

## GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



**BEST BET: Joppa Flat's (8th race)**

**First Race: 1. Sacrifice Bunt 2. Unseparable 3. Northern Academy**

SACRIFICE BUNT takes sharp class plunge for his '09 debut. Should be too good for this group if near his best. UNSEPARABLE still eligible for lifetime conditions but could prove the controlling speed if away running from the fence. Might get brave at a square price if able to relax long enough on the lead. NORTHERN ACADEMY back for a tag off sharp N1X outing in his CRC finale. Like the preferred choice, will need some help with the pace.

**Second Race: 1. Magical Affair 2. Lawless Falls 3. Touch of Charm**

MAGICAL AFFAIR and LAWLESS FALLS have both begun their careers with a pair of runnerup efforts but facing another group of formidable looking firsters out of the mile chute. Former doesn't have the Beyer power of Lawless Falls but she does have the experience at the distance and barn has been red hot of late. Came up a bit short at the end in her local bow. Edge on experience at distance and over the track. Lawless Falls has caught good ones in both previous outings including well meant Pletcher firster Light Green 1 well graded six furlong dash four weeks earlier. Finished a pole in front of the others. A logical choice. TOUCH OF CHARM bred to be a good one being a full to three stakes winners including G3 winner Elusive Diva. Worked bullet from gate at Payson and barn has already sent out a couple of debut winners on the turf at this meet. Discreet Empire a half sis to the once mighty Discreet Cat as well as runaway debut winner DiscreetTreasure who upset N1X allow. company here last week.

**Third Race: 1. Jazzy 2. Just for Keeps 3. Beau Dare**

JAZZY gets shaky nod in a race likely to be determined by the trips. Late running mare has turned in some corkers since arriving in the U.S. in '07 and just missed with her final surge last out at Tampa. Can be along with clear sailing. JUST FOR KEEPS has been away for a while but has run well off the bench in the past and likely to assert herself right from the outset coming in fresh and on return to allowance ranks. BEAU DARE another who has kept a steady diet of stakes company while holding her own on numerous occasions with top class grass sprinters. Should benefit from recent pace setting try in the two turn Marshua's River.

**Fourth Race: 1. Lady Lucinda 2. Best Tigress 3. Even Road**

LADY LUCINDA comes up tagged for the first time since winning her N3L condition last summer at CRC. Turned in game effort against N2X optional claimers despite an unlucky start in her 4yo finale. Should relish the turn back to this distance. BEST TIGRESS was shuffled early while finishing just behind preferred choice in their most recent encounter and note she's apparently lured jockey Henry off that rival today. Continues to hold her form extremely well and another who should like 7.5 furs. EVEN ROAD also drops into straight claimer for first time since winning her N3L across town. Exits extremely fast Successful Sarah race in which she too had to overcome a poor start.

**Fifth Race: 1. Golden Weekend 2. Crowned General 3. Crack the Cognac**

GOLDEN WEEKEND and CROWNED GENERAL finished second and fourth respectively in a key, six furlong N1X turf dash at Belmont on Oct. 23. Golden W. held in gamely following a near race long pace duel and puts blinkers back on after fading badly in failed two turn try. Must avoid potentially disastrous pace duel with speedy CRACK THE COGNAC. Crowned General broke a step, got shuffled a bit early, rallied willingly in a promising grass bow and eligible to move forward off the effort with a little better racing luck.

**Sixth Race: 1. Soaring Storm 2. Princess Alesia 3. Main Street Girl**

PRINCESS ALESIA will likely be overbet considering her connections but facing a potential speed duel with several others in this lineup. With that in mind we'll try to wake up SOARING STORM off a much needed outing here three weeks earlier, her first start in six months. Has the right running style to fit the profile of this race. Princess A. has not been headed for the lead in her last five starts but did cough up a clear advantage at midstretch as the even money choice in her 3yo finale. Strictly the one to fear. Trujillo runs from Princess Alesia to MAIN STREET GIRL which could be of some significance and another who has shown some ability to pass horses at the end.

**Seventh Race: 1. The Niagara Queen 2. Callwood Dancer 3. Long Approach**

THE NIAGARA QUEEN ran off to a long lead, faded late trying to stretch to 12 furlongs in the La Prevoyante and back to a more suitable spot while facing softer opposition today. Sheds the blinkers in hopes, perhaps, of corraling some of that speed and her best would make her tough back at her favorite distance today. CALLWOOD DANCER has taken the measure of the preferred choice on several occasions and equaled a career best Beyer finishing second behind win machine Wild Promies in the My Charmer. Stuck in second gear somewhat of late but another who fits nicely in this spot. LONG APPROACH hung late in her most recent start but capable of better off that near miss in the Grade 3 Cardinal. Should offer plenty of value returning to graded stakes company. Would include in all gimmicks at a fair price.

**Eighth Race: 1. Joppa Flat's 2. Subtitles 3. Biker Boy**

JOPPA FLAT'S, the day's best, was hung wide, did not have his best late kick going six furlongs off a four month hiatus several weeks ago. Stretches back to his optimum distance, should be able to run down what figures to be a fairly honest pace if at or even near his best off that last one. SUBTITLES was hard used contesting the pace, faded late in his '09 bow now stretches out and could stand some catching if away running. Has won three of five starts at the distance. BIKER BOY one of several question marks in here off the layoff. Showed immense talent in his last two starts before hitting the sidelines in May. Appears to be training forwardly for his return but like Song Shan could need one off the bench.

**Ninth Race: 1. Kip Deville 2. Court Vision 3. Kiss the Kid**

KIP DEVILLE a question mark stretching to a mile and one eighth but training superbly and with enough class to handle the added ground. COURT VISION closed out his 3yo campaign with a pair of graded wins but will be trying older rivals for the first time here. KISS THE KID usually gets overlooked but almost always puts in a big effort and likely the one Kip D. will have as his target for much of this trip.

**Tenth Race: 1. June Day 2. Gatorette 3. Artisan**

JUNE DAY looks best of the new faces in a field loaded with firsters. Half sis to multiple Grade 1 winner Society Selection who began her career with a pair of victories including easy come from behind debut win at the Spa. GATORETTE showed some high speed over the local strip in early December before switching over to Calder to continue her training. Daughter of DistortedHumor brought a fair price at the yearling sales, may prove quickest of the bunch out of the barrier. ARTISAN one of two Smarty Jones' fillies trainer Michael Matz sends postward in the finale. has been well prepared for her bow both here and at Fair Hills and barn has been going well over the past several weeks.