

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



BEST BET: Warren's Pepe (8th race)

First Race: 1.Starboardlights 2.Royal Game 3.Perfect Envoy

STARBOARDLIGHTS takes the blinkers off for the first time in his career. He has never run a bad race, picking up a paycheck in each of his three starts. Comes off his best try yet with a runner-up effort. Had traffic problems on the turn and did hang a bit late, which might explain the equipment change. ROYAL GAME dueled and alternated on the lead until the stretch in his comeback after nearly three months on the sidelines before fading late. He was passed by the top pick as he moved up from the claiming ranks. Might expect improvement with that one under his belt, but there is also the possibility of a bounce. Believe he'll offer enough value to merit a long look. PERFECT ENVOY made a nice move into the lane when chasing the top two picks last time. He didn't go on but did finish evenly in first start in nine weeks and only the second start of his career. Small barn, low percentage rider but chance for big payoff.

Second Race: 1.Thankfully 2.Cool Allie 3.Screamin Express

THANKFULLY is shipped north and dropped to the bottom level here. Has flashed early foot against better down south. That speed makes her a strong threat here. Has bullet work over track as she prepares to run for new barn that wins 24 percent with new faces. COOL ALLIE has never failed to pick up a check and finally graduated last out in her fourth career start. Doesn't have as many strikes against her as her primary rivals. Will need to show a bit more improvement, but she may be capable of better while we've already seen the best for most of these.

Third Race: 1.Kelli O 2.Thundering Starlit 3.Our Emily

KELLI O grew up last year after her 2 YO season. She never failed to pick up a paycheck and wound up the year running second in three of her final four starts while finishing third in her other try. Seems to like two turns and has done her best running here. Beaten favorite in her past pair but worth a look here as blinkers come off, which has been a profitable move for the barn. THUNDERING STARLIT ran pretty evenly in her two-turn debut and showed improvement in her second route start despite some trouble when she was switched to the turf. Back on the main track here, she looms a legitimate factor. OUR EMILY has hit the board in half her starts. She does her best running in routes and shouldn't be ignored in exotics in this spot.

Fourth Race: 1.California Soldier 2.Bettingonthetruth 3.Zero Manners

CALIFORNIA SOLDIER just graduated for this tag, which was the bottom claiming level for 2 YO maidens. He's shown steady improvement, and the mile seems a distance he's comfortable with. He has a win and a pair of seconds in three tries. Battled gamely on the lead last time, opened up in the lane and held on nicely. BETTINGON-THE TRUTH has been meeting better while routing on the turf. But he sprinted well last time and seems very sharp. Looms a major player here and figures to be a pace factor. ZERO MANNERS got a 4 1/2-month break following his graduation at Santa Rosa. Ran evenly in his comeback and is asked to stretch out for the first time today. Breeding suggests he handle the distance with ease, and he draws the rail, which guarantees a ground-saving trip.

Fifth Race: 1.Sanfran 2.Alottadar 3.Cadeaux du Monde

SANFRAN was claimed from a win at this level two back. Ran all right for new barn as he met better last time. Finds himself in a pretty salte heat here, but he's going in good form and has two decent works during a six-week break from the rigors of the track. ALOTTADAR is always tough on the turf. Ran second on the main track last time after taking the lead in the lae. Will prefer today' slightly shorter distance and is certainly proven both at this distance and on this course. CADEAUX DU MONDE scored his lone turf victory at this level here two months back. Has run all right since despite the dropping Beyers. Has never missed a check at this level, and beaten favorite in his past two starts should be a factor again here.

Sixth Race: 1.Atchafalaya Bay 2.Ebani 3.Serefina

ATCHAFALAYA BAY sprinted in her debut, running evenly against better. She has made her next three starts in routes on the turf. She has never seriously threatened while picking up checks consistently. Route fractions are such we're willing to give her a long look here. EBANI ran second in her debut on the opening day of the meet. She did not break all that well but ran evenly and held her own through the stretch. Barn has good stats from a small sampling of second-timers. Outside draw should keep her out of serious trouble. SEREFINA has been the runner-up in her past two starts. She seems to finish all right, although it has been a while since she made up ground in the lane.

Seventh Race: 1.Fri Guy 2.Nsync Lynx 3.Maroon

Old-timer FRI GUY won his turf debut here two back. Seems to like this distance where he's recorded his two turf victories. Has easy work since raced for barn that has been trying for milestone victory the past week. NSYNC LYNX has enjoyed success on the turf and now drops to the bottom claiming level on the surface. Just failed to hold after a front-running trip going longer two back. Comin off a good year and has turned in sharp turf tires since retiring from a six-week break last fall. MAROON just scored a game main-track win after running third behind the top pick two back. Last two have been among his best races, but he's proven in the past he can maintain his form.

Eighth Race: 1.Warren's Pepe 2.I Am Thor 3.Form a Posse

WARREN'S PEPE faded late in his turf debut last time, but he's back on his favorite surface today. Has 10 wins and 10 seconds in his career and has his best year last year. Bred to run all day, but he is making his first start at nine furlongs. Cal-bred is stakes-placed. I AM THOR put together back-toback victories earlier this year. The first win came at this distance on the turf. Followed up that victory with a win on the main track. Was claimed last out and moves to a barn that wins nearly one-third of the time fresh off the claim. FORM A POSSE has a win and a second in two starts here. Stepping up here but seems capable of handling his business at least well enough to get a piece here.

Ninth Race: 1.Stormalong 2.Stohlong 3.Noel's Vixen

STORMALONG is cheap but has been a consistent sort throughout his career. Beaten favorite at this level two back, then turned in a much better try last time going much faster early and still holding on well. Can use that speed to her advantage with today's rail draw. STOHLONG has been pretty consistar throughout her career. Broke a bit slowly, raced wide and was no match for the top pick last time out. NOELS VIXEN has hit the board in nine of her 10 starts here. She's making her first start in six months and may need the race, but she has been working steadily, and barn returns pretty good payoff when it does hit off layoffs.