

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Metal Jacket (6th race)

First Race: 1. Eon 2. Cove Star 3. Mortal Tiger

EON has flashed speed against better around two turns now comes up tagged and should prove too fast for this group if able to come away running from dangerous inside post out of the one mile chute. COVE STAR another getting some class relief while switching back to the main following another unlucky beginning. Clean break could make him the one to fear. MORTAL TIGER finished third out of this mile chute here last spring and eligible to improve with one under his belt. Switch to top N Y jock enhances the appeal.

Second Race: 1. Marnesia's Big Boy 2. Hey Byrn 3. Imawildandcrazyguy

MARNESIA'S BIG BOY back to more suitable spot following a couple of recent stakes outings and already a winner out of the one mile chute. Figures forwardly throughout with these. HEY BYRN has disappointed a bit in two starts following summer hiatus but third could be a charm especially over what is surely his favorite course. IMAWILDANDCRAZYGUY another getting some much needed class relief following steady diet of stakes competition. STretch runner will need a little more help up front than he may receive in this spot.

Third Race: 1. Mascot 2. Verismo 3. Tidy Up

MASCOT victimized by an unlucky trip on New Years day when shuffled back badly on the final turn before finishing with good energy to be second best while qualifying for this starter allowance spot in the process. Held own with stronger this summer in N.J., can be along with cleaner sailing. VERISMO back to his favorite surface following another improved outing on the main. Overcame tough trip of his own to finish third for \$16K tag when last trying the inner on 11/14. TIDY UP pressed issue throughout, hung late in his south Fla. bow and a tough cookie in similar starter allowance tests for much of the year up north.

Fourth Race: 1. Pick Off 2. King's Fleet 3. Intrusive

PICK OFF another Zito dropper looking for the right spot to finally earn a diploma. Should have found one with this group. Dueled into stretch with a rival named Denmark in his Ky. finale and that one has since returned to win a maiden \$15K at the Fair Grounds with a 74 Beyer. That type of number would be more than enough to beat these. KING'S FLEET showed promise despite a slow start in his bow, cold not overcome another slow start at second asking. Drops a couple of notches, dangerous foes if away running from the outside gate. INTRUSIVE stuck in second gear at the present time. Hanging sort hard to take on top but a must use for the minor awards.

Fifth Race: 1. Miss Catalyst 2. Warm Shower 3. Queen Caribees

MISS CATALYST might be overlooked a bit considering J.R. runs to WARM SHOWER. Turned in a sharp career bow on grass despite a slow start, finishing a half length behind recent Hollywood Park maiden winner Nan. Chased some fast fractions on the main in her last. Warm Shower necked in both previous starts but does exit faster division of a split MSW event in her 2-year-old finale. Impeccably bred for the going by Dynaformer out of a G2 turf winner on grass. QUEEN CARIBEES ran evenly in her debut and another who should just love the going being by Cozzene out of a mare who was both a G2 and G3 winner on turf. Recollect also superbly bred for the inner being by El Prado and G1 grass winner MEMORIES of Silver but might need one off the bench.

Sixth Race: 1. Metal Jacket 2. Lincoln's Bullet 3. Comprise

METAL JACKET, the day's best, beat a field that included a pair of next out grads when earning diploma in his '08 finale and nicely spotted to take another in his local bow. LINCOLN'S BULLET narrowly beaten in each of his last pair including N3L dash two back at Calder. Hung at the end going seven eighths in his latest and might be well served on turn back to today's distance. COMPRISE wheels back on short rest off yet another good local performance. Should be rolling at the end.

Seventh Race: 1. Grace's Spirit 2. Proud Aly 3. He's Long Gone

GRACE'S SPIRIT turned in a solid grass bow behind Adari who has since become stakes placed and a full to Ablaze With Spirit who is six for seven in the money on turf. Drops into more suitable spot after being completely overmatched in his 2yo finale on the main. PROUD ALY the lone turf winner in the lineup and must be respected for that fact alone. Might not have the luxury of an easy lead this time around but still a major player off that performance. HE'S LONG GONE has shown promise around two turns on dirt and with one of the better turf Tomlinson's in this lineup.

Eighth Race: 1. Jockey Ridge 2. Austin Laviva Baby 3. Cleanse

JOCKEY RIDGE grabbed everyone's attention on graduation day here a year ago and while never quite running back to that performance still showed plenty of promise including G3 placing before being put on the shelf after the Bay Shore. has worked steadily for his return up at Palm Meadows and taken to trip out nicely chasing likely pace of Mr. Flatter and Captivating Cat. AUSTIN LAVIVA BABY has never been better and pace scenario fits his running style perfectly. Second best behind a horse who returned to finish third in the Gravesend in his next start. CLEANSE a lightly raced sort who showed talent right off the bat but now making just his fourth start at the age of 5. Closed out brief 3yo campaign with big try behind Talk of a Cat who shipped out west to get beat just two lengths under N2X conditions in his next start.

Ninth Race: 1. Jeux de Danse 2. Waquoit's Love 3. Ginger Brew

JEUX DE DANSE continues to improve since switching to Wolfswon barn. Turned in bang up effort when narrowly beaten for third by Rutherienne after forcing issue stretching to nine furlongs in the My Charmer and might appreciate this shorter route. Should trip out well once again stalking expected pace of Beau Dare. WAQUOIT'S LOVE got into a little trouble while finishing less than two lengths behind preferred choice in the My Charmer and rarely runs a poor one especially over this course. Should offer some value in this wide open spot. GINGER BREW the one to beat but likely to be overbet considering her local accomplishments last year and runnerup finish in the Queens Plate. Dangerous foe but perhaps a bit vulnerable making just her second start since June.

Tenth Race: 1. Lilmac's Essence 2. Dancingfordiamonds 3. Laura's Luck

Finale could be ripe for a firster so we'll give a good look at LILMAC'S ESSENCE who hails from sharp debut barn and with some decent works on her resume' dating back to late November. DANCINGFORDIAMONDS took some early action but had best chances compromised when off slow and then after getting shuffled back on far turn before finishing well to be third in her debut. Stepping up against a bit tougher at second asking but eligible for improvement with one under her belt. LAURA'S LUCK away since September and a beaten favorite in her last pair but should fit with these at her best.