

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By BYRON KING



BEST BET: Saint Knows (8th race)

First Race: 1. Reaffirmed 2. Value Driver 3. Tad

REAFFIRMED is dropped a notch in class and makes his second start off a layoff - moves that should result in a forward move. He has high-percentage connections in his corner - trainer Peter Walder and jockey John Velazquez. VALUE DRIVER has been among the most consistent performers in the field. He has hit the board in five straight races and has the versatility to either press or stalk the pace. TAD whipped \$15,000 N2L opposition in his latest at Churchill, and now moves into a much tougher open \$16,000 claiming field.

Second Race: 1. Propensity 2. Cardinal Nation 3. Promulgation

PROPENSITY has been second or third in all three of his starts on turf, earning Beyers of 79 or higher. Being a son of 1998 Belmont winner Victory Gallop, he is bred to handle the stretch out to this 1 1/2 mile distance. CARDINAL NATION finished an even fourth in an off-the-turf race at Calder, a decent performance considering that he seems to be a better turf horse. He has run well in turf marathons, with his best effort being a third at this distance at Churchill in May. PROMULGATION, a filly matched against males, but starts for a red-hot barn. She has plenty of distance blood in her pedigree, and should relish the stretch out in distance after rallying for fourth in a mile race.

Third Race: 1. High Brass 2. Masterwork 3. Grande

HIGH BRASS has the benefit of a start this meet, a close third against open \$20,000 claimers Jan. 10. Although stepping up in claiming price to the \$35,000 - \$30,000 level, this N2L race suits him better. MASTERWORK was dull over a muddy track at Aqueduct recently, finishing fourth. He is likely to perform much better on a fast track. GRANDE showed speed and faded to fourth against first-level allowance/optional claimers at Calder recently, which followed a runner-up finish at that same level.

Fourth Race: 1. Moonport 2. Trusting Heart 3. Charge It

MOONPORT should improve upon a debut performance in which he finished sixth against maiden \$50,000 runners at Calder. He is cut in half to the maiden \$25,000 level and has a skilled trainer and jockey behind him in Ian Wilkes and Julien Leparoux, respectively. TRUSTING HEART ran well in his debut in May, finishing third in a straight maiden race, but two subsequent starts have been lackluster. A massive class drop should result in a better effort. Although unraced since Nov. 5, trainer Stan Hough has good numbers with comebackers. CHARGE IT showed little in his debut when bet down to 3-1 odds. He goes from maiden \$75,000 to maiden \$25,000 company for his second start and has trained swiftly in recent weeks at Palm Meadows.

Fifth Race: 1. I'm It Wayne 2. Kissing Code 3. B L's Noise

I'M IT WAYNE is dropped sharply and returned on short rest after finishing third for \$40,000. His owner and trainer - Frank Calabrese and Wayne Catalano - consistently win at a high percentage and this one is spotted to win. KISSING CODE is moved in with easier after finishing sixth against starter 40K N2L runners. Trainer Allen Jerkens has been off to a good start this meet. B L'S NOISE has struggled in recent starts, but has speed and ran well earlier in the year. He joins the Walder stable and picks up Johnny V.

Sixth Race: 1. Evolutionist 2. Chapin Beach 3. Weslinn

EVOLUTIONIST adds blinkers following a third over the Polytrack in October. In his only start on grass, he finished third behind eventual G3 Pilgrim winner Elusive Bluff. CHAPIN BEACH, a son of Dynaformer, debuts off straight six bullet works at Payson Park. A full brother to G1 Diana winner Sand Springs, he has the potential to be a very good colt but is poorly drawn on the far outside with a short run into the first turn. WESLINN overcame a troubled start to rally for third in a five-furlong dash on turf at Calder. He would appear likely to benefit from the stretch out to a mile.

Seventh Race: 1. Yes He's the Man 2. Chasing the Prize 3. Little Genius

YES HE'S THE MAN has not finished better than fourth in five races since winning the G3 Spend A Buck Handicap at Calder in November of 2007. Although not the horse he once was, he should rebound in this \$20,000 claimer. He worked five furlongs at Calder Jan. 14, which followed a dull Jan. 1 comeback in a five-furlong turf dash at Calder. CHASING THE PRIZE, a winner of six of his last 10 starts, finished fourth as the favorite at Calder recently in a starter after being pinched back at the start. Previously, he had scored at this level at Woodbine, posting a 95 Beyer. LITTLE GENIUS is stepped up in class from \$10,000 after finishing second Jan. 2 at Calder. He joins a hot barn and won over this track in March of last year.

Eighth Race: 1. Saint Knows 2. House Quest 3. Inter Galactic

SAINT KNOWS turned in a flat performance in finishing seventh as the favorite for \$50,000, but appears capable of better. She won the Ms Brookski stakes last year and should offer some value in this \$35,000 race off her recent subpar effort. HOUSE QUEST owns good Beyers and joins the barn of trainer Rick Dutrow after finishing third at this class level in November. He was fourth in a stake at Belmont two starts ago. INTER GALACTIC failed to fire in his latest, but is an eight-time winner with earnings of over 305K and her closing style is well suited to this course and all the speed in this race.

Ninth Race: 1. Longandstrong 2. Galloping Thunder 3. Fiji Boy

LONGANDSTRONG is dropped from the straight maiden ranks after showing speed and fading to seventh at Calder. He was good enough to hit the board a couple times in maiden special weight contests at the Meadowlands last fall, and a return to that form would make him tough in this maiden \$50,000 race. GALLOPING THUNDER rallied to be third in his second start when racing against maiden \$40,000 opposition on Jan. 8. Although that race came on grass, he has the pedigree to suggest he could perform as well on dirt. FIJI BOY, like the top choice, drops into a maiden \$50,000 claimer after running decently in the straight maiden ranks. He ran second, beaten a neck, in his lone start for this tag at Turfway in early October.