



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Thursday, January 3, 2019

RACE 1: 1 – 7 – 11 – 4

RACE 2: 2 – 4 – 3 – 7

RACE 3: 5 – 6 – 1 – 4

RACE 4: 1 – 10 – 8 – 9

RACE 5: 1 – 5 – 6 – 8

RACE 6: 11 – 8 – 1 – 5

RACE 7: 7 – 6 – 1 – 4

RACE 8: 12 – 2 – 11 – 10

RACE 9: 6 – 8 – 2 – 1

RACE 10: 9 – 5 – 8 – 7

Race 2 Thursday: For the Gipper is my first strong opinion on Thursday's card at Gulfstream Park. This gelding appeared to improve towards the end of the GP summer meet and ran decently enough in two of three races at Gulfstream Park West over the fall. I'm arguing that For the Gipper is best over the Gulfstream main track and will appreciate the venue switch back to Hallandale Beach for trainer Armando De La Cerda and jockey Tyler Gaffalione. The Dale Romans-trained Byrzzo is arguably the horse to beat in the 2nd, as this one-time pricey "buy back" for Phillips Racing drops into a claiming race for the first time. Leading rider Luis Saez rides this 4yo Medaglia d'Oro-Ellie's Moment, by Kris S. colt from post 4.

Race 3: This maiden special weight for older horses (at seven furlongs on the dirt) is my favorite race on the card. Here's to a strong Gulfstream return to Personal Time, the younger (full) brother to Kentucky Derby / Florida Derby hero, Orb. Personal Time hasn't had great timing with respect to who he has faced as a now 0-for-five maiden: Montauk, Navistar, Life's a Parlay and Hofburg have beat him to this point.

Botero is First-Time Mott: I obviously like Shug's Personal Time in race 3 Thursday, but also respect Chad Brown's Road to Meath and the Bill Mott-trained Botero. Botero is definitely the "x-factor" colt in the mix, considering he has raced just once thus far. That start came nearly a year ago – January 13th, 2018 – at Santa Anita with trainer Bob Baffert. Botero checked in sixth that afternoon (it's fair to say that 5.5 furlongs is not his game being a son of such a stamina-inducing stallion like Medaglia) behind then stablemate, Nero, a \$950,000 son of Pioneerof the Nile. Botero has benefit of the outside post (stall 6) Thursday and will get the services of rider Luis Saez. Good race here.