



GULFSTREAM PARK



Wednesday, March 26 By Brian Nadeau (check @Brian_J_Nadeau for OFF turf updates)

Championship Meet Statistics (through 3/16):

GP Meet: 747-179-152-102 (\$1.63/\$4.86) **Best Bet:** 70-16-18-6 (\$1.30/\$4.69) **Longshot:** 62-7-4-8 (\$2.43/\$5.61)

Race 1: Closing Week kicks off with **8 C C Girl**, who will now run on the main for the first time for a tag, drew well, and meets a group there for the taking. Both

1 VANAESSA'S WISH and **4 TRUMPETTA** make sense from close range, though the former drew poorly, while the latter exits an extremely slow race, even for this level.

SELECTIONS: 8-1-4-7

Race 2: A tricky turf tilt goes to **8 SOUPER CRUNCHY**, who got the comeback out of the way last time with a good 2nd to hint at solid form, which is something the rest can't really say. This could finally be the day for **4 MYTHIC PERFORMANCE**, who will run for a tag on turf for the first time, though a two-month layoff during the heart of the Championship Meet seems a little iffy. Taking on older horses in March is never easy, but **3 RANGER BATTALION** takes the MSW drop and gets back to turf, where he was a decent enough 6th behind a wire-to-wire winner two-back.

SELECTIONS: 8-4-3-9

Race 3: A stiff drop means **4 BLOSSOMING ERUDITE** will be tough from close range, as she's been facing tons better in her last two and meets no one to be scared of today. Next up are **7 WIGGLE AN' WINE**, who was

just 2nd at the level, and **6 OBLIGING**, another who drops, but improvement will be needed from both to beat the chalk.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-6-2

Race 4: A clean trip in her last route would have put **4 SORORITY BID** closer to **7 BUGGED OUT**, so here's hoping she gets it today, which would allow her to pull a mild surprise on the favorite, who is the clear one to beat and is the only two-time winner in the field as well. You get some consistent form with **8 GREAT SHASHI**, who enters off a solid 2nd to an easy winner.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-8-2

Race 5: It's Best Bet time with **1 MORGAN POINT**, who is back to the dirt after a Tapeta no-show, and was facing much better on the main last fall and this winter, which will serve him well on this drop today. Win machine **3 FREEDOM ROAD** is the one to beat and obvious danger, and he showed he likes the track with an easy win last time, though he'll be overbet and meets a toughie in the pick. The only other one within shouting distance of the top-2 is **6 AWESOME TRAIN**, though he still seems a cut below on the class scale.

SELECTIONS: 1-3-6-5

Race 6: Tapeta lover **4 SARAH'S DREAM** looks poised to go 4-for-4 over the surface, as she drops off some solid turf runs, and should get set up behind an expected aggressive pace as well. The flow should help **8 WICKED MEMORY** too, and her 4-2-2-0 local mark means she'll make the pick earn it today. Rising from the N3L ranks is a steep ask for **5 LADY EMILY KATHRYN**, who wired last time but won't be alone early.

SELECTIONS: 4-8-5-2

Race 7: Taking the short price and moving on with **6 EKATI KING**, as he looks way better than these, and now goes off-the-claim for a potent D'Angelo barn as well. It looks like underneath awards for both **8 IMAPEPPA** and **2 TAPIT'S DREAM**, as even their best doesn't threaten the favorite.

SELECTIONS: 6-8-2-7

Race 8: You should get the right price to see if **1 ROSCOE PINE** can beat his elders, and he has upside, plus he also exits a very fast race that should have him legged up for this. Getting back to the turf gives **9 KATHEEB** a big chance, as he didn't fire on the Tapeta, and he's now OTC for Crichton, who knows how to move them up. Not interested in **2 PET MAT** on top at false odds, as he's 0-for-6 here on turf, has no speed, and has iffy form of late too.

SELECTIONS: 1-9-2-5

Race 9: It's Longshot time with **5 PERFECT CONNECTION** in the finale, as that dirt debut was better than it looks at 43-1, she drops, adds blinkers, and has some upside too. No knocks on **2 GEAUX AMY**, who beat the pick two-back and exits a toss out turf route, though she'll be an underlay on the

toteboard. The wildcard is **4 WELL AWARE**, who is now with Saffie off an August layoff, gets Lasix, and may run a lifetime best for a potent barn that is 30% with newcomers.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-4-7

Best Bet: R5: #1 Morgan Point (8-5)

- * Has been facing much better on dirt
- * Tactical speed to get first run on #3
- * Likely better at one-turn than two

Longshot: R9: #5 Perfect Connection (6-1)

- * Back on dirt after Tapeta route
- * Close to ML favorite #2 in debut
- * Blinkers should have her closer

