



GULFSTREAM PARK



Sunday, February 8 By Brian Nadeau (check @Brian_J_Nadeau for OFF turf updates)

Championship Meet Statistics (through 2/1):

GP Meet: 400-107-89-50 (\$1.75/\$5.18) **Best Bet:** 31-17-4-1 (\$3.43/\$7.73) **Longshot:** 25-3-3-4 (\$1.79/\$4.95)

Race 1: A clean break will make **1 ROYAL RETINUE** tough to catch, as that turf pop-and-stop two-back came against much better, and she has Lasix now too. A wide draw won't help **11 VIKING QUEST** but she's another MSW dropper who can factor on the cutback off three routes. Don't sleep on **6 BARONIA** at a nice price, as she ran OK off the layoff and will be tighter today.

SELECTIONS: 1-11-6-10

Race 2: Stabbing with **10 SWINGING SOLO**, who showed some signs of life on turf, has back Tapeta form, and catches the right group too. You can't take a short price on **6 IL ALCHEMYSTA**, even though he's the most likely winner, as the barn is ice cold, while **1 MEGA DON** had trouble but woke up a bit when sent routing and drew well.

SELECTIONS: 10-6-1-5

Race 3: Hoping the first-time gelding angle and a sprint helps **8 BEST ARTIST**, as his turf route form stagnated, but that debut was solid and he drops too. No knocks on **2 EPICO**, who was a fast 2nd on dirt and seems the one to beat trying Tapeta. Lasix and a good Tapeta drill says **10 FOUR GUNS** is better than his debut 7th turf routing.

SELECTIONS: 8-2-10-1

Race 4: It looks like **3 EAST BAY** has some talent based on her AM works (viewed online), so in a race with more questions than answers, let's at least look for someone who should offer value. The best of the two proven runners is **7 BETTY'S PEARL**, who cuts back after running 2nd to a potential Cox star, and this post is a bonus too. It's a total guess with **2 JOYFUL JUSTICE**, a Juddmonte homebred out of a G3 winning dam who debuts for Cox with Irad, but with no works online, it's best to let the tote be your guide with her.

SELECTIONS: 3-7-2-1

Race 5: Let's try to get **5 REAL MACHO** going on the drop, as he's a three-time local winner who was in way over his head last time, but that 1/15 bullet says he may fire a big shot. The class relief that **2 BEASTLY SPEED** gets is the biggest of all, and his form has been better than the pick's of late too, though value lies elsewhere. The outside post is a coup for **6 I DON'T GET THIS**, and he's second-off a long layoff too, so he seems a must-use in the horizontals.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-6-1

Race 6: It's Longshot time with **1 ARABIAN PRINCE**, who tries turf for the first time off since Drexler claimed him, stretches out, drew well, and starts for a barn that has

already popped twice at double digit odds on the grass at the meet. They can't beat **9 HARROW** if he fires his best, but he hasn't run since July, this is a stakes prep, and he wants much longer, so today is the time to try him. A wide draw hurts **10 ICE CHOCOLAT**, though he's a G3 winner who will like the added ground and gets Irad.

SELECTIONS: 1-9-10-6

Race 7: It sure looks like **2 SIDEARM** is a dirt horse based on his AM works (viewed online), so while his Tapeta debut wasn't much, the thinking is that he was merely prepping for the money run today. Not taking a short price on **8 MAINSTREAM**, as he's off a July layoff and the only two times he did any real running it was in the slop, so let's make him prove it. Wasn't in love with any of the AM (online) drills from **7 FIRST CALL BOB**, so while he may be OK eventually, he might need this one first.

SELECTIONS: 2-8-7-5

Race 8: The class of stakes-placed **8 CYCLONITE** may be enough here, even though he could be short with a spotty worktab for his return, and he gets bonus points as a newcomer meeting several out of the same race. Which brings us to **7 BOAT'S A ROCKIN**, an impressive winner over a troubled **10 ITZA BOSS**, and while both hit hard, the former is now away from David and the latter goes for an ice-cold barn, which only flatters the pick more.

SELECTIONS: 8-7-10-1

Race 9: It's Best Bet time with **5 SADIE THE GOAT**, who is now with Jacobson off a speedy nose 2nd at CD, and this is a barn that can move them way up. Not sure a

cutback is what **3 ST. OLAF ROSE** wants, as she's better going a bit farther, though that easy win last time says she's better than ever. The gap to the rest, including dropper **6 GALLOP D'HERNES**, seems a big one.

SELECTIONS: 5-3-6-7

Race 10: The finale is a doozy, and could go any number of different ways, but let's give another chance to **4 HAMUNAPTRA**, who didn't have a fair go with a ton of trouble last time, but showed enough in his debut 2nd at CD to come back too today. There's a lot of turf in the pedigree of **7 BOSS DYLAN**, who gets Lasix today too, which might set him up for a breakthrough off two solid dirt runs. A wide draw really hurts the chances of **12 COMPREHENSIVE**, who has the fastest turf form here, but will need some luck to get there from this dreadful draw.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-12-5

Best Bet: R9: #5 Sadie the Goat (8-5)

- * Jacobson 18% with barn newcomers
- * Perfect attack post for speedy style
- * Main man Gaffalione 29% with DJ

Longshot: R6: #1 Arabian Prince (10-1)

- * First-time turf for Drexler, stretches out
- * Perfect post, has two solid route runs
- * ML favorites poorly drawn, short prices

