



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by Ron Nicoletti

Sunday, February 5, 2012

FIRST RACE:

6 CITY GIFT is dropping into this 2-lifetime claimer on the dirt after returning from a 9-month layoff to stalk the pace and finish fifth vs. entry-level allowance runners at 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer David Fawkes finds a perfect spot for the daughter of City Place.

2 MEZUMAN is making her first start since stalking early and drawing clear late to defeat a couple of next-out winners in a fruitful bottom level maiden race here on Dec. 17th. **3 CORAL SANDS** is cutting back to a sprint on the main track after making a solid middle move and tiring vs. \$30,000 2-lifetime claimers at a mile and a sixteenth on the turf, which was her first start since mid-November. Trainer Jim DiVito, 30% with horses making the second start after a 45-180 day layoff, has Rajiv Maragh handling the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 6-2-3

SECOND RACE:

9 STAR PLAYER will try to make it two in a row after returning from an almost 7-month layoff to defeat \$25,000 claimers at the distance. The 7-year-old, 8 for 10 in the money at Gulfstream, has Daniel Centeno in the saddle. **5 DUELING ALEX** takes a big slide down the competition ladder after ending his 2011 campaign with a distant 7th place finish – beaten double-digit lengths – in the 9-furlong Grade 3 Philip Iselin at Monmouth last Aug. 20th. **7 FAST JAK** is cutting back to a 1-turn mile on the dirt after showing speed and faltering when facing \$32,000 claimers in a 2-turn mile on the grass. The colt, 13-5-2-1- on the dirt, is definitely spotted for success.

SELECTIONS: 9-5-7

THIRD RACE:

2 OLD PARR is returning to his best surface after failing to hit the board on the turf for the third and fourth time in his career when he showed speed and weakened in a pair of 2-turn outings on the grass. Trainer Angel Quiroz has Daniel Centeno guiding the previous winner at the distance (1-1-0-0). **5 STRIKEWHILEITSHOT** is dropping to the \$15,000 level after dueling for the lead and fading to finish third behind second race choice Star Player in a \$25,000 claimer at a mile. Watch Star Player perform in the bottom half of the early double before you sashay to the window and plunk your money down on

this son of Smart Strike. **3 BERT B DON**, a previous winner at this 7-furlong distance (3-1-1-0), stretches out following a following a \$30,000 claiming victory on Dec. 15th with a somewhat disappointing performance vs. \$15,000 claimers, also at three-quarters of a mile.

SELECTIONS: 2-5-3

FOURTH RACE:

4 ENDER KNIEVEL is stretching out to a mile after rallying 3-wide to finish second in front of next-out winners Panthro and Stealcas in his local debut at 6 ½ furlongs. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez atop the son of Distorted Humor. **7 TIZ YANKEE** shows a couple solid half-mile drills, including the bullet on Jan. 27th, in preparation for the first start since disputing the pace and finishing third, as the favorite, in his local debut at this level and distance. Trainer Nick Zito has Jeremy Rose atop the son of Tiznow. **6 MY UNCLE CARDIE** will try the dirt after a pretty nice career debut at a mile on the turf win which he yielded in the final strides to get beat a half-length. Trainer Nick Canani readied him for this with a bullet 5-furlong workout in 59 & 4.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-6

FIFTH RACE:

5 BAYONA will face 2-lifetime claimers in the first start since drawing off to defeat \$12,500 maidens at Parx Racing by almost 10 lengths. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Paco Lopez atop the daughter of Tiznow.

8 OUR PLUM PUTTING is hoping to show a little more for the stretch drive after changing running tactics and coming from 'off the pace' to finish third at this level and distance last out. **2 AMAZING ALEXA** will try a traditional dirt surface again after following her \$30,000 maiden win on the Turfway synthetic surface with a poor showing here vs. \$30,000 'two-lifetime' sprinters on the turf. Trainer Garry Simms, 2 for 6 with the grass-to-dirt angle, has Edgar Prado in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 5-8-2

SIXTH RACE:

7 WAIT TIL DAWN is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after dueling through the stretch and getting beat a neck by repeat winner Nuffsaid Nuffsaid in her local debut at a mile. Trainer Todd Pletcher adds second-time blinkers on the daughter of Giant's Causeway. **1 CLOSING MOVE**, part of the Darley Stable entry trained by Tom Albertrani, debuts locally after finishing a promising second in her 1-mile career debut at Aqueduct on Nov. 27th. Leading rider Javier Castellano will be astride the daughter of Bernardini.

5 FLASHY AMERICAN is stretching out and an additional sixteenth of a mile dueling for the lead and tiring to finish third behind Wait Til Dawn last out. I'm expecting improvement is her second trip over the track.

SELECTIONS: 7-1-5

SEVENTH RACE:

3 JUNGLE WAVE comes off an eventful outing in a 'key' \$50,000 claimer that produced repeat winner Monument Hill and next-out winner Moonport, a race where he had to steady on both turns while looking for racing room, and then got blocked when trying to make what could have turned out to be a winning move during the stretch run. **9 MAHUBO** was game in defeat when he shipped in fresh off his comeback victory on the Aqueduct turf to come within a neck of winning at this level and distance on Dec. 16th. The Kiaran McLaughlin/Rajiv Maragh collaboration should take the bulk of the betting action. **6 REDBOARD** is competing for the \$62,500 tag in this optional claimer after a consistent 2011 turf campaign in which he won 2 of 4 turf races. The gelding makes his first start since dueling for the lead and tiring in a 'key' second-level allowance test at Keeneland that produced three next-out winners.

SELECTIONS: 3-9-6

EIGHTH RACE:

10 LEMONS TO LEMONADE is turning back to 7 ½ furlongs after a useful local return vs. this caliber of competition in which she rallied 3-wide to finish second – beaten a length at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Bill Mott has Jose Lezcano in the saddle.

1 VISION OF ROMANCE is cutting back in distance after showing good speed and weakening late to finish fourth in both local turf outings at a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Donald Brown has John Velazquez rationing her tactical speed from the rail. **4 PRINCESS BEAU K** is stretching out around 2-turns on the lawn after rallying to finish a well-meant second in consecutive sprints vs. 2-lifetime foes on the main track. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Javier Castellano handling the move to the grass.

SELECTIONS: 10-1-4

NINTH RACE:

11 CLOSERWALK shows a solid half-mile maintenance work in preparation for the first start since his promising debut at the distance in which he dueled throughout and was beaten three-quarters of a length. Trainer Wayne Catalano has Jose Lezcano handling Post 11.

12 SPIN OUT is a son of Hard Spun debuting for trainer Nick Zito with 10 bullet workouts showing in preparation for this assignment. The colt starts his campaign with Lasix and John Velazquez added to the mix.

4 CORE INFLATION will shift to the main track after the promising career debut on the grass in which he finished in a dead heat for fourth – but was beaten only a half-length at 5 furlongs. Trainer Terri Pompay readied him for the surface switch with a bullet half-mile drill in 46 & 4.

SELECTIONS: 11-12-4

TENTH RACE:

2 FANTASTIC SONG showed tons of promise during his brief freshman campaign when he broke his maiden at first asking on the Saratoga turf, was third – beaten a length – in the Grade 3 Pilgrim at Belmont in his next race, and ended the year by closing to get beat 6 ½ lengths in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf.

4 SATURDAY LAUNCH is stretching out to 9 furlongs after getting checked in the stretch, finishing fourth, and being place third, vs. this caliber of competition at a mile. Trainer Ken McPeck has Julien Leparoux in the irons.

7 PATRIOTICANDPROUD is stretching out to a mile and an eighth after rallying nicely to get beat a little over a length in his local turf debut at a mile and a sixteenth.

SELECTIONS: 2-4-7

ELEVENTH RACE:

1 CAPITALISM AT RISK is turning back to her best distance (8-4-1-0) after stalking the action and fading when trying \$10,000 optional claimers at a mile. The mare, 6-4-0-0 at Gulfstream, has won here in the past when breaking from the rail. **5 SHE IS ARE LADY** is turning back slightly after drawing clear with enthusiasm to defeat \$10,000 conditioned claimers at 6 ½ furlongs by almost 7 lengths. **9 KAIROS** is stretching out to three-quarters of a mile after rallying to finish third in her local return at 5 ½ furlongs. Note that she's 11 for 11 'in the money' at this distance (11-3-4-3)

SELECTIONS: 1-5-9

BEST BET: RACE 6 – 7 WAIT TIL DAWN

LONGSHOT: RACE 3 – 1 IN RHYTHM