

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Expansion (5th race)

First Race: 1. Mr. Dr. Professor 2. Anasheed Flash 3. Would and Could

MR. DR. PROFESSOR beat four of 10 under a \$50K tag when returning from nearly five months off in his 2yo finale now plunges to a much weaker spot in search of a diploma. Appears to be working well enough to handle this group. ANASHEED FLASH finished best of the four who dueled for the lead in Dec. 11 maiden tussel across town and he should benefit from the outing, his first around two turns as well as switch to more experienced pilot. May ultimately prove the one to catch. WOULD AND COULD adds blinkers hoping to show a little more early lick than in his debut. Exits a race from which winner and runnerup both returned to win at next asking for higher tags with Beyers of 69 and 67 respectively, numbers which would be more than good enough to dominate this heat.

Second Race: 1. Fiumes 2. Running Aptitude 3. B L's Papa Coo Coo

FIUMES back to the main and down to weakest level yet. Was hard used dueling Great Victorian when last on the main on 9/12 and that one returned to win an N3L \$10K dash at Calder by nearly five lengths in his next start. Need only clear off early from B L'S PAPA COO COO to get back on the winning track. RUNNING APTITUDE turns back in distance, returns to the main off series of two turns on the lawn and should be coming on best of all at the end. Eligible to spring the upset should this one really tie up down the stretch.

Third Race: 1. Caffe D' Oro 2. Umbra 3. Florentino

UMBRA the logical choice off a series of near misses under similar conditions at all three N Y venues including a second place finish behind ultimate stakes runnerup Into My Soul although destined to be overbet once again. With that in mind we'll opt for some value and try CAFE D' ORO who ran a valiant fourth in his career debut despite tipping out wide and appearing to bobble a couple of times and flip leads during a crucial stage at midstretch. Working well for his return. May be able to spring the upset with a forward move off that performance. FLORENTINO ready for best yet switching to the turf. Dueled, faded late in a race which produced four next out winners when trying Polytrack in his juvenile finale and a half brother to Group 1 and Group 2 Japan winner Rhein Kraft.

Fourth Race: 1. Cool Gator 2. Stevil 3. Discreet Treasure

COOL GATOR last seen running here in the Fla. Derby following a big 3yo bow behind Nistles Crunch. Training forwardly for his return and should be fit enough to get a mile off the bench. STEVIL continues to run well but remains winless since the fall of his 2-year-old campaign. Upset at 2-5 in his last but by a horse who returned to win an N2X in his next start. May ultimately prove the one to catch. DISCREET TREASURE another who has failed to live up to expectations following early maiden win but continues to knock on the door at this level. Stretch runner will need some help up front. Rock in Bage and East End Tap a couple of question marks. Former finished in front of Group 1 winner Don Misil in his last start but yet to try dirt. East End Tap ran his best race on conventional dirt when second behind Harlem Rocker last summer at Fort Erie.

Fifth Race: 1. Expansion 2. New Fandan 3. Find the Wire

EXPANSION, the day's best, outgamed following stretch long duel when trying N1X opposition for the first time off a 10 week layoff. A proven stayer having finished second to Good REquest going 11 furlongs this summer at the Spa, the latter subsequently defeated a length in the Sycamore. NEW FANDAN the one sure 12 furlong runner in the bunch and could be the class of the field if not needing one in his U.S. bow and off an eight month layoff. Gets the full makeover, Lasix and blinkers, for this. FIND THE WIRE reunites with Coa who guided his to 10 furlong maiden win in June. Figures forwardly throughout.

Sixth Race: 1. Mystery Prospect 2. Reaffirmed 3. I Am Trouble

MYSTERY PROSPECT and REAFFIRMED give Walder a solid one -two punch in this mid-priced seller. Former back to the dirt off several decent inner course tries across town. Held his own in some fast races on the main last summer at Calder and a repeat of his best good enough to beat these. REAFFIRMED has been a popular item at the claim box for the past year now makes second start off the claim for his present connections, has been freshened a bit since finishing third for slightly higher tag at Delaware in early October. Has handled this course well in the past. I AM TROUBLE the logical choice off series of big, front running efforts against higher priced optional claimers at Calder although he's yet to try the one turn mile locally. Could prove vulnerable especially if hooked early as expected by Siphon City.

Seventh Race: 1. Zifzaf 2. El Crespo 3. Conservative

ZIFZAF turned in a corking debut, rallying from far back after being forced to alter course to miss a half length in a key race which has since yielded four next out winners including Silver City who earned a 101 Beyer taking an N1X in his next start at Churchill Downs. Full to Grade 3 placed turfer Churra should relish the switch to the inner. EL CRESPO the logical choice and strictly the one to beat coming off extremely game effort behind well regarded Bruce N Autumn. Finished well clear of third finisher Coach Gravy who won his maiden at next asking in New Orleans. CONSERVATIVE out of a G1 winning mare and a half to Pick Six who goes about an hour from now in the Ft. Lauderdale. Showed enough behind Pletcher's Idol Maker two back to take very seriously if he handles the lawn.

Eighth Race: 1. Mymamacanmambo 2. Filcher 3. Keechi Bullet

Enough pace in here to perhaps set up a late surge from MYMAMACANMAMBO who looks like the best closing threat of this bunch. Finished in front of Anythingyouwant in his 2yo finale, the latter returning to dominate \$25K starter company by nearly 8 lengths just 12 days later. FILCHER could prove the speed of the speed if he leave running from the outside. May be a question of whether he can stay the distance. KEECHI BULLET and Sea Mecke both earned high marks on graduation day while able to get away with soft early fractions and may not have that luxury here although must respect the fact former has already won and earned high marks going 6.5 furlongs.

Ninth Race: 1. Buffalo Man 2. Mambo Meister 3. Silver Tree

BUFFALO MAN won the Appleton here last winter now returns in a similar spot and good enough to take another if able to repeat that performance or his '08 finale when third in the extremely tough Knickerbocker Handicap from which the winner returned to finish second in Grade 1 Citation, runnerup came back to win the Red Smith(103 Beyer) and also ran Dry Martini scored next out in the Stuyvesant. MAMBO MEISTER exploded to impressive and well graded allowance win when returning to the turf at Calder, beating a pair of old pros (including graded stakes winner Jet Propulsion) both of whom returned to register easy wins in their next starts. SILVER TREE appeared to have tailed off near the end of the 2008 season but returning to what has always been one of his favorite courses and perhaps most effective distance. Eligible to wake up at what for him figures to be a generous price.

Tenth Race: 1. Jet Set Vinny 2. Monk's Creek 3. Quality Road

JET SET VINNY ran extremely well on graduation day and perhaps even better in defeat when second best to Zito's well regarded and slightly more experienced Rocketing Returns to close out his 2yo season. Should be able to move forward again and trip out well stalking the leaders from his outside post. MONK'S CREEK a game debut winner over Baffert's Mayor Marv who has since finished second in a pair of two turn MSW's on the left coast. Beyers don't match up with some of the others which should mean he'll bring a little value to the table in the finale. QUALITY ROAD all the rage off huge maiden win in N.Y. and continues to work very

fast at Palm Meadows for much anticipated 3yo bow. The logical choice but noting that although three of his victims have won their next starts, none have posted higher than a 77 Beyer for those efforts. Willing to take a stand against at what figures to be a very short price.