No Stakes for Carolyn’s Smile...Yet

Trainer Ralph Nicks intends to put the finishing touches on another solid Gulfstream Park spring meet Sunday with a strong two-horse presence of Positively Awesome (race 2) and Carolyn’s Smile (race 8.) Sunday, of course, marks the end of the three-month GP spring meet; statistics, purse money and the usual racetrack metrics begin anew on Monday, July 1st – and while I’m on it, don’t forget that Gulfstream Park hosts a special live racing program on Monday. As for Sunday, it’s a “mandatory payout” day in the Rainbow 6 and late Pick 5. The Nicks-trained Carolyn’s Smile is a huge Rainbow 6 / late Pick 5 factor in the 8th race, a deep Florida-bred maiden special for two-year-old fillies. I thought Carolyn’s Smile had a legitimate chance in Friday’s 75k Golden Isles Stakes – as a maiden – but Nicks opted to scratch her out of that spot, favoring this Sunday-bound, 10-horse cast. Carolyn’s Smile debuted 50 days ago and had one of the toughest, unluckiest trips of any GP runner in recent memory: she was completely shut off while between rivals in the dash into the far turn but somehow, managed to re-rally while widest of all – on her inside lead to boot – from the ¼-pole home. She closed very gamely to finish second, beaten a mere two lengths by Sonar, who was scheduled to run back in Friday’s Golden Isles. Carolyn’s Smile’s first-out trip was poor, her individual effort was anything but. Her replay bears watching if you have not done so. Moreover, that May 11th dirt sprint has already produced a pair of next-out maiden special weight winners (one here at Gulfstream, the other north at Woodbine). Carolyn’s Smile starts from post 9 with leading rider Edgard Zayas.