

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Starship Scott (3rd race)

First Race: 1. Disperse 2. Red Hot Baroness 3. Secret Vendetta

DISPERSE a bit hard to figure in the opener. Plunges right to the bottom off series of decent enough MSW tries and a bullet half mile breeze from the gate. Adding blinks to boot. Lots to like except that scary class plunge. RED HOT BARONESS flashed high speed, faded to back of pack in both previous starts nearly a year ago in N Y Returns off series of works against bottom level types and might just get brave if able to shake loose long enough on top. SECRET VENDETTA finished behind next out, maiden \$20K winner Jayleen in her '08 finale but idle now nearly four months. May need one despite the drop.

Second Race: 1. Country Monarch 2. Mr. Dr. Professor 3.

Scotchontherocks

COUNTRY MONARCH looks like a horse who was in dire need of his last while overmatched to boot off a four month layoff. Note the four weeks between works prior to his final two drills leading up to return. Now returns with blinkers back on in a much more suitable spot. Expecting big improvement with one under his belt. MR. DR. PROFESSOR will be overbet considering the connections and the nice Beyer number against better on grass. Strictly the one to beat but at what price? SCOTCHONTHEROCKS stepping up in price but not really in class going from open company to N2L spot off the claim. Barn excels with no acquisitions and last was a good one on stretch to seven-eighths.

Third Race: 1. Starship Scott 2. Beer Boy 3. King's Fleet

STARSHIP SCOTT, the day's best, capable of reversing recent setback at the hands of both BEER BOY and KING'S FLEET with a race under his belt and a better trip. Broke slow, angled out five wide on the turn, switched leads late while flattening out a bit making initial outing in nearly three months. Like the fact Coa stays on and the outside post should put him in perfect stalking position from the outset. Beer B. hung badly after drawing alongside King's Fleet in their initial encounter but another who should benefit from the outing, just his second in 11 months. King's Fleet the logical choice off a couple of near misses at this level. Distance a question but an obvious factor if allowed to relax too long up front.

Fourth Race: 1. Notecard 2. Purely by Chance 3. Clash of Arms

NOTECARD made a little run at the leaders, flattened out late turning back to five furlongs in a race which graded out very nicely on 2/6. Might sustain the bid in a field that could feature a much more contentious pace. PURELY BY CHANCE and CLASH OF ARMS should give likely favorite My Sweet Natalie all she can handle up front if away running with survivor of expected battle the one to beat over this speed conducive strip.

Fifth Race: 1. Big Red Hope 2. Le Grand Cru 3. Granizo

BIG RED HOPE continues to hold his form extremely well and back to his favorite surface off nice try on turf when finishing with good energy following an unlucky break. Earned high marks two back when second best under similar conditions. Should trip out well behind speed of LE GRAND CRU and GRANIZO. Former earned high marks graduating at first asking here last spring and certainly training well enough for his return. Logical choice albeit at a short price. Granizo outfoot likes of Ikigai and Black Seventeen during early running of the Mr Prospector when totally overmatched in his local bow but gets into this much softer N1X spot by virtue of that money condition which benefits South American types. Could be the sleeper in here.

Sixth Race: 1. Weekend Pass 2. Stage Stream 3. Fortyninegeorgest.

WEEKEND PASS comes up tagged after breaking slow, chasing an extremely well graded MSW dash when debuting at CRC. Lures Prado and with some breeding for the grass being a half to \$149K turf earner Pindaric. STAGE STREAM the best bred of these for the lawn being by superior grass sire Theatrical and barn knows its way around the winners circle. Looks well spotted to get career off to a winning spot with the right trip. FORTYNINEGEORGEST. turned in sharp career bow albeit on the main track and there's not a lot of breeding for grass in this pedigree. Figures forwardly throughout over speed favoring course.

Seventh Race: 1. Early Release 2. Mount Wilton 3. Armament

EARLY RELEASE back with Andrade after being claimed away in August. Has surely shown a fondness for the local strip and a mile not a real stretch considering his recent string of big races at seven furlongs. Would love to see him out and firing on the front end from the outset. MOUNT WILTON plunges sharply in class and that effort two back puts him right in the thick of it with this bunch of bottom level sellers. Should be coming best at the end. ARMAMENT off his best in some time on dirt.

Eighth Race: 1. Habitual 2. Grande 3. Bordeaux Bandit

HABITUAL lost all chance when shuffled badly on the turn, steadied again in early stretch going nine furlongs on 1/23 and not abused when out of contention nearing the eighth pole. Coa back for another try and his effort on Jan. 4 makes him a major player with cleaner sailing in very wide open finale. GRANDE hard used dueling even money Masterwork before fading late in local main track bow. has the speed to give these the slip, return big balloons back over a surface he's handled well enough in the past. BORDEAUX BANDIT beat seven of 11 rivals while turning in even effort in promising turf bow. A nice fit with this kind.

Ninth Race: 1. Jacoby's Run 2. Stomp 3. Have You Ever

JACOBY'S RUN finished just a neck behind recent runaway maiden winner Just A Coincidence despite trouble in much needed career bow. Drops in for a tag for his second run. Must run down STOMP, the logical choice, albeit one who has shown a habit for hanging at crucial stages down the stretch. HAVE YOU EVER working well for 3yo bow, his first since switching to Jerkens barn. Looking for big improvement over debut run at 2.