



JASON BLEWITT'S

Race Analysis

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Winter Meet Heads Down to the Wire

- RACE 1: 1 – 5 – 3 – 2
- RACE 2: 2 – 5 – 4 – 1
- RACE 3: 4 – 5 – 1 – 8
- RACE 4: 5 – 7 – 2 – 1
- RACE 5: 6 – 5 – 1 – 7
- RACE 6: 1 – 2 – 3 – 5
- RACE 7: 9 – 8 – 4 – 3
- RACE 8: 3 – 7 – 2 – 1
- RACE 9: 3 – 6 – 5 – 4
- RACE 10: 2 – 4 – 3 – 6

Ready, set, here we go! Gulfstream Park hosts just eight more programs this winter season beginning Thursday afternoon. And with March some two-thirds complete (I know, nuts) here is a friendly reminder that the Xpressbet.com Florida Derby is right around the corner on Saturday, March 30th. As for Thursday, the action is split neatly down the middle with two even handfuls of dirt and turf races. And speaking of that GP green, race 5 is the day's most intriguing maiden puzzle to my eyes. The 5th race pits a trio of lightly-raced three-year-old fillies against five older fillies (C C's Freedom, a four-year-old Eye of the Leopard filly, is the eldest of the group.) Race 5 also starts a likely \$2 million-plus Rainbow 6 carryover sequence. That's right: Gulfstream Park's single ticket jackpot style wager has not been hit outright since mid-February; the carryover was \$1.9 million entering Wednesday's program. Sunniva doesn't strike me as a Rainbow 6 or early Pick 5 single but she is my top selection for a couple of key reasons. Firstly, this filly has run extremely well (in context to her Thursday competition, of course) on the grass while out of town. She enters her GP debut Thursday afternoon with a record of 0-2-2 from four starts on the turf. Secondly, I really like the trainer change to veteran Kathleen O'Connell. "KO", as she is known around these parts, is one of South Florida's best year-round trainers; I'm a huge fan of her operation. The inside-posted, first timer Passionof the Nile has a big pedigree: Pioneerof the Nile-Distorted Passion, by Distort Humor. She has an older half-sister who has scored multiple graded stakes turf wins in Mrs. McDougal. Lastly, RIP to sire Pioneerof the Nile, who passed away suddenly on Monday at age 13.

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

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