Isadorable Aida, Labhay Meet Again

Gulfstream’s three month spring season begins its final push this Thursday with a nine-race card and regular weekday start time of 1:20 ET. Its homestretch time for a meet that began the first week of April, mere hours after Maximum Security won the Florida Derby. This Sunday, by the way, is also a mandatory payout day in the popular Rainbow 6, the single-ticket jackpot wager which has proved both elusive and unsolvable these last 12 weeks at Gulfstream Park. For the record, Thursday’s Rainbow 6 features a $2.8 million carryover and will begin in race 4, a lower-level $10,000 maiden claimer on dirt. Race 7 is certainly a highlight in my book, given its cast of turf-bound fillies / mares and the presence of the solidly consistent Isadorable Aida. Isadorable Aida, by Temple City, should be favored in this spot as she shoots for her fourth victory in only 11 starts for trainer Steve Dwoskin. She exits a win over nearly half of Thursday’s race 7 field back on May 31st. Jockey Miguel Vasquez rode a great race the day as he guided Isadorable Aida into a coveted and covered “pocket trip” early on; previously, Isadorable Aida had done most of her serious running as more of a wide, sweeping closer. Isadorable Aida saved ground on both turns, angled three wide past the ¼ pole and gamely prevailed by a nose in a tight photo over Bienville Street, who is not returning Thursday. The Irish-bred Labhay might be the biggest danger of the May 31st “also-rans,” given her 3-4 wide trip – off a near 13-month layoff – and the fact she was beaten a mere two lengths by the race-fit favorite.