

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By BYRON KING



BEST BET: Decaf Again (1st race)

First Race: 1. Decaf Again 2. Anythingyouwant 3. Cinnamon Road

Kuehne Racing purchased DECAF AGAIN privately after he won a \$50,000 claimer on turf despite a slow break and wide trip. A versatile colt, he is just as capable racing over a fast dirt track, and he should relish the abundance of pace in this race. ANYTHINGYOUWANT, first or second in five of six starts, won a similar starter when sprinting Feb. 7 after finishing second to IRISH SPORT in a mile starter at Calder. CINNAMON ROAD, is inconsistent but capable of dominant efforts on the lead. He faces other speed in here, though.

Second Race: 1. Yuletide 2. Intaglio 3. Curragh

YULETIDE is dropped to his lowest level after finishing a fast-closing third in a maiden \$40,000 race Jan. 16. Now he makes his second start off a layoff and races for \$30,000. INTAGLIO finished fifth in the same race as the top choice, also making up ground at the finish. Previously he was third in a slow-paced race at Aqueduct. CURRAGH showed vast improvement in his latest when dueling for the lead and lasting for second in a maiden \$25,000 claimer on dirt. Trainer Kenny McPeck is winning at a 30-percent clip on the meet and has great numbers moving horses from dirt to turf.

Third Race: 1. Fappies for Chance 2. Satira 3. Emma's Candy

FAPPIES FOR CHANCE, a winner of three of her last six, has performed well in two starts at this level this meet, winning a \$6,250 claimer Jan. 21 and coming back with a close second Feb. 7. SATIRA possesses speed and plunges all the way from the \$16,000 claiming level. Her inconsistency makes her a tough one to back at a relatively short price, however. The late-running EMMA'S CANDY also moves in with easier after a fifth on turf for \$25,000. A two-time winner on dirt - she can obviously handle the main track. The criticism is that she has not won over her last 25 races.

Fourth Race: 1. Optimer 2. Transit of Venus 3. David K

Former stakes competitor OPTIMER makes his third start off a layoff and drops from \$35,000 to \$20,000 company after a third-place finish here Jan. 31. Class of the field. TRANSIT OF VENUS also comes off a good local showing, a runner-up finish for \$25,000. He, too, is battle tested against better opposition. DAVID K is better than what he showed in his latest when sixth for \$25,000. He is capable of running Beyers in the 80s, numbers that would give him a shot to threaten at a price. Blinkers on for a dangerous longshot barn.

Fifth Race: 1. Saturn Five 2. Il Postino 3. Trusting Heart

SATURN FIVE ran second as the favorite when matched against similar going 1 1/8 miles. He was good enough to run a distant fifth behind Old Fashioned in a maiden race back in October of last year and should outclass this maiden \$20,000 group. IL POSTINO adds blinkers and makes his first start for a tag after a pair of sixths in straight maiden company for Pletcher. TRUSTING HEART has run second and fourth in two starts vs. slightly better here when sprinting. Factor if he handles the stretch out to a mile.

Sixth Race: 1. Laffans Bridge 2. Sweetbriar Academy 3. Rich Citizen

LAFFANS BRIDGE rates the edge in consistency, not having run worse than fourth in seven starts in her career. She has twice run second in two starts at this level this meet, and rates the rate to break out with a victory. SWEETBRIAR ACADEMY made a threatening move in her latest before being checked and failing to recover. Even so, she was just a nose behind the top choice at the wire. She has solid turf form. RICH CITIZEN bombed in her first start on dirt, finishing eighth when returning from a layoff Feb. 15, but is now returned to her best surface on the grass. This marks her first start in the claiming ranks after racing exclusively in straight maiden and allowance company.

Seventh Race: 1. Babylonian 2. Thenputitback 3. Sea Spirit

BABYLONIAN, twice second at this class level, joins the David Vivian barn off the claim and looks poised to score. THENPUTITBACK was just a head behind the top choice when third Jan. 28 after dueling for the lead. Claimed out of the race by new trainer Angel Salinas, she adds Lasix for the first time. SEA SPIRIT stumbled at the start of her last race and failed to get involved, but ran well previously when racing in long one-turn races, both here and at Churchill Downs. Should offer a price this time around.

Eighth Race: 1. Piratesonthelake 2. Hellvelyn 3. Cannonball

PIRATESONTHELAKE, a Grade 3 winner over Polytrack, ran his best races last year when competing in short-distance turf races. Two starts ago when last on turf, he set the pace before fading to second behind multiple stakes winner Chamberlain Bridge. HELLVELYN, a Group 2 winner in Europe, looms an obvious factor after finishing a close fourth in a tough money allowance here Jan. 21 going a mile. He is prone to breaking slowly, though. CANNONBALL largely underachieved last year as a 3-year-old, winning just a New York-bred stake, after running third in the BC Juvenile Turf as a juvenile. He is two-for-two sprinting on grass, though. He is coupled with the classy TALENT SEARCH, the best horse in the field, but a horse untested on grass.

Ninth Race: 1. Danick 2. Temo's Dream 3. Winter Weather

DANICK rallied to be fourth here against a notch better in the maiden \$40,000 ranks, finishing just a couple heads away from second place. He adds blinkers for his second start off a layoff and can contend with a sharper beginning. TEMO'S DREAM was just a length behind the top choice in his latest when fifth. He hit the board a couple times in straight maiden races at Calder last year. WINTER WEATHER joins the cold Acuna barn off the claim after a runner-up finish at the maiden \$25,000 level Jan. 23. He races against a bit better in this maiden \$30,000 spot.