

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By BYRON KING



BEST BET: Optimer (7th race)

First Race: 1. Shoshone Girl 2. In the Red Zone 3. Rock a Tong

SHOSHONE GIRL is more experienced on turf and Polytrack than on traditional dirt, but catches a soft maiden claiming group and did manage a couple fourths on dirt earlier in her career. Edge in form and recent Beyers. IN THE RED ZONE just missed against this level of competition in a slow race at Tampa after a third and a ninth in two starts on grass. ROCK A TONG rallied to be third in her debut against a notch easier despite experiencing a tough trip. Eligible to improve.

Second Race: 1. Stevil 2. Constabulary 3. U S Treasury

STEVIL has been stuck in this N1X allowance condition since his 2-year-old year, but appears to have finally found an allowance field he can beat. Possesses back class, having been fifth in 2008 La Derby and fourth in the 2008 Bluegrass. CONSTABULARY is returned to dirt after finishing eighth in his first start of the year. He ran well on dirt last year, and is bred for a mile on the main track, being by Carson City. U S TREASURY graduated from the maiden ranks in his first start with blinkers Feb. 28. He posted a 90 Beyer three back and should contend in his first race in an allowance.

Third Race: 1. Hayley's Victory 2. G. Poli 3. Maral

HAYLEY'S VICTORY joins the winning barn of trainer Marty Wolfson, who immediately drops him into am maiden claimer. Fast works at Calder and blinkers come off. Better on the way. G. POLI has twice been second at this class level and now makes his third start off a layoff, often a peak race of a horse's form cycle. MARAL is returned on short rest after rallying to be a distant third in the slop Mar. 19 when matched against similar.

Fourth Race: 1. Pirate King 2. Next Adventure 3. Intuition Magic

PIRATE KING was edged by NEXT ADVENTURE in a \$35,000 claimer Mar. 5 but rates top billing on the basis of his overall consistency. He consistently posts quality Beyers and should be in peak form in his third start of the year. NEXT ADVENTURE rallied to catch the top choice by a head in their last matchup. He is two-for-three this meet, with his lone defeat coming at a mile. INTUITION MAGIC just won a \$35,000 claimer in fast time at today's distance of six furlongs Jan. 23, and being a horse that runs well fresh, should fire off a layoff.

Fifth Race: 1. Lovamor 2. Princess Buddha 3. Calvary Charge

LOVAMOR is the class of the field, having run competitively in three starts against better on the grass. She drops from maiden \$80,000 to maiden \$30,000 company following a fourth-place finish Jan. 17. PRINCESS BUDDHA does not have lofty Beyers, but has not been worse than fourth in four starts for trainer Kenny McPeck and is drop to her lowest level. CALVARY CHARGE bombed on dirt recently, finishing ninth, but was a close seventh two back when last racing on grass.

Sixth Race: 1. Bruno's a Biter 2. Wood Be Me 3. I've Heard It All

BRUNO'S A BITER broke awkwardly and failed to threaten against similar opposition Mar. 6 but appears capable of better. He runs hot and cold but looks fast enough to win with his best race. WOOD BE ME finished well in front of the top choice in his latest when second for this tag. He has plenty of back class but will likely start as the favorite in what looks like a competitive race. I'VE HEARD IT ALL is cut in half from \$20,000 to \$10,000 after a distant sixth in his first start of the meet. He showed flashes of promise last year but is 5-0-0-1 lifetime over this track.

Seventh Race: 1. Optimer 2. Eastern Seaboard 3. Hariolus

OPTIMER, coming off a pair of strong claiming tries against better this meet, is the class of this \$20,000 claimer for horses winless this year. EASTERN SEABOARD failed to threaten against \$25,000 claimers in two starts this meet, but won for \$16,000 at Calder late last year. Closing style suits this course. HARIOLUS has shown little in two starts in the U.S. but is dropped sharply in class for a barn dangerous with longshots.

Eighth Race: 1. Roxyana 2. Phantom Rising 3. Coffee in Bed

ROXYANA ran reasonably well in her first start of the year, chasing the pace and fading to fourth. Anticipating a move forward in her second start off a layoff. PHANTOM RISING won easily going seven furlongs in her debut and adds Lasix for her first start vs. winners. COFFEE IN BED moved forward in her latest, finishing a distant third in a quality allowance. She ran fifth in the Frizette last year and acts like a useful filly.

Ninth Race: 1. Straight to It 2. Demolition 3. Irish Blarney

STRAIGHT TO IT, a \$500,000 yearling purchase by Giant's Causeway, has a lovely grass pedigree and debuts for a barn that has great stats with first timers. DEMOLITION has trained well for Pletcher leading up to his debut. He has been working on the grass at Palm Meadows and appears well prepped for his first race. IRISH BLARNEY merits considering if he gets a chance to start. He ran sixth in a fast race on the grass in January.