstardave (G2) at the Spa, ended when he finished fifth behind Precious Passion, at 40¢ to the dollar, in the Cliff Hanger (G3) at the Meadowlands on Sept. 21. Trainer Bill Mott has Javier Castellano guiding the classic horse-for-course play. **1 RUFF AND READY**, part of a Todd Pletcher uncoupled entry, should be more than ready to make his stakes debut after shaking off trouble in the stretch to defeat 'three-other-than' allowance runners at a mile. **9 ICY ATLANTIC**, the other entrant from the Pletcher barn, turns back to a mile and a sixteenth after failing to muster a late response when finishing sixth in the \$500K Sunshine Millions Turf, which his first start since finishing ninth in the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1). Note that Pletcher has Eibar Coa named on both horses, so his choice should pique your interest. **3 PRECIOUS PASSION**, who defeated Silver Tree in the Cliff Hanger (G3) on Sept. 21, and posted a 67-1 shocker in the 12-furlong La Prevoyante (G2) at Calder on Dec. 15, turns back to his most accomplished distance (10-4-2-0) after breaking slowly, stalking the pace, and fading in the 9-furlong Sunshine Millions Turf. Elvis Trujillo guides the upset special.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-9-3

BEST BET: RACE 3 - VALIANT HUMOR

LONG SHOT: RACE 9 - PRECIOUS PASSION