

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Magical Affair (10th race)

First Race: 1. I Am Trouble 2. Straight Money Man 3. Starship Destroyer

I AM TROUBLE plunges off the claim, a scary proposition to begin with, and facing the prospect of getting hooked early by B L's Papa Co Co. That said, he did have little chance in his last when chasing a very fast pace in a race that produced three next out winners and outside draw should have him away and running. Hoping he's got at least one good one left in the tank to assert his class at this level. STRAIGHT MONEY MAN also plunging off a series of disappointing tries against better. No match for preferred one at Calder in early December but another who demands respect for this tag. STARSHIP DESTROYER stays put off the claim after losing all chance when off slow in key Minidrop race. Has won at the distance. Might be in perfect position if potential speed duel develops.

Second Race: 1. Wild Blue Dreams 2. Hopeforthebest 3.

Mymamacanmambo

WILD BLUE DREAMS took scary drop off the claim but won for fun against a soft bunch now steps up a notch while wheeling back on relatively short rest, perhaps a good sign in this case. Catches a field loaded with speed. Repeat of last should have him rolling past the tiring leaders at the end. HOPEFORTHEBEST was fanned extremely wide off the turn, outlasted MYMACANMAMBO while no match for suddenly red hot Calabria dropping to this level for the first time on 2/13. Another who should benefit if B L's Noise, Lexicon Turbulents and likely favorite R Little Nugget get involved in a potentially torrid pace duel.

Third Race: 1. Sabi Sabi 2. March Twelfth 3. Rocketing Returns

SABI SABI turns back to a sprint off a couple of nice tries to close out his 2yo campaign and open his 3yo season. Could not get past turf specialist Cape Royale over the artificial surface at OBS but did well to finish second while under the assumption he might not have taken kindly to the track considering how far he drooped off the early pace. Has the speed to stay closer to the early leaders here. MARCH TWELTH flashed some real promise early at 2 and training extremely well since switching to White barn. May be a sleeper off the bench. ROCKETING RETURNS the logical choice returning to allowance company after being involved in early speed duel in the Hutcheson. Must avoid similar fate with Paso Doble but could be long gone if allowed to clear off, relax in front with these.

Fourth Race: 1. Lightning Road 2. Lord Robyn 3. Possetothemax

Looking for some value in one of several wide open turf races on the card. Plenty of speed signed on which could set this one up for somebody off the pace and LIGHTNING ROAD should fit the bill considering he rallied on a couple of occasions going seven furlongs over Mountaineer turf in '08. Love the way he tuned up for this over the main earlier in the meet when splitting next out winners Chasing The Prize (who returned to post a 94 Beyer) and Edge of Chaos who trounced \$25K platers while earning a 101 Beyer in his next start. LORD ROBYN the most logical choice dropping another notch in company for high profile barn. Got in a smidge of traffic trouble in his last but probably should have been coming on better at the end considering the way the race collapsed through the final furlong. Still the one to fear. POSSETOTHEMAX returns to selling ranks after being overmatched in his local bow. Swooped from mid-pack to win his N1X conditioned in impressive fashion on 12/27 and a repeat of that performance certainly good enough to win here.

Fifth Race: 1. Indy's Sonata 2. Golden Mystery 3. Gatorette

INDY'S SONATA couldn't have been gamer winning her debut for a barn that usually doesn't have its young horses cranked for their best off the bench. Does not have the Beyer power of some of the others but question that final mark somewhat considering it came on same card that produced mere 77 number for Dunkirk. Runnerup Run All Day flattered the effort a bit when returning to win at next asking with an 82 Fig. Should be able to fashion a nice stalking trip breaking outside logicals like GOLDEN MYSTERY and GATORETTE both of whom earned high marks on graduation day but with similar running styles and stretching out well beyond anything they've tried to date.

Sixth Race: 1. Elle Cashareau 2. Tiger With a T 3. Yippety Yip

ELLE CASHAREAU could be a sleeper with a little better trip than he received in her previous meeting with likely favorite TIGER WITH A T. Steadied a couple of times during opening quarter mile before taking a little run at the leader around the second bend. Faltered from the effort but showed enough to warrant a look at big balloons with cleaner sailing today especially with Tiger facing the prospect of perhaps a stiffer early challenge from Purple Moonlight. YIPPETY YIP exits same 1/31 race as the preferred pair but has seemingly been drilled a lot harder in the a.m. by new connections in preparation for the rematch. Another who could outrun her odds with the right trip.

Seventh Race: 1. Fetch You Back 2. June Day 3. On a Roll

FETCH YOU BACK an intriguing looking firster from dangerous debut barn. Posted a bullet work on 2/5 tab that included Dunkirk and a near bullet from the gate last weekend in preparation for her bow. Could be a quick one. JUNE DAY the logical choice after proving no match for Gatorette while well backed at first asking. Breeding says she won't be a maiden for long being out of a multiple SW mare and a kin to multiple G1 winner Society Selection. ON A ROLL another debuting off the training center at Palm Meadows. Hasn't shown quite the same zip as preferred choice in the a.m. but did flash some speed from the gate on 2/22 and she is a full sis to multiple SW Enders Sister.

Eighth Race: 1. Icon Project 2. Kristi With a K 3. Mantekilla

Will give ICON PROJECT one more look with the hope Trujillo will give her a little more chance to show her stuff and keeper closer to the pace over speed favoring course than she was when debuting on 2/20. Added distance should be a plus for this filly who got within a head of Folk Opera going 12 furs. last summer in England. KRISTI WITH A K strictly the one to beat once again. Could not hold on at 6-5 after benefitting from a perfect trip in her last and Beyers continue to take a downward spiral. Blinkers come off for this one. MANTEKILLA a bit of a question having been idle since April but she did prove competitive in a key race in her 3yo finale and she's not only worked fast but gotten in a drill over the grass in preparation for her return. Also interesting to note she's seemingly lured Prado off the favorite.

Ninth Race: 1. Peach Flambe 2. So Glitzy 3. Victorina

Strictly taking a horses for courses angle while looking for a little value in this restricted stakes. PEACH FLAMBE finally returns to the strip she's handled best during her career, the Gulfstream main track, over which she won a similar restricted stakes and proved competitive against tougher open company on a couple of occasions last winter. Has the speed to trip out nicely in this spot after working bullets at Payson since her dull showing on grass in the Sunshine Millions Filly and Mare turf. SO GLITZY moves into restricted company for the first time off a decent showing against a solid group of allowance rivals that included Striking Tomisue, who came right back to win a stakes last weekend at Tampa. VICTORINA obviously the one to beat but she will be a very short price despite trying the local surface for the first time in her 26 race career.

Tenth Race: 1. Magical Affair 2. Starship Angel 3. Dame Ursula

MAGICAL AFFAIR, the day's best, looks ready to finally earn her diploma and to start earning back a little chunk of her \$1.5 million plus purchase price. Could not contain next out allowance winner Shared Account in her debut, returned to turn in game effort behind another

repeat winner, Our Dahlia, to open her 3yo campaign. Switches to turf which figures to be a plus considering her bloodlines. Should be close up throughout over speed favoring inner strip. STARSHIP ANGEL switched barn since breaking slow, running gamely in very promising grass bow. Jumps from claiming to MSW level but working well for new connections and likely to handle the hike with a better beginning. DAME URSULA an intriguing firster by Elusive Quality and kin to a number of multiple grass winners in Japan and Europe. Works steady if not spectacular.