



# JASON BLEWITT'S

## Race Analysis

Friday, April 17, 2020

RACE 1: 10 – 11 – 6 – 1

RACE 2: 7 – 5 – 8 – 4

RACE 3: 1 – 4 – 8 – 3

RACE 4: 7 – 5 – 9 – 10

RACE 5: 2 – 9 – 8 – 11

RACE 6: 6 – 8 – 7 – 5

RACE 7: 6 – 3 – 2 – 9

RACE 8: 4 – 11 – 5 – 8

RACE 9: 6 – 2 – 4 – 10

RACE 10: 3 – 12 – 11 – 10

**Race 6:** This second-level allowance / optional claimer will likely boil down to an outstanding match-up between two talented (and well connected) four-year-olds. In one corner, we have the Todd Pletcher-trained Sniper Shot, a lightly raced Shackelford gelding who is just coming into his own four months or so into 2020. In the other, is the Jimmy Jerkens-trained Mihos, a former Gulfstream Park stakes winner that is currently on the comeback trail for Centennial Farms. Sniper Shot will start favored in Friday's featured 6<sup>th</sup> race, given his near perfect record – he is a nose shy of being unbeaten in three career starts – and lofty speed figures to this point. He's also got a "traditional" Gulfstream Park style, in that he's blessed with a high rate of early speed. Stylistically speaking, he drew well in this race with post 6 and I see him either on the lead solo or tracking longshot Create Again in the early stages. Sure, this marks Sniper Shot's first start beyond 6.5 furlongs but given his powerful allowance win back in mid-January, his first race in more than nine months, I am confident 7/8ths will not pose an issue for this gelding in the stamina department. Mihos, on the other hand, notched his biggest career victory here at Gulfstream in the 2019 Mucho Macho Man. He tailed off as the season progressed, however, and managing partner Don Little Jr. of Centennial Farms – he is all class I might add – opted to give Mihos the final three months of the season off. "He needed a little break and we weren't going to push him," Little said. "He started up earlier this year in Florida and really looked like his old self going into his last race. His energy, coat and physical appearance were all great." Mihos ran a fine race in his 2020 debut, finishing third behind (another sparingly campaigned but talented Pletcher-trained horse I should add in) Soldado. Given Mihos' chugging style in one turn races, I thought he finished exceptionally well for a horse returning at Gulfstream's speed friendly, run n' gun, six furlong trip. Mihos should relish the slight stretchout to seven furlongs in this spot and also starts for a world-class trainer that owns exceptional statistics with second off the layoff runners over the dirt. In allowance company, a worthwhile delineation with a horse like Mihos in a race like this, Jerkens has gone six for his last 19 (32%) with second-off-the-layoff runners over the dirt. Simply stated, Friday is go-time for Mihos. Get tied on!

*Post Time 1 p.m. ET*

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