



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Saturday, January 5, 2019

RACE 1: 8 – 6 – 9 – 3

RACE 2: 5 – 6 – 2 – 7

RACE 3: 6 – 5 – 1 – 3

RACE 4: 7 – 5 – 6 – 4

RACE 5: 6 – 1 – 5 – 4

RACE 6: 7 – 4 – 2 – 3

RACE 7: 3 – 8 – 7 – 5

RACE 8: 5 – 1 – 3 – 12

RACE 9: 9 – 6 – 8 – 7

RACE 10: 4 – 2 – 1 – 6

RACE 11: 1 – 9 – 3 – 12

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Stacked Saturday: The first weekend of 2019 comes roaring into Gulfstream Park like, well, a top-class Thoroughbred racehorse, thanks to a stakes laden, 11-race Saturday program. First post is a touch after noon, ET – more of a relaxed, South Florida “beach time” post in my opinion. The 7th running of the Mucho Macho Man Stakes, for newly-turned 3yos, serves an important local steppingstone for the February 2nd Holy Bull and March 2nd Xpressbet.com Fountain of Youth. The Mucho Macho Man – the fifth and final stakes race at Gulfstream this Saturday – drew six entrants. It’s safe to say there is a big pre-race buzz surrounding Shug McGaughey’s Code of Honor. This Noble Mission colt would have been one of the shorter-priced players in the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile – in fact, he was third choice on Breeders’ Cup Juvenile morning line – but was scratched the morning of the race because of a fever. There is a myriad of reasons why Code of Honor is so buzzworthy off a two-race campaign: the first is a very atypical first-out winning move for Shug – Code of Honor proved a fast and strong *wire-to-wire* Saratoga maiden winner in mid-August. Nearly 50 days later, he capped his promising 2yo campaign with a fast-closing second in Belmont Park’s history-rich, Grade 1 Champagne. Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez rides Code of Honor from post 4 in the Mucho Macho Man.

Turfing Maidens R11: Twelve 3yo turf maidens drop the curtain on Saturday’s Gulfstream program. It’s a fun-looking, fool around kind of race, one with a maxed-out field in the numbers department and a number of top connections and promising pedigrees. Speaking of pedigree, here is a brief bloodline rundown of a couple of horses I find most interesting in Firey Tale and Betterment.

Firey Tale – I dig that Perfect Soul is the damsire of Fire Into Ice, who won her only race on synthetic; this colt is the second foal in the family – his full brother is 2/6 on dirt.

Betterment – Serious turf pedigree here of Kitten’s Joy-Ready’s Gal, by More Than Ready; Ready’s Gal won five of 11 on turf; there are seven foals in the family and Betterment is a half to a minor turf winner – only two siblings have tried the grass.