

# The Wizard's Spotlight Play

December 26, 2008

## Fair Grounds, Race 10

### **Race 10: \$20,000 Maiden Claiming, 2yo fillies, one mile, dirt**

**Dance With Daddy** (#9) returns to the races on Friday off a 45-day layoff, making her first start for trainer Steve Margolis. Following her fifth-place finish on Nov 11 at Churchill Downs, Dance With Daddy was privately purchased by Margolis, who is also part owner, from the barn of Carl Potts. In the last two years Potts has not won a race with 44 starters. Clearly this is a positive trainer change.

In her first two starts, Dance With Daddy faced much tougher rivals than what she faces Friday. Both starts were run over a synthetic surface at the prestigious Keeneland meeting. In her debut going seven furlongs she broke slow from a tough rail post in a large field of 12 runners. Dance With Daddy managed to race evenly, out-finishing seven other rivals, in a "better than it looks" effort at 38-1. In her next start, she was stretched out to two turns. Breaking from post 10, which is the kiss of death at Keeneland, Dance With Daddy was hung out very wide the entire trip. On the far turn, her rider was forced to steady, losing all chance. Even though she ran 10th, Dance With Daddy was only beaten five lengths. Several horses that exited that race, have since come back to run well. In her last start, which was on the grass at Churchill, she was once again hung-out wide all the way, finishing fifth, with another wide journey from an outside post. What is very important to note was that she was facing winners in a \$40,000 claimer.

On Friday, Dance With Daddy will be facing maidens once again and taking a realistic drop in class to \$25,000, a level she has never run. Margolis wins a high percentage of races going grass to dirt and is also very proficient, improving horses first time in his barn off a freshening. She must overcome another tough outside post, but her running style is to take back and make one run. Dance With Daddy gets a huge jockey switch to leading rider Francisco Torres, which can only help her chances. She is 7-2 in the morning line. I would not be surprised if she was bet down to 5-2 or 3-1. Even at that price, she is a strong play for me.