

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: (race)

First Race: 1. Touch too Much 2. Matchless Orinda 3. Brooke's Valentine

TOUCH TOO MUCH, the day's best, got caught on the money by Shug's 6-5 Flying Dixie in her second start and likely ready for best yet with two under her belt. Entices Coa. Should trip out well stalking the leaders from her outside post. MATCHLESS ORINDA makes her second start following a one year hiatus and first since moving under Jerkens shed. Tuned up for this with near bullet drill over the weekend. BROOKE'S VALENTINE disappointed in both previous starts and those came a long time ago, during the spring of her 2-year-old campaign. Speedy sort figures to take this field as far as she goes on the front end.

Second Race: 1. Cinnamon Road 2. Favorite Flashback 3. Irish Sport

Rating back off IRISH SPORT did CINNAMON ROAD no good when the pair met at Calder 18 days earlier so the right strategy might be to take the race right to that rival in today's rematch. At her best on the front end. Eligible to reverse that decision if getting the early drop out of the mile chute. FAVORITE FLASHBACK could prove the major beneficiary if the two likely favorites hook up in a potentially suicidal speed duel. Continues to improve but a question mark stretching out beyond six furlongs for the first time.

Third Race: 1. Wild Ones Event 2. Our Tia Dia 3. Majestic Envoy

WILD ONES EVENT back with Orseno barn for yet another go around and note she outfinished her main rival, OUR TIA DIA, over this same strip a year ago. Must avoid dropping as far back as she has in her last couple but taken to run down the speed with a repeat of her best. Our T D exits a game effort under similar conditions in her crosstown finale although was beaten as the 4-5 choice that day. Looks like the one to beat if able to alter her running style, sit off likely pace of Cbt Mocha Mocha. MAJESTIC ENVOY eligible to run late for a share.

Fourth Race: 1. Puttingonthemist 2. Devilinareaddress 3. Beso Negro

PUTTINGONTHEMIST held her own in New York on a couple of occasions at 2 now dropping to weakest spot yet for her south Fla. debut. Should trip out nicely behind the speed of BESO NEGRO who figures to control the pace on stretch around two turns off the claim. Bred to handle the going and perhaps a bit of a sleeper being by Concorde's Tune out of a Kissin Kris mare. DEVILINAREADDRESS a logical choice off second place finish behind next out N1X winner Fulfilling under the seven pound bug. Race ultimately produced trio of next out winners and now she switches to Trujillo and comes up tagged for the first time. Late striding sort should be coming on best of all at the end.

Fifth Race: 1. Freedom Isnt Free 2. Flight to Eden 3. Taking Over

FREEDOM ISNT FREE exits much improved showing when overcoming trouble to win his N3L condition second off the layoff. Had performance flattered when runnerup Starship Victory returned to win his next. Not facing much better on hike to open company. Can be along with repeat of his last. FLIGHT TO EDEN returns to more suitable spot after being overmatched in his last pair. Rallied to be second best with stronger on 11/29. TAKING OVER looks like the quickest of the several speed types in this lineup and like the preferred choice stepping into open claimer after finally winning out his lifetime conditions. May ultimately prove the one to catch.

Sixth Race: 1. Poetic Fan 2. Choosing 3. Milicat

POETIC FAN finally back to the grass following steady diet of artificial surface starts to close out her 4yo campaign at Woodbine. Was beating just six lengths by a solid bunch of two other than's when last trying the sod back in September and perhaps eligible to wake up at a square price in this company. CHOOSING another who should relish the return to turf after fading badly over muddy main strip eight weeks earlier in N.Y. Earned high marks outfinishing N2L's over Belmont inner two back. MILICAT continues to hold her form extremely well and had her last effort flattered when her two immediate victims returned to finish 1-2 under similar conditions. Seems to be better suited to running off the pace than close up as in her earlier tries.

Seventh Race: 1. Five Jak 2. Sconset 3. Normansbirdie

FIVE JAK a lightly raced filly exiting game maiden win and likely to get loose on an easy leadin stretching out to a mile. Could get brave if allowed to relax long enough in front. SCONSET gets some class relief while returning to the main off a troubled fourth place finish for higher tag on grass. Improved since the addition of blinkers. Must overcome tough post. NORMANSBIRDIE had little chance making up ground late off an extremely slow pace when facing open company, this distance, in her 2year-old finale. Should benefit from the experience at a mile. One of only two in here to earn diploma for higher than a \$20K tag.

Eighth Race: 1. Rogue Victory 2. Radical Sabbatical 3. Les Antiques

ROGUE VICTORY appeared to be making a winning run when stopped cold in deep stretch under similar conditions in N.Y. Earned Beyers big enough to beat this group in a couple of sharp outings this summer at the Spa. Can be along with clear sailing for barn off to a quick start at the meet. RADICAL SABBATICAL could not stay nine furlongs after controlling the pace in his 3yo finale now turns back to what figures to be a more suitable distance. Hard to ignore. LES ANTIQUES has yet to run a poor one in four career starts and getting blinkers despite posting game win in her last. Been away for some time and perhaps just a question of whether she's one race away from her best.

Ninth Race: 1. Miro 2. Headache 3. Bear's Prospector

MIRO caught a killer when debuting at a mile in N.Y., the highly regarded Well Positioned who freaked in his second career start. Was good enough to outfinish 11 others and taken to improve with a race under his belt. Half to G2 winner Mushka training nicely for his 3yo bow. May have to catch HEADACHE who figures loose on an easy lead after dueling, finishing third in very fast and key Quality Road dash on 11/29. Perhaps just a question of whether he can stay the route. BEAR'S PROSPECTOR switches to conventional dirt following a couple of even tries to launch his career at Woodbine. Has experience around two turns and note the bullet five furlong drill at Palm Meadows in preparation for this.