

GULFSTREAM ANALYSIS



BY MIKE WELSCH

BEST BET: RACE 6, MUCHO PROSPECT

FIRST RACE

ANOTHER SOFTBALL finally got loose on the lead and ran a big race only to succumb late to 4-5 winner when dropped to this level for the first time several weeks earlier. Should prove controlling speed once again in opener. **IRANISTAN** beat 6 of 9 rivals in Laurel finale, the runner-up in that race 2nd here vs. MSW foes with an 85 Beyer in recent outing. Demands plenty of respect getting additional class relief today. **FAMILY JUSTICE** still winless after 16 tries but exits career best from a Beyer standpoint, can't leave out of the equation.

SECOND RACE

ONE OF A KIND gets nod in a race lacking a lot of early pace. Just failed to run down loose on the lead Just the Facts when trying this kind for first time last month. Knocking on door with this level of N2L company. **SET ME UP** got shuffled around some en route to 9th place finish vs. better in lovccal bow. Worked bullet subsequent to that outing. Drops. One to fear. **ALTRUISM** finished 4 lengths behind preferred choice despite having to steady along some on 2nd turn in pair's previous meeting. Loses the hood, well posted for top percentage barn. Might surprise.

THIRD RACE

TWO SEVENTY ONE debuts for a barn which sent out first time starter Adios Little Ed to well backed maiden win for same tag several weeks earlier. Works not great but perhaps good enough to indicate he's a good fit with these. **AS IT HAPPENS** broke slow, rushed to duel fast starting Uncle Mace before succumbing to aforementioned Adios Ed while showing big improvement at 2nd asking, strictly the one to beat. **PUT EM UP** makes first start since joining Gargan barn, lures Tyler G and showed enough in Maryland to merit some respect in local bow.

FOURTH RACE

A number of class droppers meet at the \$16K level and expecting one of the group to ultimately prevail. **NEOCLAS-SIC** overmatched at 55-1 in the Emerald now down to cheapest level yet second off the claim for high percentage barn. Has run well over this course in the past and must like the fact they reach out for Jose O. today. **LAYTHAT-PISTOLDOWN** should have a pace advantage while also exiting the Emerald, a race in which he was hard pressed dueling for early command. Gets big brother Irad up. **BOSS MAN** takes major drop for this tag and with plenty of gaps between starts over the past year or so but must respect anything from this barn especially an old classy gelding like this guy.

FIFTH RACE

STROLL ACTION goes turf to dirt, long to short, dons shades and comes off a recent work in which she got the better of San Filipino, who ran off the screen winning Wednesday finale. May have to deal with **SALSA RITA** from the outset. The latter dueled, came again to be second best behind 6-5 Power Jake in last while turning in far and away a career best effort first time dirt. One to beat. **PROSPECTIVE MOMENT** improved some last time despite wide trip, passing more than half the field at the end.

SIXTH RACE

MUCHO PROSPECT, the day's best, got a good breather after turning in big effort beating \$50K starters pretty handily five weeks earlier. Hard to look past in this spot. **TENACITY ZIP** didn't run to huge gate work on 12/3 when trying turf for the first time on 12/17. Will give one more chance on dirt. **CONTROLLED FURY** worked on even terms with preferred choice on 12/3 and one of only two multiple winners in the field along with his mate.

SEVENTH RACE

Lots of unknowns and lots of possibilities in this one. **MAGNUM MOON** seems to have held his own in the a.m. with well regarded 3yos such as Navistar and Slot and barn obviously will have him fit and ready off the bench. **DIRTY** showed promise this summer at Spa, caught Mask and Navistar when dueled into submission from tough post in 2nd try at Belmont. Gets blinks for 3yo bow, looks best of the experienced ones. **RAISING THE FLAG** has shown some sneaky promise in the a.m. from looks of workout report and obviously demanding of much respect by Tapit out of a multiple SW mare. Dino Three O Nine has shown big speed here in the a.m. and will likely offer some value in this spot.

EIGHTH RACE

IL FARAONE exits career best effort when dropped to this level for the first time, attracts top jock for this outing. Shaky edge in another wide open turf contest. **SOUND VALUES** outlasted preferred choice for second money while maintaining top form, figures forwardly placed throughout. **UNCLE B** defeated top pair from tough post last time but must again work out a trip from the outside.

NINTH RACE

ULTRA BRAT exits much needed sprint try when dueling, holding own against pretty good bunch to close out her '17 campaign now stretches out to preferred distance, might offer some value against likely odds on **DREAM DANCING**. The latter the class of the field being a G1 winner although she's yet to face older horses and a late runner who'll be at the mercy of the pace. Still one to beat at short odds. **GIANNA'S DREAM** hard to ignore in her present form, lost a tough one to On Leave in the My Charmer, must not bounce wheeling back in four weeks off such a tough effort.

TENTH RACE

POLITICAL JUSTICE back to the bottom for turn back to six furlongs, gets big rider switch to Ortiz after being hard used on the lead going a mile in last. As good as any in this extremely wide open spot. **STARSHIP APOLLO** always dangerous against open \$6,250 company but must work out a trip from very tough post. **STRONG COMPOSITION** won his maiden locally, been facing state bred company for the most part for quite some time now returns to S. Fla and might prove good fit with these.

ELEVENTH RACE

ALL INCLUDED should prove beneficiary of what figures to be a hotly contested pace scenario. Looks like he needed last after making bid, fading late in Tropical Turf. **HEART TO HEART** the class of field and obviously a horse for this course but could face a lot more early pressure than he'd encountered in past local tries. Still the one to beat. **SHINING COPPER** hard to fault in current form and could prove major pace player as well along with One Go All Go and Shakhimat.

TWELFTH RACE

BANTU gets shaky nod in wide open finale having been gelded since last and getting blinkers for local debut. Might be simply a matter of this one wanting to get back on firm ground over which he won his maiden at a mile this summer in Ky. **MARAUD** the logical choice off another good showing against stakes company behind loose on the lead winner although perhaps not worth the short odds he'll be at post time. **SAND DANCER** god hung wide, finished well in local bow and could be sitting on best yet with a race over the course.