

# GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



## **BEST BET: Black Gulch (3rd race)**

### **First Race: 1.Relieve 2.Joaquin Murrietta 3.Matitude**

RELIEVE has earned consistent numbers in his races but finally made an impact last time when dropped to the bottom level here. Comes right back in another sprint and retains the services of the leading rider despite the move to a new barn. Was part of contentious pace duel last time before fading late. JOAQUIN MURRIETTA met much better in his Social debut a year ago. Did nothing in a race that saw the winner come right back. Steady works for comeback for barn good with new faces. Barn doesn't have much luck with comebacks from long layoffs like this. MATITUDE adds blinkers in hopes it will get him involved a bit more early. Showed good speed in a gate drill since raced and may be pushed early here.

### **Second Race: 1.Lampe 2.Wild Fame 3.Psammead**

LAMPE has been knocking on the door with a second followed by a third in a four-way photo in his last start. He shouldn't be too long at this level with his stalking style and ability to finish. Will try to make amends here and does have a decent work since raced. WILD FAME has set the pace in his past three starts since dropping to this level but has been unable to close the deal, fading in the stretch. Tactics are obvious. He'll get the lead and try to relax enough to hold on better late. PSAMMEAD has run pretty consistently this year, picking up checks in all 11 starts. Showed improvement in his second start here and doesn't need to improve much more to take it all.

### **Third Race: 1.Black Gulch 2.Even Odds 3.Harvard Grad**

BLACK GULCH has shown an affinity for turf with a pair of runner-up efforts in her past two starts on the surface. He was the fourth head in a photo in his first try on grass. Consistent stalker should be well positioned throughout. EVEN ODDS has run consistently since stretching out. Has run well this year since his return from an 11-month layoff and has not missed a check at this level. Contender is a serious play in exotics. HARVARD GRAD showed little early last time in his turf and route debut and wound up racing wide. He finished strongly and should go better here with that one under his belt.

### **Fourth Race: 1.Acekingqueenjacten 2.Funky Chanteal 3.Lockitup**

ACEKINGQUEENJACTEN seems at the top of her game with a win and a narrow second in her past two starts sprinting at this level. Draws the rail, but she's going to be gunning anyway so the rail is no drawback. Rider has enjoyed good success with her and is a master on speed horses. FUNKY CHANTEAL loves the track with seven on-the-board finishes in eight starts here. She's a good sprinter, who could end up with a first-run trip in this spot. Runner-up in both starts since a three-month layoff. LOCKITUP doesn't have the greatest of speed. She shifts back to a sprint and should be a factor in the lane with her late kick.

### **Fifth Race: 1.Come On Mama 2.Rusalka 3.Kelli O**

COME ON MAMA stretches out here after making up a little ground late without threatening. She ran all right in a straight maiden race at this distance on the turf and should be at an advantage with a drop down the claiming ladder. Blinkers are added, which has been a solid move for the barn. RUSALKA is another getting a drop here. She doesn't have much speed, but she can save ground with her rail draw. Coming north for first time and getting a drop here. KELLI O didn't really handle the turf all that well last time in only her second start. Was a distant third sprinting on the main track in her debut. Another adding blinkers for barn that shows a hefty profit when the shades are added.

### **Sixth Race: 1.Rocket Kitty 2.Flighty Girl 3.She's in Charge**

ROCKET KITTY is 3-for-25; FLIGHTY GIRL is 3-for-3. But Rocket Kitty has run very well at this distance while Flighty Girl is making her two-turn debut. Despite the outside post, Rocket Kitty figures to have enough speed not to get caught wide. She's stepping up off an impressive six-length win as the odds-on choice, but she was second sprinting against good allowance company the time before that. Flighty Girl has done nothing wrong and has improved her Beyer in each start. She's very game, but this is an untried distance and may really test her. SHE'S IN CHARGE has hit the board in all three starts around two turns, graduating nicely last time when she returned to the main track after a pair of turf tries. She meets older here, but that's of little concern since she's been meeting older in all her starts here.

### **Seventh Race: 1.Scalding Passion 2.Stormy Surge 3.City Stormer**

SCALDING PASSION has been running on the turf and just notched a victory in his last start. He did quite well in his lone try on Tapeta and was a solid performer at Emerald Downs this summer. Doesn't have the highest Beyers, but anyone that can come within four lengths of Wasserman at Emerald Downs has to be pretty good. STORMY SURGE has two wins and two seconds in four starts here. He loves this distance and just beat similar as the favorite. Stays at the same level, although he has to run for a tag here. Showed more speed last time and still finished with authority. CITY STORMER has finished in an exacta position in his past seven starts. Just lost by a nose on the turf after losing by only one-half length in a gritty try on the main track here.

### **Eighth Race: 1.Backbackbackgone 2.Skimasco 3.Run It**

BACKBACKBACKGONE hit home runs in his first three starts, two coming in stakes. Was part of a pressured pace in a Grade 3 race last out, fading a bit late. Blinkers go on for the first time as he also makes his debut around two turns. Barn does very well with the addition of blinkers. Rail draw suggests the possibility of a wire-to-wire score. SKIMASCO won his first two starts sprinting, showing improvement in start No. 2. He ran even better when stretched out to a mile last time and did make up a little ground late on talented Nocal runner who is going in the CashCall Futurity at Hollywood Park. Should get a nice stalking trip and has enough speed that the outside post shouldn't bother him. RUN IT has won two straight since stretching out to a mile. Both wins came in starter allowance company rather than the traditional maiden victory. He's another that figures to get a good trip here.

### **Ninth Race: 1.Moscow Winter 2.Highland Hombre 3.Blended Growth**

MOSCOW WINTER is the first foal of an unraced dam. He's worked steadily for his debut, although you don't see a work for the past month. Clockers are not at Pleasanton everyday so he's been getting on the track without a listed work. Sire is good with first-timers, and barn shows flat-bet profit with debut runners. HIGHLAND HOMBRE should be favored off current form, but the first-timer will offer much more value. Highland Hombre has hit the board in his past pair and has hit the board in three of four starts here. He needs some help up front, but late runners do surprisingly well at this distance. BLENDED GROWTH makes his third start following a long layoff. Has faded late in his first two starts but should have no excuses today with two races under his belt.