

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



BEST BET: Kaptain Kordough (6th race)

First Race: 1.Karmalize 2.Senator Bob 3.Dixie Commander

KARMALIZE hails from a one-horse barn. He was consistent last year, although he remained a maiden. Has been the runner-up in both starts since stretching out, including last time in his turf debut. He stalks nicely and finishes all right. Has a bullet drill since his last start. SENATOR BOB edged the top pick at Fresno when they sprinted and has trailed him while running third in his past two starts since stretching out. He has run all right and has come close to the top pick. Both seem to be going in good form, and he has a pair of works since raced. DIXIE COMMANDER adds blinkers and will be asked two new questions here as he stretches out and moves to turf. He's a half to multiple stakes winner Tiznow and is a full to Little Bug, whose turf record was 13-1-4-5.

Second Race: 1.Posse Power 2.Highway Bandit 3.Bruno's Wager

POSSE POWER has been the runner-up in his past two starts after running third in his debut. Has shown steady improvement in each start. Only drawback is his lack of early foot, but he has finished strongly in all three starts. Has an easy maintenance drill since raced for barn comes off a solid year last year. HIGHWAY BANDIT draws the rail for his debut. Dam was multiple stakes winner, and both her previous foals were winners, one earning a graded-stakes placing in Europe. Has a pair of six-furlong bullet works. BRUNO'S WAGER set the pace before fading a bit in his debut. Was beaten less than a length and has a good five-furlong work since raced. Expect improvement in his second start.

Third Race: 1.Gear Shift 2.Close Pursuit 3.The Hunt Is On

This is a split of the second race. Just as Posse Power had shown ability heading into that heat, GEAR SHIFT has been running well of late. He'd been picking up checks in routes and cut back in distance last time. Got a stalking trip while running second in his first sprint try since his debut. Note that Bruno's Wager trailed him so check how he does today. CLOSE PURSUIT adds blinkers for his second start. First foal of a stakes-winning dam. Sire has proven successful in his brief career. Needs to break better but should improve in second start. THE HUNT IS ON turned in a solid effort, trailing the top pick in his comeback after seven weeks on the sideline. Two of his siblings have earned black type. Has an easy gate maintenance work since his last start.

Fourth Race: 1.Star Diva 2.Gamblers Rule 3.In Transit

STAR DIVA has hit the board in both starts and been favored both times since dropping to this bottom level. She missed by one-half length and only missed by a head last time with a much-improved effort. Leading rider takes the call again. Needs only repeat her last. GAMBLERS RULE was gaining late last time but was never a threat while trailing the top pick. She's been showing improvement and like the way she finishes. IN TRANSIT might prefer the turf, but she notched her diploma at this distance on the main track. This will be her first start at the bottom level, and this conditioned heat makes the drop even bigger.

Fifth Race: 1.Ocean Grand 2.King Congo 3.Muqs Quest

OCEAN GRAND hasn't won since 2007, but he's been facing much better. His numbers point him out as the one to beat. Set the pace last time before getting nipped in the final stride. Dropping for this and also drops from open to conditioned company. Has shown steady improvement in his three starts since sitting out 15 months. KING CONGO drops to the bottom level for the first time. Held narrow lead during contentious pace in his last start and faded late. Should get a good stalking trip here and did run second here against better after coming down from Emerald Downs. MUQS QUEST barely qualified for this, winning on July 31. That's sometimes an overlooked factor in races open to runners that haven't won since a specific date. Had a two-month freshener, and condition is a question, but he's run well off similar layoffs in the past.

Sixth Race: 1.Kaptain Kordough 2.Island Drifter 3.Country Farmer

KAPTAIN KORDOUGH has been favored in his past six starts and has sparkled since coming north. He has not finished worse than second since departing Southern California. Has two wins and a second in three starts here. Has speed but doesn't need the lead. Drawn to the outside, which will make his job that much easier as he sits where he wants early. ISLAND DRIFTER lost by a head to COUNTRY FARMER two back and must face that one again. He came back to score a game win last time and gets the nod here because he has better early foot. He should be sitting in good shape early. Country Farmer takes the blinkers off today. Has no speed, but he has unleashed strong finishes in the lane. Wouldn't mind a contentious pace to chase.

Seventh Race: 1.Point of Reference 2.Bimbo Magic 3.Thainty

Multiple stakes-placed POINT OF REFERENCE needed her last following a nearly two-month layoff. She is stakes-placed over this course and has run well on the turf despite here 0-for-4 record on grass. BIMBO MAGIC has hit the board in all 10 of her turf tries and already has an allowance win on her resume. As a Cal-bred, she gets to run for the allowance condition a second time. Has a pair of seconds and two straight wins since being claimed by the leading barn. THAINTY steps up after a pair of victories. She is at the top of her game and comes a freshener. Condition will be a question, but she should offer value and can be worth a play in exotics.

Eighth Race: 1.Streakin' Mohican 2.The Lyin Hawaiian 3.Count It All Joy

STREAKIN' MOHICAN cuts his claiming price in half here. Was claimed two back and turned in a strong effort last time before getting caught in the lane. Draws the rail and seems to have a big pace advantage. Should be very tough to catch here. THE LYIN HAWAIIAN has hit the board in all three career starts. Flashed speed against better in his debut against winners last time and drops a notch here. Has the advantage of an outside draw but will likely end up stalking here. COUNT IT ALL JOY has proven consistent throughout his career, hitting the board in seven of eight starts. Has been freshened for six weeks but has been working steadily. He's another getting a drop here.

Ninth Race: 1.Our Trick Or Treat 2.Heardabird 3.Raging Lover

OUR TRICK OR TREAT was favored in her debut when she met better. She broke slowly, moved into contention with a four-wide move on the turn but faded late as she tired in the lane. Barn shows a profit with second-timers and has given her three works. She drops to the bottom level here and will be a legitimate contender here. HEARDABIRD had picked up a check in her three starts here before her last race. She turned in her best effort yet, sticking her head in front in the lane. She tired and got involved in a bumping incident and was ultimately disqualified to sixth, but the improvement makes her worth a look. RAGING LOVER has been on the sidelines for five months but has been working steadily for her return. Turned in a big effort in her turf debut in her last start. She did run well in her debut and could offer value in exotics.