

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By CHUCK DYBDAL



BEST BET: Joshua's Dream (1st race)

First Race: 1.Joshua's Dream 2.Flashy Helmsman 3.Nsync Lynx

JOSHUA'S DREAM took a big step up off a pair of wins and nearly pulled it off when doubled in price last time. Made strong move while four wide on the turn but hung late. Claimed by sharp barn and has nice pair of works, including a five-furlong bullet. Dropping a notch here and still seems to be running at best. FLASHY HELMSMAN ran second to the top pick but has been claimed since. Has hit board in all three starts this year and finishes well. Has a nice maintenance drill since raced. NSYNC LYNX got a big drop to a conditioned heat at this level and went wire-to-wire, shaking off a tough challenge and easing clear in the lane. That was his first start in three months, and he should be even tighter today.

Second Race: 1.Got Tobe Rio 2.I'm a Princess 3.Plaza Queen

GOT TOBE RIO was stakes-placed last year and has been setting the pace against better down south. Outside draw will be an important advantage here, and her regular rider accompanies her north. Other speed in the race, I'M A PRINCESS, draws the rail. She's been opening some huge leads against much cheaper and expect her not to have such an easy time here. The draw is what leads to the pick here. PLAZA QUEEN will be sitting behind the two speed balls and could take advantage of the fact they could burn each other out to set things up for a first-run type. She should be sitting closest.

Third Race: 1.Global Riot 2.I Am Game 3.It's Happy Hour

GLOBAL RIOT returns from a four-month break. Barn does well off longer layoffs such as this and has a pair of six-furlong works in him. Running for the lowest tag of his career and hasn't won in two years. Always was pretty consistent, but layoffs always lead to question marks. I AM GAME qualifies for this nonwinners of two when he was disqualified from a win last time after drifting in a bit late. Has stalking-type speed, although he did go wire-to-wire for his maiden victory. Coming off a very good effort and would be the one to beat with a repeat of his last. IT'S HAPPY HOUR met better in his first two starts against winners. Cut his claiming price in half and dropped to this level where he ran second last time.

Fourth Race: 1.Oh the Joy 2.The Cahill Special 3.Kentucky Outing

OH THE JOY doubled her claiming price last time and found the company too tough. A wide trip didn't help the situation any. Won two straight before that and is running at an easier level here. Outside post to avoid trouble and plenty of speed to set things up for her late run, plus the return of the leading rider who is 4-for-4 with her. THE CAHILL SPECIAL is a stalker, who should be sitting in first-run position. She makes her first start since being claimed three months ago. Steady works and has lots of speed to run at here. Condition is the big question. KENTUCKY OUTING likes the front end but doesn't need the lead. She'll be part of a contested pace picture here. Gets the nod over the other front-running types based on her recent consistency, but she has been unable to beat the top pick although she's shared photos with her.

Fifth Race: 1.Flip the Penny 2.San Miguel King 3.Snow Fighter

FLIP THE PENNY drops to the lowest level of his career as he comes north and seeks a confidence-building win. Barn might be happy to leave him here and just take home the winner's pot plus claiming price. Has been running consistently and looks tough in this spot. SAN MIGUEL KING has been routing recently, and his fractions make him worth a look here. Rail draw no help as he'll have to gun a bit early, but he's plenty legged up and should be able to finish well. SNOW FIGHTER is another Social import, and he's getting a big drop. Has speed and may try to steal this. Has made three starts since year on sidelines and has been stopping in the lane, thus the ship and drop.

Sixth Race: 1.Belongs to Gotham 2.Joe Carl 3.Irish Harmony

BELONGS TO GOTHAM answered the bat phone with a strong win last time and comes north into a claim-free spot to pick up more experience and a shot at another victory. Has shown improvement in each start and will be asked a new question here, trying two turns for the first time. If he relaxes, he has the pedigree to get the distance. JOE CARL was claimed from a winning effort down south as he tried a mile for the first time. Got a nice stalking trip and proved superior in the lane. Extra 16th may work to his benefit the way he closed last time. IRISH HARMONY would have been the perfect hunch bet at Irish Heritage day last Saturday. He graduated sprinting at a low level but moved up to this level, stretched out and ran a big race, taking the lead in the stretch before settling as an easy second. Should improve with that one under his belt.

Seventh Race: 1.Sing for Gold 2.For Sure for Sure 3.Wavy Lass

SING FOR GOLD bids for a hat trick here, having already won twice at this level. As a Cal-bred, she got to run for the allowance condition twice and is in for a tag today. Has earned an exacta finish in her past eight starts. Has a great stalking style and finishes well. FOR SURE FOR SURE beat the top pick to wind up her 2008 racing, and she steps up here after a game effort, winning a photo last time. She has won six of eight starts here, finishing second the other two times and cannot be dismissed lightly. WAVY LASS would prefer two turns and the turf. She was third in her comeback last time behind the top pick and is getting one more start while preparing for the re-opening of the turf course. As she proved last time, she does have some sprint ability.

Eighth Race: 1.Gail Force Wins 2.Mountain Villager 3.Swiftette

GAIL FORCE WINS stretches out after a win and a second in her past two tires at this level. She's found the right level, and she has handled two turns all right in the past. Rail trip to save ground and enough speed to sit in stalking position. See possibility of mild value as well. MOUNTAIN VILLAGER did nothing when sprinting with the top pick last time, but her game is going long. She's much more adept when allowed to settle into a race, and she keeps going. Seems to offer value to for underrated barn that shows a nice profit with this rider. SWIFTETTE just won at this distance, capturing a second condition race at this level. This is the natural next step for her. She's been showing steady improvement of late and could be a factor with her closing kick.