

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Ikigai (4th race)

First Race: 1. Mr. Unstoppable 2. Voorhee's Ballad 3. Nathan Ridge

MR. UNSTOPPABLE gets some necessary class relief after being overmatched in his last pair. Reunites with Cruz. Never worse than third at the distance. His race to lose. VOORHEE'S BALLAD back to the main after chasing pace, tiring over the local sod. Ran some decent races up in Canada last summer although not sure what type of competition he was meeting in those events. Still looks to fit nicely at this level on his best. NATHAN RIDGE comes up tagged for the first time in a while and another who should appreciate the drop in company.

Second Race: 1. Stirrup Excitement 2. B L's Papa Coo Coo 3. Mia Concerto

STIRRUP EXCITEMENT in new hands since his 3yo finale at Hawthorne. Takes somewhat scary plunge to \$10K company but too good for these if close to his best. B L'S PAPA COO COO comes off a much improved showing while making his second start over the track, overcoming a slow start, wide trip to just fail against restricted but open company. Back with conditioned claimers again today although somewhat of a question mark on stretch to seven eighths. MIA CONCERTO has handled this distance well in the past but a non-winning sort who has languished with N3L company for a long time.

Third Race: 1. Dame Ellen 2. Proven Right 3. Amanwella

DAME ELLEN broke slow, got in some tight quarters in early stretch while finishing two lengths behind recent MSW turf winner Anzelita in her debut and eligible to move well forward switching to grass. Out of a Group 1 winner on grass and a half to Group 1 Euro winner Gentlemans Deal. Like the three works since her bow. PROVEN RIGHT did not have the cleanest of trips, getting shuffled back midway through the race, before rallying mildly in her much needed 3yo bow. Finished in front of next out \$80K turf winner and runnerup Triqueta and Unbridled Essence. Third time could be a charm with cleaner sailing. AMANWELLA a logical choice having turned in several credible tries to begin her career although now a beaten favorite in all four MSW starts.

Fourth Race: 1. Ikigai 2. Tale of Ekati 3. Bold Start

IKIGAI, the day's best, comes back off a pair of huge efforts both here and at Calder and likely to be able to relax on the lead once again in this spot. Added distance a bit of a concern but hard to look past in his current form. TALE OF EKATI the class of the field and strictly the one to beat off a series of nice a.m. trials in preparation for his return. BOLD START earned high marks behind horse for the course Cool Coal Man in his return to south Fla. and another who rarely runs a poor one over this strip.

Fifth Race: 1. Many Kisses 2. Romin Robin 3. Fulfilling

This race appears to be begging for a closer so why not try recent maiden breaker MANY KISSES who rallied from near the rear of the pack on graduation day and obviously an improving sort who will handle this distance. ROMIN ROBIN was ranked early and did not have the best of trips but still turned in career best Beyer effort when showing up for same tag at a mile four weeks earlier. Just a question of whether he can handle the added ground. FULFILLING returns to more suitable spot after chasing a relatively fast pace in a race which ultimately collapsed down the lane. A two time winner at the distance including come from behind effort of her own on graduation day.

Sixth Race: 1. Rocket to the Moon 2. Convocation 3. Stephen Is Leaving

ROCKET TO THE MOON broke slow, rushed to contention on the outside, faded late in a promising debut and likely to improve with that one under his belt. Well bred sort might stand some catching if away with the others the second time around. CONVOCATION and STEPHEN IS LEAVING a couple of intriguing looking firsters. Former a \$340K 2yo purchase with several fast works on his resume' including :48 bullet from the Palm Meadow gate. Stephen Is Leaving has trained forwardly for his debut as well for barn with a positive ROI with debut types.

Seventh Race: 1. Recollect 2. Fillazzeno 3. Quasandra

RECOLLECT was steadied back to last after the start, raced greenly through the stretch in what figures to be a much needed career debut. REGALLY bred for the surface by El Prado out of Grade 1 winning turf Memories of Silver. Looking for big improvement with any racing luck the second time around. FILLAZZENO was hung wide throughout while second best going a mile in a promising turf debut and Garcia signs on once again. QUASANDRA sports enormous 446 Tomlinson turf number being by Rock of Gibraltar out of a Seeking the Gold mare. Works have been fair since her arrival here in December. Must respect although could need one off the bench.

Eighth Race: 1. Imperial Council 2. Z Day 3. Two Brash

IMPERIAL COUNCIL a highly regarded son of Empire Maker who extended Ky. Derby hopeful Hello Broadway to a neck decision despite a slow start in his debut before returning to beat next out MSW graded American Dance and Professor Z. when earning his diploma at seven furlongs. Working steadily for much anticipated 3yo bow. Z DAY, scratched a couple of weeks ago from the Hutcheson, earned huge marks on graduation day over the Aqueduct inner and could ultimately stand some catching if able to avoid potential duel with Join in the Dance. TWO BRASH won at first asking in July, went to the sidelines for the remainder of the year before returning to flash brief speed following slow beginning against top 3yos Therogoesjojo and Quality Road. Adds blinkers, could jump up with a big effort at a square price.

Ninth Race: 1. Into My Soul 2. Tamborim 3. Lime Rickey

INTO MY SOUL turned in a couple of improved efforts upon moving to Dutrow barn to close out his 3yo campaign and work tab has been a busy one since his arrival here this winter. Repeat of his last should be good enough to get him his first stakes victory. TAMBORIM idle since outfinishing Adari to win the Appleton Juvenile Turf with This Ones For Phil among his other victims that day. Another who appears to be working forwardly for his 3yo bow. LIME RICKEY no match for preferred choice in N Y but rebounded with strong effort in the Dania Beach despite being forced to take up briefly and fan well wide turning for home in his stakes debut. Nearly beat Pioneer of the Nile over Spa weeds in August.

Tenth Race: 1. Mas Macho 2. Bear's Prospector 3. Ziegfeld

MAS MACHO may offer a little value in a race which offers numerous possibilities and prospects. Ran Nowhere to Hide to a close decision two back at Calder before getting a horror trip stretching to nine furlongs for his local bow. Well posted from the rail. Can rebound, spring the upset with a little better luck. BEAR'S PROSPECTOR a logical choice after overcoming rough trip of his own to be second best behind Saratoga Sinner who bounced back with big figure tally in the Holy Bull. ZIEGFELD chased a fast pace, tired badly when launching career at seven furlongs but figures to take this field a long way on the front end. Pedigree suggests sprinting his game but could get brave at a fair price if allowed to relax long enough in front. Cross Village, who had a nightmare trip in his 3yo bow and turf bred pair of Chapin Beach and Evolutionist also loom dangerous if able to handle the switch back to dirt.