

## GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By BYRON KING



**BEST BET: Broad River (5th race)**

### **First Race: 1. Fly With the Wind 2. Barley Sugar 3. Notice Me Now**

FLY WITH THE WIND failed to fire in finishing seventh vs. N1X/16K runners, but shows a maintenance work Jan. 3 since that Dec. 15 race and could rebound against softer \$10,000 claimers. BARLEY SUGAR starts for the high-percentage tandem of Peter Walder and John Velazquez and merits respect despite this horse's 3 for 63 record. He has run quickly at times and comes off a useful 2008 season. NOTICE ME NOW outran the top choice in finishing third Dec. 15 at Calder - a race that followed a third at the Meadowlands for \$12,500. He was prone to minor awards last year (14-1-2-5 record).

### **Second Race: 1. Laughing Matters 2. Holy Trouble 3. Reason to Rejoice**

LAUGHING MATTERS has been fourth or better in seven straight races and should fire fresh for Walder, who regularly has strong meets at Gulfstream. She comes off a pair of on-the-board finishes at Philly Park in the fall and rates a narrow edge. HOLY TROUBLE won three in a row before fading to third recently after dueling through hot fractions on the lead for \$8,000 at Calder. Slight drop makes her an obvious threat. The speedy REASON TO REJOICE has considerable back class and joins the successful Christos Gatis stable. Barn is 6 for its last 20 with first-after-claim runners.

### **Third Race: 1. Lakeside Run 2. New York Bobby 3. Bizzie Light**

Expecting a forward move second time out from LAKESIDE RUN, who finished a non-threatening fourth against straight maidens at Tampa. He is dropped in for a tag and should benefit from that experience. He has a grass pedigree - being by Dynaformer out of a G3 winner on turf. NEW YORK BOBBY similarly drops from the straight maiden ranks and owns strong Beyers but is stuck in post 12 with a short run to the first turn in this 7.5-furlong turf race for maiden \$40,000 claimers. BIZZIE LIGHT ran well in his latest, finishing second against similar at Calder. Well drawn on the inside.

### **Fourth Race: 1. Nolan's Territory 2. Mountain Myth 3. Access Code**

NOLAN'S TERRITORY is dropped to his lowest level after a runner-up finish at Turfway Dec. 14 behind next-out allowance winner Gruenewald. Class of this race with the plunge from 30K to 10K company. MOUNTAIN MYTH makes his third start off a short layoff and goes from turf to dirt. The last time he made such a switch in surfaces, he won a claiming race on the Delaware main track. The speedy ACCESS CODE joins the winning Wayne Catalano barn off the claim following a flat effort in the slop at Churchill. He has trained well for his new connections but figures to have company up front.

### **Fifth Race: 1. Broad River 2. Brooklyn Boy 3. Wood Be Me**

BROAD RIVER makes his first start for a tag after going 18-2-4-4 in straight maiden and allowance company. He enters this race with respectable form and is well suited to the \$35,000 N3L conditions. He should also have a fitness edge over BROOKLYN BOY, the class of the field but a horse unraced since May. If the latter doesn't return rusty, though, he will no doubt be hard to beat. He was a close fifth in the G3 Appleton Handicap here last winter. WOOD BE ME ran well in two starts last year, with both races coming over Polytrack, and is now returned to turf, a surface on which he is 2 for 3.

### **Sixth Race: 1. Atomic Rain 2. Stormalory 3. Pressure Point**

ATOMIC RAIN ran second to the unbeaten Old Fashioned in the G2 Remsen when that one scooted away to an easy early lead. This one performed very well under the circumstances to be the runner-up - considering he was stretching out from five furlongs to 1 1/8 miles and returning from a lengthy layoff. STORMALORY also drops from graded company after finishing fifth in the G2 Kentucky Jockey Club. Prior to that race, he had been a close second to eventual Kentucky Jockey Club winner Beethoven in an allowance at Churchill. PRESSURE POINT led from start to finish going seven furlongs at Churchill Nov. 29 and stretches out for a barn that does well with such types.

### **Seventh Race: 1. Ballast 2. Jamaludin 3. Magic Mecke**

Two-time G3 winner BALLAST faces the easiest field he has caught in quite some time by virtue of racing for a \$75,000 tag in this N3X alw/optional claimer. Connections can afford to be aggressive with his placement given that he is 8 years old and averaging about 5 to 6 starts a year. JAMALUDIN blossomed for Maker and the Ramseys in the fall in Kentucky, winning two of three for them, albeit against easier. Factor on the rise from a N2X allowance. MAGIC MECKE, like the top choice, is a multiple stakes-winning veteran racing for a tag under these conditions. He owns good numbers and is battle tested against tough opposition.

### **Eighth Race: 1. Idol Maker 2. Bruce N Autumn 3. Danger to Society**

IDOL MAKER regressed a bit second time out, as young will often do after a fast maiden victory. Expect this one to benefit from his fourth in the Remsen and elevate his game with the drop into an allowance. BRUCE N AUTUMN gamely surged to a fast maiden victory at Churchill Downs on turf after a strong debut on dirt. The third- and sixth-place horses from that race immediately returned to win straight maiden contests. DANGER TO SOCIETY professionally rallied to win a maiden race at first asking at Churchill Nov. 19. He starts for McPeck, who has great numbers with second-time starters.

### **Ninth Race: 1. Workinontrailroad 2. Bold Abbott 3. Strike It Ritz**

WORKINONTRAILROAD is an unknown on grass, and being by Devil His Due, does not have a turf pedigree that jumps out. That noted, his connections have great numbers moving horses to grass, and they show confidence in this one in sending him down from Kentucky to Florida when he was already a proven commodity over the Turfway Polytrack surface. BOLD ABBOTT has not raced since April, but is dropped from allowance company and could fire fresh for a barn that does well with long comebackers. STRIKE IT RITZ held on for third in his first start on dirt and is returned to grass, the surface on which he scored his lone victory.