

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Forest Command (8th race)

First Race: 1. Sharp Song 2. I Need Ya Coach 3. R Little Nugget

SHARP SONG dueled, faded late stretching to seven furlongs in his last but should benefit from the turn back to this distance and all the speed that figures to line up in front of him today. Improving colt taken to be along in time. I NEED YA COACH debuts in a relatively weak spot off a steady diet of local works including a pair of bullets in late November. Might be good enough to win off the bench. R LITTLE NUGGET hard used, held gamely when well backed in his debut, a race which produced pair of next out winners including Diamond Black Jack who Beyered 62 winning a maiden \$25K by nearly a dozen at Tampa. Facing prospect of similar early struggle with King of Dreams and perhaps Beachmont Fashion.

Second Race: 1. Death Valley 2. Ruby's Red Socks 3. Safe Play

DEATH VALLEY had a great summer and fall in Chicago before being overmatched at the N3X level in his '08 finale. Has the speed to stalk what figures to be a hot pace but versatile enough to pick up the leaders on his best. RUBY'S RED SOCKS the obvious one to beat off several huge efforts with this same kind across town although a bit of a slow breaking sort, a habit which cost him dearly when ultimately caught late in his last. Hard to catch if he leaves with the others. SAFE PLAY outran Ruby to the top, faded late going seven furlongs in their previous match up now moves back to a strip he's handled extremely well in the past. Old veteran could be dangerous himself if able to clear off early once again at this distance.

Third Race: 1. Lunar Fleet 2. Tactical Light 3. Thunderbear

The first of several tough ones on the turf. LUNAR FLEET hampered his rider severely trying to beat out around the turn, did well to come on late for third in his grass bow. Switches to a new pilot, stretches out, figures on or with pace from the outset on stretch to this distance if managing to handle the turns. TACTICAL LIGHT flashed some promise with better in a couple of turf tries across town. Kin to restricted SW Dantrelle Light. THUNDERBEAR back to the lawn off failed Polky outing to close out his 2yo campaign. Tagged for the first time today. Should be rolling at the end.

Fourth Race: 1. Venus Rosewater 2. Granted Tiger 3. Mymissjuliac

VENUS ROSEWATER comes up tagged for the first time after dueling through suicidal early fractions in her 3yo finale. Working bullets with we assume the addition of blinkers at Palm Meadows although she's always been a fast one in the a.m. Flashed some real ability from off the pace in well graded maiden tally last spring, a trait which could serve her well in a field loaded with early gas. GRANTED TIGER turns back off a nice mile try on the turn when caught late after gaining the lead in early stretch. Another who should come a running at the end. MYMISSJULIAC aggressively placed off the game MSW win a couple of months back at Calder when fending off a couple of bids. Working forwardly for her return but must avoid getting caught up in any early battles with likes of Miss Shangai and perhaps Regal Bird.

Fifth Race: 1. Man Above 2. One Eyed Joker 3. Unbridled Music

MAN ABOVE returns to a more suitable spot after catching some real tough ones over at Calder. Showed enough winning turf bow against N2X rivals five weeks earlier to earn shaky top billing in a field loaded with contenders. ONE EYED JOKER still going strong despite celebrating his 11th birthday earlier this month. Returned from an 11 month hiatus to beat win machine Stratostar in his lone '08 appearance and he has the running style to fit the profile of this event. UNBRIDLED MUSIC another who should come running late for major share if able to repeat well graded \$25K turf score on 9/11. Shows up big every now and then. Can't ignore.

Sixth Race: 1. Primary Witness 2. Stomp 3. Berry Berry Bueno

PRIMARY WITNESS working bullets for his debut and a full brother to SW Primary Suspect who opened his career posting a 100 Beyer won by 11 lengths at Monmouth Park for Hennig. STOMP the obvious choice off a couple of second place runs to open career but idle now since mid-August but working well for his return up at Palm Meadows. BERRY BERRY BUENO a \$270K yearling purchase out of a multiple SW mare. Working well although breeding suggests his future will be on the grass.

Seventh Race: 1. Justenuffhumor 2. Arnaudville 3. Curragh

JUSTENUFFHUMOR broke slow, flashed speed, faltered late debuting over the Keeneland Poly now moves to what figures to be his favorite surface, the grass, for his '09 bow. By above average grass sire Distorted Humor and a half to both Lewis Michael and Dreaming of Anna out of a multiple SW mare. ARNAUVILLE turned in huge try behind well backed Angel Penna Jr. rival Uncle Indy in his 3yo finale and perhaps the main danger if moving forward off the effort. CURRAGH adds blinkers after flashing speed, fading late in his only previous try on the lawn. Empirior turned in a couple of big main track efforts during opening half of '08 on the main but idle a long time and with no grass winners in the family. Working well for the return.

Eighth Race: 1. Forest Command 2. Z Humor 3. Dream Maestro

FOREST COMMAND, the day's best, returns to allowance ranks after closing out his 3yo campaign in a couple of graded races. Exits big local work, should trip out nicely stalking the leaders from his outside post. Z HUMOR another getting some class relief off steady diet of stakes races. Sheds blinkers after blowing easy lead in his 3yo finale. DREAM MAESTRO graded stakes placed on a couple of occasions during the tail end of '08 and yet to run a bad one locally. Should be coming on well if the pace gets too swift.

Ninth Race: 1. Proven Right 2. Stacie's Smile 3. Triqueta

PROVEN RIGHT steadied early, made up a little ground late while catching a strong bunch in his only previous start. Winner of that event, Dream Empress, came back to take the Alcibides in her next start and two of the also rans were next out MSW grads. Working sharply for her return at Payson. STACIE'S SMILE may have needed her two turn, turf bow when hanging a bit at the end after making a run at the leaders turning for home. Hard to fault the breeding being by Lemon Drop Kid out of a Green Dancer mare. TRIQUETA, Stacie's uncoupled mate, also showed well at first asking when holding gamely going a mile on the lawn. Interesting that Kent D. opts to retain this mount instead of her stablemate.