

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: To Tell the Truth (3rd race)

First Race: 1. Hit a Homer 2. Bounissimo 3. Calabria

HIT A HOMER back to more suitable spot after stumbling at the break, engaging in early speed duel against \$40K starters first off the claim for his current connections. Owns a win at the distance, should trip out nicely stalking speed types like Red Hot Candy, Grand Central and CALABRIA. BOUNISSIMO drops into selling ranks for the first time, returns to the main track off dull showing on grass. In new hands since his last and with a nice five furlong drill to recommend his chances at this level Calabria contested a fast pace, drew off impressively against a notch softer making his second start with shades added and the one to catch if he can stay the distance.

Second Race: 1. Stirrup Excitement 2. Regal Officer 3. Motorcycle Tom

STIRRUP EXCITEMENT steps well up in price off the claim but should benefit from his last when caught late by in form B L's Papa Coco after winning speed duel, drawing clear near midstretch making first start in more than two months. May ultimately have to hold off late surge from REGAL OFFICER or MOTORCYCLE TOM. Former drops to softest spot yet and did finish second against same kind from well back this fall in N Y Motorcycle T. beat N2L's from last ini N J late last summer and already a winner over this strip.

Third Race: 1. To Tell the Truth 2. Chief Bear 3. Scariff Island

TO TELL THE TRUTH, the day's best, no match for stablemate Todd Got Even after contesting early issue with that rival while making first start since switching to Zito shed. Should not look back if able to relax long enough in front with these. CHIEF BEAR a question mark taking another plunge in price just six weeks removed from a huge effort against MSW rivals in a 1/16 contest that has since produced three maiden winners. Strictly the one to fear. SCARIFF ISLAND dueled, proved no match for 1-2 Zito winner Eon returning from a lengthy vacation and eligible to improve off the effort although inside draw no bargain out of the mile chute.

Fourth Race: 1. Choragus 2. Saratoga Tango 3. Indy's Alexandra

CHORAGUS has shown a lot of promise from limited opportunities with her lone setback in four starts coming against stakes company around two turns on an artificial track. Rail draw no bargain but she may still be able to run down the speed with any racing luck. SARATOGA TANGO, like Adorable Jane, eligible for the race because one of their four wins came in a restricted stakes. Overmatched in her first two local starts at the meet, should relish the drop back to allowance company. INDY'S ALEXANDRA appears to be cycling back to her top form after finishing second behind Striking Tomisue when setting pace on a dead rail going a mile on 2/8. Striking T. returned to win a stakes at TAmpa on Saturday.

Fifth Race: 1. Vindicat 2. Big Bad Blue 3. Fiji Boy

VINDICAT just missed going a mile while turning in a career best performance last month and well drawn along the rail on stretch to nine furlongs. Figures on or with pace throughout. Need only repeat last to earn his diploma. BIG BAD BLUE and FIJI BOY two of several in here taking potent drop from MSW to maiden claiming company. Former adds blinkers after making a big mid-race run going two turns on the grass less than four weeks earlier.

Sixth Race: 1. Fivehailmarys 2. Our Tia Dia 3. Spinnaker Run

FIVEHAILMARYS turned in even effort returning from a one year layoff and showed too much early at 3 not to get edge at this level. Big question the stretch to a mile. OUR TIA DIA has been given a little break since failing at 4-5 in her 3yo finale. Five week gap between last two works of some concern. Could have some stamina issues at the end but still the one to fear if she gets loose. SPINNAKER RUN plunges to weakest level yet for return to main track. Should be coming best at the end.

Seventh Race: 1. East Leestown 2. Kayle'sluckydance 3. Perpetuity

EAST LEESTOWN makes first start for Wilkes who promptly drops her to the bottom off a series of decent a.m. trials at PM. Sent Disperse out to lopsided win under similar circumstances last Friday. KAYLE'SLUCKYDANCE and PERPETUITY a couple of first time starter who demands respect debuting at this level. Both appear to be coming well prepared for their bows.

Eighth Race: 1. Unbridled's Heart 2. Jedi Code 3. Plenty Coups

UNBRIDLED'S HEART ran off the screen when fresh off the bench for his career debut last May and seemingly working gangbusters for his return following a seven month layoff. Missed a neck to Acai when failing at 4-5 in his 3yo finale, that one returning to split Anak Nakal and Smooth Air finishing second in the Pa. Derby in his next start. JEDI CODE exits career best effort here under similar conditions on Jan. 25 when outkicked late by Discreet Treasure. Need only repeat that effort to prove one to beat. PLENTY COUPS switches to the main off series of inner course tries. Was hard used contesting pace in his local bow. Training well on the main including sharp 1:39 mile here on 2/25. Could be a sleeper if able to relax long enough on top.

Ninth Race: 1. Pick Off 2. Squires Wingman 3. Chobe

PICK OFF was hard used dueling for six furlongs before proving no match for late striding Bruno's a Biter when stretching to a mile on 2/13. Should sit a nice stalking trip outside all the other speed types in this lineup, figures to have the most stamina at the end on turn back to 6.5 furs. SQUIRES WINGMAN had his best chances compromised when off slow when dropped to this level for the first time on 2/12. Proved he could pass horses for the first time that day and a similar strategy might work to his advantage in a race that figures to be tying up at the end. CHOBE broke slow, checked hard near the quarter pole while also venturing down to this level for the initial time in his '09 bow. Another eligible to improve with this kind with cleaner sailing.