



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Thursday, November 8, 2018

RACE 1: 7 – 4 – 3 – 2
RACE 2: 6 – 4 – 1 – 2
RACE 3: 1 – 4 – 11 – 8
RACE 4: 8 – 3 – 6 – 5
RACE 5: 3 – 4 – 1 – 5
RACE 6: 5 – 2 – 4 – 1
RACE 7: 9 – 8 – 3 – 7
RACE 8: 9 – 5 – 2 – 7

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GPW, Day 28: Thursday sports another eight-race card here at Gulfstream Park West. First post in Miami Gardens is about 12:35 p.m. ET. Friendly reminder that Friday's (tomorrow's) upcoming Stronach 5 wager – free Stronach 5 past performances are available at gulfstreampark.com – features a guaranteed pool of \$100,000. Good stuff, especially with a 12% takeout wager.

Race 1, Thursday: I would argue this \$10,000 filly / mare claimer is the most interesting race on the program, thanks to the number of excellent barns in the mix: Victor Barboza Jr., Kathleen O'Connell, Georgina Baxter and Saffie Joseph Jr. all saddle major players. I am going with the Joseph-trained **Song of Melody** because of her speed and post draw. I love that, at least tactically speaking, she's parked outside of her potential pace rivals **Violent Danger** and (especially) **Publicist**. Sealing the deal of the consistently-sharp Song of Melody is the presence of leading rider Edgard Zayas. Zayas enters week this seventh week of racing at the top of the rider standings with 32 victories; his GPW horses have banked just under \$700,000 this meet. This is one of those well-drawn instances where Zayas should have at least a couple of options off the break: take the lead early without forcing Song of Melody to the point, or track someone else in the driver's seat if Publicist and/or Violent Danger send.

That Sweet 'Song': I'm obviously a fan of Song of Melody, her draw and connections in Thursday's opener. The plan now is to turn the day's first favorite into a lucrative early Pick 5 single. This early-5 is built around Song of Melody and clocks in at \$18 for 50 cents. I mentioned Song of Melody's race above as being the most interesting on the card. That holds true, but I am definitely a fan of the field – hard to believe that it's a bottom-level claimer on turf – that will line up in race 5; strong crew for that tag.

R1: 7 -Strong barn, leading rider and a perfect post; legit favorite
R2: 1,4,6 -3-deep here because nobody is all that reliable; wish Gregory Sun was sharper
R3: 1,4,11 -Question is: how legit is the last-out Beyer for Shall Return?
R4: 3,8 -Nearly pulled the trigger on KY shipper Archie's Song, but sided with the locals
R5: 3,4 -Both own strong recent efforts and excellent new-claim barns; solid field for 8k