



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Thursday, November 9, 2017

RACE 1: 7 – 3 – 2 – 6

RACE 2: 1 – 3 – 5 – 2

RACE 3: 3 – 7 – 5 – 4

RACE 4: 3 – 4 – 2 – 6

RACE 5: 3 – 1 – 7 – 2

RACE 6: 4 – 1 – 2 – 6

RACE 7: 1 – 2 – 8 – 7

RACE 8: 9 – 8 – 5 – 2

Gulfstream Park West, Day 28

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Smooth Trip Deserved: I usually resist picking and wagering on a horse whose last trip was so blatantly poor, the majority of players picked up on it. You know the type – the horse with the nose-to-dirt stumble from the gate or the horse that was hopelessly buried in traffic while the jockey was basically bent in half with a hammerlock-hold. The obvious bad-luck trips, or, as I call them, MOTO (master of the obvious) trouble horses, usually return to race at underlaid odds because their poor luck, bad trips and adversity was so blatant *everyone* has seen it. Yet, even with all of what you just read, I just can't say "NO!" to **Take a Stroll** – the Blewitt Best Bet – in Thursday's 5th race at GPW. I had to chuckle watching this filly's most recent race last month at Gulfstream West. Her name might be Take a Stroll, but her last start was more of an "adventure in Miami Gardens!" The trouble began just above the far turn when Take a Stroll didn't full secure her spot between the inside rail and horse to her immediate outside. In my opinion, horses need a good two or three feet to switch from their right to left lead – when you consider all of the weight, momentum and torque that goes with a lead change – when entering the top of the far turn. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough room for Take a Stroll to comfortably glide into the bank of the turn and she wound up being completely shut off. She went from vying for the lead to fifth in the blink of an eye. For good measure, Take a Stroll steadied and checked once or twice more near the back of the field. I was more than impressed watching Take a Stroll re-rally to finish third, beaten only 3.5 lengths for the victory by Little Nicole. Thursday, Take a Stroll has got the serious potential to play out as the controlling speed. Firster **Ariel B** makes a somewhat belated career debut late in her 3yo season for the always-dangerous barn of Jason Servis. This Hansen filly was bred in Florida, so this is a bit of a homecoming for her. I remember Ariel B's dam, the wickedly-quick, Chocolate Brown, winning the 2004 Fashion at Belmont Park, a day before Jason's brother, John, attempted – and got so close – to winning the Triple Crown with Smarty Jones. Although Chocolate Brown raced just once more following the Fashion, she has gone on to a stellar broodmare career. Five of her foals are winners. In fact, three of them would go on to win more than 100k apiece. Ariel B is a half sis to a powerful turf sprinter named Blue Bahia – 7/10 in turf sprints.

Late Pick 5 Begins in Race 4: Just an 8-race card Thursday at GPW, meaning the late Pick 5 is more of an "early bird" late Pick 5. I really am intrigued by the field in the first leg, a 2yo filly optional claimer on the dirt at 6F. **Stormymeister** will be favored off an easy, daylight maiden claimer win in September that came up very, very fast on Beyer – she earned an 83 for the effort. That's a number that is quick and strong enough to win 2yo graded stakes races at that time of year, let alone a 35k maiden claimer. The questions: will Stormymeister replicate that big win? How will she do stretching out from 5F to 6F? What happens in the very likelihood of Stormymeister getting hooked early by **Derby Day Darling**, **Toni Ann's Miracle** and potentially her stablemate, **Gran Lucky Girl**. This Pick 5 ticket costs \$36 for 50 cents.

Race 4: 2,3,4

-Excited to see what Stormymeister is made of; Flashing Diamond & Forty Kilos run late

Race 5: 3

-As stated above, I'm going against my rule of rarely picking obvious nightmare trips

Race 6: 1,4

-Al Khor might be the right one, but Gustavo D.'s horses have been in a zone lately

Race 7: 1,2,8

-Used the likely top three choices and don't feel all that confident; wacky result?

Race 8: 2,5,8,9

-Much like the leg prior, I'm four-deep here and I'm not sure if that is enough...