

# GULFSTREAM WEST ANALYSIS



BY RANDY GOULDING

## BEST BET: RACE 5, SOUND DEFENCE

### FIRST RACE

**SUNSET CATCH** is improving late in his 3-year-old season and might be good enough to beat winners first time after romping in his latest. He is moving back to turf but he just missed two back on the lawn across town and should be okay with the surface switch. **THORISTIC** is clearly the one to beat, but that has been the case in his last three, and he does find ways to get beat. He is dropping to a new low so this could be the spot where he finally gets over the hump. **FAMOUS FACT** should move forward following a solid effort in his first start this year and he won't mind the move back to the surface he won on prior to going on the shelf.

### SECOND RACE

**NONSUCH** puts the blinkers back on and if he runs as well as did wearing them in his two starts prior to his latest he should he'll be tough to beat. He had a nice work Nov. 8 and it is encouraging to see the leading rider keep the faith. **AMERICAN POWER** looks fit enough and debuts for Servis who the past five years has a 31 percent strike rate with juveniles debuting in maiden claiming races. Homebred is the first foal out of a mare who had a second and third from four starts. **STAR JUANCHO** took some support when he debuted in a MSW race for Florida-breds won by a runaway winner; The runner-up also romped in his next start. He could take a big step forward with the experience behind him.

### THIRD RACE

**INFINITE OZ** did not fire in her debut at Laurel but she is by a decent turf sire might be better suited for grass. She had a nice work on the Palm Meadows turf course Nov. 10 and she will be making her first start for a trainer who is winning races at a 33 percent clip at the meet. **CHOLITA STAR** steadied sharply heading into the turn when she finished fourth in a \$16K maiden claimer in her first start over this course and could be dangerous with a clean trip. **POWER JAK** looks like the main speed and the first foal out of an unraced mare could take them a long way if she takes to the grass. Progeny of her sire are 0 for 12 running on turf so that remains to be seen.

### FOURTH RACE

**OROSCOPO** showed decent speed but not a lot of stamina in his two route attempts on grass at Saratoga and Woodbine and should appreciate the cutback in distance. The winner of his latest came back to win the \$225K Coronation Futurity at Woodbine Nov. 5. **DARING EGO** is by a decent debut sire and Servis can have them ready to roll first time. He is the first foal out of a mare who won going long on turf and dirt so he may want more distance. Nonetheless, he attracts a top rider and anything coming out of this barn has to be respected. **COTTON TO** ran well in both of his starts in \$50K maiden claiming races and at the least should be part of any exotics ticket.

### FIFTH RACE

**SOUND DEFENCE** romped in the slop at this level in her latest and she is a four-time winner on grass so she won't mind the surface switch. The winner of her race two back remained undefeated and received an 89 Beyer for her victory coming down the hill at Santa Anita in a \$62.5K optional claimer Oct. 20. **CRAZY ABOUT JAZZ** fits in this spot, can fire fresh, and she just missed in her last two in \$40K n2L at Belmont and Saratoga. **LITTLE NICOLE** ran a huge race coming off a lengthy layoff in her first try over this course. She came back with two sharp interim works and could be sitting on another big effort in her second start back. **ISLAND REWARD** has the best Beyer's but this might be a bit short for her.

### SIXTH RACE

**UNO DUDE** took a small step forward when she finished third in a \$16K n2L at Belmont in just her second start this year and could be coming up to a peak performance here. She won the last time she ran in Florida and she also handled this surface well in her debut. **PARTY TARDE** was coming off a five-month layoff so it wasn't surprising she got a little tired after dueling early when she won a \$25K maiden claimer here Oct. 18. The half to 16-time sprint winner Jarrod's Command is eligible to take a big step forward in her second start back for a trainer who has solid numbers in all the relevant categories. **SHE'S SPOILED** ran poorly in both of her starts on sloppy tracks and could make some noise if it stays dry.

### SEVENTH RACE

**MEANT TOBE MINE** drops to a new low after flopping as the chalk in a \$30K maiden claimer contested over a sloppy track. She ran okay in her only try on turf running against much tougher in a MSW race two back. The winner earned a 76 Beyer when she was the runner-up in a \$35K optional race in her next start here Oct. 26. **RETURNTASENDA** took a shine to this course when she almost took them all the way in a race at this level and distance Oct. 14 and could be tough to run down if she breaks alertly with Camacho retaining the mount. **HOSTILEBUTAWESOME** ran an improved race in her first start for trainer Elizabeth Dobles, and it is encouraging to see Jaramillo keep the faith.

### EIGHTH RACE

**KING BILI** is by a decent debut sire and has worked well for a hot trainer who the past three years has a 17 percent strike rate and \$3.80 with 2-year-olds making their initial start in maiden claiming races. His breeding doesn't scream turf, but it is encouraging to see the leading rider accept the call. **MOTATAN** ran well in both of his starts on grass and the 48 Beyer he received for his runner-up finish going slightly farther at this level is the best in the field. **MCMANAMAN** has improved since he returned from a two-month break and being a half-brother to \$446K Tee Game, who won a couple of races on turf, he should be fine running on grass the first time.