



# RACE BY RACE ANALYSIS

by Ron Nicoletti

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## RACE 1:

**2 DEXTER ROAD** is dropping to the \$16,000 level after closing well to finish 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 starter optional claimers at the distance; Luis Saez handles the dropdown.

**6 SON OF OAHU** is another dropping into a winning spot after closing from far back to finish 5<sup>th</sup> behind Dexter Road last out. Trainer Yvon Belsoeur has Irad Ortiz Jr handling the rematch. **4 STREET CODE** makes it a trio dropping down after following a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at this level with a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in the \$50,000 Little Magician.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-4**

## RACE 2:

**4 VINCERO**, now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, the gelding faces state-bred runners the 1<sup>st</sup> start since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in back-to-back \$50,000 starter allowance races at the distance. **5 TRANSISTOR** is cutting back to 7 furlongs after a trio of solid efforts going a mile, which includes the 5-wide score vs \$50,000 starter optional claimers last out.

**2 JALEN JOURNEY**, 1 of 2 in the field for Kathleen O'Connell, steps up to face winners after drawing clear to wallop \$50,000 maidens by almost 6 lengths; Luis Saez rides.

**SELECTIONS: 4-5-2**

## RACE 3:

**1 OWNITIFYOUWANTIT** is turning back to a mile after setting the pace and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> going a mile and a sixteenth on January 17. Trainer Tom Albertrani has Tyler Gaffalione atop the \$435,000 son of Midshipman. **7 NO RULES**, a \$330,000 son of Union Rags, gets blinkers after racing wide in his 6-furlong career debut. Trainer Chad Brown, over 30% with both maidens making their 2<sup>nd</sup> start, and 1<sup>st</sup>-blinkers, has Javier Castellano named to ride. **3 HAUNT**, a half-brother multiple Grade 1 winner Elate, cuts back to a 1-turn mile with blinkers added after prompting the pace and fading going a mile and a sixteenth last out.

**SELECTIONS: 1-7-3**

## RACE 4: THE GULFSTREAM MILE (G2)

**4 PRINCE LUCKY** looks very tough after following his victory in the \$150,000 Easy Goer at Belmont last June with a monster 6-length score here in the Grade 3 Hal's Hope. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez atop positively the one to beat. **1 TALE OF SILENCE** should be primed and ready to show more after returning from the 9-month-plus layoff to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind Prince Lucky in the Hal's Hope.

**3 BE GONE DADDY** is stretching out to a mile after posting his 2<sup>nd</sup> straight victory going 7 furlongs vs \$25,000 optional claimers.

**SELECTIONS: 4-1-3**

## RACE 5: THE CUTLER BAY

**3 MARQUEE PRINCE** is debuting locally, and going back to the turf, after following the overnight stakes victory on the Fair Grounds turf with a score in the \$72,000 Black Gold in a 'good' Fair Grounds main track. Trainer Brad Cox has Javier Castellano named to ride. **2 FOREVER MO** is back locally after following consecutive turf victories here with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the \$75,000 Columbia at Tampa; Manny Franco rides the horse-for-course play. **1 SEISMIC WAVE** is stepping up to face winners at a mile after holding on gamely to break his maiden at 9 furlongs. Trainer Bill Mott has Irad atop the son of Tapit.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-1**

## RACE 6: THE SANIBEL ISLAND

**3 A BIT SPECIAL (GB)** was more than a bit special when she posted her 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive turf victory in the Grade 3 Sweetest Chant. **4 BELLE LAURA** is turning back to a mile after rebounding from her 7<sup>th</sup> place finish in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf with a set-the-pace 3<sup>rd</sup> in the G3 mile and sixteenth Sweetest Chant. Trainer Norm Casse tabs John Velazquez to ride as Julien Leparoux sticks with the top choice. **6 POSITIVE SKEW**, a daughter of City Zip, is stepping up to face winners after breaking her maiden at 7 ½ furlongs. Trainer Chad Brown has Javier Castellano going for 2 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 3-4-6**

## RACE 7:

**3 ALASAAYIL** is going back to the turf after following a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish, from a tough outside post, going 7 ½ furlongs on the grass with a duel-and-fade outing going a mile and a sixteenth on the main track. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin has John Velazquez atop the daughter of Hard Spun.

**2 NIKO'S DREAM** is stretching out after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – at 19-1 – when going a mile here last out; Manny Franco rides for Barclay Tagg. **7 SILVER KITTEN** is trying a mile and a sixteenth again after the inconsistent pair at a mile. Trainer Danny Gargan has Luis Saez atop the daughter of Kitten's Joy.

**SELECTIONS: 3-2-7**

**RACE 8: THE GULFSTREAM PARK OAKS (G2)**

**7 COOKIE DOUGH** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth (1-1-0-0) after returning from the layoff to lose a tough one when beaten a head in the Grade 2 Davona Dale.

**6 DUNBAR ROAD**, a \$350,000 daughter of Quality Road, is stepping up to face graded stakes competition after drawing clear like an international 'good thing' when she broke her maiden at a mile by almost 9 lengths. Trainer Chad Brown has Irad named to ride. **5 CHAMPAGNE ANYONE** is stretching out with blinkers added after following the well-meant 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 7-furlong G3 Forward Gal with a 3<sup>rd</sup>-place finish behind Cookie Dough in the Davona Dale.

**SELECTIONS: 7-6-5**

**RACE 9:**

**8 SOCIAL PARANOIA** is back with maidens in the first race since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the G3 Pilgrim on a yielding Belmont turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Luis Saez atop the son of Street Boss. **9 BAD BOY** is looking to make amends after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> – as the lukewarm favorite – at this level and distance last out. **2 OVERBOLD**, a \$500,000 son of Uncle Mo, is making his first start since finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind repeat winner Clint Maroon at this level and distance. Trainer Bill Mott has Johnny V in the irons.

**SELECTIONS: 8-9-2**

**RACE 10: THE SAND SPRINGS**

**5 VALEDICTORIAN**, a sharp winner of the 9-furlong G3 Suwannee River 2 starts back, wheels back after getting nipped at the wire in the 1-mile G3 Honey Fox last out. She loves this course (10-3-2-2). **9 PROCTOR'S LEDGE**, a perfect 2 for 2 on this course, makes her first start since finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the 10-furlong G1 E P Taylor at Woodbine. The daughter of Ghostzapper is the class of the field.

**3 MRS. RAMONA G.** is cutting back to a mile after her 3-race win streak ended when she finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Sunshine Millions F & M Turf. She's worth a flyer at a price.

**SELECTIONS: 5-9-3**

**RACE 11:**

**3 GLEASON** should have the screws tightened after returning from the almost 11-month layoff to finish chase-the-pace 5<sup>th</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Todd Pletcher has him firing bullets for this assignment. **5 RESTORING HOPE**, Grade 2 stakes-placed during his sophomore season, is making his first start since coming up empty in both the Pat Day Mile and the G1 Belmont Stakes. Trainer Jason Servis take over the training, and tabs Irad Ortiz Jr to ride.

**8 FAST PASS** was game in defeat when he rallied to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at this level and distance. Trainer Peter Walder has Tyler Gaffalione named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 3-5-8**

**RACE 12:**

**7 BONDURANT** is turning back to a mile after returning to make a middle move and faded to finish 5<sup>th</sup> behind hard-knocking Mr Edgar going a mile and a sixteenth. Trainer Ian Wilkes, 22% with the 2<sup>nd</sup> start back from a 45-180 days layoff, has Brian Hernandez Jr atop the longshot special.

**1 PAGLIACCI** will depart from the rail after breaking midpack and leading every step of the way to defeat first-level allowance runners at the distance. Trainer Bill Mott has Irad Ortiz Jr rationing the speed. **11 SECOND MATE** is another turning back to a mile after couple of productive races at a mile and a sixteenth, which includes the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the Sunshine Millions Turf. Trainer Jorge Abreu has Javier Castellano in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 7-1-11**

**RACE 13: THE PAN AMERICAN (G2)**

**3 VILLAGE KING (ARG)** is stretching out to 12 furlongs after setting the pace and yielding late when finishing 5<sup>th</sup> – beaten 1 ½ lengths by repeat stakes winner Zulu Alpha in the 11-furlong Grade 2 Mac Diarmida. Trainer Todd Pletcher has pace master John Velazquez in the irons.

**1 FOCUS GROUP**, a lightly raced 5-year-old son of Kitten's Joy, returns for trainer Chad Brown, and makes his first start since finishing a late-running 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Grade 1 Canadian International. The distance specialist should get the pace needed to compliment his patient running style. **8 SOGLIO** is hoping to finally get out of 2<sup>nd</sup> gear after trio of frustrating efforts, which includes the head defeat in the 2-mile H Allen Jerkens, and the half-length defeat by Zulu Alpha in the 12-furlong G3 McKnight.

**SELECTIONS: 3-1-8**

**RACE 14: THE XPRESSBET FLORIDA DERBY (G1)**

**1 HIDDEN SCROLL** will depart from the rail after following his head-swirling debut victory by getting hooked in a suicide speed duel and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the G2 Fountain of Youth. Trainer Bill Mott has Hall of Fame jock Javier Castellano handling the inside post. **4 BOURBON WAR** is stretching out to 9 furlongs after closing best of all to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in the G2 FOY. The Mark Hennig trainee, ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr, should sit in the catbird seat behind the speed.

**9 CODE OF HONOR** will try to make it 2 in a row after a masterful ride by John Velazquez produced the victory in the Fountain of Youth.

**SELECTIONS: 1-4-9**

**BEST BET: RACE 6 – 3 A BIT SPECIAL (GB)**

**LONGSHOT: RACE 12 – 7 BONDURANT**