

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By BYRON KING



BEST BET: Castles in the Sky (8th race)

First Race: 1. Thenputitback 2. Mareana 3. Master Tricky

THENPUTITBACK, claimed out of three straight races, ran well in her lone turf start in January when rallying for fourth in a longer race. She acts like a filly that would be better suited to a turf sprint. MAREANA earned a race-best 70 Beyer in running second in an open 25K claimer Apr. 12. Easily her top two Beyers have come on grass. MASTER TRICKY, stakes placed sprinting last year, has run well in two of her last three starts, including in her most recent start Apr. 16.

Second Race: 1. Prince Alphie 2. Starship Destroyer 3. Fiumes

PRINCE ALPHIE starts for the high percentage Walder barn and enters this race in top form, having recorded two wins and a second in three starts this meet. A 13-time winner, he is capable of handling the slop but runs his best numbers on fast tracks. STARSHIP DESTROYER was a brave winner for \$10,000 two back before finishing a close second in starter \$16,000 company Apr. 2. Main threat to the top choice. FIUMES led from start to finish two back before regressing in his latest when fading to fifth in a starter \$16,000. He is 5-3-0-1 over this track and could easily rebound with a better effort.

Third Race: 1. Zee Zee 2. Ahvee's Destiny 3. Mohegan Sky

ZEE ZEE ran a fine second in stakes company when racing on short rest Mar. 8. A versatile filly, she is just as capable of transferring her sharp dirt form to turf. She won the Edgewood on grass at Churchill last year. AHVEE'S DESTINY, a 7-time winner, is a skilled turf sprinter and returns off a layoff for trainer Linda Rice, who excels with comebacking grass sprinters. MOHEGAN SKY, another Rice comebacker, also merits consideration, having compiled a 3-2-1-0 record over this course. She won her first race of the year in 2008.

Fourth Race: 1. Right Special 2. Smoke Before Fire 3. Nasturtium

RIGHT SPECIAL just ran a close third against maiden \$30,000 opposition despite a less than perfect trip. She was steadied in traffic on the second turn, and finished well once swinging out for room in the stretch. SMOKE BEFORE FIRE disappointed with a seventh against similar Apr. 11 but ran well in her preceding starts when competitive in straight maiden company. Tough with a return to peak form. NASTURTIUM moved forward second time out, rallying for third in a similar race. With just two starts behind her, she may continue to improve as she gains experience.

Fifth Race: 1. Salt Syn 2. Hurricane Annie 3. Betty Is Ready

SALT SYN is an honest turf sprinter, as evidenced by her fine 13-6-3-0 grass record. She is dropped to the lowest level of her career after fading to fourth in a \$25,000 claiming race off a long layoff. HURRICANE ANNIE takes the same drop after finishing eighth in the race in which SALT SYN was fourth. An accomplished turf sprinter in her own right, she starts for trainer Linda Rice, who excels with short-distance grass horses. BETTY IS READY is a good fit from a class perspective but hasn't started since September and is returning at a distance that seems less than her best.

Sixth Race: 1. Optimer 2. True Dancer 3. Joe Five

OPTIMER is prone to minor awards but could get over the hump with the plunge to the \$10,000 level. He has faced better throughout his career, and was good enough to run second to Sterwins in a Fair Grounds Stakes race in December of 2007. TRUE DANCER, coupled in the wagering with OPTIMER, also moves down in class. He came up empty in a \$20,000 claimer recently, but was second for \$35,000 earlier in the meet. JOE FIVE faces winners for the first time after gamely rallying to win a maiden \$30,000 claimer Apr. 10.

Seventh Race: 1. Lovamor 2. Go Go Pink 3. Sky Cap

LOVAMOR showed improvement first time off the claim for trainer Marty Wolfson, finishing second at this level as the favorite. She has earned Beyers in the 60s in four of five starts and faced better opposition last year and in early winter here. GO GO PINK struggled in finishing seventh recently, but that came on dirt. She acts like a filly that is much better on the grass than on the main track. She ran second at the maiden \$50,000 level earlier this meet. SKY CAP woke up a bit in her latest with a third against similar. She also ran second in a straight maiden race at Calder in November.

Eighth Race: 1. Castles in the Sky 2. Our Friend Harvey 3. Awakino Cat

CASTLES IN THE SKY, an astute claim for \$12,500 last July at Prairie Meadows, has blossomed into a stakes winning sprinter for trainer Jamie Ness. She carries some serious weight here but has earned Beyers of 94-99 in his last four turf starts. OUR FRIEND HARVEY ran a close third behind the top choice in stakes company at Tampa. She has experience over this course, having twice run third and third once in five local grass starts. AWAKINO CAT was off poorly when facing the top two at Tampa, but kicked into gear late to finish a close sixth. With a sharper start, he can challenge.

Ninth Race: 1. Wild Entry 2. Stay Red 3. Trevelyan

WILD ENTRY has twice run second in as many starts. He is well drawn on the fence and shows a maintenance move at Gulfstream Park that should set him up for a winning effort. STAY RED finished a length and a quarter behind the top choice when third in her latest. He has experienced troubled trips in all three of his starts, and can improve with a clean run. TREVELYAN rallied to just miss here Mar. 7 when equipped with blinkers for the first time. He also managed a second at Aqueduct last year. He figures prominently but may get hung a bit wide from his post.