

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Voodoo Momma (7th race)

First Race: 1. U S Treasury 2. Empirior 3. War of the Ranges

U S TREASURY chased home well meant and speedy Formidable coming off an 11 month layoff four weeks earlier and working bullets for his return and stretch to a mile. Barn on a roll. Figures forwardly throughout. EMPIRIOR another exiting much needed try, his first in seven months, when fading late after forcing issue for six furlongs on the grass. Back to his favorite surface. Held own with likes of Acai and Amped at 3. WAR OF THE RANGES and uncoupled mate Dream Again a couple of expensive purchases who debuted late in their careers and both eligible to improve with experience. Former, a half to graded stakes winner Lady Marlboro, beat four following a slow start in well graded Battle plan race launching career here three weeks earlier at a mile. Dream Again victimized by unlucky trip across town when hung wide throughout, taken up while attempting to rally near midstretch.

Second Race: 1. Wooden Indian 2. Langley 3. Burns Up the Track

WOODEN INDIAN shortens up to a sprint after running a better than it looks on paper race in his '09 bow at Calder. Broke slow, rushed to long lead, appeared to be folding his tents at midstretch but held in willingly to be beaten less than four lengths. Best bred member of the field for the surface being kin to eight other grass winners. LANGLEY held his own with N1X company in a couple of five furlong turf dashes near tail end of Monmouth meet and beaten less than two lengths by conditioned claimers on the main when adding shades in his '08 finale. Fits here. BURNS UP THE TRACK gets some major class relief after chasing much stronger in all starts since graduation day. Turned in a couple of good efforts against \$50K starters at the Spa. Key question whether he can duplicate those types of efforts on turf.

Third Race: 1. Curragh 2. Desert Falcon 3. Gambledformysoul

CURRAGH makes first start on conventional dirt while getting plenty of class relief for meet's top trainer. has the speed to take these a long way if able to escape inside gate without any serious issues. DESERT FALCON also drops out of MSW company after being overmatched in aforementioned Battle Plan race. Best races to date have come on the wet turf. GAMBLEDFORMYSOUL lost all chance when off poorly in his bow but did recover to show a little early foot and might get loose in here with a cleaner beginning. Lures Johnny V. Worth tossing in at a very square price.

Fourth Race: 1. Shoteka 2. Jay Mike 3. Chief Bear

SHOTEKA paired up career best Beyers in his final starts in '08 then moved forward to a new top in sharp local bow when taking a big run at the leaderes before hanging at the end. Should be able to sustain that type of run with clean sailing dropping to this level. JAY MIKE showing plenty of gaps between starts but did turn in sharp effort when tagged for the first time in his 3yo finale and bred for turf being a full brother to five time grass winner El Prado Rob. Barn adept at having one ready off this type of layoff. Reunites with hot Leparoux. CHIEF BEAR a \$350K yearling and one time graded stakes challenger now in the selling ranks for the first time off a decent run behind Battle Plan which might raise a few flags. Obviously talented enough to handle this company if he handles the grass. The same holds true for Roman Silver who has been facing much better in all previous starts.

Fifth Race: 1. Workinontrailroad 2. Silver Express 3. Palace Wizard

WORKINONTHRAILROAD back to the main off good run over the local turf in which he was beaten four lengths despite some traffic issues on a couple of occasions. Ran well enough in only previous try on dirt to merit top billing at this level for high percentage jock-trainer combo. SILVER EXPRESS a big question mark returning from a 13 length layoff with a moderate price tag on his head out of the Dutrow barn. Works have been steady if not spectacular. Your guess as good as ours on this logical contender. PALACE WIZARD PALACE WIZARD puts the blinkers back on after being overmatched in his last. Returns to what may be his most effective surface and reunites with jock who guided him to maiden tally at CRC.

Sixth Race: 1. Saint Knows 2. Nikkiandme 3. Sammy Van Ammy

SAINT KNOWS victimized by a brutal trip here two weeks earlier, a journey which began with her getting taken up sharply and shuffled back to last early and which ended with her steadying over heels in traffic around final turn and through early stretch. Not as good as she was last summer but perhaps still sharp enough to handle this group of mid-priced starter foes with cleaner sailing. NIKKIANDME just a neck shy of bringing a five race win streak into this race and obviously the one to fear in her present form. Does pick up quite a bit of weight off any of her four recent tallies. SAMMY VAN AMMY SAMMY VAN AMMY SAMMY VAN AMMY has won three of her last four including return to grass when in Dutrow hands just 13 days earlier. Goes for meet's leading trainer who will strike while the iron still hot on this gal.

Seventh Race: 1. Voodoo Momma 2. Enjoy the Win 3. Bedda Victoria

VOODOO MOMMA, the day's best, couldn't have been gamer in defeat when hard used on the lead from gate to wire along a dead rail before ultimately dropping neck decision in the meet's opening race. Has been given ample time to recuperate from the effort. Should not look back. ENJOY THE WIN returns to the main track, drops into selling ranks after showing speed in her local bow on grass. Distance should prove no object and like the back J.R. signs on once again. BEDDA VICTORIA paired up a couple of top Beyers last fall at Calder with same caliber. Should fit with these.

Eighth Race: 1. Put It Back Twenty 2. Notecard 3. Regardlessoutcome

PUT IT BACK TWENTY back to more suitable spot after being completely overmatched in a couple of well graded dashes in his last pair. Handled the turf willingly in two previous opportunities, should trip out well stalking speed of Purely by Chance and REGARDLESOFOUTCOME. NOTECARD another who would benefit if things got real hot up front. Turns back to a sprint after making a huge middle run, hanging late going a mile in local bow. Regardlessoutcome the logical choice and likely to be a short price returning to allowance ranks off pair of sharp stakes tries spaced nearly seven months apart. Speedster probably the quickest of the bunch if he leaves running and dam was 4 for 15 on grass.

Ninth Race: 1. Proud Ruler 2. Thisonesforruthie 3. Right of Way

A million ways to go in the finale. PROUD RULER returns to what appears to be his favorite surface off a pair of sharp half mile drills at Payson. Chased fast pace, finished behind top rated 2yo prospects Idol Maker and Nowhere to Hide last fall at Belmont. Outside draw should put him in perfect stalking position. Gets shaky nod among the many contenders in the nightcap. THISONESFORRUTHIE did not run a bad one in four tries at 2 although never really got close to earning diploma when chasing home several highly regarded runnerse as well including A P Cardinal. Continues to train forwardly for his 3yo bow. Might stand some catching if none of the new faces have any gas. RIGHT OF WAY has been hung wide throughout in both previous local tries at nine furlongs now turns back to seven-eighths while getting blinks and Lasix. Should come running late at a fair price. Cantrusperfection appears to have lured K.D. off the preferred choice and with some fast works on the resume/. Forest King and pletcher's El Windo also look formidable among the new faces.