



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

RACE 1: 7 – 5 – 4 – 1

RACE 2: 6 – 3 – 2 – 1

RACE 3: 8 – 2 – 7 – 4

RACE 4: 7 – 3 – 1 – 4

RACE 5: 6 – 7 – 4 – 3

RACE 6: 4 – 5 – 6 – 3

RACE 7: 6 – 11 – 3 – 5

RACE 8: 3 – 5 – 1 – 7

RACE 9: 7 – 6 – 2 – 1

RACE 10: 7 – 9 – 4 – 2

Wednesday Maidens: It didn't take Chad Brown all that long to start his dominance of 2019's early-season maiden turf races at Gulfstream Park. In fact, Brown picked up two grassy maiden wins last week, the first being Cambier Parc (a \$1.25 million Medaglia d'Oro filly) while the second big score came with Perfect Skew (by the late City Zip) on Sunday afternoon; both newly-turned 3yo fillies look like future stakes horses to me. Actually, had Brown's Doswell not encountered about five races worth of trouble during a *single lap* around the GP turf course in Sunday's 5th race, Brown would have picked up two strong maiden wins in the span of a couple of hours here on January 6th. Well, it could be more of the same this Wednesday at GP when Brown sends out the first-time starting Exult in race 7. Exult, by Noble Mission (Noble Mission is a full brother to the unbeaten European superstar, Frankel, by the way) landed in a good-looking, maxed-out field of turf maidens – 13 entered, a dozen will be permitted to start. Exult, with jockey Irad Ortiz Jr., has sold just once at auction – Fasig-Tipton May of '18 for \$150,000; he breezed a quarter mile in 21 3/5 seconds in that under-tack sale. Exult's dam, Miss Ocean City (Mineshaft), went one-for-six on the racetrack. He is the third foal in the family; he has a half-brother that is two-for-14 on turf for about 230k.

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Here are a couple of brief backgrounds of some of race 7's other major players. Outside of Exult, I prefer the Todd Pletcher-trained Clint Maroon the most. This gelding is bred "on both sides" for turf racing.

Clint Maroon – By Oasis Dream, Clint Maroon owns just one race, an off-the-turf fifth at soggy Belmont Park three months ago. This gelding's dam, Lady Aquitaine, by El Prado, proved a minor winner overseas. She's been a decent producer of turf quality too, as all three of her prior foals have won, including a pair that scored on grass in Europe. Jose Ortiz has the call on Clint Maroon. He's No Lemon – this Graham Motion-trained son of Lemon Drop Kid has foundation and seasoning thanks to two turf races thus far. My trip note from his start here last month: no speed early, taken inside, angled 5-6 wide top stretch, finished decently enough with zero impact on the top spots. Note horses are 0/2 exiting that December 12th GP maiden race thus far.