

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: A. J. Melini (8th race)

First Race: 1. Out of Africa 2. Heath's Star 3. Indy Kings Dancer

OUT OF AFRICA ran a game second behind odds on Pick Off despite a tardy beginning when stretched to a mile for the first time in his last. Shortens up to seven-eighths, taken to run down these if leaving with the pack. HEATH'S STAR comes off a near career best performance in his last and in peak form at the present time. Must overcome tough inside draw at the distance. INDY KINGS DANCER failed at 1-5 under similar conditions in his last and new barn reaching out for Trujillo once again. Hard to ignore but perhaps vulnerable again at another short price.

Second Race: 1. Dressmaker 2. Stormy Lake 3. Sumwhrovrtherainbw

DRESSMAKER outgamed next out \$35K N2L winner Genuine Diamond with the pair finishing a pole in front of the others while earning top U.S. figure for the effort. Turn back to this distance the key issue but enough speed signed on to set this one up from the rear of the pack. STORMY LAKE back to more suitable spot after fading badly against allowance types off the claim. May prove quickest of all the front running types if away cleanly from the fence. SUMWHROVRTHERRAINBW returns to conditioned claimer after holding own against wide open opposition in her local bow. Another who figures to be running on well at the end.

Third Race: 1. Shoteka 2. Brave Apache 3. New Yawker

SHOTEKA had no visible excuse when failing as tepid favorite under a \$50K tag two months earlier but that turned out to be a key race with three members of the field returning to take their next starts. Drops another notch looking for illusive diploma, dons blinkers and off a series of decent works since his last. BRAVE APACHE has also been on the sidelines since making a little middle run before fading to last following eventful start in that Key Mari event on 2/6. Works have been steady ever since. Winless in 13 starts and a beaten odds on favorite twice for \$32K tab but should fit well in this picture with any kind of trip. NEW YAWKER was totally overmatched and got off bad to boot when debuting on the turf before showing a little bit of improvement switching to the dirt and plunging in company 18 days later. Could be ready for best yet making third start of form cycle while returning to the green.

Fourth Race: 1. Salzburg 2. D' Wild Affair 3. Uncle Herbie

SALZBURG tries conditioned claimers for the first time while removing the shades for the occasion. Ran very credibly in his only previous start over the local strip against allowance types here last winter. D' WILD AFFAIR continues to descent the class ladder but with enough early gas to perhaps stand some catching if managing to shake loose of the other speedsters in this lineup. UNCLE HERBIE exits an even and much needed try going seven eighths when out for the first time in seven months and should be coming on strongly at the end on turn back to five and one half panels.

Fifth Race: 1. Puttingonthehist 2. Run Jamaican's Run 3. Topo Gigio

PUTTINGONTHEMIST has been necked on a couple of occasions by higher priced opposition both here and in New York. Tossing last on the main. Back where he likes it best on grass. RUN JAMAICAN'S RUN dueled Withmomsblessing before succumbing grudgingly under a \$40K tag earlier in the session, the latter returning off the effort to beat \$35K selling foes. Form continues to head in the right direction. TOPO GIGIO the biggest question mark in this lineup. Bred for the turf being by Theatrical out of a Devil His Due mare but must be a bit wary when showing up under a \$30K tag after costing connections more than three times that amount at auction.

Sixth Race: 1. Country Monarch 2. Mymamacanmambo 3. Ethan the Monster

COUNTRY MONARCH was hard used contesting a relatively fast pace before fading back in the pack making the second start of his form cycle and first at this level. Should benefit from the effort, stand some catching if able to get away clean enough from deadily inside post out of the one mile chute. MYMACANMAMBO broke slow from the rail, swung four wide but never threatened against same kind four weeks earlier but likely to show improvement if able to come away running from the outside gate. ETHAN THE MONSTER adds blinkers in hopes of keeping a little more contact with the field than he has in his last couple. Must overcome the trouble at the gate that has plagued him in all four previous start.

Seventh Race: 1. Excessive Heat 2. Vue de Chat 3. Bianco

EXCESSIVE HEAT well spotted after taking brief vacation following troubled fourth place outing against swift bunch of N2X allowance types on 2/8. Won for twice this tag three weeks earlier. Her race to lose. VUE DE CHAT beat a similar bunch from tough outside post, this distance, in her last. Cannot ignore wheeling right back with same kind. BIANCO cruised to an easy \$20K claiming victory when plunging in price, returns off the claim for hot Ward barn. Not disgraced by open \$50K opposition in a rare turf experience on 2/12 and a similar effort puts her right in the thick of this one from gate to wire.

Eighth Race: 1. A. J. Melini 2. Suave Baron 3. Limonada

A. J. MELINI, the day's best, drop sto the bottom for the first time after coming out second best in key Minidrop race on 1/29, that contest producing a quartet of next out winners. Has had three works under his belt since that outing including easy mile drill on 3/12. Too classy for this group with any kind of trip. SUAVE BARON came off a six month vacation to nearly beat this same kind going nine furlongs over a wet track for high percentage outfit. Should benefit from what figures to be a very lively pace. LIMONADA better on turf than dirt but late striding type who should benefit from all the speed in this lineup.

Ninth Race: 1. Smartgabrielle 2. Storm Tease 3. It's Not for Love

SMARTGABRIELLE turns back to what may be her most effective distance on the turf. Second best against open \$35K rivals when last trying the distance earlier this winter. STORM TEASE turned in very solid grass bow when third behind Excessive Heat after setting a contested early pace. Fits even better at this level. IT'S NOT FOR LOVE away since October when showing her heels early to the likes of Flibberjibit and Kristi WithaK, both allowance winners here earlier in the meet. Recent work resume' indicates she should be fit and ready for a big one coming off the bench at five furlongs.

Tenth Race: 1. Papal Decree 2. Indian Scout 3. Can't Watch

PAPAL DECREE broke slow, raced wide behind runaway winner when tagged for the first time early in the meet and eligible to move forward enough off that performance to handle this softer crowd. INDIAN SCOUT showed marked improvement with the addition of blinkers in his second start now stepping back up in company off the big try. Will not be 35-1 here. CAN'T WATCH a \$170,000 yearling purchase launching career for \$25K, a red flag right off the bat.. Works have been steady if not spectacular and Fletcher-DeCarlo team have been hot of late. Getting mixed signals on this one. Tab board for clues.