

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: No Speed Limit (6th race)

First Race: 1. Grandeza 2. Officer Cat 3. Pink Stockings

GRANDEZA moves back to the main, shortens up after showing speed and holding willingly enough in a couple of two turn turf outings to close out her 3yo campaign. Facing a very weak lot but still a bit of a question mark over conventional dirt. Will try to outlast logical choice OFFICER CAT also switches from turf to dirt where she's done some of her best running in the past. Second start since switching to Catanese barn. Hard to ignore with this group. PINK STOCKINGS a giant question mark having been idle since the fall of her 2-year-old campaign and now suddenly showing up under a \$15K tag. Do like the fact she's been working fairly regularly for a couple of months. Might do off the bench against these.

Second Race: 1. Cinema Show 2. East to Eden 3. Cinque Bella

CINEMA SHOW comes off a career best effort in her Woodbine finale when equipped with blinkers for the first time. Perhaps just a question of whether she can transfer her artificial surface form to conventional dirt. Lone member of this field to have graduated for higher than a \$32K tag. EAST TO EDEN certainly much improved of late. Led throughout, earned nice marks winning her maiden across town and likely loose on the lead on stretch to seven eighths. Just a question of whether she can handle the added ground although obviously in much better form now than when failing to stay the distance against MSW opposition in November. CINQUE BELLA ran down East to Eden when the pair met in mid-December and turned in another nice effort stepping up into allowance company closing day at Calder. continues to move forward from a Beyer standpoint. The logical choice.

Third Race: 1. It's Out There 2. I'mtrulyinthemood 3. Decaf Again

IT'S OUT THERE duelled, succumbed grudgingly while turning in arguably his best effort to take to close out his juvenile campaign when nailed at the end by Matz's highly regarded Rockland and Cape Royale. Surprisingly comes up tagged off that effort. Should be tough if able to get loose on the front end here. I'MTRULYINTHEMOOD took up a couple of times while finishing mid-pack and behind the preferred choice in a pretty solid starrer allowance race on the grass at Calder and eligible to improve from his first run over the sod with cleaner sailing. SOUTH FORK LODGE turned in game, debut win over the Churchill Downs inner before finishing midpack in the Grand Canyon, a race from which show dough runner Jack Spratt returned to win the Dania Beach over the weekend.

Fourth Race: 1. Itchy Toes 2. Halcyon 3. Sophisticatedevent

ITCHY TOES closed out her '08 campaign with a pair of wins at Hawthorne and well spotted returning at this level for her local bow. Need only repeat eight of those tries to take another. HALCYON has been away since coming out second best against higher level, conditioned claimers several months ago at Delaware but appears to be training forwardly for her local bow which comes for high percentage barn. SOPHISTICATEDEVENT the second of the uncoupled Walder's in this lineup and taking quick drop after being haltered for \$16K at Calder. Winless since '07 but has never run this cheap.

Fifth Race: 1. Pago Island 2. Miracle of Dreams 3. Illustrater

PAGO ISLAND stretches back to a distance she's handled well in the past and love the fact one of her best races came out of the one mile chute here less than a year ago. As good as any in this wide open mix. MIRACLE OF DREAMS and ILLUSTRATER both hard to fault in their present form, the former perhaps exiting slightly better races and three for six at the distance although with no experience out of the mile chute.

Sixth Race: 1. No Speed Limit 2. Platina Rose 3. Who Plays Brahms

NO SPEED LIMIT, the day's best, has shown speed with much better than she faces in her 3yo bow. Sheds blinkers. Might not look back. PLATINA ROSE was heavily backed in the opening race on opening day only to lose any chance when breaking in the air far behind the field. Showed plenty of gas once recovering. Should chase the preferred one throughout if away cleaner this time around. WHO PLAYS BRAHMS has encountered trouble in each of her last two starts including opening day when taken up into the turn before passing a few down the stretch. Could prove beneficiary if top two hook and falter.

Seventh Race: 1. Lucky Liza 2. Aster 3. Whackthekat

LUCKY LIZA makes initial start for Fawkes after flashing speed in a couple of good tries with this same kind in Chicago. Looks as good as any of the locals especially if she can get loose early under Coa. ASTER benefitted from a slow pace scenario to win her maiden but did earn high marks at Woodbine. Well travelled sort visits her fourth start in as many tracks and must prove she's as effective on conventional dirt as on the artificial stuff at what figures to be a short price. WHACKTHEKAT drops to weakest level yet, lures J.R. although her best to date has been on grass.

Eighth Race: 1. Jet Propulsion 2. Ruff and Ready 3. Mambo Meister

JET PROPULSION giving every sign of rounding back to his graded stakes winning form after moving forward off much needed try on 11/21 to easily defeat similar at Calder. A tough cookie when fit and loose on the lead at this distance as he figures to be in this spot. Might get brave, turn tables on MAMBO MEISTER who handily won their previous meeting but now coming back in just 11 days off hard try in the Ft. Lauderdale. RUFF AND READY returns to what seems to be his favorite course off a freshening since his fourth place finish in the Grade 3 Oceanport. Posted lone at triple digit Beyers of his career here last winter.

Ninth Race: 1. Executive Choice 2. Black Spot 3. Dark Cheetah

EXECUTIVE CHOICE returns to the main track off steady diet of Woodbine artificial tries a year ago but plenty accomplished on conventional dirt earlier in his career and more than classy enough to handle this bunch in the nightcap at his best. Main caveat the fact he's one of several speed types in this lineup. An early battle might help the chances of BLACK SPOT who has rallied for second in each of his last pair and with a game win over stakes caliber Cuba out of the mile chute here last winter. DARK CHEETAH ran twice within three days to close out '08 and has been freshened since those tries. Worked a bullet for this.