

## GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



### BEST BET: U S Treasury (2nd race)

#### First Race: 1. Valid Name 2. All the Bases 3. Just Ben

VALID NAME working like gangbusters for his debut with a couple of sub 1:00 drills on the resume' for top outfit. Will have to break clean and be a runner to handle ALL THE BASES who was game as can be from tough post while earning high marks in his debut. Outside box a plus today. Need only repeat the try to graduate. JUST BEN a \$230K yearling purchase by Speightstown out of a four time graded stakes winning mare. Interesting Desormeaux takes rare call for Zito barn. Owns some solid works of his own at Palm Meadows.

#### Second Race: 1. U S Treasury 2. Bet the Limit 3. Empirior

U S TREASURY victimized by a tough trip when disappointing at 6-5 under simialr conditions earlier this month. Gets blinkers, an outside post and new rider for return match with BET THE LIMIT. Taken to make amends with the right trip. Bet The Limi dueled throughout, held game to end when narrowly beaten in his local bow. Another logical choice for the challees. EMPIRIOR split the top pair in their last encounter and like U S Treasure getting blinks for the occasion. Third could be a charm.

#### Third Race: 1. Fair Weather Stan 2. Nergal 3. A. P. Arrow

FAIR WEATHER STAN back to allowance ranks after losing all chance into opening bend of the Ft Lauderdale. Game as can be finishing a half length behind recent stakes winner, the red hot Vanquisher, two back at CRC and might even be the controlling speed if hustled along early over a course that has favored front runners over the last couple of weeks. NERGAL stuck in third gear at the end of his '08 campaign although held own with some decent ones. Away since missing a length to loose on the lead Buddy's Humor in the Four Bases. Barn always has 'em ready off the bench. A. P. ARROW the question m ark in here. Looks like he might be at the end of the road the way his form has turned south since his trip to Dubai but grass and drop to allowance ranks off steady diet of Gr. 1 races could help right the ship. Certainly bred for the going being a half to Breeders' Cup Mile runnerup Geri and six other grass winners.

#### Fourth Race: 1. Wise Vision 2. Coach Abs 3. Another Success

WISE VISION away since September but working forwardly for his return. Like the six furlong drill in preparation for this. Aguilar signs on again. Might not look back if able to clear off as expected. COACH ABS tries turf for the first time following a couple of unlucky trips on the lawn. Worked a solid five-eighths over the local strip two weeks ago although noting he's quickly dropped below level of recent claim. Rail draw no bargain but worth a look at a price with this company. ANOTHER SUCCESS takes sharp plunge in class off a series of disappointing efforts to begin his career. Another who figures forwardly placed throughout.

#### Fifth Race: 1. Cassie's Boot 2. Alamanda Drive 3. Unbridled Prayer

CASSIE'S BOOT comes up tagged off game try behind 3/2 Pletcher firster here three weeks earlier. Should be long gone on the front end on stretch to six furlongs. Just a question, perhaps, of whether she can stay the distance. ALAMANDA DRIVE debuts off a steady diet of works for barn which can have one ready off the bench. Daughter of Awesome Again perhaps worth a peak at what figures to be square odds. UNBRIDLED PRAYER ran well despite slow start in promising debut albeit in a race which did collapse at the end. Still must respect with any kind of forward move.

#### Sixth Race: 1. Artic Cry 2. Big Stick 3. Broad River

Connections might have gotten away with one running ARTIC CRY for a tag a couople of weeks ago when rewarded with solid N3L tally. Striking while the iron is hot, wheeling back in less than two weeks off the big effort. Has the speed to hang close to likely pace of BROAD RIVER. Might be sharp enough to handle the class hike. BIG STICK has run some big numbers over his past several starts and likely in need of his last when hanging a bit at the end following ground saving journey. Must overcome tough post at a short price.

#### Seventh Race: 1. Dream Maestro 2. Motovato 3. Freedom Bay

Interesting group here that includes 3yo Brave Victory in against his elders if he goes. DREAM MAESTRO has held his form relatively well against tougher than these for many months and the turn back to seven eighths should have him finishing best of all if he fires his best bullet. May have to ultimately run down either MOTOVATO or FREEDOM BAY. That 111 Beyer sticks out like a sore thumb on Motovato although that effort came off a soft pace against a weak bunch. Shows only three works in preparation for his return but still must respect off the bench from this barn. Freedom Bay also laid off following big Fig score and working steadily for his return. Ran well over this strip at 3.

#### Eighth Race: 1. Buddy's Humor 2. Twilight Meteor 3. Just as Well

IN a race fairly well devoid of speed, BUDDY'S HUMOR might be able to set up shop on the front end ala his wins in the '07 Jersey Derby and '08 Four Bases. Front runners have been lethal of late. Punch on this guy and hope connections savvy enough to have him winging right out of the box. TWILIGHT METEOR exits much needed race, an even effort against allowance foes in return from seven month layoff. Graded stakes caliber at 3 and 4. Fits nicely here if back on his best game. JUST AS WELL hard to ignore after chasing home only Kip Deville in the Grade 1 Gulf Park Turf Handicap while back at a distance he's handled in the past.

#### Ninth Race: 1. Notonthesamepage 2. Capt. Candyman Can 3. This Ones for Phil

This one can go any of a number of ways depending upon rider strategy, the break and track conditions i.e. speed favoring etc. We'll just go for the scenario that NOTONTHEsamePAGE will break clean and try to run 'em all off their feet once again ala his big win in the Spectacular Bid which came over a track that did not favor inside, speed on opening day. Certainly training well enough to repeat. Like the preferred choice, both CAPT. CANDYMAN CAN and THIS ONES FOR PHIL have wins over the track at the session which is always a plus. Former showed he could rate winning the Hutcheson but facing a much deeper group and must again show he can relax with plenty of commotion around him. What can anyone say about This Ones For Phil's monster win in the Sunshine Millions. Well posted. Likely to bounce a bit off the effort. Just a question of how far at what price?

#### Tenth Race: 1. Misty Oak 2. Affirmatif 3. Virsito

Get out the oujia board for the finale with so many new faces debuting at a mile on the turf. MISTY OAK certainly bred to handle the going by Lemon Drop Kid out of a mare who won six times including three stakes on grass. Work tab a good one for top barn. Distance perhaps the key question off the bench. The same holds for AFFIRMATIF who is kin to one SW and with plenty of breeding for the lawn. Works have been steady if not spectacular. Main question where is Johnny V.? VIRSITO a \$275K yearling who has worked forwardly for his debut and a kin to five previous grass winners by top turf sire Dynaformer. Good luck sorting this one out.