

GULFSTREAM WEST ANALYSIS



BY SCOTT EHLERS

BEST BET: RACE 2, NIKEE KAN

FIRST RACE

QUEBEC has shown speed on the grass before and today would be the best of times to find it again as this race has no pace. Class drop is easy to see while a slow break did not help matters at Keeneland in her most recent. This barn is 25% with their route runners. **SWEET STORY** just won on this sod while first on it. Current form can not be any better. She is a head bob away from 4 straight. The added half furlong is of some concern. **ARTHEMISA** comes in fairly fresh and her most recent is more than encouraging. A complete lack of speed is the main knock.

SECOND RACE

NIKEE KAN is by a 23% debut sire (all sire stats are for 2YO's only). Her dam went 29-4-6-0 for 167K. Both sibs beat winners (114K and 23K). Works are just right. **MIDNIGHT SOIREE** finished strongly in her debut but you can see that, right? The blinkers go ON even though that is an 0 for 8 move for this barn. Race flow is fair. **R TRUE TALENT** just missed in her debut and as the favorite. Any kind of second out improvement would make her the one to beat. Lone sib is 15-1-1-1 for 33K. **ONEBRETHATATIME** is by a 1 for 13 debut sire. Her dam went 16-3-3-1 for 73K. Of 8 sibs to race, 7 won with 4 having beat winners including a debut 2YO winner.

THIRD RACE

COXSWAIN should get a good trip as there are multiple speed horses in this race. He just ran a Beyer top when first on this dirt. Was this race written for this gelding? Lots and lots to like and as the second choice on the tote? **EX-PRESS JET** may not have cared for a sloppy Joe track last out. Local tab is a solid 4-2-1-0. Off the pace style fits with race flow. **PHISH FAN** just ran well here and now goes second off a short freshening. This gelding broke dead last in his most recent but still rallied nicely. Class jump is a concern but that is why you are going to get a good price.

FOURTH RACE

FANCY CITY GIRL has speed and draws outside her main pace foes. Turf breeding is good yet this filly didn't like the sod in her last few. Or maybe she just needs an early breather. Class drop and a softer pace might do the trick here. **LIL MS PERFECTION** ran well in her debut even though stuck on the rail and breaking last. What in the wide, wide, world of sports happened in her second start? Does she just not like this dirt? She is working locally. Sometimes, the girls just throw in a bad one. **TIEBAJ** is by a 14% debut sire. Her dam went 38-5-8-7 for 80K. Lone sib is 44-11-8-10 for 80K (won 2YO debut). Gap in works scares us some but we like this gal's win early breeding. **LA NENA DE PAPA** is by a 7% debut sire. Her dam was un-raced. Lone sib is 21-2-4-3 for 82K. **YAKUT** is by a 12% debut sire. Her dam went 11-2-3-1 for 25K and this is her first foal.

FIFTH RACE

ANONYM is by a 9% debut sire and a 7% debut turf sire. His dam went 7-3-2-1 for 114K (1 for 1 on the grass for 36K). This is her first foal. Gaffalione lands here and for a good barn with first time starters at 21%. **DRAMATURGO** is by a 16% debut sire and a 10% debut turf sire. His dam was un-raced and this is her first foal. This colt is bred to win early and on the turf. **CAPT. OVERDRIVE** is by a 7% debut sire and a 17% debut turf sire. His dam was un-raced. Three of six sibs won. Two sibs tried the grass but didn't hit the board. This barn is 16% with their turf sprinters. **CAPE MARCO DRIVE** is by a 3% debut turf sire. His dam never tried the green and this is her first grass foal. **EL GUERRERO AZTECA** is by a 0 for 5 debut turf sire. His dam missed the board in lone turf start. One of eight sibs won on the grass.

SIXTH RACE

VENTINA is proven around two turns something we can't say for all of these. She has some speed and gets in light again. Current form is sharp and this barn is 22% with repeating winners. **TORMENTA DE ORO** finished second at this down and distance almost a year ago (at 10-1). What if one turn tries are just too short? **WINNING FOR SARAH** is your big class dropper. Local tab is poor at 3-0-0-0 and we are un-sure about two turns. Why did we pick this mare third?

SEVENTH RACE

LADY GREATNESS and **AWESOMENDENSOME** are the two speeds and that is that. Our top pick has passed a runner before so maybe she takes back and avoids a duel. On the other hand, if she sends then she holds the rail for the race. Best efforts have come on the grass. **AWESOMENDENSOME** comes in fresh and has Zayas so you just know she wants the front end. Yet to try this sod is scary especially considering chalky price. **SOUTHERN N' SASSY** is solid and figures a great trip if our top two duel. Penchant for second? We guess so.

EIGHTH RACE

BAMA BOUND just figures. New barn is 44% off the claim. How is that possible? Horse for course loves seven panels. Hello favorite. **DONEGAL HALL** just got a confidence boost but it came in the slop. That was a wet track top. He has some speed and draws outside main pace foes. **LIFES REWARD** can pass runners and tries seven furlongs back to back. Race flow is only average.

NINTH RACE

It is hard to like this race and we normally love grass races. **TRIP THE QUEEN** is your default winner. Second time this sod can only help and it is nice to see this filly put races together without a layoff. **DANCING GIA** didn't do much in her debut but at least it was on the grass. Her dam won all 4 of her starts and earned 42K but never tried the grass. This is her first foal. Distance breeding is encouraging. **SPUNZIG** made a nice middle move two back only to tire a little late. She was washed off the green in her most recent but she still ran OK. She might be a horse for course before anyone knows it. **LEAVING DIXIE** could be dangerous if she can leave the starting gate in good order something she failed to do in her last two.