



Thursday December 4th – Day 5

12:20

1st Maiden Optional Claiming (2yo) 7¹/₂f - TURF

Well the "big boys" have arrived.....the first event of Week 2 is a Maiden Optional Claiming turf route where Fla-breds run under MSW conditions and others for a \$50K tag and we find both Tyler Gaffalione and Irad Ortiz in the lineup. Of course they are on the two logicals. **3-Call the Bullpen (7/2)** goes first off the claim for trainer David Carlos, a 31% move while he moves the daughter of Cairo Prince up from an open \$35K to this spot and will run for the bigger \$50K tag. Tyler G will take the call as the filly tries two turns for the first time. I believe that after showing speed, in a slowly run one mile event, that with blinkers on today she'll settle just off the anticipated pace duel and make a run as she did when sprinting. Irad on the other hand will be on the overbet **8-Mi Armada (3/1)** who set much faster fractions on the lead last time out before weakening to be third against open MSW rivals. With other speed in the line-up I'm going against, though it would be no surprise at all if Irad immediately begins building his lead as the top rider during the winter meet.

\$5 WIN #3 Call the Bullpen

12:51

2nd Maiden Claiming (2yo) 6f

The early double on this Thursday wraps with another maiden 2yo event, this a \$12.5K sprint. Two of the eight will plunge from MSW at the top to the bottom here and BOTH for the same barn. Probably one wins, but not a good bet in my opinion.

PASS

1:22

3rd Claiming nw2L 5f <S>

Ever since Gulfstream installed the Tapeta synthetic surface it has seemed to me that the best rider on it is Miguel Vasquez so he always gets extra points for me when races are carded on that track. He's on the lone "class dropper" in here, though the drop from \$17.5K to \$8K in nw2L company isn't a huge drop. Still, if **6-Fierce Fairshinda (2/1)** runs to her best races while returning to the synthetic, she'll be a clear winner.

\$5 WIN #6 Fierce Fairshinda

1:53

4th Maiden Claiming 6f

Another el-cheap-oo kind of affair as older maidens will sprint for the basement \$12.5K price tag. **4-Ripton's Music (9/5)** will be a short price and that's NOT a "good bet" to make on an eight-time maiden, yikes....even or despite the class plunge from MSW to MC \$12.5K second off the barn change. But when dropped two back in for a \$40K tag and the three back vs. MSW, both at Monmouth the 3yo ran sharply. Now the plunge, second off the layoff, turf to dirt, and most importantly the addition of Irad Ortiz. Long gone on the front end.

\$10 WIN #4 Ripton's Music

2:24

5th Claiming nw3L 8f – TURF

The trip will decide the fate of **4-Drink N Wink (4/1)** who might burst out of the gate under Tyler G on the class drop and never look back. But there appears to be other speed in the field who are drawn outside. Can 'Wink press or take heat? You know that Irad will take money on **2-Double Neat (8/1)** but that one hasn't seen the winner's circle since late summer **2024!**

PASS

2:54

6th Claiming 6f

5-Coldstream (3/1) should go favored in this \$8K "beaten" sprint. But I won't be betting. If the 5yo runs back to the kind of races he produced when in the care of Saffie Joseph he ran three straight big numbers that would win here by a pole> But since moving out of the leading trainer's barn his numbers much slower.....including a third at this level as the 3/2 chalk.

PASS

3:24

7th Claiming 5¹/₂f

An open, basement level super sprint at 5 1/2 furlongs is next up on the Thursday program. A complete "go figure" without any of the eight having an angle to suggest wagering.

PASS

3:54

8th Starter Optional Claiming (2yo) 5¹/₂f <S>

The Thursday "feature" is this juvenile optional claiming event where you need to have started for \$35K or less. The DRF "best" of the day, **1-Itza Lock (3/1)** is one of three in here that ran in the Hollywood Beach Stakes in last September. He's the only one that ran well as he closed for fourth, beaten only 3 1/2 lengths. Tried a two-turn turf stakes at Del Mar on BC Friday and ran "ok." Returns home, back to synthetic, back to a sprint and lures Irad. Looks formidable to me.

\$10 WIN #1 Itza Lock

4:24

9th AOC nw1x (2yo) 5f – TURF

Two year-olds in an entry level allowance going the short 5f on the turf just begs for a big priced upset in today's finale. I've long since left the building!

PASS