

Date: February 16, 2018      Track: Gulfstream Park

By Mike Welsch

BEST BET: Noble Commander (2nd race)

#### First Race

1. Jan One    2. Kitten's Covergirl    3. Sugarcoated Kitten

JAN ONE ran credibly in a monster key race that produced four next out winners including three at the MSW level in CD finale. Lots of questions to answer most notably ability to handle turf and the gap in published works from 12/16 until 2/5 but like the fact Saez takes call, might just have enough inherent class to get job done in opener. KITTEN'S COVERGIRL the logical choice off near miss in two turn bow but could have hands full earlyk with SUGARCOATED KITTEN on the stretch/switch to grass and Flash Me Not who dons shades for her turf/two turn bow.

#### Second Race

1. Noble Commander    2. Dexter      3. Noble Drama

NOBLE COMMANDER, the day's best, worked many bullets on the farm prior to shipping south, held own with no less a work mate as Salty up at PM and hasn't caught much launching career against state bred. A \$235K 2yo purchase at last year's Fasig Tipton March Sale. DEXTER ran well in his debut in a race won with a 70 Beyer Speed Figure and likely to improve with a race under his belt. NOBLE DRAMA disappointed at first asking off series of big works when well backed for his bow but showing little after trouble at the start. Has been gelded since the outing with lone subsequent work just average. Still deserves one more chance off the talent he had shown in the a.m. earlier this winter.

#### Third Race

1. Nonsuch    2. Roses in the South    3. Super Witch

NONSUCH looks like he should catch all sorts of pace to run at if ROSES IN THE SOUTH and Little Plumber both go. Appears much improved since switched to turf for 2yo finale. Roses in the South logical off series of wins against similar or even better competition but may face more pace pressure today than she has in all those previous starts. SUPER WITCH an improving sort who got good marks for recent turf work at PM subsequent to his maiden tally. May be sitting on his best yet today.

#### Fourth Race

1. Paynter's Boy      2. Honza      3. Light Breeze

PAYNTER'S BOY a beaten favorite in each of his last two starts, changing hands both times via the claim box, gets one more chance for new connections in what appears to be an even softer spot today. HONZA chased home a couple of next out winners(who Beyers 74 and 72 in those subsequent one-sided wins) following slow start and checking after the break, likely to improve off the effort. LIGHT BREEZE one of several new faces in the lineup. Seems well prepared for bow, might have some gas off that bullet gate drill on 2/2.

#### Fifth Race

1. Quality Design      2. Offshore Trip      3. Domenic

QUALITY DESIGN a new face to a very weak category. Showed promise on the turf at PM last spring before stopped on and given extended vacation. Wouldn't have to be much to win at first asking here. OFFSHORE TRIP back to a sprint off a couple of two turn outings, may be best of the experienced ones after having beaten 10 of 11 rivals for same tag 2 back. DOMENIC another who has gotten a lot of minor awards but still winless in 18 tries. Seems to find more than his share of trouble along the way, gets new pilot for today's assignment.

#### Sixth Race

1. Appa      2. Favorite Heir      3. Sportscaster

APPA scratched five times before finally getting in the gate and beating N3L's with a wide run on 1/24, may not be facing that much tougher stepping up to open company for first time. Loves the course. Taken to repeat in current form. FAVORITE HEIR has encountered some issues in all 3 starts since haltered for this same price at GPW. Another who has had plenty of success

over local sod. Expecting big effort with clean sailing here. SPORTSCASTER an obvious choice having beaten same kind with terrific ride from Luca D. on 1/26. Not as well drawn today, inconsistent old pro must prove he can repeat the effort at a short price.

#### Seventh Race

1. Valdocco 2. Midway Playa 3. Sumner

VALDOCCO at his best when loose on the lead. Had no chance chasing wild eyed Mr Joshua last time. Figures to be able to control this one from the outset off the claim for new connections. MIDWAY PLAYA finished a length behind preferred choice returning locally last month and may have the best chance of springing the upset should that one falter at the end. Working well for re-match. SUMNER took plunge to bottom to win maiden in impressive fashion in 4yo bow but continues to do well since the outing, might just handle the hike up to this level.

#### Eighth Race

1. Salute the Colonel 2. Mai Ty One On 3. Two Step Time

SALUTE THE COLONEL had to await clearance a long time, fell short with final surge when a beaten favorite vs. this same kind on 1/25. Gets tepid nod to make amends with a cleaner trip. MAI TY ONE ON lost all chance at the start last time after proving second best under similar conditions in '17 finale. TWO STEP TIME a hanging sort winless in quite some time but who figures to prove good fit returning against state bred today.

#### Ninth Race

1. Unleash Him 2. Silver Shalis 3. Grubered

UNLEASH HIM hard pressed on the lead, no match late for in form Journey's End who flattered the race when returning to finish second against open company in his next start. Might not look back if able to clear off from the other speed types in here. SILVER SHALIS just a length back of preferred choice in their previous meeting while showing some improvement returning to main track, dropping to this level for the first time. Looks like good fit again in this spot. GRUBERED has had lots of trouble in both previous tries, showed enough with this same kind during late summer and fall to give another look with a little better racing luck.

## Tenth Race

1. Blue Lute 2. March to the Arch 3. Whiskey Moment

BLUE LUTE and MARCH TO THE ARCH both facing state bred for the first time after good efforts against open company, the former given nod strictly as the value play in finale. Was beaten a neck by a Bill Mott trained first time turfer and second time starter Atlantic Force while easily second best last month at Tampa, gets top jock for local bow. March to the Arch logical after beating more than half his field in very promising career bow. Son of Arch out of a two time graded stakes winning mare. WHISKEY MOMENT has shown some promise in the a.m. and with enough turf breeding to give a look at a price if ready off the bench for two turn debut.