



GULFSTREAM PARK

Sunday, October 5 By Samantha Perry
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Race 1: Race 1 is a maiden event where several of these fillies have proven camera shy, which makes this a wide-open race. **PRETTY GEISHA** is the longshot to consider, trying the sprint distance for just the second time in her career. Her sire, First Samurai, gets 19% winners with Tapeta sprints, which makes her pedigree appealing for this spot. **MITHRIL** takes a meaningful drop in class, cutting her tag in half while making her second start off a layoff. She figures to be sharper with that run behind her and the class relief should help. **ROXY** also plunges in class, moving from the \$25,000 level down to \$12,500, but she's been the beaten favorite in consecutive starts, which makes her a vulnerable option despite the drop.

Race 2: **MISCHIEVOUS MILO** looks like the one to beat as he makes his second career start while dropping out of maiden special weight company. He finished third on debut in a race that turned out live, with both the winner and runner-up returning to win their next starts. **RICHEZTOO** took a big swing in stakes company last time out as a maiden, which didn't pan out, but he does bring some tactical speed that should play well in this sharp 5-furlong dash. **LASER**, drawn inside, debuts for sharp connections, but his sire Brethren only produces about 7% winners first time out. That stat tempers enthusiasm, though the rail draw and connections keep him in the conversation.

Race 3: **LUCY'S COOKIE** draws far outside but should work out a very cozy trip. She hasn't been seen since a sharp victory last November, yet her recent works suggest she's ready to return in good order. **BREEZY BELLA** makes her first start since being claimed into the Carlos

David barn. David enjoyed a strong summer meet, though he's just one-for-eighteen so far at the Royal Palm, which raises a slight concern. **SINGING SANDRA**, breaking from the rail, takes a notable drop in class. The last time she was in for a tag, she got the job done back in January—but that was on dirt. It's been a while since she's raced on Tapeta, though she does own two career wins on the surface.

Race 4: **SWIFT CANDY** looks like the one to beat as she makes her second start off a July–September layoff and returns to the Tapeta surface. **ONE MOMENT** debuted last month and set a sharp early pace for a half-mile before fading to last at the \$25,000 maiden claiming level. The class drop to \$12,500 feels like the right move and should give her a better chance to carry her speed. **MEET ME IN THE AIR** has been consistently in the mix at this level, finishing second or third in her last three starts, but she's been the beaten favorite in her last two. She's dependable for a share, but tough to trust at a short price.

Race 5: **FLORIBUNDA** drops back into the \$20,000 claiming ranks, the same level where she last found the winner's circle. She fits well here, though if the weather brings rain and this race comes off the turf, she's one to be cautious with. **GUNESH** turned in a strong third last out on the Tapeta at this same level, and she's proven game regardless of surface—turf or Tapeta makes little difference to her. **DRUM ROLL** brings plenty of speed and has shown an affinity for South Florida. Her try on the Del Mar turf last time was simply too tough, but the return to this \$20,000 tag makes perfect sense and gives her every chance to rebound.

Race 6: TA'VERYMUCH looks like the one they'll have to go through. She stretches out to a mile after a pair of solid third-place finishes, and her long stride suggests she'll only improve with added ground. **HE'S MY UNCLE** draws the rail after a debut where he only beat one horse home, but that came going seven furlongs—a tough distance to start at. The cut back to a flat mile should help him show more. **YAMAL** debuts for the Victor Barboza Jr. barn as a son of Runhappy. While Runhappy's progeny win at just 9% with first-time starters, they do hit at 15% in dirt routes. Fitness will be key, as he'll need to come in ready to play a big role first time out.

Race 7: GALLANT KNIGHT will try to rebound after finishing last against much tougher company in his most recent start. If he can find that earlier form, his natural speed makes him a serious player in this Tapeta sprint. The challenge, however, is pace pressure, as **MACKOR** also brings plenty of speed and now makes his first start off the claim for a barn winning at 22% with that move. **WILD WEST JUSTICE** is the wildcard. He's never tried the Tapeta before, but he comes in first off the claim for Jennifer Young, and these connections have a strong record when it comes to improving horses out of the box.

Race 8: OUTTA MONEY takes a meaningful drop in class and lands in a cozy spot for a barn that has already gone two-for-seven at the meet. **CORTA FUEGO** brings the back class, with two Tapeta victories and three third-place finishes on turf. If this race happens to come off the grass, he becomes an even stronger contender. **ROYAL SALUTE** makes his first start for the Michael Lerman barn, and his sire Oscar Performance gets 16% winners in Tapeta routes. Regardless of surface, turf or Tapeta, he looks like a major player in this field.

Race 9: Trainer **JOSE D'ANGELO** appears to hold a strong hand with a pair of talented fillies. **BE THANKFUL** comes in riding a two-race win streak, both victories earned in front-running fashion, and she clearly thrives when she's able

to control the pace. Her stablemate **ALESS QUEEN** has mostly been competing on dirt, with only one prior try over the Tapeta. The cutback from seven furlongs on dirt to this five-furlong Tapeta sprint could sharpen her speed, though she'll likely find herself on the engine alongside her stablemate. That setup might play into the hands of **GREENFIELD COUGAR**, who lacks the back class of some others but owns the ability to pass horses. With all the pace signed on, she may work out the right trip from off the speed.

Race 10: In the finale, **INSOLENTA** makes her first start for the Nick Tomlinson barn. Tomlinson, a long time assistant for Mark Casse, has done sharp work with Casse's horses, and this filly should be well-prepared in her new surroundings. She brings both speed and stamina from her recent two-turn turf efforts at Colonial and figures to be dangerous cutting back here. **LEVCHENKO** debuted at Kentucky Downs in MSW company, which was simply too tough a spot for her, as she only beat one horse home. The drop all the way down to the \$17,500 level gives her every chance to wake up in a big way. The other main player is **GIDDY UP BABY**, drawn to the far outside. She has finished second in her last four starts, showing consistency but also frustration, though the removal of blinkers could be the tweak she needs to finally get over the hump.

Best Bet R6 2 TA'VERYMUCH

Longshot R1 5 PRETTY GEISHA

