

GULFSTREAM PARK

Saturday, October 25 By Samantha Perry
(Check X @samanthaperry for updates)



Race 1: In the Saturday opener, **MI AMADA** looks like the one to beat from the rail after a strong second-place effort when stretching out to two turns on the grass. She showed good tactical speed that day and should move forward off that effort. **R SLEW OF CASH** makes her second career start and could be a live one, especially with her pedigree—her dam was a multiple graded stakes winner going long on the turf—and that Kentucky Downs debut came against tough company. **BIRCH RUN** handled the turf nicely last time out, finishing third in a solid effort, and she's eligible to take another step forward with Samuel Marin picking up the mount.

Race 2: **CHOSEN FACTOR** doesn't draw ideally on the rail but drops back into a claiming group she should be able to handle after facing tougher company last out. Just to her outside, **BACK TO GRIDLOCK** makes her first start off the claim for Bo Chapman after setting the pace and finishing second at the 12.5 level—she's a major player if she moves forward. **MAERDAMA** is the one to beat, coming off an avoided-claim win at Monmouth in May, and she's proven on Tapeta with a runner-up finish in her lone local try.

Race 3: Some might take a shot with the debut runner **CHICKEN DANCE**, who's been working steadily and seems to improve as the distances get longer, but he could find himself chasing early in this six-furlong dash. **GRAY BEAST** drops from maiden special weight company to the bottom claiming level and has enough early speed to stay involved from the jump. **ONE OF A KIND** has tried turf and Tapeta sprints in his first two starts and now switches to dirt—maybe

that surface change is what he's been needing to wake up.

Race 4: **SEA ART** should appreciate both the class drop and a return to a dry surface after catching slop in her last two starts—this looks like a much more suitable spot. **U LIGHT UP MY LIFE** has plenty of early speed and a touch of back class, but she's been off since June, so fitness is the main question. **GIRVIN STAR** owns two local wins at the \$25,000 level and could be dangerous if she shakes loose early—if she gets an easy lead, the rest might just be running for second.

Race 5: A wide-open turf claimer in race five, where **WORTH CONSIDERING** looks interesting first off the claim for the Carlos David barn, a move they do well with. She's winless in four turf tries but meets her easiest group yet. **IHAVEISSUES** stretches out to two turns and tries the grass for the first time; she's by Authentic and has the kind of sprint speed that can be dangerous going long on this course. **POCKET PAIR** is consistent and almost always in the mix on turf, but she's more of an underneath use in this field.

Race 6: **IF I CAN DREAM** lost all chance at the break in his debut but showed some late interest once he got going—he should improve with a clean start against this group. **PLAYFUL PAL** debuts for the Mike Yates barn with a sharp 47.1 gate drill that suggests he's ready to fire first out. **LA RODADA** has been consistent, never finishing worse than fourth in four starts, and adds blinkers today. She'll be running on late, though she does face the boys this time around.

Race 7: LIGHT FURY has been in top form, winning four of his last five and five races overall this year. He's at his best when controlling the pace, and this group is very similar to the ones he's already been dominating. The new face is **VLADISLAV**, who owns three local Tapeta wins and now returns off the bench for the Victor Barboza Jr. barn. If anyone poses a threat to **LIGHT FURY**, it's him.

Race 8: WILLOW CASE comes in red hot, riding a three-race win streak with her last two victories coming in stakes company. She looks a cut above this group, and unless the turn-back to six furlongs dulls her edge, she'll be tough to catch. **EVOLUTION** exits a fourth-place stakes effort and could make some noise if she gets back to her best form. **FLY LIFE** steps up to face winners after a strong debut win on a muddy track and looks capable of taking another step forward.

Race 9: In the Our Dear Peggy Stakes for two-year-old fillies, **SPIRIT DOLL** is an intriguing new face on turf after two dirt starts, and with Tiz the Law hitting at 13% with turf routers, she could handle the surface switch nicely. **STORM'S WAKE** is unbeaten in two starts for Brian Lynch, and with his barn firing on all cylinders as the championship meet approaches, she demands serious respect. **VITA MIA** was runner-up in the Hallandale Beach and now stretches to two turns on grass for the first time. While her pedigree leans dirt, her natural speed and inside draw make her a major factor.

Race 10: RED HOT SPARK looks well-spotted dropping into this lower-level claiming sprint. The last two times she caught a fast main track at this level, she won both, and she's been freshened for a return to that kind of form. **FOXY LADY** cuts back in distance and could grab a share, though she's winless in 14 starts this year and better suited for underneath use. **MOTOWN MIKA** makes her first start off the claim for Jose D'Angelo after finishing fourth against tougher, and this drop brings her right back to a winning level.

Race 11: SKI BUM will attract plenty of attention in the Saturday finale with his steep class drop from maiden \$50,000 to \$17,500, but this isn't a walkover. **SEA WISE**, drawn just inside, didn't care for the Tapeta last time but ran a solid second on debut over the turf and looks ready to rebound. **SPEAKER'S LOBBY** makes his second start, sheds the blinkers, and could take a nice step forward despite the tricky rail draw.

Best Bet R5 10 Worth Considering

Longshot R9 3 Spirit Doll

