

GULFSTREAM PARK



Sunday, April 20 By Brian Nadeau (check @Brian_J_Nadeau for OFF turf updates)

Royal Palm Meet Statistics (through 4/13):

GP Meet: 75-19-14-14 (\$1.62/\$5.20) **Best Bet:** 7-3-1-1 (\$2.69/\$6.57) **Longshot:** 8-1-2-2 (\$1.00/\$6.70)

Race 1: The opener, on paper, looks like a match race between **6 HIGH PRINCE** and **7 MUSTANG BAY**, as they lay over the field, with the former getting the nod off the dirt debut 2nd last time for Barboza, while the latter faces older for the first time and still hasn't found his level, though it could be today at the bottom. The "other" Barboza, **9 GOD IS LIFE**, can get a piece underneath.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-9-5

Race 2: The turf has been a paved highway playing to speed all year, so there's a chance that **3 WHISKEY PARK** shakes loose and forgets to stop in his debut over the surface, while dropping in for a tag for the first time too. No clue what we get from **4 THE FRANCHISE**, who has not been seen since 8/23 in the G1 Saratoga Derby and is now in for 25k, but if nothing else, it's good to see Zayas ride a horse who would pound on these if there's anything left in the tank. An 0-for-6 local mark from **6 PET MAT** doesn't instill confidence, though he's another dropping stiffly.

SELECTIONS: 3-4-6-10

Race 3: A weak field full of firsters and a move into state bred makes **2 KEEP ON MOVING** imposing after he middle moved to the lead at even-money on debut, before tiring late. Tab the tote on **6 VEKOWIN** and

5 EASY ANSWER, as any action would be noteworthy for their debut, but the former starts for Sano, who is 1-for-43 with firsters, while the latter has a modest worktab.

SELECTIONS: 2-6-5-4

Race 4: Coming back to **7 WARDA** on the drop, as she didn't fire last time but drew well and meets a much easier crew too. Don't sleep on **4 HALA BLUE**, who didn't fire in two turf starts but won on the all-weather in Europe, while carrying 128 and running without Lasix, so she may wakeup. No knocks on **2 SUPERS LUCKY LADY**, as she's in-form and proven at the level.

SELECTIONS: 7-4-2-5

Race 5: Thinking returnees **4 FIRST NAVY JACK** and **3 SURF'S UP** are live, as the former took tons of money in two U.S. starts last year but didn't fire, now goes for Fawkes (28% with newcomers), and gets Lasix and blinkers as well. 'Up was 5-2 in an off-the-turf debut at Laurel in August and hasn't been seen since, but Weaver is 32% off this layoff, and he's another adding Lasix and blinkers. The best of the locals is **7 MR. BINKS**, a wildly improved 2nd back on turf last time, and wins if he doesn't bounce, and/or the comebackers aren't ready.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-7-6

Race 6: Getting beat a head in his first start at the level makes **3 GULDENSTERN** the one to beat, especially since his two starts OTC for Rodriguez have been very sharp. The speed of **2 OCONEE LIFE** always makes him dangerous, and he drops and won't have to go as fast early as he did last time, but the way he caved so badly makes you worry a bit. The price will be right with **1 FOXTROT HARRY**, who wasn't that far behind the pick last time and can close.

SELECTIONS: 3-2-1-9

Race 7: That was some win by **4 FEDE** last time, as she took a ton of pressure and still won for fun, and this outside attack post only helps her chances on the rise into open waters. You have to wonder which version of **2 BLUEBERRY HILL** you get today, the one who won for fun at the distance on debut, or the one who was beaten a football field at two turns last time, and while the cutback helps, the price, and the pick to her outside, doesn't. The flow should suit **1 VOLATILED**, but it did last time too and Fede still ran away from her with ease.

SELECTIONS: 4-2-1-7

Race 8: With a ton of speed entered, this turf sprint may fall apart late, which is why **3 THE DOVE RULES** is today's longshot getting back to one turn, with a closing style that should be flattered by all the pace. The same can be said for both **9 MARCO T.** and **5 PROUD MARY**, who have solid turf form and will run on late, though neither are familiar with the winner's circle of late.

SELECTIONS: 3-9-5-4

Race 9: Getting back to Tapeta and catching a group with little speed makes **4 DEAR**

DAD eligibly to pull a slight surprise, as that 2nd to repeat winner Tucson two-back was heady stuff, and he should clear off early today. All **3 KING D'ORO** does is win, so he's a big player right back, although this is a sizable class rise. You just have to play against the classy and G1 stakes-placed **2 DREAMLIKE**, who hasn't been out since June for Pletcher, has never tried Tapeta, and is prepping for much bigger too.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-2-6

Race 10: It's Best Bet time with **9 BRITISH EMPRESS**, who finally gets the class relief she need after tangling with tons tougher throughout her career. Interested in seeing what Drexler can do with **3 ARROYADORA** n a barn switch, while routing on turf too, as this is a trainer who routinely moves them up. Getting back to the turf makes **1 I NEVER LIE** a more likely EX partner, and she's bred to relish two turns as well.

SELECTIONS: 9-3-1-12

Best Bet: R10: #9 British Empress (5-2)

- * Stiff dropper finally meets her group
- * Tactical speed to lay close early on
- * Turf form simply better than these

Longshot: R8: #3 The Dove Rules (8-1)

- * Stalker in a race loaded with speed
- * Will like getting back to a turf sprint
- * Zayas rides the turf at an elite level

