



# JASON BLEWITT'S

## Race Analysis

Thursday, April 4, 2019

RACE 1: 2 – 3 – 8 – 7

RACE 2: 3 – 5 – 4 – 2

RACE 3: 9 – 3 – 5 – 1

RACE 4: 4 – 3 – 7 – 1

RACE 5: 2 – 4 – 8 – 3

RACE 6: 1 – 2 – 8 – 6

RACE 7: 7 – 1 – 6 – 4

RACE 8: 7 – 9 – 2 – 5

*\*First-Race Post is 1:15 p.m. ET*

### Locked & Loaded for Day 1

A new month, a new week and a new meet is the order of the day with Thursday's 8-race Gulfstream Park program. It's pretty wild to think just how fast the lengthy winter season came and went here in Hallandale Beach – does that December 1<sup>st</sup> opening day Claiming Crown or City of Light's career-defining Pegasus World Cup performance seem or feel all that long ago? So, the GP spring / summer meet begins in earnest with a Thursday card that splits evenly down the middle: four races on dirt, the other four over turf. Please note there is a \$39,000 carryover in the jackpot Rainbow 6. Top jockey Edgard Zayas, a winner of nearly 1,300 races in his career, returns to the saddle opening day with five calls. Zayas has not competitively ridden since he suffered a fractured femur here on December 30<sup>th</sup>. Moving forward, he's listed on nine horses at Gulfstream on Friday afternoon. "I feel great and have been getting on horses these last few weeks at (Gulfstream Park West)," Zayas told me. "It's a little quieter over there and was a good place to get fit again. I'm obviously excited to start riding at Gulfstream again." Zayas, born in Puerto Rico, is a superbly talented rider; he's a true student of racing, thoroughly prepares in the lead-up to each of his mounts and is one of the game's – I'm talking nationally here – best speed / front end riders. In fact, Zayas sees action in the Thursday feature (race 7) on the Ralph Nicks-trained Front Loaded. My top selection, however, is George Weaver's Reason to Soar; I believe he gets a searing pace to cut down late.

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