



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Thursday, October 11, 2018

RACE 1: 1 – 5 – 4 – 2
RACE 2: 2 – 5 – 4 – 3
RACE 3: 6 – 4 – 3 – 9
RACE 4: 5 – 7 – 3 – 4
RACE 5: 3 – 4 – 5 – 8
RACE 6: 6 – 7 – 3 – 1
RACE 7: 7 – 5 – 6 – 2
RACE 8: 2 – 6 – 8 – 10

GPW, Day 8: The venue is a tad different – ok, it's plenty different – but the low-level \$6,250 claiming fields at Gulfstream Park West are as tough as ever. Indeed, just take a look at the crew assembled for GPW's 4th race on Thursday afternoon. **Players Luck, Starship Apollo** and **Scotuscare** are three warriors bound for a serious showdown at Gulfstream Park West; Khabib and McGregor have nothing on this group! First-race post time here in Miami Gardens is about 1:20 p.m. ET. The biggest variable (in my opinion) in race 4 is the pace: how fast will the favored dropdown, Players Luck, have to run in those crucial opening furlongs? It's easy to envision Players Luck getting hooked by **Sound of the Tap, Shackleford's Storm** and maybe Scotuscare. Players Luck is the most talented horse in the field at this stage of the game, but it's about 50-1 that he'll get a mid-race breather and/or an "easy trip." Starship Apollo, meanwhile, may get his preferred "stalk and pounce" trip. That's in addition to the soft spot I have for this gelding: he's won me over with his durability and popularity. And I'm not just talking about the stacks of money wagered on Starship Apollo. I can't think of another horse that has been claimed as many times as Starship Apollo during my first 17 months in South Florida. What is the claim count? Fourteen! And as Starship Apollo dips to 62-50 for the first time in a while, there is a very good chance that number will hit 15 when the dirt and dust settles Thursday afternoon. This is my kind of field.

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Eyes-on that Late P5: Chalk dust might fly through the air early Thursday. **Ponte Reale** is the first "real" favorite in the opener as she rolls for trainer Gilberto Zerpa. Zerpa is eight for his last 12 (67%) and 21 for 40 over the last three months (53%.) Gabrielleelizabeth responded to a big drop in class and move-up to trainer Oscar Gonzalez in a blowout GP win last month. She'll go favored in race 2. So, the plan is to shoot for an \$18 late Pick 5 play. I'm going to single race 5 contender **Silver Threads**, who landed in a perfect spot.

R4: 3,5,7 -Believe Players Luck is the best horse, but he could get hooked in a fast pace
R5: 3 -This shapes up as a great spot for her; main danger is Memorize
R6: 3,6,7 -Another claiming condition that is just as deep as it would be over at GP
R7: 5,7 -Both own speed and have been keeping solid company; good race
R8: 2,6 -Wish J R 's Holiday had a little early oomph; Completely Bonkers should improve