

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Our Honor (2nd race)

First Race: 1. Habibi Affair 2. Blue Katana 3. Caught in Action

Looks like a good spot for one of the new faces. HABIBI AFFAIR bred more for turf than dirt on the dam's side but barn clicks at a nice percentage and ROI with debuting maiden claimers and she's shown some gas in the morning over the local strip. BLUE KATANA working fairly regularly for her bow and is a half to 10 time SW Bernie Blue and a ful to Group 3 placed Japanese runner Cosmo Bell. CAUGHT IN ACTION a \$100K yearling buy who shows up under a \$45K tag for sharp debut barn. Mixed signals. Tab board for further clues.

Second Race: 1. Our Honor 2. Georgian 3. Successful Love

OUR HONOR, the day's best, returns to the main off a couple of unlucky trips on grass and looks like the controlling speed if he can leave cleanly from the fence. Taken to lead these a merry chase if loose. GEORGIAN continues to knock on the door with this kind and the victim of trouble himself last out but now a beaten favorite in each of his last five starts. SUCCESSFUL LOVE back where he belongs after having little chance against N2X optional claimers who went in :21 and change for seven furlongs. Missed a nose, this kind, two back.

Third Race: 1. Stacie's Smile 2. Noorissun 3. Silly Cat

STACIE'S SMILE gets some major class relief after finishing third despite trouble on the turn and being forced to fan extremely wide for clearance into the stretch under an \$80K tag. Barn in thick of battle for training honors with team Pletcher, looking for easiest spot possible with this filly. NOORISSUN carries the Pletcher banner into banner while returning to her favorite surface after failing as the tepid choice in her main track bow. Got beat less than a length two back in a race which produced a couple of next out \$30K maiden winners. SILLY CAT comes off her best yet when switched to the grass and could prove controlling speed in a race lacking much in the way of any real speed types. Gets big break in weights as well with apprentice Vigil taking the call.

Fourth Race: 1. Le Grand Cru 2. Motorcycle Tom 3. Excess Capital

LE GRAND CRU a beaten favorite in each of the last pair but looks ready to finally get back into the winners circle with this group. MOTORCYCLE TOM comes off a career best effort following a long layoff and with ample time to recuperate from that performance. Should be coming best at the end. EXCESS CAPITAL finally earned elusive diploma when benefitting from a fairly soft pace scenario. Won't have that luxury with these but still among the major players at his best.

Fifth Race: 1. Echo in Eternity 2. Perfect Officer 3. Regardless of Outcome

ECHO IN ETERNITY and PERFECT OFFICER could become the beneficiaries of what figures to be a hotly contested pace with REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME. Sir Edgar and Streamin Heat rarely outrun for the lead in any of their starts. Something should have to give if all three show up in the starting gate which could set the race up for the late striding Echo in Eternity if he's able to repeat impressive debut win. Perfect Officer may have been best when runnerup to red hot Purely Chance after taking up sharply on the far turn and again into the stretch.

Sixth Race: 1. Aspasia 2. Go Go Pink 3. Sophisticated Lass

ASPASIA has been away since late December and in new hands for local bow. Working relatively well for her return. Could stand some catching if allowed to clear off on drop to selling ranks. GO GO PINK also gets some class relief while returning to the main for the first time since finishing second in career bow over a year ago. Should be coming on best of all making third start of her form cycle. SOPHISTICATED LASS second best in both previous tries with this kind. Hard to leave out of the equation.

Seventh Race: 1. She'sahappycamper 2. Lovamor 3. Flip the Coin

SHE'SAHAPPYCAMPER turned in an even effort in her second try on grass while finishing a couple of lengths behind recent turf winner Shoeshone Girl. Could prove best of a fairly weak lot with any improvement. LOVAMOR stays put off the claim out of a very disappointing showing when dropped to this level just 16 days earlier. Barn owns extremely high marks with new acquisitions. FLIP THE COIN debuts off steady series of works and with ample breeding to prove dangerous launching career in this spot.

Eighth Race: 1. First Passage 2. Light Green 3. Firey Glow

FIRST PASSAGE dudled, drew off in a very encouraging U.S. debut and should trip out nicely behind what figures to be a very honest pace. Working well for return. A 1.2 million yearling purchase can take another with a little forward move. LIGHT GREEN disappointed as odds on against same kind of game maiden win and likely to get entertained early by impressive debut winner FIREY GLOW who has worked a couple of bullets since posting sharp debut tally earlier this winter.

Ninth Race: 1. Flibberjibit 2. Drop a Line 3. Pastel Gal

Couldn't find a more competitive field of turfsters than this group with many questions to answer regarding several of the key contenders. FLIBBERJIBIT continues to hold her form extremely well and obviously fond of the local course. Moved a bit prematurely when third in the HONEY FOX. Gets tepid nod with the right trip. DROP A LINE knocking on the door against Graded opposition earlier this winter both here and Tampa where she chased a soft pace before missing less than two lengths to G1 winner Backseat Rhythm. Figures forwardly placed throughout which should be a plus in this bulky lineup. PASTEL GAL never better but will have to negotiate her way through plenty of traffic if this one holds together at scratch time.

Tenth Race: 1. Dattts Lady Di 2. Zesty Brew 3. Dark Starlet

DATTTTS LADY DI a \$240K yearling purchase who caught some tough ones in her bow then ran credibly in a key race to close out her 2yo campaign. Working steadily for her return at Payson. Might be a bit of a sleeper off the bench. ZESTY BREW the logical choice off solid enough bow when launching career over wet track out of the mile chute although she showed no published works at press time since that outing nearly four weeks earlier. DARK STARLET one of several new faces in this lineup by above averagedebut sire Speightstown. Shows typical array of Pletcher-like works in preparation for her bow.