

# GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



## **BEST BET: Powers Lilsis (4th race)**

### **First Race: 1.Angel Wreath 2.Fool Me Once 3.Unravelled**

ANGEL WREATH made her first start in a main-track route and turns in a solid effort. She set the pace and faded late while holding second easily. She's bred to like a route and was purchased for \$85,000 last year. Seems headed in positive direction, and barn is at its best, showing a hefty flat-bet profit with routers. FOOL ME ONCE finished all right when directly behind the top pick last time. Positive trainer statistics, including good success with this rider. May be able to close here but probably doesn't want to go much further. UNRAVELLED makes her debut here for barn that has success with first timers but rarely starts them around two turns. Has a pair of six-furlong drills and certainly appears more likely to route than sprint.

### **Second Race: 1.Direct Connect 2.Headed for Home 3.Dancewiththedevil**

DIRECT CONNECT has sandwiched a pair of wins around a second-place finish. Won for the first time sprinting last time as he made his second start off a layoff, but was pulling away nicely as swinging four wide for a clear run on the turn. Stepping up a notch but did beat better before going on a nearly eight-month break. HEADED FOR HOME drops a notch here despite picking up a win last time. Going in good form and has easy maintenance drill since that win. Barn is enjoying a very good meet. DANCEWITHTHEDEVIL is a better — at least, more accomplished — sprinter than either of the top two picks. Has enough speed that the rail draw should be a drawback, and he'll be one both of those two have to catch.

### **Third Race: 1.Alabama Boy 2.Hiptopia 3.Secondtonunn**

ALABAMA BOY has a pair of seconds on the turf at this distance but did little in his lone try on Tapeta. Was sitting much closer than usual that day, which could explain the fade. Expect he'll sit back a bit more here and be a strong factor in the lane. HIPTOPIA makes his first start for a tag. He made a big move into the lane, rallying three wide before falling back in the lane. Barn does well in the second start off a layoff, and he did show improvement in his second start following an 11-week layoff and trip north. SECONDTONUNN ran a much-better-than-looks race after bolting on the first turn last time. He never really lost contact with the leaders, straightening away quickly. We'll chalk that misadventure up to running on the turf for the first time. Not he was second in his first try at the distance, although it came against bottom-level types. Stepping up another notch off his last start.

### **Fourth Race: 1.Powers Lilsis 2. Tail Spin Topper 3.Soft Lite**

POWERS LILSIS gets a logical raise up the ladder after sandwiching a pair of wins around a nose loss. Outside draw works nicely for runner that has speed but is better when stalking. Has hit board in six of seven starts here and has finished in the exacta position in eight of 10 starts at the distance. Stakes-placed TAIL SPIN TOPPER and comebacking stablemate Mini Tales will provide plenty of competition. Tail Spin Topper lost to the top pick two back but came back to win when favored against high-level claimers. She's worked steadily since, including a pair of easy six-furlong moves. SOFT LITE has the most wins in this field but has been stuck at this level for some time. Though winless of late in California, she has not missed a check here since her arrival here from Emeralds Downs in 2007.

### **Fifth Race: 1.Gail Force Wins 2.Canadian Charm 3.Edski**

GAIL FORCE WINS returned from eight months on the sidelines, dropped to this level and was a solid second as she closed nicely. That should only make her tougher here, and she has a maintenance drill since her comeback. CANADIAN CHARM made up a bit of ground late when third, directly behind the top pick last time. Was no threat to that one but shouldn't be dismissed here. Her style actually plays well even though this is a shorter distance than her last race because horses sometimes go too fast early. EDSKI dropped to the bottom level in her second start, seven weeks after her debut. She went wire-to-wire. Getting only a nominal drop here but at least is running in a conditioned race that makes the competition a little bit easier.

### **Sixth Race: 1.Scorpio Dog 2.Quinalt 3.Archie T**

SCORPIO DOG ran second at this level in his debut here. With a victory at Hollywood Park in his previous start plus that strong effort, he was entered against stakes company last out. When he made his Nocal debut, he was also placed on the turf for the first time. He's going in good form and will get a good trip from the rail. QUINALT hit the board last time when making a big step up off a bottom-level maiden victory. Sat back and passed a tired runner late to hit the board but wasn't a serious threat. He has shown improvement in each start. ARCHIE T didn't let the second choice by him last time, while sitting just off the pace early after checking on the first turn. See more room for improvement in the horse picked second.

### **Seventh Race: 1.Free Action 2.Hornung 3.Skimasco**

FREE ACTION makes his first start around two turns today as barn wisely didn't get carried away following a fast-finishing second in the Golden Bear to enter Saturday's California Derby. Won first two starts and showed an ability to run last time. Would have caught a multiple stakes winner with an extra half furlong. Like the way he closed like an express train last time. HORNUNG is a highly regarded \$200,000 purchase. Hooked the tough Revoluta when both made their debuts. Totally dominated a field of maidens last time. Question if he really wants two turns or should concentrate on sprinting. SKIMASCO has run second and then fourth in a stakes in his two tries at a mile after winning his first two starts. Should get good stalking trip and could offer a bit of value.

### **Eighth Race: 1.East From West 2.Simple Justice 3.Pepito At Last**

EAST FROM WEST dropped and stretched out last time. Raced wide but finished with conviction to inch clear late as the favorite. Has improved with each start and like the fact he's not meeting anyone with more wins that him. Has had three easy maintenance works since raced. Leading rider opts to stay aboard. SIMPLE JUSTICE ran nicely at this distance last time, stalking and finishing second after putting his head in front at the quarter pole. Likes this distance and hails from barn that shows a flat-bet profit with routers. PEPITO AT LAST stretches out for the first time in his debut against winners. Breeding suggests he's been waiting for the chance to go two turns, and he's shown improvement in his past two starts.