



# JASON BLEWITT'S

## Race Analysis

Friday, June 8, 2018

RACE 1: 3 – 1 – 4 – 2

RACE 2: 1 – 2 – 3 – 6

RACE 3: 4 – 5 – 2 – 6

RACE 4: 8 – 2 – 4 – 5

RACE 5: 5 – 7 – 4 – 2

RACE 6: 8 – 7 – 6 – 2

RACE 7: 2 – 3 – 1 – 8

RACE 8: 7 – 3 – 8 – 4

RACE 9: 8 – 2 – 3 – 4

**GP's Twilight Friday: King Mauro's** lackluster dirt races won't deter me from going all in on this Twilight Friday at Gulfstream Park. Yep, it's another late-starting (2:15 p.m. Eastern first post) afternoon at the old "GP by the Sea" on this Belmont Stakes eve. Make sure you join us on-track Saturday to watch Justify's Triple Crown bid in Belmont Stakes 150; Gulfstream Park will be absolutely buzzing and rocking this huge weekend! Anyway, King Mauro runs as the Blewitt Best Bet (BBB) in Friday's 2<sup>nd</sup> race for one reason and one key reason alone: trainer Victor Barboza Jr. off-the-claim. Barboza, a native of Venezuela, has done an excellent job training over the last couple of years in the United States and has become one of this circuit's shrewdest claiming trainers in the process (that's not to say Barboza is "just" a claiming trainer, by the way. He's solid with 2yos and turf horses, too.) As far as sheer numbers go, Barboza headed into the week (Wednesday's GP card) with a five-year, new claim record of 20 for 53. That is a whopping 38% winning strike rate. Among his best recent claims is Cautious Giant, who figured a clear favorite Wednesday afternoon in the co-featured 6<sup>th</sup> race at GP. I really like that King Mauro has had 36 days between starts – he was claimed out of a turf race here on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for \$12,500 – which has given him time to acclimate to a new training regimen, barn, feed program, etc. Of course, it never hurts to pick up GP's leading rider in Tyler Gaffalione. Barboza also sends out **Sal's Jet**, who is a bit of a question at Friday's seven furlong distance. That Kantharos gelding will have jockey Emisael Jaramillo up from post 3.

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**Classy Crew in Friday's Opener:** It's Todd Pletcher versus Danny Gargan in the Friday first, a high-level optional claimer over turf. Pace and raceflow in this compact field are likely to come into play. **King's Ghost** is sold, owns some serious back-class and has shown the ability to lay close up in her races. Those are the reasons I have put her on top of her own stablemate, Inside Out, as well as Pletcher's No Sweat. All three, however, are on this Pick 5 ticket, a \$27 ticket (for 50 cents) that goes something like this...

- R1: 1,3,4 -I'd rather use all three then start trimming and regretting
- R2: 1,2,3 -Respect both of Barboza Jr.'s runners as well as Archvillain
- R3: 4,5 -Very competitive maiden turf sprint; thinking Hasta La Byebye will like the grass
- R4: 8 -Perfect post and equally solid trip make Bluegrass Envy the single
- R5: 4,5,7 -Reid Nagle has been blazing hot lately; two logicals as well