

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Lamentation (3rd race)

First Race: 1. Gaston A. 2. Itsawondafulsecret 3. Awesome Frolic

GASTON A.'s form spiraling in the wrong direction but her best races have always come when she's been able to stick her head in front early and she sure looks like the controloing speed if away running from her outside gate in this spot. One last chance. ITSAWONDAFULSECRET back to the main after a failed turf experiment. Had held her form pretty well in main track sprints prior to that effort despite having her chances compromised by unlucky trips on several occasions. Lures Coa. May be coming best with clean sailing. AWESOME FROLIC shortens up to a sprint off a steady diet of longer races. Set a contested pace, could not withstand the winner in her last and her best effort makes her a contender with these although she has had some gate issues on numerous occasions in the past.

Second Race: 1. Truffula 2. Miz Wham 3. Untutttable Jet

TRUFFULA plunges right to the bottom after beginning her career in a couple of MSW's in Kentucky and she was able to remain in contention for over six furlongs before fading in her bow on the lawn. Couldn't have found a softer spot for local bow. Eligible to wake up with these. MIZ WHAM another Ky. invader who showed some improvement when dropped to this level for the first time in her 2yo finale. UNTUTTTABLE JET, like the preferred choice, takes huge drop after opening career in a pair of MSW's although she's been away since mid-July and showing only a couple of short works in preparation for her return. Should have little trouble controlling the pace. Just a question of whether she can carry her speed a mile off the bench.

Third Race: 1. Lamentation 2. Bahia Girl 3. Tarheel Girl

LAMENTATION, the day's best, drops into allowance company for the first time since coming to the U.S. last summer. has held her own with Grade 2 and Grade 3 opposition in both previous starts and a proven stayer. Should be too good for these. BAHIA GIRL likely best in her last when forced to take up while launching bid near the hedge turning for home under N1X conditions at Calder. has since returned with a bullet drill over PM turf. The main danger if she can stay the route. TARHEEL GIRL won her maiden going 11 furlongs and that alone makes her a key contender in this long distance affair.

Fourth Race: 1. Meadow Ashlee 2. Train to Glory 3. Trigger Fish Lane

MEADOW ASHLEE outfinished by in form Big Shadow in her crosstown finale but earned high marks and like the fact she's apparently learned to rate and run at horses after being a speedball early in her career. Should have plenty of pace to run at in this spot. TRAIN TO GLORY was allowed to lope on an easy lead through snaillike fractions winning her 2008 finale and in dangerous hands off the claim. Not likely to see the front early with several sprint types in this lineup but still the one to fear off her last. TRIGGER FISH LANE no match for Train to Glory after latter got away with murder in their previous encounter but another late threat in a race which could collapse at the end.

Fifth Race: 1. Prince Alphonse 2. Three Miracles 3. Gallant Guy

PRINCE ALPHIE a disappointment in his final two starts to close out '08 but old veteran well spotted to get back on winning track especially over a track he has won on in the past. Should catch ample pace to run at with Indian Arm in the lineup. Best makes him too good for these. THREE MIRACLES back to the main off even showing vs stronger on grass. Has already posted three victories over the local strip and he should have plenty of stamina to draw on late exiting steady diet of two turn races. GALLANTIN GUY hampered his rider trying to bear out the entire trip in his south Fla. bow at Calder but training well over the local surface since that outing and eligible to wake up at what may be a square price if keeping a straighter path.

Sixth Race: 1. Queen of Hearts 2. For Sally 3. Sobee

So many contenders in this wide open maiden turf we'll opt for some value and try to wake up QUEEN OF HEARTS who flashed speed in a rapidly run main track sprint launching career last spring before losing all chance at the start in her only previous try. Bred to handle the going being kin to three turf winners including multiple G3 winner Babae. FOR SALLY debuts off a couple of bullet turf works at Payson and she too has some breeding for the lawn being a half to \$877K grass winner Mobil. Barn already struck big with longshot winner Copper Cascade on opening day. SOBEE the logical choice after finishing fast closing third in her 3yo finale and bred to be a good one but showing no published works since the outing and perhaps not worth what figures to be a relatively short price.

Seventh Race: 1. Turning South 2. Power Express 3. Swing Music

TURNING SOUTH in new hands since her last. Victimized by unlucky trips in each of her last two, racing greenly and failing to change leads through the stretch on both occasions. Worked well for her local bow and switching from five pound bug to Cornelio V. POWER EXPRESS returns to more suitable level after being overmatched in both starts since being haltered out of winning effort in N.J. on 11/4. Should trip out nicely stalking likely pace of Ravin Maniac whose best work to date has come on synthetics. SWING MUSIC easily handled preferred choice two back and hard to leave out in her current form.

Eighth Race: 1. Mousse Au Chocolat 2. Sway 3. Star Dixie

MOUSSE AU CHOCOLAT takes on allowance company for the first time in the U.S. and first time since beating Listed competition during the fall of her 2-year-old campaign. Did not have the cleanest of trips in her '08 finale. Shaky nod in another wide open turf test. SWAY returns to what has proven to be her favorite course to date and her last pair on the sod were both good ones in N.J. Has been away three months but note she returned from a much longer layoff to win her maiden here last winter. STAR DIXIE makes only her second start since June 1 but hasn't missed a beat in the a.m. and she returned from a similar layoff to beat the highly regarded Paris Winds here a year ago. Stretch running mare will need some help up front.

Ninth Race: 1. U S Treasury 2. Excess Capital 3. Todd Got Even

U S TREASURY showed promise in his debut then caught a very strong field and very fast race in his lone try at 3. Kin to Mongoose and Hesandoldt has turned in some sharp works in preparation for his return. Stretch running sort should catch plenty of pace in the finale. EXCESS CAPITAL remains winless after 11 tries but has run some big races in defeat including well graded second under similar conditions here 11 months earlier. Figures to trip out well from his outside post. TODD GOT EVEN one of several speed types in this lineup along with Formidable and Cool Casey. Finished mid-pace in a race which yielded trio of next out winners in his last start and finally able to avoid tough inside draw for the first time since his debut.