

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Finallymadeit (10th race)

First Race: 1. Indy Kings Dancer 2. Immense Storm 3. Heez for Doc

INDY KINGS DANCER runs for the same price as the recent claim but gets a drop in class none the less going back to N2L company after being raced out of his conditions in both previous starts. Showed enough two back, this distance, with N3L's to merit top billing here with anything close to that performance. IMMENSE STORM has caught a couple of relatively well graded races since earning diploma last month and perhaps a bit of a sleeper here. Stalked a very fast pace, inherited, drew off on graduation day and likely to get a similar trip attending pace of speedy but usually fainthearted Makalolo Cat. HEEZ FOR DOC back to more suitable spot after being overmatched back on the grass here earlier in the meet. Another who could be dangerous with repeat of maiden tally.

Second Race: 1. Talented Princess 2. Exclusive Hopper 3. Road Track's Dream

Will give the uncoupled Walder duo, TALENTED PRINCESS and EXCLUSIVE HOPPER, a slight edge in fairly wide open spot with each capable of closing from off what figures to be a very honest pace. Talented P. fell short with her closing surge in a similarly priced optional claimer several weeks ago at Calder and one of the more accomplished members of this field at the distance. Exclusive Hopper has yet to run a poor one over the course although yet to win over the Gulf sod as well. Has been away since late October when hipped against slightly cheaper over yielding ground. ROAD TRACK'S DREAM another late running sort who closed out her '08 campaign in good form. Never out of the trifecta at the distance but probably testing her class limits for this tag.

Third Race: 1. La Rocca 2. Chargingtoomuch 3. After Thought

LA ROCCA sporting potent connections and the requisite Pletcher resume' full of four and five furlong works at Palm Meadows in preparation for her bow. Daughter of a mare who was perfect in two starts at 2 and kin to Nautical Storm who won her maiden at second asking with an 85 Beyer after stumbling to lose all chance in her debut at the Spa. CHARGINGTOOMUCH attended a relatively fast pace when debuting at Calder and perhaps the quickest of the bunch early on if none of the new faces have any real gas. AFTER THOUGHT broke a couple of lengths behind the field, did well to beat nine of 11 rivals in her debut. Bred to be a good one by Fusiachi Pegasus out of a G1 placed mare and kini to three time winner Ravel. should have plenty of gas being a full sis to eight time SW Gold And Roses. working swiftly over the local strip but must overcome very tough post for debut types.

Fourth Race: 1. National Captain 2. Gran Estreno 3. Drivingmaxandmitzi

NATIONAL CAPTAIN and GRAN ESTRENO take somewhat scary plunges in value to this mid-level claimer and both giant question marks at best at short prices although one of the pair should get the major prize. Former gets edge due to the make up of this field with a distinct lack of early speed in the lineup. Should be on or with the pace throughout. DRIVINGMAXANDMITZI DRIVINGMAXANDMITZI certainly hard to fault in his current form and note he somehow managed to wind up back with trainer Rivelli after being claimed from same barn in his '08 finale. Stretch runner will need some help up front.

Fifth Race: 1. Rocket to the Moon 2. Denver 3. Dunkirk

This race looks ripe for a firster but which one? ROCKET TO THE MOON a \$325K yearling purchase with plenty of pedigree being by Unbridled's Song out of a seven time SW mare and a half to G1 winner Awesome Humor who was extremely precocious taking three stakes including the Spinaway at 2. Appears to be well prepared for his bow. Pletcher pair of DENVER and DUNKIRK appear to have been workmates from the gate on 1/7 and former will be the better price of the pair despite decent enough breeding being out of a G2 winning mare and a half to G3 winner El Roblar. That \$3.7 million purchase price should assure plenty of action on Dunkirk, a son of Ky. Oaks winner Secret Status, although mare's offspring to date just a combined 1 for 8 at the races. Hard to ignore but likely to be vastly overbet. Ziegfeld could be interesting if he draws in being a son of G3 winner Colonial Minstrel and kin to G1 winner Storm Minstrel.

Sixth Race: 1. Big Stick 2. Rogue Victory 3. Mr. Sidney

BIG STICK has improved with experience and was not disgraced in his stakes bow when fourth against a group that included subsequent G1 placed and Grade 2 winner Cowboy Cal. Working well for his '09 bow. ROGUE VICTORY looks like he might have a big future on grass. Overcame a rough trip to beat N1X opposition earlier in the meet and eligible to handle the jump to the next level with a similar effort. MR. SIDNEY returns to allowance ranks after finding G3 opposition a bit too tough to handle at this juncture of his career. Outkicked Rogue V. when pair last met at the Spa.

Seventh Race: 1. This Ones for Phil 2. You Luckie Mann 3. Kelly Leak

In a field loaded with speed, why not try THIS ONES FOR PHIL who turns back to a sprinter on a steady diet of longer races. Makes first start since being shifted to Dutrow barn, should come running at what may be a relatively fair price. YOU LUCKIE MANN the logical choice off good second behind freakish Notonthesamepage in the Spectacular Bid. Should be able to get a nice trip stalking all the speed from his outside gate. KELLY LEAK has yet to run on conventional dirt but another who should be a running at the end if taking to the surface as well as he did grass or the synthetic at Del Mar where he rallied to apparent Grade 2 win in the Best Pal.

Eighth Race: 1. Wild Promises 2. Elusive Lady 3. Bel Air Sizzle

After beating the likes of Rutherienne and Callwood Dancer in the My Charmer, hard to look past WILD PROMISES in this restricted and seemingly easier spot. Had that last win flattered when also ran Waquoit's Love returned to win the Marshua's River earlier in the meet. ELUSIVE LADY turned in a credible grass bow in a much needed outing several weeks ago and perhaps capable of outlasting the others behind the odds on favorite. BEL AIR SIZZLE will be the second choice off that Grade 1 placing two back but must come from the rear of this pack while making her first start since early September.

Ninth Race: 1. Mystical Plan 2. Lovely Isle 3. Dubai Majesty

Might be the best race of the day. Plenty of early speed in this one which could compromise the chances of some of the logicals depending upon the break. MYSTICAL PLAN has had most of her success on or near the lead but does show a huge effort in the '08 Sunshine Millions when taken back and rallying to a game win in the Oaks. That type of versatility makes her the one to fear with a repeat performance. LOVELY ISLE rallied to beat High Resolve in pair's 3yo finales, benefitting from Santa Anita closers bias, although she's equally capable if not more so on conventional dirt having won four of six tries at various venues. Reunites with Edgar. DUBAI MAJESTY lacked a late kick going a bit shorter in her '08 finale but may have some late pop in this spot with prudent handling.

Tenth Race: 1. Finallymadeit 2. Delightful Kiss 3. Dream Maestro

FINALLYMADEIT, the day's best, may have been hampered by what appeared to have been deeper going on the rail in the Hal's Hope. Has proven his mettle on several occasions when loose on the lead around two turns and those triple digit Beyers he's posted would make him tough to catch assuming he clears off as expected over what will hopefully be an even playing field. DELIGHTFUL KISS exploded to a very impressive win in the Hal's Hope and strictly the one to fear in his present form. May just be a matter of getting a trip from tough post at the

distance. DREAM MAESTRO has chased home the top pair in his last three starts and another in peak form at the moment. Yet to be off the board in six tries over the local surface.