

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Paradise Dancer (4th race)

First Race: 1. Bagatelle Terrace 2. Stormy Lake 3. Sophisticated Lass

BAGATELLE TERRACE broke behind the field, made a wide run into the stretch, flattened out late while debuting against MSW foes in Kentucky now comes up tagged for her second try. Good enough to handle these if she leaves with the others. STORMY LAKE dueled through some very fast fractions, faded late in her Ky. finale out of the mile chute and another getting some important class relief for her local bow. Strictly the one to fear. SOPHISTICATED LASS chased, weakened while showing some promise in her only previous main track outing and another tagged for the first time in the opener.

Second Race: 1. Our Honor 2. Ode to Roy 3. Regal Officer

OUR HONOR gets a shaky nod in a race full of question marks. Been away since posting back to back wins in Jersey to close out his 3-year-old campaign and now he shows up for a tag. Still looks like the one to catch if he's capable of running back to those two most recent performances. ODE TO ROY on the other hand returned from a lengthy hiatus with a pair of sharp outings at Calder and should trip out nicely stalking the preferred one from the outset. Has always been a bit of a hanging sort at the distance but still the one to fear making third start of his present form cycle. REGAL OFFICER in new hands off the claim and with a bullet work over the track since shipping locally. Stretch running sort will need some help up front.

Third Race: 1. Celebrating Love 2. Jehan 3. Irish Channel

CELEBRATING LOVE may have found a sweet spot to launch her career in what appears to be a relatively weak MSW dash on the turf. Has shown some speed in the a.m. at Payson and with a big Tomlinson for the surface. JEHAN the quickest of the experienced ones although yet to test the lawn in six previous starts. IRISH CHANNEL another new face who brought a good ticket at the yearling sales in '07 and with plenty of miles under her belt in preparation for her debut. Dam a four time SW on grass although her only foal to try grass still winless in five starts over the surface.

Fourth Race: 1. Paradise Dancer 2. Cuba 3. Austin Laviva Baby

PARADISE DANCER, the day's best, seems to be cycling back to peak form again and certainly well spotted against \$25K starter allowance opposition. Could control this one from start to finish if displaying the same speed as in his last at Calder. Winless over the track but posted a 103 Beyer in his last local appearance back in April of '07. CUBA CUBA another multiple stakes winner dropping in against starter competition. Had little chance after dropping back to last in the Hal's Hope. Better at a mile or beyond but did win a similarly conditioned dash here with a 95 Beyer last winter. AUSTIN LAVIVA BABY wheels back on short rest off another good showing against allowance company just six days earlier. Stretch runner in peak form at the present time.

Fifth Race: 1. Plenty of Green 2. Mr. O'Toole 3. Chapel Run

PLENTY OF GREEN the victim of a horrible trip in his debut when off slow then rushed and taken up into the far turn. Steps up in price, switches to Trujillo and eligible to improve with cleaner sailing. MR. O'TOOLE led for six furlongs before fading badly debuting against MSW foes in New York now quickly plunges into selling ranks where he gets considerable class relief for his second try. The main danger. Like the top two, CHAPEL RUN also goes turf to dirt and expected to show improvement after being hung wide, dueling, fading late going two turns against MSW opposition on the Calder inner. Worked a bullet for this.

Sixth Race: 1. House Quest 2. Snicklebitches 3. Queenly Luck

HOUSE QUEST in potent hands off the claim and appears to lay over this field if anything near her best. Hard to look past even at the very short price. SNICKLEBRITCHES returns to starter allowance company off a couple of good N1X tries to close out her 3-year-old campaign. The one to catch. QUEENLY LUCK back with Walder and a good fit at this level but may need a bit more distance.

Seventh Race: 1. Swift Temper 2. So Glitzy 3. Unfolding Wish

SWIFT TEMPER returns to allowance company for the first time since mid-April in New York. Grade 3 winner looks to be coming in sharp off bullet five furlong drill at PM. SO GLITZY another who has been keeping top company of late. Exiting her best yet in the Top Flight and working forwardly over a track she's handled very well in the past. UNFOLDING WISH was hung wide, raced evenly returning to the main in her 3-year-old finale. Improving young horses like this always dangerous at this level.

Eighth Race: 1. Cape Royale 2. Kopitar 3. Duke of Homberg

CAPE ROYALE dueled, fell back, came again while turning in his best yet behind well regarded Matz pupil under N1X conditions at Calder. Lures Velasquez. Should trip out nicely in a field lacking much in the way of any real early gas. KOPITAR the logical choice off a pair of impressive wins including most recent over the CD sod in which he beat a field that included next out Tampa N1X runaway winner Allie's Event. Appears to be training forwardly for his return. DUKE OF HOMBERG DUKE OF HOMBERG caught yielding ground, faded late in both tries since shipping to the U.S. from France and third time might be a charm over the firmer local strip.

Ninth Race: 1. Kelly's Landing 2. He's So Chic 3. Black Seventeen

KELLY'S LANDING probably not as good as he was when winning this race two years ago but still a capable sort and a horse for the course having won three of six over the local strip. Training willingly enough up at Palm Meadows. Will probably offer some value despite his imposing career resume. HE'S SO CHIC looks like the best late runner in a field loaded with speed. Was second best behind the speedy Fabulous Strike in the Fall Highweight but was getting weight from all but one in the field. Did not far well over this strip a year ago but still must respect considering the likely pace scenario. BLACK SEVENTEEN a Grade 1 winner in September when upsetting Fabulous Strike over a wet track in the Vosburgh but just wondering if he's tailing off a bit since that effort considering disappointing run in the Breeders' Cup and the fact he finished third of four in his most recent at Santa Anita. Well travelled sort dangerous but perhaps slightly vulnerable at a short price.

Tenth Race: 1. Sky Cap 2. Platinum Bride 3. Lovamor

SKY CAP made a little run into the stretch despite being angled about six wide off the final turn, faded late in a race which graded out very fast for the condition. Returns for a tag and with Trujillo aboard. Expecting better. Worth a look at a decent price in another wide open turf finale. PLATINUM BRIDE had to steady very sharply a couple of times turning for home when disappointing in her local bow now drops for a tag and ready for best yet making third start of her form cycle for Palm Meadows based barn off to a red hot start at the meet. Third time could also prove a charm for LOVAMOR who has disappointed at short prices in both previous outings.