

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Crack the Cognac (8th race)

First Race: 1. Speculation 2. Reggae Rose 3. All of Her Twist

SPECULATION and REGGAE ROSE both made a little middle move, flattened out late in their local bows and eligible to sustain that run a lot longer with those races under their belts. Speculation figures to offer the better value of the pair while also turning back from 7 to 6 furlongs. Exits a race that featured a very fast final quarter split (quicker than Dunkirk's on same card) and from which runnerup Run All Day returned to beat this same kind last weekend. ALL OF HER TWIST working smartly for her return. Showed some speed, promise at 2. Minishaft demands respect considering her work tab and connections but rail draw always dangerous for new faces.

Second Race: 1. Sneaky Stephen 2. Minidrop 3. Stirrup Excitement

SNEAKY STEPHEN exits career best performance here against same kind five weeks earlier and note runnerup did run away from cheaper here Friday. Switches to very potent barn off the claim. MINIDROP hard to fault in his present form. Rallied off slow pace to beat this same kind in his last and obviously very fond of the local strip. STIRRUP EXCITEMENT steps up off the claim from N3L to open \$16K company, a huge jump, but figures to take this field a long way on the front end. Might get brave, last for at least a share at a little price.

Third Race: 1. Webcast 2. Iswear Iswear 3. Iamachallenger

WEBCAST plunges from MSW company to mid-level claimer and adds blinkers to boot. Beat six of eight foes while no match for top pair in his local bow. Should find this bunch much more to his liking/ability level. ISWEAR ISWEAR debuts at a tricky distance but with a steady diet of works under his belt for sharp barn. Must respect off the bench. IAMACHALLENGER also plunges out of MSW company for his 3yo bow. Should come away runnin' from the open, outside gate. Might hold on for a major share at a square price.

Fourth Race: 1. Rescue Squad 2. Florentino 3. Bruce N Autumn

RESCUE SQUAD comes off a solid 3yo bow while making his first start in more than three months and eligible to improve off the effort. Finished just behind next out, \$40K starter winner Safety Squeeze and training forwardly for his return. Should get some help up front with logical choice FLORENTINO who has run a couple of bang up efforts since switching to the sod. WAS caught late by entymate in his last after outlasting next out grad Mikoshi three weeks earlier. Strictly the one to beat especially if he can clear off once again over speed favoring course. BRUCE N AUTUMN returns to what may be his favorite surface after failing to keep up with some decent company in a couple of starts over the main track earlier in the meet. Looking for improvement back on sod.

Fifth Race: 1. River Fancy 2. Singing Rose 3. Elusive Appeal

RIVER FANCY drops another notch looking to get back on winning track. dueled with next out \$50K turf winner Princess Town through much of a one mile grass affair before calling it quits through the final furlong in her local bow and should be legged up nicely off that effort to run down all the speed in this spot if kept within hailing distance during the early going. SINGING ROSE disputed some very fast splits, held well in both previous starts but idle now a long time since maiden win. May ultimately prove one to catch if away clean. ELUSIVE APPEAL down from Tampa off a decent try vs. a bit tougher starter allowance opposition. Should trip out well stalking the leaders from her outside gate.

Sixth Race: 1. Lady Zieg 2. There Are Rainbows 3. Revel in the Win

LADY ZIEG one of several intriguing first turfers in this lineup. By Touch Gold out of a mare who was a three time graded stakes winner on grass and a half to G3 winner Classic Campaign. Know barn will have her ready to roll off the bench. THERE ARE RAINBOWS likely to be overbet as the best of the experienced ones and considering her connections.. Closed nicely following tardy beginning in her only previous start but must prove she can sustain that type of run at this distance. Logical but perhaps a bit vulnerable at short odds. Expecting several in here to improve switching to turf including REVEL IN THE WIN who is a half to grass SW Snow Cone. Rena M, by With Approval out of a Lord at War mare and Single Solution, a half to G1 turf winner Vacare, also bear watching in their turf bows.

Seventh Race: 1. War Kill 2. Fools in Love 3. Consequence

WAR KILL working well for her 3yo debut and meets top jock and trainer enhance her appeal. Earned diploma at this distance albeit on synthetic strip but ran well enough over CD main to suggest she'll have little trouble switching back to conventional dirt. May not look back. FOOLS IN LOVE caught a good one, Elusive Heat, in her 3yo debut but did manage to finish just a neck behind Cassidy's Pride for second money and she returned to upset a 1/5 entry in her next start. CONSEQUENCE tries conventional dirt for the first time but a classy sort who won her career bow, this distance, on grass. Should be flying at the end.

Eighth Race: 1. Crack the Cognac 2. Just Playin Around 3. Ghostly Concerto

CRACK THE COGNAC, the day's best, one of three in here exiting the very well graded Crowned General race from which third place finisher Big Red Hope returned to upset odds on Le Grand Cru over main track on Friday. Speedy sort made the lead between calls at midstretch before being outfinished by the winner but ready to go all the way with a similar effort in here. JUST PLAYIN AROUND overcame trouble to finish less than a length behind Big Red Hope while turning in career best effort under similar conditions last month. Must avoid getting jammed on the rail. GHOSTLY CONCERTO sprinted away from top one, faded late in their initial encounter but could carry his speed a little further in the rematch considering the nature of the course these days.

Ninth Race: 1. Renda 2. Justwhistledixie 3. Frolic's Dream

RENDA just might be able to reverse that last setback at the hands of FROLIC'S DREAM stretching out to a mile and with a little more pace help in the rematch. Made up seven lengths on that rival through the final three furlongs of a race she should benefit from in the Forward Gal. Frolic's D, a head shy of being undefeated but perhaps a bit of a question mark stretching to a mile at what figures to be another very short price. JUSTWHISTLEDIXIE in from New York off a trio of easy wins and perhaps the most likely member of this field to try to take it to the favorite early. Looking for her to carry her speed a long way despite the added distance.

Tenth Race: 1. Cherokee Queen 2. Remoulade 3. Thoughtless Moment

CHEROKEE QUEEN poorly posted and away since August but showed a good deal of talent at 3 and likely to offer some value in the finale because of those reasons. Barn can certainly have one ready off this type of layoff. Worth a look in a fairly wide open finale. REMOULADE ran far and away her best yet beating N1X rivals at Tampa if that Beyer Figure is accurate and she should be forwardly placed throughout once again in this lineup. Might be sharp enough now to take another despite the class jump. THOUGHTLESS MOMENT the logical choice after running out of real estate behind multiple winner Flibberjibit in her U.S. debut. Has been tough to make up a lot of ground over this course of late but this mare might just be talented enough to overcome the bias if improving any off her last.