



# JASON BLEWITT'S

## Race Analysis

Friday, February 9, 2018

Race 1: 1 – 3 – 7 – 2

Race 2: 7 – 6 – 2 – 8

Race 3: 4 – 5 – 1 – 3

Race 4: 6 – 5 – 1 – 4

Race 5: 3 – 7 – 4 – 1

Race 6: 2 – 1 – 8 – 7

Race 7: 2 – 1 – 8 – 7

Race 8: 4 – 5 – 2 – 6

Race 9: 7 – 4 – 9 – 5

Race 10: 9 – 2 – 7 – 8

Race 11: 4 – 1 – 6 – 10

Race 12: 3 – 2 – 11 – 9

**Whoa, Nice Field:** Let me take you back. Back to last Sunday at around 4 p.m. Friday's entries – as in the program you are holding in your hands – bounced into my email inbox. I scrolled through it, expecting the usual weekday wintertime Gulfstream Park flair. I'm talking big, bulky fields, tough claimers and a dash or two (or three) of maidens. Needless to say, I was pleasantly surprised (and the fan in me still gets very excited about these things) when I glanced at the 3<sup>rd</sup> race, a high-level optional claimer on the dirt. My reaction was – and days later still is – “what a field of five!” Grade 1 winner and \$2.5 million earner **Mind Your Biscuits** drew the outside post 5 as he launches his 5yo campaign. Meanwhile, leading trainer Todd Pletcher, who entered the week with a purely-dominant 37 victories at the meet, sends out **One Liner** and the Chilean-bred **Big Daddy**. We are talking some serious firepower here. It will be good to welcome Mind Your Biscuits back to Gulfstream Park. And just like last year, Mind Your Biscuits has his eye on the (Mar. 3) Gulfstream Park Sprint – he finished a fast-closing second to the very, very enigmatic Unified last February in the GP Sprint – and Dubai's \$2 million Golden Shaheen. The '17 Golden Shaheen at Meydan was and is hands-down the career-defining race of Mind Your Biscuits and he is proof that a good horse really can come from anywhere. Being honest, I had completely forgot (go easy on me, I turn the big 4-0 this week) about the Pletcher-trained One Liner. This now 4yo colt by Into Mischief (Holy Bull winner Audible, anyone?) has won all three career starts and overcame a tough outside post when last seen about 51 weeks ago in the Grade 3 Southwest at Oaklawn Park. Johnny V. rides. Boy does Pletcher have some seriously talented 4yo colts in the barn.

**Handicap Division for '18:** The afterglow of Gun Runner's historic victory here in the \$16 million Pegasus 13 days ago still remains as the Mind Your Biscuits crew knocks heads in the Friday feature. Just thinking about the plethora of talented 4yos in training excites me. All three Triple Crown winners from 2017 – Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming, Preakness champ Cloud Computing and Belmont Stakes hero Tapwrit – are scheduled to race this year. It's also terrific that the 2017 Holy Bull winner, Irish Way Cry, is training seriously at Palm Meadows for an expected start (or two, maybe) this meet for trainer H. Graham Motion. And let's not forget the classy 4yos that ran so well in the Pegasus. West Coast was monstrous in that second-place defeat to Gun Runner and he (at least to me) is the clear favorite at this point (early I know) in the '18 Horse of the Year race. Gunnevera checked in third in the Pegasus and is as honest as the day is long. So, let's see what One Liner does Friday afternoon at Gulfstream Park. He, along with stablemate Army Mule, might make the above list in no-time-at-all.