



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Thursday, April 18, 2019

RACE 1: 8 – 1 – 3 – 7

RACE 2: 6 – 3 – 7 – 2

RACE 3: 3 – 7 – 5 – 1

RACE 4: 2 – 7 – 8 – 6

RACE 5: 6 – 3 – 4 – 2

RACE 6: 8 – 3 – 9 – 10

RACE 7: 6 – 10 – 4 – 5

RACE 8: 3 – 1 – 9 – 5

RACE 9: 6 – 4 – 3 – 7

RACE 10: 9 – 7 – 2 – 12

First Post: 1:15 p.m. ET
GP Spring Meet: Day 9

Nightstrings Catches the Right Field

It's already time to start week 3 of Gulfstream Park's spring season with Thursday's 10-race card. April is more than halfway complete and Gulfstream Park is on its regular four-day week racing schedule: note we are running this Easter Sunday. As far as Thursday's offering goes, however, count me in as a fan of the race 8-bound Nightstrings. True, this gelding's last three races leave a ton to be desired – he's been beaten a cumulative 65 lengths or so in his three starts this year – but there is a good dose of optimism (as well as smart, realistic placement) in the corner of this Midnight Lute gelding. Firstly, Nightstrings fits perfectly in a 62-50 "two life" claiming race this time of year at GP. Sure, it took him a while to break his maiden – 14 starts to be precise – but he finally won here in December and did it at Thursday's one mile distance. An eight-furlong trip is something that race 8's likely favorite, Zippy Willy, has yet to try: that is a major issue in my book, especially with a shorter-priced favorite like him. As for Nightstrings, he'll start for veteran trainer John Kimmel, who had a good showing this winter at Gulfstream. Jockey Nik Juarez has the mount. Zippy Willy, meanwhile, starts from the rail for trainer Bobby Dibona. Again, he has to prove he can handle the one-turn mile conditions of this race as the field's likely front-running point man. Jockey Miguel Vasquez rides this son of the late City Zip for the second consecutive time. Trainer Antonio Sano's Irish Letters is just one-for-24 at this point but appears an on-the-board threat to me with his one-paced, "grinding" running style. If some of the others fail to hang on because of the distance he can definitely gallop them into submission.