



RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by *Ron Nicoletti*

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RACE 1:

4 KITTEN'S COVERGIRL is cutting back slightly to 7 ½ furlongs after setting the pace and just getting nailed at the wire when finishing 2nd vs similar going a mile. Trainer Wesley Ward has Albin Jimenez in the saddle. **2 JAN ONE** is debuting on the turf in the first start since rallying to finish 4th in a 'key' maiden special weight race on the Churchill main track that produced 4 next-out winners from 10 starters. Trainer Dale Romans has leading jock Luis Saez handling the surface switch.

6 SUGARCOATED KITTEN is a daughter of Macho Uno debuting on the turf for trainer Jane Cibelli after finishing 4th in her 6-furlong career debut on the dirt; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-6

RACE 2:

4 DEXTER should be primed and ready to offer more after making a 4-wide move and finishing 4th in his career debut at this level and distance. Trainer Ralph Nicks tabs Tyler Gaffalione to ride.

2 NOBLE COMMANDER, a \$235,000 son of Forestry, is debuting for trainer Mark Casse with a series of solid morning workouts showing. The colt gets Lasix, and has Julien Leparoux in the saddle.

5 I TURN A NIGHT UP is a son of Artie Schiller debuting for trainer Dave Kassen with bullet 3-furlong showing in preparation for this assignment. The colt gets Lasix, and has Edgard Zayas doling out his speed.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-5

RACE 3:

4 NONSUCH is dropping a notch on the optional claiming scale after following the \$25,000 maiden score at the distance with a stalk-and-weaken 4th place finish vs \$35,000 optional claimers going 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Bobby Dibona, who claimed his 2 starts back, has Irad Ortiz Jr in the irons.

7 LITTLE PLUMBER is stepping up to face winners after drawing off in impressive fashion to defeat \$20,000 maidens by 5-plus lengths. Trainer Kathleen O'Connell secures the services of Jose Ortiz as brother Irad sticks with the top choice.

1 MAKE ME PROUD, who does her best running from a stalking position, should sit in the catbird seat behind the glib early pace scenario expected. Trainer David Fawkes has Luis Saez atop 1 of 3 fillies in the field.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-1

RACE 4:

6 HONZA is stepping up to the \$35,000 level after finishing 3rd behind next-out winners Admirable Kiss and 3rd-race participant Little Plumber in a \$16,000 maiden race contested at 5 ½ furlongs. It's the old 'key-race' angle. **7 PAYNTER'S BOY** moved to the Jane Cibelli barn via the claim, and turns back to three-quarters of a mile, after getting beat three-quarters of a length – as the 4-to-5 favorite – going 7 furlongs; Jose Ortiz rides.

2 LIGHT BREEZE is gelded son of Indy Wind debuting for trainer Jerry Bozzo with a series of swift workouts showing on the Gulfstream West training track. Nonagenarian trainer Bozzo, who will be 97 years young on February 24th, adds Lasix and has Emisael Jaramillo named to ride.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-2

RACE 5:

6 OFFSHORE TRIP is turning back to 5 furlongs after making a middle move and fading when facing similar going a mile and a sixteenth last out. Trainer Alan Goldberg has Jairo Rendon handling the turnback. **8 DISRUPTOR** is going back to the turf for trainer Christophe Clement, and racing without the blinkers, after failing show much when facing \$20,000 maidens on the Aqueduct main track. The son of Distorted Humor, bred to respond favorably to both the surface and the distance, has leading jock Luis Saez in the saddle.

7 DOMENIC may have finally found the spot where he can notch the elusive maiden victory (18-0-5-2). Trainer Cam Gambolati has Edgard Zayas in the saddle.

SELECTIONS: 6-8-7

RACE 6:

10 SPORTSCASTER let everyone know he was a major player at this level when he used his tactical speed to defeat \$16,000 claimers going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Dale Romans has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the turnback to 7 ½ furlongs. **4 APPA** is stepping up to face open-claimers after stalking early, and closing 6-wide, to defeat \$16,000 'non-winners of 3-lifetime' claimers last out. Trainer Jane Cibelli, who claimed him last out, keeps the status quo with Luis Saez in the saddle.

6 GEAR JAMMER is back on his best course after shipping up to Tampa and finishing 4th vs similar quality going a mile on the grass. Trainer Angel Rodriguez has Jose Lezcano atop the late-running son of Freud.

SELECTIONS: 10-4-6

RACE 7:

4 SUMNER is stepping up to face winners after responding to both a surface switch, and the dropdown to the bottom, with a \$12,500 maiden score going a mile. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez handling the turnback to 7 furlongs.

3 VALDOCCO moved to the Jane Cibelli barn via the claim, and stretches out to seven-eighths of a mile, after returning from the layoff to finish 2nd vs similar going 6 ½ furlongs on a wet track listed as 'good'. **7 GREGORY SUN**, listed as a gelding, the son of Unbridled's Song makes his 1st start since dueling for the lead and fading to finish 3rd going 6 panels during December; Emisael Jaramillo rides.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-7

RACE 8:

7 MAI TY ONE ON is hoping to get away from the gate trouble free after hopping and bobbling at the start, making a bid at the ¼-pole, and finishing 6th when facing similar at this level and distance. Trainer Jane Cibelli has Tyler Gaffalione handling the usually fruitful 3rd start back from the layoff.

6 CHARLIE MOPS is plunging to the \$16,000 level, and removing the blinkers, after setting the pace and tiring in the \$150,000 Sunshine Millions Turf.

Trainer Peter Walder, who claimed the speedster for \$35,000 2 starts back, has Edgard Zayas atop the 5-time local turf winner. **2 TWO STEP TIME** is another getting some class relief after rearing at the start prior to finishing 6th vs \$25,000 optional claimers going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Mike Maker has Jose Ortiz named to ride.

1 BOW TIE AFFAIR is expected to show more after shipping in from Aqueduct, prompting the pace, and finishing 3rd going a mile.

SELECTIONS: 7-6-2-1

RACE 9:

9 UNLEASH HIM is turning back to 5 ½ furlongs after dueling for the lead and finishing a hard-fought 2nd when facing similar quality at three-quarters of a mile. Trainer Jorge Navarro keeps it light with apprentice Aby Medina in the saddle.

4 ILLUSTRIOUS SON is stepping up to the next level, and turning back in distance, after shaking off early trouble (bobbled, bumped) to defeat \$6,250 '2-lifetime' claimers as the odds-on choice when going three-quarters of a mile last out.

3 NIGHT RYTHM is another stepping up to the next logical level after parlaying a 5-wide rally into a victory vs \$6,250 '2-lifetime' foes.

SELECTIONS: 9-4-3

RACE 10:

3 MARCH TO THE ARCH will tussle with state-bred runners after the promising debut vs open maiden special weight competition in which he finished a workman-like 5th. Trainer Mark Casse has Jose Lezcano named to ride. **8 SALSA JACK** is a gelded son of Two Step Salsa debuting for trainer Jonathan Thomas, who has a 24%-win average with his first-time starters. The sophomore gets Lasix, and has Tyler Gaffalione in the saddle. **10 BETA MAX**, listed as a gelding, the son of Treasure Beach, now in the Kiaran McLaughlin barn, will be outfitted with blinkers after showing promise on the turf when he finished 3rd vs maiden special weight runners on the Parx turf; Irad Ortiz Jr rides for the new connections.

SELECTIONS: 3-8-10

BEST BET: RACE 6 – 10 SPORTSCASTER

LONGSHOT: RACE 8 – 7 MAI TY ONE ON