



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Friday, January 4, 2019

RACE 1: 2 – 8 – 6 – 4

RACE 2: 5 – 6 – 3 – 1

RACE 3: 4 – 3 – 6 – 1

RACE 4: 4 – 7 – 9 – 5

RACE 5: 8 – 2 – 4 – 6

RACE 6: 2 – 7 – 1 – 6

RACE 7: 9 – 1 – 8 – 5

RACE 8: 1 – 4 – 10 – 8

RACE 9: 7 – 2 – 8 – 4

RACE 10: 10 – 5 – 7 – 1

GP Friday: Gulfstream Park readies for 2019's opening weekend with a 10-race Friday card. First post is a relaxed 12:35 p.m. ET. Don't forget it is a "Beat the Expert" Friday so sign up and play for free over on gulfstreampark.com – Gulfstream's guru Ron Nicoletti is ready! While I'm at it, Saturday appears a really big deal at GP with a handful of scheduled stakes, including the Mucho Macho Man. The Mucho Macho Man is expected to showcase the talented Shug McGaughey-trained 3yo Code of Honor, who has not raced since finishing second in Belmont Park's Grade 1 Champagne in October. Friday, for that matter, features some good-sized fields, but the day's offering is more of a lower-level claiming / maiden claiming buffet. That said, there is money to be made, winners to be had and a Wesley Ward-trained first-time starter that's ready for battle in the day's 5F turf-sprint opener, a \$25,000 maiden claimer for 3yos. Ward has entered the Ice Wine Stable homebred – bred in Ireland, by the way – Never Have I Ever. This gelding has a very European-style pedigree on the female side of his DNA, so there is a bit of guesswork attached in the analysis department. However, I've liked what I have seen from his relatively unknown and unheralded sire, No Nay Never, who domestically, has had four winners from five foals (spread over a mere dozen starts) which is very impressive.

Catoria Set: Trainer Mike Dini picked up a win back on opening day of this meet and could get his second score in Friday's 3rd race with Catoria. This filly is posted outside of potential pace rivals Tiz Possible Dear and A Bit of Mischief (I think Catoria might be naturally faster than both foes early on anyway) and should get a great trip beneath Hall of Fame jockey Javier Castellano. In fact, Catoria meets a familiar foe of hers from late September up at Parx in the John Servis-trained Oldfashioned Style. I put them 1-2 in this field of Florida-bred fillies and mares. Oldfashioned Style obviously bombed as a heavy 1-2 favorite a month ago, but could be set to rebound with the cutback to six furlongs off that one mile drubbing. I know Oldfashioned Style ran well in races ranging from eight-to-nine furlongs in the past, but perhaps she simply prefers sprinting at this stage of her career.