

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By CHUCK DYBDAL



BEST BET: *Takin a Break* (8th race)

First Race: 1.Blues Reason 2.Mike's Trippin 3.Giovanni

BLUES REASON is bidding for a repeat here after nearly 3 1/2 months on the sidelines. Barn does well off similar layoffs and gets the services of the leading rider. He's 2-for-2 at this track. Has three recent works so condition is a major question. MIKE'S TRIPPIN has hit the board in all five starts since coming north. All five starts have come at the bottom level, but there's nothing wrong with knowing where you are competitive. GIOVANNI comes north for the first time as he makes his third start following a six-week layoff. The New Zealand-bred is still looking for his first U.S. victory as he drops to the bottom level for the first time.

Second Race: 1.Coco M 2.Vindictive Cat 3.Glacier Peak

COCOM has run twice on the turf, finishing off the board the first time when she got off poorly and then got mugged. Showed improvement last time, gamely battling on the lead. Faltered just a bit late but never quit trying. May not be under such pressure all the way this time and could be hard to catch late. VINDICTIVE CAT ran third as the favorite last time, finishing behind the top pick. Was content to sit back behind the slow but contentious pace and may have to try to apply a bit of pressure here. GLACIER PEAK has picked up checks in each turf start, finishing third twice before running fourth behind the top two picks last time. Ran evenly but could make no impact late.

Third Race: 1.Gold Guy 2.Lenny G 3.Hit the Town

GOLD GUY dueled for the lead in his second start after showing little in a troubled trip in his debut. Opened a lead in the lane but couldn't hold on late, losing in the final stride. Has maintenance drill for high-percentage barn since raced. Rail draw should present no problem, although HIT THE TOWN, who provided the pace competition last time is back here with the advantage of the outside post as well as the addition of blinkers as well as a strong work since raced. LENNY G was favored over the top pair as he made his first start in a year. He ran evenly and was making up some ground late. Should be tighter with that race and a pair of works since then under his belt.

Fourth Race: 1.Alpine Yodel 2.Little Bug 3.Recess

ALPINE YODEL won her past two starts for a tag and has picked up checks in her her past two starts in allowance company. She is going in good form and has two wins and a second in her four turf starts here. Her entry mate, Mi Corredora, comes west off a win at Calder. LITTLE BUG won for this tag two back and has hit the board in all three starts here. She ran evenly in an optional claimer last time. That race come on the main track and resulted in a deadheat. One of the winners came back to win a stakes in her next start. RECESS hit the board at this level two back. She turned in a similar effort last time but had to settle for fourth despite cutting her claiming price in half. She'll get a good stalking position for barn which has given her a solid maintenance drill.

Fifth Race: 1.Icee Stars 2. Potluck Prize 3.Shouldabeenmaizey

ICEE STARS was overmatched last time and seems a better fit at this level. She beat better three back as she sat close to the pace, opened up in the lane and just held on. She raced at this level two back but couldn't catch POTLUCK PRIZE, who grabbed the lead and never let go. This is her third start since arriving here from Emerald Downs. SHOULDABEENMAIZEY returned from a layoff, making her debut here after arriving from Emerald Downs. Figures to improve with that one under her belt. Ran in a starter allowance race, which may not have been as tough as this heat will be since top two picks have already beaten winners.

Sixth Race: 1.Goldroad 2.Noble Courage 3.Moreland

GOLDROAD, a \$500,000 purchase, is sent north by trainer Richard Mandella for his debut. The works have been good with a couple of solid six-furlong drills as well as a seven-furlong work that should assure he's plenty fit. He's the first foal of a stakes-winning dam who is also graded stakes-placed. So why is he coming north instead of running down south? NOBLE COURAGE has been the runner-up in his past two starts while running for a tag down south. Has good speed and is at the top of his game. Like the two works since raced, including a very fast move last week. MORELAND also comes into this off a pair of runner-up efforts following a nine-month layoff. The first was for a tag and the second in straight company as he will be meeting here.

Seventh Race: 1.Imagunna 2.Kiki's Dance 3.Kiss Kiss Kiss

IMAGUNNA steps up a notch as she bids for a repeat. She was pressed last time while going wire-to-wire but was inching clear late. Has hit the board in all five starts this year and is making her third start following a 3 1/2-month layoff. KIKI'S DANCE ran second the who way against the top pick last time. She, too, has been turning in consistent performances this year. KISS KISS KISS loves this track and has handled the switch from dirt to Tapeta well. She just beat a similar bunch and has four works, including a half-mile bullet drill in her final prep.

Eighth Race: 1.Takin a Break 2.Blackjack Ketchum 3.Rummysecret War

TAKIN A BREAK has been running on the turf of late, meeting better. He did win one of those starts. Has never run this cheaply but did win his last main-track start. Has easy work since his last start. Can take advantage of his speed and rail draw to get perfect position throughout. BLACKJACK KETCHUM scored a win against better at Emerald Downs before showing up here. Faded late in his first start following a six-week layoff, but turned in a good effort last time, finishing second despite running into trouble in the stretch and having to angle out to get clear. RUMMYSECRET WAR applied a little shock and awe two back, dominating as the odds-on pick. Was eased last time but will excuse the effort since it came on turf, and he's worked nicely since, including a five-furlong bullet and strong six-furlong move.