

## GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By BYRON KING



**BEST BET: Stirrup Excitement (6th race)**

**First Race: 1. Platina Rose 2. She's Tripping 3. Frisky Pj's**

PLATINA ROSE struggled in the slop in finishing eighth Mar. 18, but appears capable of much better on a fast surface. She ran second Feb. 18 on a dry track, and the field she faced that day was superior to this one. SHE'S TRIPPING finished a respectable fifth in her latest after a troubled start going five furlongs. Previously she had hit the board in three straight races. Logical factor again. FRISKY PJ'S rallied for third in a slow race for this level Mar. 25, but posted useful Beyers in her prior starts when racing on grass. She lacks speed but may have the class to rally for a piece.

**Second Race: 1. Givonna Alyssa 2. Sparkle of Light 3. County Wage**

GIVONNA ALYSSA - part of an entry with MISS QUACK QUACK - has trained forwardly leading up to her debut and could be somewhat overlooked with SPARKLE OF LIGHT and COUNTY WAGE expected to take plenty of action. GIVONNA ALYSSA worked a bullet from the gate Apr. 1, suggesting she has the speed to contend right away. SPARKLE OF LIGHT has also trained quickly and debuts for trainer Wesley Ward, who excels with early-season 2-year-olds. His success should result in her starting as the favorite. COUNTY WAGE is the only horse in the field with experience, having run fourth in a similar race Apr. 1. That experience should serve her well.

**Third Race: 1. Intaglio 2. Beneath the Crown 3. Kim's Dixie Tune**

INTAGLIO has run well in two starts this meet, particularly in his latest when crushing maiden \$30,000 stock in fast time. He is aggressively dropped to the \$20,000 N2L level off the win and should repeat. BENEATH THE CROWN is 1 for 17 but has never raced for this cheap of a claiming tag. He has raced competitively in two starts this meet against \$35,000 N2L runners - finishing third Feb. 27 and a troubled fifth Mar. 28. KIM'S DIXIE TUNE finished sixth as the favorite against better in his latest but was checked when unable to get through along the inside leaving the far turn. Capable of better with a clean trip.

**Fourth Race: 1. Honey Snippets 2. Lofty 3. Joy of Compounding**

HONEY SNIPPETS makes her first start for a tag after a fourth and a fifth in straight maiden company. She makes her second start off a layoff for Dutrow and shows a sharp 6f workout Gulfstream in preparation for this race. LOFTY broke poorly in her debut when starting from the rail - as many first timers do. She kicked into gear late, rallying for fourth, albeit in a slow race. JOY OF COMPOUNDING fetched \$300,000 a year ago at Keeneland's 2-year-olds in training sale, but has taken a while to get to the races and now debuts for 40K. She starts for Pletcher, but offspring of Saarland are just 2 for 40 in their debuts.

**Fifth Race: 1. Runfromthestorm 2. Lexie G. 3. Splash of Colour**

RUNFROMTHESTORM hit the gate when starting from the inside in her debut but still rallied to finish a close seventh. A daughter of Stormy Atlantic, she should benefit from that start and a better draw in this five-furlong turf dash. LEXIE G. ran more professionally at first asking, closing three wide for second in the same race Mar. 15. Logical factor. SPLASH OF COLOUR - one of two uncoupled Pletcher runners - could be overlooked with DeCarlo on the other Pletcher trainee and Santiago in the irons. She comes off a third at this level, however, and showed the class to twice hit the board at Saratoga last year on dirt.

**Sixth Race: 1. Stirrup Excitement 2. Sonofawitch 3. Kiernan's Legacy**

STIRRUP EXCITEMENT is returned quickly and dropped in class for a barn having a strong meet. He finished fourth on grass against 35K N3L stock, and now finds himself back on dirt for 10K. The last time he raced at this level he ran second. SONOFAWITCH has not performed to expectations in his last two starts, but won here earlier in the meet and starts for trainer Peter Walder, who has won with over a third of his starters this year. KIERNAN'S LEGACY enters this race off a pair of runner-up finishes, and joins the high-percentage Calabrese stable but is unraced since being claimed Jan. 29.

**Seventh Race: 1. Common Channel 2. Trippi's Holiday 3. Gilded Daphne**

COMMON CHANNEL makes her first start for a tag after racing fairly well against straight maiden runners. She was second Jan. 9 and came back to finish a close fourth Feb. 19. Class of the race. The speedy TRIPPI'S HOLIDAY twice ran third against classier maiden claimers earlier this meet when the course favored closers. Major factor with the drop to the maiden \$30,000 level. GILDED DAPHNE has run useful Beyers in her last three starts, and is a candidate for improvement in her second start following a long layoff.

**Eighth Race: 1. Scotchontherocks 2. Distant Point 3. Berning Blaze**

The rapidly improving SCOTCHONTEROCKS has twice run second in two starts since being claimed by trainer Scott Lake, and comes off a fine effort in which he was a clear second in a \$20,000 N2L claimer. He earned an 83 Beyer for that performance, which suggests he can handle the rise to \$35,000 company. DISTANT POINT also steps up from \$20,000 after a close second Mar. 2. He makes his third start off a layoff and has back class, having won a straight maiden race here last year. BERNING BLAZE looks ready for a peak effort in the third start of his current form cycle. He appears to be slowly rounding into form, and has the speed and class to prove a force.

**Ninth Race: 1. Mascot 2. Instinctively 3. Joey Blueeyes**

MASCOT rates a narrow edge in a wide-open starter allowance. Although seventh in his latest, he won two starts ago in fast time - one of seven wins he has on the turf. Choice to rebound. INSTINCTIVELY surprised off a long layoff in his latest with a second in starter company Feb. 11. He is fond of this course but doesn't seem as classy as the top choice. JOEY BLUEEYES beat the top choice at Calder Jan. 1 before running fifth here in a starter Jan. 11. Returning from a three-month layoff, he could be at a fitness disadvantage.