

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Light Green (2nd race)

First Race: 1. Riflman 2. Scariff Island 3. Eon

RIFLMAN debuts for top barn in a very juicy spot. Working steadily for his bow. Wouldn't have to be much to win at first asking here. SCARIFF ISLAND, a \$100K yearling buy in '06, takes big plunge to bottom level maiden claimer for his return never the best of signs but steady work tab gives enough encouragement to include him among the major players in the opener. EON drops another notch after fading badly as the 1-5 favorite in his claiming bow five weeks earlier. Will graduate at this level at a short price sooner or later. Perhaps today will be the day.

Second Race: 1. Light Green 2. Casanova Move 3. Zoi Zoi

LIGHT GREEN, the day's best, looks like she could have a big future. Outlasted CASANOVA MOVE despite a pace long battle when debuting last summer in N.Y. and overcame both a biased track and the imposing Lawless Falls to graduate with a big figure on the second day of the meet. Has been given ample time to recuperate from the effort. Casanova Move the logical choice exiting key Old Hat Stakes in which both the runnerup and third finisher returned to post well graded victories. Addition of blinkers could be the key to her further improvement. ZOI ZOI, the preferred one's uncoupled mate, did not earn much of a number but was impressive looking winning her debut despite a slow start, wide trip. Expensive Seeking the Gold filly may be much better than generally regarded. Looking for even better things today.

Third Race: 1. Game Face 2. Any Limit 3. Lovely Isle

GAME FACE dominated much this same group in the First Lady and apparently a horse for the course considering the way she similarly romped home here a year ago in the Old Hat. Main caveat the potential lack of pace in this lineup although she could wind up tripping out well behind speed of ANY LIMIT and LOVELY ISLE. Former no match for preferred choice in the First Lady but classy enough to reverse the decision if allowed to relax long enough on a soft pace. Lovely Isle might not permit that however, after chasing winner and fading late in the Sunshine F & M Turf. Well travelled filly fits with these at her best.

Fourth Race: 1. Mambo Master 2. Sonofawitch 3. Cruzatte

MAMBO MASTER could be worth a stab considering the two main contenders in here, SONOFAWITCH and CRUZATTE, could be destined for an early pace duel. Drops to the bottom for the first time and lone member of this lineup with a win at the distance. Inside draw adds to the allure. Sonofawitch overcame protracted pace duel over a track that did not favor speed to win his N2L condition in a much improved showing in his local debut. One to beat if allowed to skip away early from his inside post, set up shop on the front end.

Fifth Race: 1. Talented Princess 2. Road Track's Dream 3. Vue de Chat

TALENTED PRINCESS and ROAD TRACK'S DREAM figure to benefit from what should be a very honest pace scenario considering the make up of this lineup. May be just a matter of which one gets the cleaner trip trying to work their way around from the rear of the pack. VUE DE CHAT got away with relative soft fractions, just failed to last against a notch better in first start since switch to Walder barn. Sheds blinkers. May ultimately prove one to catch.

Sixth Race: 1. Access Code 2. Mr. Conover 3. Kellys Rx

ACCESS CODE aggressively spotted on the bottom after posting easy win against N3L rivals in well graded local bow. Switched barns and showing no published works since that outing but hard to ignore if able to come close to repeating that try. Not sure what happened to MR. CONOVER here last month when eased late after showing brief speed at nine furlongs. Like the steady work tab ever since and trainer-jock combo both got off the duck Friday with well backed maiden who won local bow off no published workouts. Might be a sleeper on turn back to this distance. KELLYS RX dueled but ultimately proved no match for favored Early Release when dropped into the category for the first time three weeks earlier. Figures forwardly throughout from the outside gate.

Seventh Race: 1. Glee Club 2. Beckham Bend 3. Excellent Soldier

GLEE CLUB takes subtle class drop from open to N3L claiming company off a near miss here five weeks ago. Must overcome tough post but should prove a good fit if he does in this category. BECKHAM BEND an improving sort who exits a big N2L turf score over soft ground in his N Y finale. Reunites with Garcia who bottled him home to similarly well graded score in his debut. EXCELLENT SOLDIER got to the lead, could not quite last when trying conditioned claimers for the first time three weeks earlier. Obviously a good fit himself at this level.

Eighth Race: 1. Matchless Orinda 2. Flying Dixie 3. Susies Gal

Could MATCHLESS ORINDA be another Formidable, her stablemate who followed well graded maiden score with another powerful performance beating up on N1X company here Friday. Odds are she can at what figures to be another short price. FLYING DIXIE has shown ability in all previous starts and working forwardly for her '09 bow. Figures prominently throughout. SUSIES GAL SUSIES GAL turns back in distance, wheels back on short rest off troubled try going a mile two weeks earlier. Should be coming on strong at the end.

Ninth Race: 1. Weekend Strike 2. Exe 3. Gozzip Girl

WEEKEND STRIKE dropped well back off a relatively soft pace, lost considerable ground around the turn before finishing full of run to be second best in the Sweetest Chant and likely to get a little more help up front with Oilgonewile if Jehan goes. Must avoid similar ground loss from extreme outside gate. EXE has done little wrong since switching to the grass. Another who would benefit from a hot pace. GOZZIP GIRL an improving but potentially dangerous filly who is regally bred for the lawn being by Dynaformer out of a Kingmambo mare. Probably best in last but for severely hampering her rider when lugging in throughout much of the stretch. Could be the sleeper if keeping a straighter course here.

Tenth Race: 1. Funny Moon 2. Averymerrymoment 3. Dancing Flame

FUNNY MOON and AVERYMERRYMOMENT a couple of new faces in a field that seems ripe for a first timer. Former a half sis to multiple stakes winner Throng with several nice looking works on the resume' up at Payson. Barn known for turf prowess but has snuck a few main track firsters home here over the years. Averymerrymoment working like gangbusters for her debut. May stand some catching if away clean, loose on the front end in the finale. DANCING FLAME flashed some promise over the artificial surface up north. Juset like her half sis Halloween Dance who exploded to easy maiden win in her first try on conventional dirt here Friday.