

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSISBy **CHUCK DYBDAL****BEST BET: Marenka (2nd race)****First Race: 1.Sacred Light 2.Choctaw Chief 3.Dancin Candy**

SACRED LIGHT is seeking a hat trick here. Undeclared in two tries over the track and is back at the same level he won at last time. Knows where the wire is and is a game competitor. Has pair of easy maintenance works since raced. CHOCTAW CHIEF has been the runner-up as the favorite in his past two starts, losing to the top pick last time and DANCIN CANDY the start before that in his only two starts here. Has been claimed from his past four starts and was re-claimed last time. Stalker has done well on synthetic surfaces throughout his career. Dancin Candy has been a solid campaigner throughout his career while earning \$325,808 with nine victories. Has hit board in past four starts and has done his best running over this track.

Second Race: 1.Marenka 2. Trick Soso 3.Scream Express

French-bred MARENKA has won on both sides of the Atlantic. Was sent north this summer after showing little down south. She has run well since coming here and drops for this after an even third. Does have a win against better over the course. TRICK SOSO has run all right on the turf in the past, filling the exacta in half of her eight turf tries. Regressed a bit off her career best last time. Closed well without threatening and was fanned wide into the lane. SCREAMIN EXPRESS has run decently on turf for barn that enjoys its best success on grass. Meeting multiple winners here as she gets a drop. Didn't do that badly in only other try at this level. Is capable of improving off last and will offer plenty of value.

Third Race: 1.Project Fifty Five 2.Raising Memo 3.El Cugat

PROJECT FIFTY FIVE is actually running in a tougher spot today than the starter allowance she ran in last time. Graduated when running for this tag. Set the pace before fading last time in race won by Free Action, the runner-up to Backbackbackgone in Thursday's Golden Bear Stakes. RAISING MEMO steps up a notch here after closing nicely in a turf route. Won his previous start for half this price. Has hit board in all five career starts and has worked nicely in the seven weeks since his last start. EL CUGAT steps up off a low-level maiden victory. Has hit the board in all three starts. Has three works since graduating to indicate that effort is one he can certainly match.

Fourth Race: 1.Olive Queen 2.Gracie's Native 3.Penuche Royale

OLIVE QUEEN was a runner-up against straight maidens in her debut. Now she drops into a claimer, which is often considered the biggest drop at the racetrack. Has three works since her debut, and barn does well with second-timers. She's a half to stakes-placed Star of Anziyan. GRACIE'S NATIVE has turned in decent efforts in both starts at this level. Showed mild improvement in her second start when she missed by less than a length. Five of her seven siblings from stakes-winning dam are winners. PENUCHE ROYALE, a half to stakes-winning Crafty Bear trailed the top pick last time. All four siblings from winless dam are winners. She, too, runs for a tag for the first time and has also worked three times since that last start.

Fifth Race: 1.Nopie 2.Ascari 3.A New Level

NOPIE has shown improvement in each start and has won his past two starts. Finished nicely in his first try around two turns. Should appreciate the extra half furlong here, which could make his late kick even more effective. ASCARI ran third at this level last time, losing to one of today's rivals, Samwise, a deep closer who got a good trip last time. Ascari doesn't have the greatest speed but can get a stalking trip. Has run twice here with a win for a higher tag as well as his third last time out. Has a solid work since his last start and top rider remains aboard. A NEW LEVEL had been coming close for this tag in the nonwinners-of-two condition before winning last time. This is the logical step up, staying at the same level but in a higher condition. Rates long look based on recent consistency.

Sixth Race: 1.Maggie's Patches 2.Sweet Silence 3.She's Committed

MAGGIE'S PATCHES turned in a series of solid efforts but stopped on a proverbial dime last time out. Now she returns 2 1/2 months later and drops to the bottom level. Her early speed makes her the one to watch, but there's the question of the drop. Note that the barn shows a flat-bet profit off similar layoffs. SWEET SILENCE has had many chances. Has hit board in half her starts here and has been a consistent check earner. Showed improvement last time and has shown an ability to put good tries together. First-timer SHE'S COMMITTED is by a good debut sire. She's a full sister of multiple winner Olympic Year. High-percentage barn does not do that well with debut runners, but she can get part at a price.

Seventh Race: 1.Jet Iron 2.Runondemand 3.Mix

JET IRON is 0-for-7 here but has four seconds and a pair of thirds. He has run second in his past two starts and will likely appreciate the return to a sprint here after a stalking trip in a route. He's also dropping for this. Has four works since his last start and should be sitting in a good position from which to launch his strong stretch kick. RUNONDEMAND steps up a notch here after a game effort at this tag. Moves up a condition after his well-timed rally earned him a photo victory. Has won two of his past three starts and is versatile enough to win on or off the lead. MIX has failed three times at this level. Cam flying last time when returned to a sprint. May need some help up front, but he can't be ignored in the lane.

Eighth Race: 1.Jack Hes Tops 2. Paul's Hope 3.Devils Afleet

JACK HES TOPS is a price pick. He finished a nose behind PAULS HOPE two back and came back with a solid effort behind Siren Lure and Bamaha Breeze last time. He'll sit back a bit and make his presence felt in the lane. His lone win in 2008 came at this level. Paul's Hope has had a six-week freshener since his comeback last time. He showed good early foot and held on fairly well in his first start in 10 months. He's worked steadily in the interim and has three bullet works. Wish he hadn't drawn the rail, but he should be able to get good position. Has hit board in all three starts here. DEVILS AFLEET steps up off an impressive win for this. He lost a photo in the Golden Bear here last year in his only other start here. Has ability to sit close and could get a first-run trip.

Ninth Race: 1.Peace of Me 2.Not So Brief 3.I Wanna Getaway

PEACE OF ME is part of a coupled entry with I WANNA GETAWAY that should be favored as well as part of a hidden entry with NOT SO BRIEF. Both members of the coupled entry are coming off wins as heavy favorites. Both stalked, took over and pulled clear in the stretch. Peace of Me gets the nod because of faster internal fractions and because his win came against winners at this level in his return to Northern California. I Wanna Getaway won a bottom-level maiden claiming race and is actually meeting tougher here despite the apparent drop in claiming price. Not So Brief is a stablemate of the top pick. The coupled entry is owned by the same owner even though each colt hails from a different barn. He, too, comes off a bottom-level maiden claiming win. He's shown improvement in each start, although his win was not as impressive nor as fast as that of I Wanna Getaway. He should offer some value.