

## GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



**BEST BET: Red Hot Baroness (2nd race)**

**First Race: 1. Trippin' Easy 2. Dressmaker 3. Golden Cove**

TRIPPIN' EASY stretches out to seven furlongs and should be able to trip out nicely behind longshot Put That Away. Has finished second in two previous tries at the distance. Taken to inherit and outlast a late run from DRESSMAKER. The latter drops to weakest level yet, returns to the main track for only the second time in her career. A beaten favorite in each of her three previous starts. Showed enough in only previous try on dirt to loom the one to beat with this bunch. GOLDEN COVE finished a length behind It's A Miracle when haltered by present connections out of her last and that one flattered the effort returning to beat open claimers on Saturday. Rail draw the main caveat at this distance.

**Second Race: 1. Red Hot Baroness 2. Big Johns Princess 3. Wonderful Wife**

RED HOT BARONESS, the day's best, flashed high speed in both previous starts last winter over Aqueduct inner. Caught a pretty salty bunch in her 3yo finale, three of whom returned to win their next starts, although must be wary of the fact she did not make the course that day. Returns, however, off a steady diet of works at Palm Meadows and could be just too fast for this weak bunch coming off the bench at 5 1/2 furlongs. BIG JOHNS PRINCESS looks best of the new faces in this lineup although concerned by the fact she shows no published work in nearly a month. Outside draw should enhance her chances. Tabbing board for further evidence here. WONDERFUL WIFE another new face although debuting below level of purchase price nearly 2 1/2 hears earlier. Showed enough from the gate on 2/19 to merit consideration in this spot.

**Third Race: 1. B Z Warrior 2. Just a Coincidence 3. Gone Astray**

B Z WARRIOR stalked a very fast pace, held on determinedly through the stretch to outgame Custom for Carlos to win at first asking, the latter flattering the performance when proving popular winner under similar conditions on Saturday. Stretch to a mile always a question but he should be able to use his abundant speed to good advantage, relax long enough on the front end to fend off the closers. JUST A COINCIDENCE dueled, drew off to an impressive maiden win when trying a one turn mile for the first time and eligible to move forward off the performance. Rail draw out of mile chute no bargain but figures to stay within hailing distance of the preferred one throughout. GONE ASTRAY banged heads with some good ones in all four starts at 2 although perhaps a bit of a question mark off the bench at this distance. Training well enough for his return and perhaps with enough class to pick up the leaders if this one collapses at all at the end.

**Fourth Race: 1. Saints Alive 2. G. Poli 3. Top Rock**

SAINTS ALIVE a \$325K 2yo purchase can be yours for a bargain \$30K today, obviously a fact that raises plenty of red flags. Flashed some speed following unlucky beginning when favored in his second start despite not making the course in his debut. Like the fact he hasn't missed a beat in the a.m. for nearly six weeks. Might not have a long future but perhaps good enough to earn diploma returning at this level. G. POLI the logical choice after chasing odds on Jay Mike, easily holding for second money returning from a 13 month layoff. TOP ROCK a son of Unbridled's Song training forwardly both here and on the farm in preparation for his debut. Worked a sharp half from the gate on 2/27 although rail draw never a good thing for first time starters.

**Fifth Race: 1. Hurricane Annie 2. Klissura 3. Salt Syn**

HURRICANE ANNIE turns back to a sprint after setting pace and fending off a pretty good bid from eventual runnerup Snicklebritches into and through the early stretch before fading late. Knows her way around the winners circle, having captured four of six last year. KLISSURA in a more suitable spot after being totally overmatched in her local bow. Showed enough in several turf sprints north of the border in '08 and encouraged by the fact that Kent D. signs on one more time. SALT SYN has been away since September and fitness, even at five furlongs, a question with only a couple of farm works showing on her resume' although like preferred choice she knows how to win especially at this distance.

**Sixth Race: 1. Lizzie Grey 2. With Moms Blessing 3. Ruby's Tune**

LIZZIE GREY broke very poorly, flashed some speed once recovering before retreating badly when debuting against MSW opposition in her debut. Gets significant class relief and a set of blinkers for her second start. Might not look back if away cleanly with these. WITH MOMS BLESSING has flashed some speed of her own both long and short albeit on turf and perhaps just a matter of whether she can transfer that form back to the main. RUBY'S TUNE has encountered trouble at the break in both previous starts and perhaps ready for best yet with two under her belt and smoother sailing right from the barrier.

**Seventh Race: 1. True Dancer 2. Hard Top 3. David K**

TRUE DANCER outfinished by rail skimming longshot winner in his '09 bow. Old veteran has lost a step or two but still good enough to handle this group with a repeat of his last. What to do with HARD TOP the key question here. Ran a slow starting fourth in the Grade 2 McKnight in his last start now shows up under a \$20K tag! What's that all about? Has worked pretty steadily since his last other than missing a week following a bullet :59 2/5 turf work on 2/16. Your guess as good as ours if he shows up for this one. DAVID K has had unlucky trips in both local starts this winter and eligible to grab a share at big balloons with cleaner sailing.

**Eighth Race: 1. Captivating Cat 2. Connecticut Yankee 3. Mannington**

CAPTIVATING CAT exits a huge performance in his local bow when overcoming a tough trip from between horses to edge clear, earn 101 Beyer Figure winning his N1X condition. Has been given ample time to recuperate from the effort. Should be able to handle jump to next level with similar performance. CONNECTICUT YANKEE donned blinkers, set lightning fast pace before fading late in his most recent start and better served if able to hone his speed this time around. MANNINGTON did not have the best of trips when shipping to Tampa four weeks earlier, finishing third as a 9-5 favorite, Returns to a track he's handled very well in the past. Expecting him to rebound with a big try here.

**Ninth Race: 1. National Captain 2. Demeteor 3. Headsandtales**

NATIONAL CAPTAIN withstood some early pressure, edged clear to prove popular winner when plunging to \$25K company off a long layoff now steps up a notch and classy enough to take another if able to avoid early duel with former stablemate Bang Bang Bang. A little pace help would enhance the chances of DEMETEOR who chased preferred one home despite some trouble in their previous encounter. Old vet still going strong at 10. HEADSANDTALES drops a notch after holding own with open \$50K platers in his last. Multiple SW fits well with these.