

## GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



**BEST BET: Starship Steve (6th race)**

**First Race: 1. Mr Dealer 2. Amazo'n 3. Alone At the Wall**

AMAZO'N and ALONE AT THE WALL the two logicals but don't have enough confidence in either to take the small price. With that in mind, why not try a real bomb and give MR DEALER a look. Loose on the lead if he gets away running. Good enough to finish third of ten going two turns earlier in his career on the turf. Might get brave if allowed to relax long enough on top. Amazo'n winless after 18 tries but has been close on a few occasions and may have the best late surge of this bunch. Alone At The Wall will probably be favored off that good try two back, a race which he sandwiched around two very ordinary showings. Just a question of whether the good run was a factor of the wet track.

**Second Race: 1. Withmixedemotions 2. Box of Charms 3. Barbara's Attitude**

WITHMIXEDEMOTIONS turns back to a sprint off gallant mile outing and may have the best late kick in a lineup full of fainthearted speed types. BOX OF CHARMS the logical choice off much needed try, her first start in over 11 months. Wheels back quick for potent owner-trainer combo. BARBARA'S ATTITUDE has been away over a year and finished third in a super key race that produced four next out winners when last seen in the p.m. 14 months earlier. Works have been steady although barn does not excel with horses off layoffs of six months or longer. Giant question mark on drop to this level. Tough call.

**Third Race: 1. Dark Cheetah 2. Mannington 3. Big Dealer**

DARK CHEETAH started twice in three days at this same level in mid-November, winning on the 12th and finishing second in a key race on the 15th behind next out N2X allow. runnerup Take The Bluff. work tab says he's ready to fire his best off the layoff and his best likely good enough to beat these from just off what could be a very honest pace. MANNINGTON has also been freshened after proving very competitive in a solid N2X at the Pha on 11.24, a race which produced three next out winners including also ran Serious Fever who won a similar condition with a 90 Beyer in N.Y. Unlike the top one, however, his work resume' has been limited with only a single recorded drill since Dec. 18. BIG DEALER wheels back quickly following unlucky beginning cost him all chance over the sod in his most recent try. Must avoid early battle with FaTe Takes A Hand who flashed vastly improved early lick in each of his last pair.

**Fourth Race: 1. Sunshine Rambler 2. Hit a Homer 3. Translucent Sky**

HIT A HOMER the logical choice returning to the main and dropping to this level but rail draw out of mile chute and short price have us looking elsewhere for some value. SUNSHINE RAMBLER could be the right alternative taking sharp plunge in company after showing a little life when trying dirt for the first time in his 3yo bow. Like the fact he's gotten in a couple of more useful works since that outing. Hit A Homer turned in promising bow but ran into some bad luck switching to grass for his local debut. One to beat if getting any kind of position out of the chute. TRANSLUCENT SKY back to the main off another unlucky trip. Made a nice mid-race run off a slow pace, held third despite a slow start two back.

**Fifth Race: 1. Rich Citizen 2. More Memories 3. Laffans Bridge**

RICH CITIZEN has been away, changed barns since last postward in mid-June for McPeck but in sharp hands off the layoff and note her lone win came off a similar hiatus here last March. Has held her own with much stronger than she'll encounter on drop into conditioned selling ranks. MORE MEMORIES and LAFFANS BRIDGE exit far and away the slower division of a split N2L claimer on the turf back on 1/4. Former took all the worst of the trips that afternoon when fanned extremely wide into the stretch while attempting to kick into her rally. Puts blinkers back on, reunites with Lezcano. Might outrun her odds with a little better luck. Laffans Bridge was restrained off the pace, tipped wide, was narrowly outfinished by the winner and obviously iknocking on the door with this kind.

**Sixth Race: 1. Starship Steve 2. Call Me Now 3. Winter Weather**

STARSHIP STEVE, the day's best, recovered from an early bobble to prompt a very fast pace through midstretch before ultimately fading in a very promising debut and likely to improve with one under his belt. Lezcano stays. Ready to graduate if he can leave clean with the others. CALL ME NOW stopped to a walk when well backed for his 3yo bow but that was over a track which played against inside, speed types that afternoon. Turns back an eighth, gets another chance at a far juicier price. Will have to avoid potential early duel with WINTER WEATHER who got involved in suicidal duel through some fast fractions before ultimately fading behind preferred choice on New Years Eve. Ran recent \$40K starter runnerup Cowboy Connection to a head decision two back.

**Seventh Race: 1. Luvandgo 2. Habitual 3. Paisano Creek**

LUVANDGO stretches out, tries turf for the first time but bred to handle the going and perhaps capable of getting brave if loose on the lead as easily as expected from the rail. Son of above average turf sire Grand Slam and kin to a pair of previous turf winners. HABITUAL finished well in easily the faster split of a similarly priced N2L turfer 19 days earlier in what proved to be a very encouraging inner course bow. In peak form at the present time. PAISANO CREEK a beaten favorite in each of his last three starts since graduation day but still an obvious contender at his best once again with these.

**Eighth Race: 1. Extreme Supreme 2. Mr. Unstoppable 3. It's Never to Late**

EXTREME SUPREME back to what may be his best surface, conventional dirt, although he was not bad on artificial stuff either off that second behind Zanjero in the Grade 2 Ky Cup Classic. Loves the distance and should be forwardly placed throughout in a field lacking much in the way of early speed. The one to beat at his best. MR. UNSTOPPABLE no match for Hey Byrn in his local bow but in peak form at the present time. Ability to handle the added distance may be the big question today. IT'S NEVER TO LATE facing far better than he's encountered in the past but should be able to relax a long way on the front end. Worth tossing in for at least a share considering the pace scenario in this lineup.

**Ninth Race: 1. Rhythm and Rhyme 2. Waccamaw 3. Sally's Song**

RHYTHM AND RHYME and SALLY'S SONG give Pletcher a good chance to win the finale with the latter likely to grab most of the public's attention considering her record to date and the fact Johnny V. sides here. But R and R is the better bred of the pair being by Unbridled's Song and a half to G1 winner Magnificent Song. Should improve off even run in her debut at Ky. and like the steady work tab since her arrival in south Fla. including that bullet half over a very fast turf course at PM on 12/17. WACCAMAW showed promise on the dirt but should handle turf equally well considering she's by War Chant out of a Lord at War mare and a half to turf winner Daddy Rabbit. Caught a field that included three next out winners in her 2yo finale. Must overcome tough post.