

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS

By MIKE WELSCH



BEST BET: Platina Rose (1st race)

First Race: 1. Platina Rose 2. Delray Diva 3. Voodoo Momma

PLATINA ROSE, the day's best, moves back to the main track off failed two turn, turf experiment while getting some class relief for third start of her form cycle. Dueled, was not badly beaten debuting in a maiden \$40K dash across town that turned into a super key race with four next out winners. Lures Coa. Might not look back if able to leave running from the rail, set up shop on the front end. DELRAY DIVA turned in an even effort at first asking in a race that graded out rather well and like the preferred choice dropping in against cheaper today. VOODOO MOMMA another who should benefit from having one under her belt especially a race at this distance. Finished mid-pack in a field from which two of the top four finishers won their next starts including Just For Annika who won her maiden at next asking for this tag at the Fair Grounds.

Second Race: 1. Sonofawitch 2. Swift Billy 3. Comprise

SONOFAWITCH obviously not the same horse he was when haltered for \$20K back in June but do like the fact he ran one of his best races that day at the same one turn mile as this contest. Was outgamed following a stretch long duel for half this price in his '08 finale but take some solace in the fact two who finished behind him that day won their next starts and barn usually comes out firing at this meet. SWIFT BILLY a question mark for sure having been idle since April of 2007 and now returning at a mile but recent works have been ngood and he's surely the class of this field if ready off the bench. Looks like the one to fear. COMPRISE just 1 for 25 lifetime but does come off an improved showing against N3L's in his Calder finale and he's back with N2L types today. Must also like the fact he's run well on several occasions over this strip.

Third Race: 1. Private Betty 2. Spirit Line 3. Pay Wright

PRIVATE BETTY offered up as a value play in one of several extremely wide open turf races on the card. Dropped off a slow pace, ran into some trouble on the turn while racing evenly against N3X's returning from a brief stay in N.J. in her '08 finale and drop to straight \$50K claiming level looks like a good move. Barn ended the Calder session red hot and there is plenty of pace to set up this late runner's closing surge. SPIRIT LINE a versatile sort who exits an easy win for this tag over a wet track at Churchill but also capable of running well enough on grass to be dangerous if able to rate off what could become a highly contentious pace. PAY WRIGHT, a one time stakes winner, returned from an 13 month layoff with a couple of good tries for mid-tags in N.Y. although don't like the fact the one who outlasted her last time was 65-1. Still must consider for at least a minor share at her best.

Fourth Race: 1. Silent Valor 2. Notonthesamepage 3. You Luckie Mann

Pace scenario should favor the late running SILENT VALOR assuming closers have any chance over the main track on opening day. Got to love his run in the Norfolk since that race produced the top three finishers in the B Cup Juvenile and this guy had little chance that day after bobbling at the break and dropping to rear of the pack. Worked a bullet for this. NOTONTHEsamePAGE hasn't lived up to early expectations but obviously has the speed to be dangerous if allowed to get loose from the rail. Training up a storm since his arrival here last month. YOU LUCKIE MANN the fastest 2yo in the nation in '08 according to the Beyer boys for that easy win in the Birdonthewire and obviously a repeat of that effort makes him a tough cookie in his 3yo bow. Just a question of how he'll react if outrun to the early lead by the one on the rail.

Fifth Race: 1. Golden Weekend 2. Rock in Bage 3. On Fire

GOLDEN WEEKEND turned in a big try when narrowly missing despite extended pace duel in a key race to close out his 3yo campaign. Winner of that event subsequently second in an N3L with a 93 Beyer in N Y and third finisher came back to win an N1X(89 Beyer) in his next start. Distance and pace scenario the keys here but may stand some catching if able to outrun King Carter and Calbo to the top without too much pressure. ROCK IN BAGE obviously a question mark making his U.S bow for McLaughlin after being purchased privately by Shadwell out of his last in ARgentina back in May. Late running sort gets Lasix which figures to enhance his chances and the one he beat out for second money in his last start, Don Misil, was already a Group 1 winner. Looking for him to be coming on best of all at the end. ON FIRE has turned in a couple nice efforts since returning from a long vacation this fall in Ky. and theoretically should be ready for best yet making third start of his form cycle. Must overcome tough post draw.

Sixth Race: 1. More Than Willing 2. Mighty Score 3. Galligan Road

Lots of question marks with all the new faces in this lineup but hard not to like MORE THAN WILLING off a promising debut in which he was outfinished by a couple of more experienced rivals after tipping four wide into the stretch. Race has since produced three next out MSW grads, one each at Churchill Downs, FairGrounds and Turfway Park. Must get early position from extreme outside post. MIGHTY SCORE deserves a long look exiting win early barn. By above average debut sire out of a mare who won three of her four starts at 2. GALLIGAN ROAD chased an extremely fast pace over a muddy strip before fading late in his bow and could be worth tossing in at what figures to be a square price. Jazz Hands a half brother to multiple stakes winner Straight Faced while Pletcher's Checklist is the first foal of a mare who won the Black Eyed Susan during her racing career and obviously demands plenty of respect debuting from this barn.

Seventh Race: 1. Blues Street 2. Mean Sax 3. Furthest Land

BLUES STREET came off the bench following a 17 month layoff with a big effort, rallying from well back off not the fastest of pace scenario's to dead heat for first under N1X conditions in N.Y. Has been given ample time to recuperate from career best performance, taken to handle the jump to the next level with a little help up front. Not a ton of speed in this lineup which could help MEAN SAX who couldn't be better and obviously a versatile sort having easily beaten weaker both on turf and dirt in his last pair. Might not look back if able to relax long enough in front. FURTHEST LAND like the preferred choice comes off a big effort in his 2008 finale while making his first start for high percentage barn. Has been granted permission to add blinkers despite winning his last. Would be no surprise if he comes right back to take another.

Eighth Race: 1. Fearless Vision 2. Bribon 3. National Pride

This one couldn't be more wide open with several of the main contenders using the race as a prep for bigger and better things later this month. With that in mind we'll look for a little value and try FEARLESS VISION who should be a price despite exiting a pair of allowance wins in New York. Love the fact he's four of five at the distance, each of those wins in one turn miles like this one. Gets Eibar back and should trip out nicely either with or just off what figures to be a relatively slow pace. BRIBON another one turn mile killer and exiting his best yet despite falling far back in the Cigar Mile. Biggest question mark the fact he did not handle this track all that well a year ago although obviously much sharper now than back then. NATIONAL PRIDE has won three of his last four including a couple of one turn miles and might be better than generally regarded. Exits top barn and another who figures to be a little price in this spot.

Ninth Race: 1. Ruler's Vision 2. Maestro and Master 3. Tippet Tap

RULER'S VISION was fairly impressive in defeat in his only try at 2. Broke slow, took up briefly on the far turn, lost considerable ground into the stretch yet still took a run at the leaders despite lugging in and racing greenly down the lane. Top pair from that race turned out

to be good ones and must like the way he hasn't missed a beat since arriving at Palm Meadows. MAESTRO AND MASTER raced evenly debuting this fall at Churchill and eligible to improve from the effort especially with the addition of Lasix. A \$650K yearling buy. TIPPITY TAP and Copper Cascade both bounced off decent career bows when catching a very well graded MSW dash on 11/29 in N.Y. Former gets blinkers, Castellano for his return.