



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Race 1: 8 – 5 – 6 – 7

Race 2: 6 – 8 – 4 – 1

Race 3: 12 – 4 – 7 – 5

Race 4: 2 – 6 – 5 – 3

Race 5: 7 – 6 – 10 – 12

Race 6: 4 – 1 – 2 – 5

Race 7: 6 – 11 – 9 – 2

Race 8: 1 – 2 – 10 – 3

Race 9: 1 – 2 – 9 – 11

Race 10: 7 – 4 – 3 – 6

Race 11: 7 – 6 – 9 – 1

Race 12: 1 – 11 – 4 – 2

The Greatest Ever: I will never forget the first time I saw *Holy Bull* in person. I had just started my sophomore year in high school – conveniently located across the street from Belmont Park, I might add – and was one of many diehard fans in attendance on a raw and rainy Super Saturday in Sept. of '93. Holy Bull was little more than a footnote heading into that huge day of racing, a byproduct of a star-filled, stacked card. *Dehere*, who had just become the first horse in 78 years to win all three of Saratoga's 2yo stakes – the Sanford, Saratoga Special and Hopeful – was billed as the second-coming. He was a huge favorite in the Futurity and many (including a young, enthusiastic student of the game...with the initials JB) thought he'd run the table in Belmont's Futurity and Champagne on his way to the Breeders' Cup. Holy Bull, meanwhile, was way more of an unknown. Sure, the modestly-bred son of Great Above had thrashed two fields – his debut at Monmouth Park and a now-rare 2yo allowance race at Belmont – but had faced nowhere near the kind of firepower and ability of Dehere. Well, it took Holy Bull a tad more than 80 or seconds to upset Dehere in that Futurity while simultaneously stamping himself as a serious prospect. I was immediately enraptured. A year later, Holy Bull would own major, landmark victories in the Florida Derby, Blue Grass, Metropolitan Handicap, Dwyer, Haskell, Travers and Woodward. He was crowned the 1994 Horse of the Year and Champion 3yo. Holy Bull enjoyed a legendary, Hall of Fame career, assisted in making me a lifelong Thoroughbred racing fan and passed away last June at age 26. I'm still sad the great Holy Bull no longer roams his paddock in the Kentucky sun but I'm thankful I got to see him compete; those memories and his greatness will be with me forever.

CB First-Time Turf: Saturday, Holy Bull Day at Gulfstream Park, is one of those great, must-watch days of racing. The stakes, led by the Holy Bull, came up terrific, and the undercard maiden races are outstanding. In fact, *Variante Perception* has caught my eye in the day's 7th race, a 3yo maiden special weight on turf. I absolutely love Chad Brown in first-time turf situations; note the only sibling of this Curlin colt to try turf has won twice over it. The stacked late Pick 5, by the way, begins in race 8. This ticket costs \$27 for 50 cents. Best of luck!

R8: 1 -Hate that inside post but I feel it's either single TAP or use a bunch to start
R9: 1,2,9 -Excellent turf allowance; Krampus is a very intriguing NY shipper for Bill Mott
R10: 3,4,7 -Solid, wide-open Forward Gal field; Miss Mo Mentum was very impressive last time
R11: 6,7 -Untamed Domain is proven class but plods early; anxious to see more of Gidu
R12: 1,4,11 -Wish Mississippi had a better post; did not get cute with the three on this play