



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Saturday, January 12, 2019

RACE 1: 7 – 2 – 8 – 5
RACE 2: 3 – 10 – 7 – 8
RACE 3: 4 – 9 – 8 – 6
RACE 4: 7 – 3 – 1 – 5
RACE 5: 8 – 6 – 5 – 2
RACE 6: 8 – 1 – 7 – 4
RACE 7: 1 – 2 – 10 – 8
RACE 8: 12 – 7 – 1 – 3
RACE 9: 6 – 2 – 3 – 4
RACE 10: 5 – 1 – 8 – 6
RACE 11: 1 – 7 – 4 – 6
RACE 12: 8 – 7 – 2 – 3

Saturday's Dozen: Gulfstream Park's starting gate will see some serious (very serious!) action a tad earlier than usual this Saturday. That's right, the January 12th program is stamped with first post of about 11:45 a.m. ET, owing to the day's 12-race card. The day's action is anchored by a pair of long-standing Grade 3 stakes in the Tropical Turf and Marshua's River. They take center stage fairly late in the afternoon (the Tropical goes as race 9, the Marshua's River is race 11.) The admirable Heart to Heart returns to one of his favorite turf courses – if not his most beloved racetrack – in the Tropical Turf for trainer Brian Lynch. This now 8yo son of English Channel is five for seven over the Gulfstream green. However, the giant question is: does Heart to Heart recapture the form he flaunted last February through late May? After winning consecutive Grade 1s in the Gulfstream Turf and Maker's 46 Mile, Heart to Heart seemingly fell apart in just two races over the summer and fall. He skipped the Breeders' Cup Mile at Churchill Downs and returns to action fresh as a daisy Saturday off of a 98-day layoff. As far as pace appears – after all, Heart to Heart is best as a free-running point man – Heart to Heart can make the Tropical Turf lead over speedy foes like Vici and Mr Freeze early. Bellavais, meanwhile, is my top choice in the co-featured Marshua's River. She exits a decent enough fourth-place finish here last month in the My Charmer and truth be told, I feel she faced a deeper and tougher field that afternoon.

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Race 7 Rundown: Leading trainer Jorge Navarro has a good-looking second-time starter in Saint Moon set for Saturday's 7th race. This The Factor filly took a ton of dough first out at 7/2 odds and ran a respectable fourth, beaten about three lengths by the Todd Pletcher-trained Just Ain't Right. Note runner-up Queen of Beas returned with a flashy maiden score here last Sunday with a whopping 92 Beyer to boot. Speaking of Pletcher, he saddles Lavish off a six-month layoff. This Malibu Moon filly lost a tough and close one in her only race to date at Gulfstream in July. Pletcher did not bring her north to Saratoga or Belmont Park over the summer. Instead, she sports eight Palm Beach Downs-based workouts in preparation for her 3yo debut with Johnny V. Stonestreet firster Toscana, trained by Brendan Walsh, sold for big bucks as a weanling at 390k. She is the first foal from a turf / synthetic winning dam.