



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Thursday, November 1, 2018

RACE 1: 10 – 4 – 8 – 9

RACE 2: 5 – 4 – 2 – 6

RACE 3: 5 – 6 – 3 – 1

RACE 4: 7 – 2 – 5 – 1

RACE 5: 2 – 1 – 4 – 8

RACE 6: 4 – 7 – 3 – 2

RACE 7: 7 – 5 – 6 – 4

RACE 8: 6 – 9 – 5 – 8

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GPW, Day 23 of 40: I'm not sure what surprises me more: the fact that the 35th Breeders' Cup begins tomorrow *or* the bullet train arrival of November 1st? Man, it doesn't feel all that long ago that Gun Runner was powering through the Gulfstream Park homestretch, an electrifying tour-de-force champion of the Pegasus World Cup Invitational in late January! Oh well, some eight weeks remain in 2018 and I intend to make the best of them. Of course, I hope the Breeders' Cup (Friday and Saturday at Churchill Downs) is profitable to your bankroll. Speaking of the Breeders' Cup, friendly reminder here: Gulfstream Park's "Silks" simulcast center is the perfect spot to watch and wager on BC #35 – and, naturally, the action from Gulfstream Park West, too! Let's go Gunnevera and Well Defined! Anyway, Thursday's eight-race GPW card owns a first post of about 1:20 p.m. ET. Race 5 easily earns the day's "Blewitt spotlight". This filly-and-mare optional claimer (at five furlongs over the turf) drew eight horses; I especially like the fillies drawn inside: **R Happy Ending**, **Dominance** and **Bright Venezuelan** from posts 1, 2 and 4, respectively. Pace / raceflow are of utmost importance in this \$47,000 turf sprint. What happens if R Happy Ending, Dominance and/or the (the Indiana Downs shipper) **Frittata** hook early in a guns-blazing battle? Or is one of those fillies simply fastest in a classic case of "speed of the speed"? Bright Venezuelan, who has been really sharp lately for trainer Steve Klesaris, might just be the best one-run closer in the field.

Welcome, Snowbirds: Recent winning trainers this meet include the likes of Christophe Clement and Mike Maker. We've also had some high-profile North East ship-ins from Jason Servis and Danny Gargan (Gargan won Sunday's 10th race with \$4.20 Windjammer) to name a few. Of course, we've barely scratched the surface in the high-profile shipper department; many more top outfits and runners are on the way. Well on Thursday, top-class trainer Linda Rice will run her first horse – in at least five years – at Gulfstream Park West. Rice, who has been working on a potential Hall of Fame-caliber resume for decades, entered **First Appeal** in the aforementioned (read above if you have not already done so, please) 5th race. Rice has spent most winters at her home base of Belmont Park in New York. In fact, she has only had three Gulfstream Park starts over the last five years, the most recent of which occurred on 3-11 of '17. First Appeal, with jockey Nike Juarez Thursday, sports a lifetime record of 5-4-1 from 17 starts.