



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Friday, May 31, 2019

RACE 1: 1 – 5 – 6 – 4

RACE 2: 6 – 2 – 4 – 3

RACE 3: 6 – 7 – 4 – 1

RACE 4: 3 – 2 – 4 – 5

RACE 5: 9 – 1 – 8 – 7

RACE 6: 3 – 1 – 7 – 8

RACE 7: 2 – 5 – 4 – 3

RACE 8: 2 – 5 – 3 – 4

RACE 9: 8 – 7 – 2 – 3

**First-Race Post is 2:15 p.m. ET*

Late Start on This Opening Twilight Friday
Nine races (five over the turf, four on the dirt) and a later-than-normal start time take center stage this Friday afternoon at Gulfstream. Note that Friday cards moving forward – through August 30th – feature a start time of 2:15 ET; the return of GP's popular summertime "Twilight Racing Series" is upon us. And the month of May, by the way, certainly flew by in a hurry! In terms of interest, this Friday program is likely to grab horseplayers off the bat with an excellent race 2 match-up between three of Gulfstream Park's leading trainers: Kathleen O'Connell, Todd Pletcher and Jorge Navarro. For the record, race 2's Florida-bred restricted maiden special weight drew six fillies at its seven furlong distance. Bella Tormenta is my top choice from the outside post. For starters, this Flashstorm filly ran a well-clear second behind a \$2.80 winning favorite (also trained by Pletcher) in Ready to Tango here on April 28th. Not only will Bella Tormenta notch her (all important) second career start Friday, she'll do so off a fresh trainer change to Jorge Navarro. I like that quite a bit. Pletcher, meanwhile, will saddle first-time starter Bellera with jockey Jeffrey Sanchez aboard. This Bernardini filly has five winning siblings (of six total) and a very eclectic immediate family in terms of versatility (dirt, turf, long, short, etc.). Bellera's Unbridled's Song dam, Habiboo, won four of 17 career starts for nearly 200k; three of those victories occurred in dirt routes. Lastly, Velvet Isle returns off a 47-day freshening for O'Connell and leading jockey Edgard Zayas. She has been a two-time beaten favorite in five career starts but may play out as the controlling speed. See you *later!*

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