



Wizard's Crystal Ball Best Bets

4 PEACHY QUEEN (RACE 1)

Faced much tougher open MSW company in all three prior races and now drops significantly in class for Danny Gargan, who's won with 4 of his first 8 starters at this meet. Peachy Queen ran very well in her debut, and has had excuses in her two starts since. In that debut she chased a strong pace against a tough Saratoga field of MSW runners and finished well for 3rd in the 10-horse field. In her second start she didn't handle a sloppy track, and in her third start she broke behind her field and never got involved at Keeneland, a race that has produced 2 next-out winners. She's had another 2.5 months to grow and mature, she's proven to fire fresh, and Luis Saez has won 39% for Gargan in 2019-20.

6 EXACT (RACE 4)

Todd Pletcher trainee set the pace in her debut on Sept 18 and was worn down late, finishing 2nd while 5 lengths clear of 3rd. It was an impressive debut try, and off that one she was hammered down to odds of 3-5 on Oct 18. She again set the pace, but this time under pressure all the way, and she eventually faded to 3rd behind a next-out winner in 2nd. Pletcher tried her on turf Nov 20 but she was again soundly beaten as the favorite. Now she drops out of much tougher MSW company for the first time, a 29% winning angle in 2019-20 for Pletcher, and she could be long gone on the lead if she shows the same early speed that she showed in both career dirt races. She will reunite with Luis Saez, who was aboard for the two dirt stats. Both of Exact's older siblings to race won at age 2.

6 ATAKAN (RACE 10)

Bomb threat in a competitive field gets a significant positive rider change to Luis Saez, who's an outstanding jockey in all respects, but particularly on the front end. That's significant because there's not a lot of speed in this field, and he may put Atakan on the lead. This 3-year-old colt has set the pace twice in his career, once on turf and once on dirt, and those are the only to wins of his career. He also won the last time that he went turf-to-dirt, and note that his turf victory was at 51-1, so he's proven capable of springing an upset. After his game win over this track and distance on Sept 26, Atakan pressed the pace on turf over a 'good' course that he seemed to struggle with, then tired badly in a race we can probably forgive. Should offer attractive odds off a 20-1 morning line.

Race 1

PGM Horse Name

4 PEACHY QUEEN



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

1 PRETTY RACHEL

Likes to press the pace and has finished 2nd in all 3 races at this class level. Her last race, on Nov 12, was her best yet. She was beaten by a next-out repeat winner, and there was also another next-out winner 6-1/2 lengths behind Pretty Rachel, back in 3rd. Zayas rode her for the first time that day and stays aboard.



Full Card Information

Gulfstream Park | Thursday 12/17/2020

FORECAST
Slight Chance Rain Showers

 LOW 70° F - HIGH 81° F  % OF RAIN 20%

3 NEVER MY LOVE

Gets her claiming tag cut in half and adds blinkers for her second start. Jane Cibelli has won 19% with the first-time blinkers move in 2019-20 but has won just 10% during that time with second-start maidens, and 6% with 2-year-olds over all. Filly showed good speed in her debut and adds hot jockey Paco Lopez.

8 ONE NIGHT STAND

Broke dead last in both races and will need a more alert start to compete, but she's dropping in class and exiting a 'key' race with 2 next-out winners.

Race 2

PGM Horse Name

3 CLEVER TALE

Drops in class and could be sitting on a peak effort in her third start off the 6-1/2 month layoff. She had won 2 in a row prior to that long absence, each at this distance, and each with a figure that would probably beat today's field if repeated. She raced evenly in her Oct 18 return, a race that she probably needed, and then she was bumped at the start and never really got involved at 10-1 when trying a longer distance for nearly twice this tag on Nov 4. Trainer is having an excellent meet from limited starters and has won 26% when teaming up with Arroyo in 2019-20.

2 GASPARILLA BLAST

Lightly-raced 3yo filly steps up in class off a dominant win at this distance on Oct 17 in which she left her field strung-out behind, which is often the sign of a quality victory. She won at 12-1 that day, her second straight victory, after beating a 'key' race field on Sept 12 over this track and distance. Trainer David Fawkes has won just 8% off similar layoffs in 2019-20, but she has a lot of upside potential, and projects for a good stalking trip behind an honest pace.

5 WORDS OF DEVINE

Can press or stalk the pace as she comes off a 2.5 month freshening following a game and close 2nd, beaten by just one length, against similar company on Oct 7. This cutback in distance could help, as she has a good record at 6F, 5-1-1-2. She's also hit the board in 5 straight.

Race 3

PGM **Horse Name**

5 **SHOUG**

Faced tougher MSW company in both starts and now drops in with maiden claimers for the first time, a 19% winning angle in 2019-20 for Ralph Nicks. Nicks has also won 21% during that time off layoffs of 6 months or more, and this half-sister to G2 turf winner Hawkish has probably grown and matured a lot more while away for most of her 3-year-old season. She's working well for this return and gets hot jockey Tyler Gaffalione, who is excellent on the lawn.

7 **PRINCESS CORO**

Faced tougher MSW company in all 3 prior turf starts, and the figure she earned in her last one, on June 12, could beat this field if repeated. That race was over this course and distance and was off a 5-month layoff, so she may not have been at her best, but she still lost by just 2 lengths in that MSW field. More recently, she's finished a close 2nd in three straight since dropping in with maiden claimers and moving to dirt, so her over all form has been good, making her the one to beat on both surfaces.

3 **SASSY CAT**

Didn't show a lot last year at age 2 but then didn't race for 15-months. She showed a lot more early speed in her Oct 30 return when going 7F on a wet main track. She set a strong pace that day before tiring badly, but now cuts back considerably in distance and drops significantly from MSW company in with maiden claimers. Note also that she shows a 7F stamina work on turf on Nov 22, and her trainer is having a great meet thus far from limited starters.

8 **DRAWNTOMUNNY**

Has shown good speed in her races but tired badly every time. Might hang on for a minor award under hot jockey Paco Lopez, who's won 28% for Jane Cibelli in 2019-20.

Race 4

PGM **Horse Name**

6 **EXACT**

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2 **PATTY H**

Speedy filly drops in class and cuts back to 6F, the distance of her close 2nd when beaten by just a half-length on Oct 16 by a next-out stakes winner. In fact, both of her 6F races have been 2nd place finishes, beaten by just a half-length each time. Switches to hot jockey Tyler Gaffalione today.

1 **FROSTED MISTRESS**

Ralph Nicks is very good with first-time starters in maiden claiming races, winning 19% in 2019-20, and he's won 19% during that time with juveniles over all. Filly shows a long worktab over this track and lures hot jockey Irad Ortiz.

Race 5

PGM Horse Name

8 **GOLOVKIN**

Drops out of tougher MSW company for the first time for David Carlos, who's having a huge year with 23% wins over all. Carlos has also been particularly good in turf sprints in 2019-20, winning 24%. Golovkin will make his first start since being gelded, and he can press or stalk the pace on the drop in class.

6 **GHOSTLYPRINCE**

Has improved a lot with each race and missed by just a neck last time out at this distance. He was dropping in with maiden claimers for the first time that day while facing a field of similar quality to this one and he was more than 2 lengths clear of 3rd. Shows three more works, including a nice turf drill on Dec 9, and his trainer is having a big meet thus far (6-2-1-1).

9 **KATHERN'S JOY**

Dueled most of the way in his debut and finished a clear 2nd behind the horse with whom he was dueling. IT was a big educational outing, and new trainer Jesus Lander excels first off the claim, winning 2 of 4 in 2019-20. Lander has also won at a surreal 43% rate over all this year (10 for 23), and hot leading jockey Paco Lopez stays thru the claim, a positive sign.

1 **CONGRATS AGAIN**

Has already lost 9 times, but has yet to race on turf, having all 3 prior turf races get moved to the main track. He's hit the board in 5 of 9 and does have some turf breeding, as his dam is a half-sister to 2-time graded stakes turf winner Cash Control.



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Race 6

PGM Horse Name

6 PRINCESS BETTY

Versatile and improving 3-year-old filly can sit close to the pace or rally from farther back. She's never run a bad race on dirt, hitting the board in all four, with a record of 4-2-1-1. Her last start on dirt was her best yet, a game win from off the pace on Oct 24 that earned a figure that could win today if repeated. She gained further experience and conditioning in a turf experiment on Nov 19 where she rallied nicely but too late to miss by 3 lengths. She's not bred to like turf, and should love this return to dirt for Ruben Gracida, who's won 7 of 21 (33%) going turf-to-dirt in 2019-20. Gracida also makes a big positive rider change to Irad Ortiz, and Princess Betty comes off a best-of-30 workout on Dec 10.

5 BIMINI

One of two Peter Walder runners, and either can win. This filly makes her second start off the claim and adds blinkers. Her Oct 25 race off the claim might have an excuse, as it was on a sloppy track, and she's preferred dry surfaces in the past. Blinkers go on for the first time and she comes off a very fast work Dec 12, hinting that she may be on the lead today. She's actually won 3 of the last 4 times she's been on the lead, and she has a stellar record at a mile on dirt (7-3-2-0). Vasquez rides and has won 28% for Walder in 2019-20.

1 PAPA'S LITTLE GIRL

Has been on the lead in her last three races in a row, but she's run well without the lead in the past, so hot jockey Paco Lopez has options. 4yo filly finished 2nd last time out while earning a career-best figure, and though this is a bit of a rise in class, she's never been better since being claimed on August 14. Note also her two bullet works since the last race, including a best-of-92 drill on Dec 5.

Race 7

PGM Horse Name

2 ARHAM

Shadwell homebred debuts for Todd Pletcher, who's been on fire of late, and who's won with 21% of his first-time starters in 2019-20. Recent works at Palm Beach Downs are sharp and Luis Saez has won 23% when riding for Pletcher in 2019-20. The dam's dam is Spun Sugar, a 2-time G1 dirt winner who also raced for Pletcher. Sire was a dual G1 dirt winner.



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4 CATCH ON EMOTIONAL

Has speed to lead or press the pace and has finished 2nd in four straight. He's also been a beaten favorite in 3 of those 4 recent races, and his trainer is winning at just a 7% rate this year, so he's hard to back on top despite continued good form. Note also that he faced only 3 rivals last time out when beaten at even money.

6 TONALISM

Has been burning up the track in the morning at Palm Meadows for Saffie Joseph Jr., who's won at a solid 11% rate with debut runners in 2019-20. Dam was unraced, and her only other foal to race didn't do much. Sire was a 3-time G1 dirt winner. Edgard Zayas has won 29% for Joseph in 2019-20.

Race 8

PGM Horse Name

9 COOP TRIES HARDER

Has back class on turf, including a loss by just a neck against much tougher company over this course and distance on April 24. Versatile 5yo gelding can press, stalk, or rally from off the pace, and attracts top jockey Irad Ortiz for the first time. He's won 10 of 30 when riding for Jane Cibelli in 2019-20, and Cibelli has won 27% off similar layoffs during that time. Coop is proven to fire fresh and should get a clear trip from his outside post while expected to stalk just behind the eladers.

1 BIG DRINK OF WATER

Returns from a 13-month layoff, but has likely grown and matured further while away for all of his 4-year-old season. Trainer Larry Rivelli has won at an unbelievable 46% rate off layoffs of 6 months or more in 2019-20 and Big Drink of Water has a 2nd and a 3rd in his two starts when fresh. Note also that his lone turf start came in the Breeder's Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint against much tougher company, and was over yielding ground from outermost post 12. He ran quite well to finish 5th that day, and clearly likes turf.

3 PAGLIACCI

Late-runner should get an honest or fast pace to rate behind and rally into while dropping in class. The drop appears well-meant, as he gets a positive switch to Luis Saez, and note also the best-of-32 turf work on Dec 4. Horse for course is 2 for 4 over this turf course but just 2 for 22 on all other surfaces.

5 BAD BEAT BRIAN

Didn't handle yielding turf on Oct 18, but two starts back he ran very well despite considerable traffic trouble in the final furlong. He's won 2 of 4 over this course but is 0 for 5 on all other surfaces.



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Race 9

PGM Horse Name

7 MORNING STRIDE

He's one of just two in this field who has won at this long distance on turf, and he did it over this course with a big figure back on July 19. If he comes close to that effort today, then he would be tough to beat. His two starts after that career-best performance produced another win, and then a game 2nd, both with Hector Berrios riding. Trainer Monica McGoey had Morning Stride in over his head at 40-1 in a G3 race on Oct 15 but has wisely freshened him since for this well-meant class drop. He reunites with Berrios, who's won 2 of 3 aboard this 5-year-old horse, and Morning Stride has always liked this turf course, with a record of 5-2-1-1.

2 PRINCE OF ARABIA

Gets a big class drop from the Claiming Crown Jewel, a race he may have needed off the 3.5 month layoff. Two starts back he finished close behind Morning Stride in a minor stakes race. HE's won at this distance on turf and may appreciate stretching back out. 7yo gelding was graded stakes-placed in the past but has found his current level in this spot.

5 YAMATO

Set the pace i his first turf start July 24 and led all the way at 16-1. He set the pace again on Sept 9 in his second turf try and wasn't caught until late, losing by less than a length while earning a figure that fits for at least a minor award if repeated here. Lone start since was also a good effort when overmatched at 39-1 in a stakes race. Adds Saez for the drop in class and still has much upside potential in just his sixth career race.

10 COWBOY'S HERO

Projects to sit close to a mild pace in this spot and could be sitting on a big effort in his third start off the 7.5 month layoff. 7-year-old gelding appears past his prime, but he was actually a stakes winner at a shorter distance over this course on July 7, 2019, and he can get a minor award against this relatively weak field. Lugo rode him in that stakes win and still has the mount.

Race 10

PGM Horse Name

6 **ATAKAN**



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

3 **LETS PLAY HARDBALL**

Romped by 7 lengths Nov 14 when coming off a 3.5 month layoff and moving to dirt for the first time in a year. Habitual slow starter had tough post 12 on Dec 4 when back on turf and rushed up after a slow start, understandably tiring. The concern is that he's had bad starts in four straight races, and there's not much margin for error, especially at relatively low odds, in this competitive field.

1 **SUPERHIGHWAY**

4yo gelding is still lightly-raced and has a stellar record over this track (5-2-2-0), with all 5 of those races at this same distance. He can stalk or rally from farther back and his low-profile trainer is having an excellent meet thus far, hitting the exacta with 3 of 4 starters.

11 **SAINT LARNED**

Can sit close to the expected mild pace and would be a factor if he runs back to his game 2nd in his last dirt start on Nov 7. That was against a full field in an off-the-turf race, and the figure he earned fits well with today's field.

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