

Date: February 08, 2018

Track: Gulfstream Park

By Byron King

BEST BET: The Great Scotsby (6th race)

First Race

1. Ultimate Cause

2. Sun of Tara

3. Believe in Angels

ULTIMATE CAUSE returns to the conditioned claiming ranks after failing to keep pace with starter runners with difficult trip that cost her chances to earn minor awards. Two back she was impeded inside the sixteenth pole (though wasn't going to win) unsettled when the gate sprung, causing her to be too far off a slow pace. **SUN OF TARA** won a \$20,000 N2L claimer Dec. 2 trip, drafting behind runners and finding room without difficulty on the outside at the top of the stretch; was claimed by a sharp Michael Dubb, though this one is now moving up in claiming price and also going up into the N3L ranks. **BELIEVE IN ANGELS** less than 4 lengths against far better starter runners Jan. 15, though never a factor at any stage; far better suited to this spot than last race when 49-1; runner-up from her latest came back to win a first-level allowance.

Second Race

1. Transistor

2. Jail House

3. Agujero

TRANSISTOR, second or third in four straight, catches a suspect group of maiden claimers and should pick up his first win. **HOUSE** disappointed with a sixth Jan. 15 after a far more promising third in the slop Jan. 3, but at least is lightly raced and eligible forward; should offer more value this time around, particularly with popular leading jockey Luis Saez moving on to ride **AGUJERO** the second most accomplished runner in the field behind **TRANSISTOR** but the exacta underneath that rival will likely be over.

Third Race

1. El Cíclon

2. Bama Bound

3. Browns Gap

A turf horse for most of his career, **EL CICLON** has somewhat surprisingly transitioned effectively to the main track here this week with a win and a fourth in two such starts. Both of those races came vs. fields stronger than today's lineup, though the \$6,250 claiming price is the same. **BAMA BOUND** has underachieved relative to his odds in his last pair for this tag, running fourth as the favorite Dec. 15 eighth behind the top choice at 7-2 on Jan. 7. Still, he has notched 15 main track victories over his 64-race career and should be respected. **BROWNS GAP** also ran behind **EL CICLON** most recently, finishing sixth behind that rival, beaten 7 1/2 lengths; two and speedy enough to secure a position on or near the lead.

Fourth Race

1. Materium

2. Mi Chiquita

3. Dixielicious

Picking first timers 1-2-3 in this maiden field due to the prior starters not distinguishing themselves...**MATERIUM** has pedigree Street Cry out of a stakes-winning dam, and has shown zip in works at Palm Meadows; edge despite a rail draw, a position from

first timers break a little slowly. **MI CHIQUITA** sold for \$140,000 at OBS last year and is a half-sister to Grade 3 Gallant Boy Kid; debuts for a dangerous first out barn, though her works don't leap out to the same extent as those from **MATERIUM** or even **DIXIELICIOUS**. The latter, by sprinter Midnight Lute, has gone five eighths a number of times in the mornings and set foundation to threaten at first asking.

Fifth Race

1. Honey Hearts**2. Jubilant****3. Prospective Moment**

HONEY HEARTS was keen and hung three wide when stretched out to 7 1/2 furlongs on the grass last out, and not surprising sixth; better suited to sprinting on the lawn, and particularly to facing weak maiden claimers like today's cast. **JUBILANT** is a grass but has respectable dirt form; factor if she merely replicates those performances on the lawn. **PROSPECTIVE MOMENT** has one prior turf attempt last summer, but has improved since that turf start to earn minor awards in some recent starts; addition of a trainer should help to keep her a bit closer early.

Sixth Race

1. The Great Scatsby**2. Battle of Blenheim****3. Daddy's Cozy**

THE GREAT SCATSBY and **BATTLE OF BLENHEIM** are uncoupled stablemates from the Eclipse Award-winning barn by far the leading money earning turf trainer in North America in recent years. **THE GREAT SCATSBY** has never raced, but promise and he sold well at auction a couple years ago for \$500,000. As for **BATTLE OF BLENHEIM**, he has the benefit of a rail draw going 7 1/2 furlongs on the lawn, but felt he underachieved a little last time when second with a perfect trip Dec. 15. **DADDY'S COZY** has a third and fourth in two grass starts after a non-effort on dirt at Laurel; a length behind **BATTLE OF BLENHEIM** in a mid-December meeting.

Seventh Race

1. Platinum Prince**2. Super Spender****3. Little Chesney**

PLATINUM PRINCE chased some of the top sprinters on the grounds when fourth in stakes company Jan. 1 and gets needed in this optional claimer; speedy enough to secure a good position early. **SUPER SPENDER**, on the other hand, lacks speed, and is a grass sprinter in a bind; therefore more likely to settle for a minor award than to win. **LITTLE CHESNEY** ran a respectable first at Tampa recently after a narrow win on this course Dec. 5 vs. first-level allowance company.

Eighth Race

1. Venezuelan Forever**2. Gator Girl****3. Guidonia**

9-2 shot **VENEZUELAN FOREVER** is dropped from starter to claiming company after a better-than-looked fourth with a much improved form with blinkers over her last two races. **GATOR GIRL** was hustled out to the lead in a Jan. 21 maiden \$20,000 race after going what seemed a lively opening quarter, was able to coast down the backstretch and kick away from the opposition in an attempt to steal this one, too. **GUIDONIA** was no factor in her lone start vs. winners but starts for a winning barn and is favored inside with a short run to the first turn in this 7 1/2-furlong grass race.

Ninth Race

1. Little Matt

2. Hangry

3. Woodburn

LITTLE MATT, pegged at 5-1 on the morning line, fits against \$6,250 claiming opposition and has a winning jockey/trainer Jaramillo and Barboza - who are 33% together at Gulfstream in 2017-2018 with a \$2.45 ROI; tactical speed to get a good trip. **HANGRY** rallied to finish a close second Jan. 21, though a slow final split by the leaders exaggerated his kick; 30-2-6-5 career suggests he is better used underneath in the gimmicks than in the win pool. **WOODBURN** is fittingly dropped in class recent sixths; proved a regular factor in conditioned claiming races for this \$6,250 tag last year.

Tenth Race

1. Captain Carol

2. Keg Stand

3. Order In

CAPTAIN CAROL was hung wide from a terrible post when fourth Jan. 21, performing well under the circumstances to lost lengths; swished her tail every time she was whipped and might respond better to merely an aggressive hand ride; certainly drive. **KEG STAND** could improve second out with experience and blinkers, though she certainly needs to move forward to win : eighth of 10 at Tampa, albeit in the straight maiden ranks there. Morning-line favorite **ORDER IN** finished a length and a quarter the top choice when second Jan. 21, but she drew post 1 that day and post 11 in this spot.