



# GULFSTREAM PARK



**Thursday, December 19** By Brian Nadeau (check @Brian\_J\_Nadeau for OFF turf updates)

Championship Meet Statistics (through 12/15):

**GP Meet:** 120-32-18-23 (\$1.80 /\$5.23) **Best Bet:** 12-4-1-2 (\$1.67/\$4.90) **Longshot:** 8-2-1-1 (\$3.63 /\$9.00)

**Race 1:** The Buccheros sure do love the Tapeta, so you have to think his daughter **6 Elusive Chalice** will take to it on debut, while facing a field full of questions too. And that list includes **7 SPIRITED BOSS**, who will be bet hard for D'Angelo and Irad, but goes for a barn that is just 9% with firsters, so she may need this. The experience edge that **8 TIME LEAP** has is big, and the MSW drop won't hurt either, so she's in the mix.

**SELECTIONS: 6-7-8-5**

**Race 2:** A battle (seemingly) between **3 WARDA** and **6 BUBBLY CHAMPAGNE** goes to the former, who drops stiffly and has sprint speed/form, which gives her a big leg up on the latter, who has been doing the two-turn thing of late and will have to hustle early to keep contact. The gap to the rest, including **1 DOWN IN THE BAYOU**, seems a big one, though she too drops and could wake up in her first start for Gonzalez.

**SELECTIONS: 3-6-1-8**

**Race 3:** The MSW drop, addition of blinkers, and Barboza hitting at 30% with second-out maidens says they have to beat **6 GRAND JOKER** in his Tapeta bow, especially since he caught a very strong field in his debut on the dirt. The local Tapeta agreed with

**7 TIME FOR RESTRAINT**, as he was a solid 3<sup>rd</sup>, and it won't take much improvement to get the job done here. They'll overbet **3 ROUNDTRIPTOITALY** on the MSW drop and with Irad, but he was dreadful last time, so tread lightly before come back to him.

**SELECTIONS: 6-7-3-9**

**Race 4:** Thinking **2 BREEZEY BELLA** is live in her first start in 16 months, as this is Meneses' lone mount on the card, she's worked well for this, and adds Lasix too. Her stablemate **6 CAJUNETTE** is the one to beat after a quartet of MSW runs to start her career, plus she has a big recency edge as well. The rail is no great shakes, but **1 FIVE EYES ONMICHEL** is another MSW dropper, and she's faced some good ones so far too.

**SELECTIONS: 2-6-1-4**

**Race 5:** It's Longshot time, as **6 ARISAEMA** returns to the local lawn, where she was a decent 5<sup>th</sup> against better to-back, and there's enough speed here to set her up late as well. A wide draw (the rails are at 59' too) and other speed, not to mention a short price, says to try and beat **9 HIGHWAY HARMONY**, even though her form is best after some NY turf runs against better. The expected hot pace will aid the late run of

**10 MISCREANT**, and she's another who has been facing better in NY, though her 0-for-5 local mark on the turf is unappealing.

**SELECTIONS: 6-9-10-1**

**Race 6:** It's Best Bet time with **2 DOMINANT DIVA**, as she looks like another Saffie buzzsaw who is primed for her debut, after some blazing AM activity, while catching a slew of firsters who may need a race. Which brings us to **4 LAULAUGA**, a McKinzie filly who likely has talent for Gustavo Delgado, but figures to want longer than the 6Fs she gets on debut today. Clearly a six-month layoff wasn't the plan after **5 FRIDA** was 2<sup>nd</sup> on debut, and that was against state bred too, so she could be vulnerable here.

**SELECTIONS: 2-4-5-6**

**Race 7:** Thinking **4 MOTOWN MIKA** is live in her local bow for Sweezey, who has come out firing, and note she's run well here on the Tapeta in the past. The class rise could trip up **7 LITA**, but that was a sharp win last time, and Irad sticks as well. Fading **3 HITS DIFFERENT**, who has no speed and is 0-for-10 on the GP Tapeta, yet will be bet on the drop for Saffie and Zayas.

**SELECTIONS: 4-7-3-8**

**Race 8:** The post says **6 FULANITO** can get the better of **3 ASHER'S EDGE** in a compact feature, as he's outside his main rival and may get first run too, at what should be a better price as well. Tabbing Woodbine invader **4 ADIOS NOW** for next time, as those from the north typically need one locally before firing their best shot.

**SELECTIONS: 6-3-4-1**

**Race 9:** Stabbing wildly in the finale with **6 JUDGE JUDITH**, who stretches back out and has speed, which many of the perceived favorites don't have. No doubt that **4 STRAND OF GOLD** is the one to beat for top connections, and the drop is a big one too, but she also seems a bit too good to trust, at very short odds too. A lack of early foot won't help **5 SALS DREAM GIRL**, though she'll run on late, as always.

**SELECTIONS: 6-4-5-7**

**Best Bet: R6: #2 Dominant Diva (9-5)**

- \* Another Saffie with hot AM works
- \* Other firsters figure to want longer
- \* Gets 7-pound break with Husbands

**Longshot: R5: #6 Arisaema (12-1)**

- \* Drops after facing better two-back
- \* Plenty of speed sets up her late run
- \* Both (ML) favorites have some warts

