

# GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



## **BEST BET: Will O Way (8th race)**

### **First Race: 1.Look Child 2.Foxy Lady 3.Quan's Girl**

LOOK CHILD could be the start of a day when there are some real value plays. Her best efforts have come on the turf, and she hasn't raced since breaking her maiden on March 30. She returns at the bottom level with a solid string of works. Barn shows profit with routers but is winless off long layoffs like this. This is not the strongest of fields, and her potential value makes her worth looking at. FOXY LADY comes north and is dropped to the bottom level. She was meeting tougher down south and was able to pick up checks. She looks like the one to beat but has only one work in six weeks since raced. QUAN'S GIRL gets a huge drop from starter-allowance company to the lowest level for winners. With the leading rider aboard, she'll likely wind up favored or close to it. Regressed a bit last time, which explains the drop here. Still, her last looks good against these.

### **Second Race: 1.Brother Joe 2.It's Happy Hour 3.Storms Rock**

BROTHER JOE has never missed a paycheck in his brief career, running second twice in three starts. Wasn't close last time but did show gameness to get the place in the race. This is his third start after a brief layoff, and he has an easy maintenance drill since raced. IT'S HAPPY HOUR is another that has never missed a paycheck. He's shown some improvement in his past two starts. May have moved too early two back and did close nicely last time. Amazing stat: barn is 0-for-55 on synthetic surfaces. STORMS ROCK drops back into a sprint after showing some speed in turf routes in his past three starts. Like the solid work after his last start when he was part of a pretty fast pace.

### **Third Race: 1.Carissa 2.Lucky Striker 3.Corcina**

CARISSA graduated in a straight maiden race in her debut. She's run pretty consistently throughout her career, including a pair of seconds in her past two starts. She was dropped into a claimer two back, running second all the way, although she did lead between calls in the stretch. She then set the pace against similar last time before being edged late. Has easy maintenance work since raced and looks tough right back. LUCKY STRIKER has been freshened for nearly two months since scoring a maiden win. High-percentage barn wins 26 percent off similar layoffs, and this one has hit the board in all six starts. Has worked steadily and looms a major player here. CORCINA looks as if she will appreciate the return to a sprint here. Has shown little routing in her past two starts, although she was more of a pace factor as expected last time on the turf.

### **Fourth Race: 1.Blossom Rock 2. Tops Image 3.Hidden Romance**

BLOSSOM ROCK was the last 'big horse' that trainer Greg Gilchrist purchased for the late Harry Aleo. Cost \$370,000 and has worked nicely for her debut with a sprinkling of bullets. Sire only 3-for-30 with debut juveniles. Unraced dam has three winners from four that have gone to the races. Gets outside draw that should benefit a young runner with a hint of speed from the morning works. TOPS IMAGE has hit the board in both starts. The starts came four months apart, and she has not run for six weeks. Has a pair of recent works and is a half to a pair of 2 YO stakes winners. HIDDEN ROMANCE is another first-timer for Gilchrist, and she gets the services of the leading rider. Her works have been good, too. She's the first foal of a dam that went 2-for-13 on the turf in her career. Sire 2-for-22 with first-time 2 YOs.

### **Fifth Race: 1.Snuffy Smith 2.Acquainted 3.Portland Storm**

SNUFFY SMITH is spotted at the bottom level by high-percentage barn that always tries to place runners where they fit. Has some talent, but the 'FOR SALE' sign is written in capital letters with this drop. Should be able to get good position early, especially with jockey switch to top speed rider. Has decent drill since raced. ACQUAINTED dropped to this level last time and run second as the favorite. Has been the beaten favorite in his past two starts. Has not missed the board yet but seems to have a penchant for running second. PORTLAND STORM has picked up checks in each start here, finishing third in the past two. He's a good fit at this level and can't be overlooked on your exotics tickets.

### **Sixth Race: 1.Kamryns Pond 2.I Catherine 3.Nat the Brat**

KAMRYNS POND seems likely to offer value despite hitting the board in both previous starts. Ran second at this level and then was a troubled third against better. Sorry to see the rail draw, but she did show a bit more early speed last time despite braking poorly. Has been last out of the gate in both starts and will need a better start here. I CATHERINE has been the beaten favorite in her past two starts. She was part of a contentious pace duel last time and tired late. May have less pressure up front today and could certainly make amends here. NAT THE BRAT is a first-timer who has a series of steady works at Pleasanton despite missing some time with normal 2 YO problems. Has an eye-catching six-furlong bullet. If she runs anywhere close to that, she'll be in the hunt.

### **Seventh Race: 1.Wild Buddy 2.Candlestick Park 3.Done Gone Quackers**

WILD BUDDY has more turf wins than some of his rivals have starts. Has won three of his past four on the turf, including last time when his strong rally brought him the nod in a photo. Old-timer still knows how to win and actually is moving up a notch today. CANDLESTICK PARK is stakes-placed on the turf, but, unlike the top pick who has 14 turf victories, has never won on the grass. Popular at the claiming box and was re-claimed last time by the top barn. Leading rider aboard and has a win and second in two starts with him at the current meet. DONE GONE QUACKERS led between calls last time when the top pick flew past him late to win a photo. Has run well on the turf in the past and has a win and a second in his two tries at this distance.

### **Eighth Race: 1.Will O Way 2.Salty Sarah 3.Cherokee Echo**

WILL O WAY has met much better during her career, including a couple meetings with likely 2 YO champion Stardom Bound. She's stakes-placed in a Grade 1 and comes north hoping to find an easy spot for her first stakes win. Has strong six-furlong work since comeback try in stakes and seems to outclass the rest of these. SALTY SARAH is bred to love this distance, being by Bertrando. Her highest Beyer came in her only start around two turns. She needed her last start and has a good work since. CHEROKEE ECHO has a stakes win at this distance but hasn't run since that victory on Aug. 31 at Emerald Downs. Works have been good, and barn knows how to bring them back ready to win.

### **Ninth Race: 1.Al's Pal 2.Jack Story 3.Kentucky Magic**

AL'S PAL has shown improvement in each start while not seriously threatening. Has two solid tries over Tapeta and added blinkers last time. Think he will offer enough value to consider in this spot. JACK STORY drops to the bottom level here, although he has been running at the bottom turf level prior to this. Can handle the distance and is getting a weight break with an apprentice. Blinkers go on for the first time, which has been a profitable move for the barn. KENTUCKY MAGIC has hit the board in both starts here after a 19-month layoff. Runner-up when favored last time and should be well-backed here.