

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By CHUCK DYBDAL



BEST BET: Win for M'lou (6th race)

First Race: 1.Anzisiong 2. Honor Gulch 3.Ocean Grand

ANZISIONG hasn't won since July of 2008. Has never won here but has been second at this level in his past two starts and also has a third, while earning a check in his other start here. Blinkers og back on old-timer who ran without them in his two runner-up tries. Gets positive jock switch to hot rider. HONOR GULCH has hit the board in his past two starts and was runner-up at this level last time out. Has run 76 times but has only won twice and has never won here. Going in good form and does have 10 seconds and 19 thirds, which suggests he must be considered in exotics. OCEAN GRAND has trailed the top pick in his past two starts. Has a nice work for the leading barn since his last start.

Second Race: 1.In Session 2. Novelty Hill 3.Maroon

IN SESSION has run for this tag three times in his career and has a pair of wins and a second. Has split decisions with Special Grey Ghost since stretching out and will be trying this distance for the first time. Has four wins and two runner-up efforts in eight starts here so obviously likes the track. Had a very easy work since his last start, but his time might scare some people away. NOVELTY HILL drops for the second straight race, although the drops have been minor ones. Did win a conditioned heat against better two back. MAROON won at this distance to wind up 2009 campaign and has picked up checks in both 2010 starts. Getting a slight drop here that won't hurt as he makes his late run.

Third Race: 1.Portland Storm 2. Cape Town King 3.Dr. J J

PORTLAND STORM has always run well here and drops a notch after running third in each of his past two starts. Likes this distance and has three works to maintain sharpness during a five-week layoff. Stays in contention early and makes a strong move in the lane. CAPE TOWN KING has won two of his past four starts, hitting the board in the other two. Those races came in 2008 and 2009. The old-timer must have problems, but he has run well enough to accumulate a six-figure bankroll. Has worked well down south and is sent north looking for an easy spot for his first start in nearly nine months. DR. J J has been running well of late and moves up the claiming ladder here. Though his only wins of late have come at the bottom level, he has met better in the past.

Fourth Race: 1.Putmeinyourwill 2. Big Wave Rider 3.Supersecretdevice

PUTMEINYOURWILL has been dropped to the bottom rungs of the claiming ladder and has responded nicely. Beaten favorite at this level last time when he ran his best race in some time. That was his third start after nearly seven months on the sidelines, and leading barn goes to its No. 1 man here. BIG WAVE RIDER disappointed last time as he tried for a hat trick after winning a pair of photos in his previous two starts. Has won four of his past six and hooked a tough group last time, several of whom run in the previous race. SUPERSECRETDEVICE has been right there with the top two pick in four of his past six starts. Should save ground as he sits back early and will be a factor late with a clean trip.

Fifth Race: 1.Phantom Warrior 2. Markus D. 3.King of Bling

PHANTOM WARRIOR has been the runner-up at this level in his past two starts. Scored his lone career victory here and has a solid work since raced. Can take advantage of his speed and early draw to get a good trip here. MARKUS D. graduated by a nose last time after losing by a nose to Marishek, one of today's rivals, in his previous start. He's run well since his arrival here from Southern California. Actually regressed a bit from his turf form in the loss but rebounded nicely last time and will be a major factor if he repeats his last. And he is capable of bettering that. KING OF BLING hasn't won in ages, and that victory came on the turf. He comes off a series of decent tries and was immediately behind the top pick last time. He's a definite play in exotics.

Sixth Race: 1.Win for M'lou 2. Fast Eydie 3.Listowel

WIN FOR M'LOU comes north in hopes of finally earning her diploma and adds blinkers for the first time. Has been a consistent runner down south, hitting the board in her past three starts and earning a check in all four starts. Has good speed and looks tough, although this appears to be a pretty strong heat. FAST EYDIE is her winless dam's first foal. The daughter of a promising young sire ran second for a tag in her debut, circling very wide and finishing willingly. Like the barn's confidence in moving her up. LISTOWEL is a half sister of three stakes winners, including El Camino Real Derby winner Kilgowan. She ran evenly in her debut. Barn wins 25 percent and shows a flat-bet profit with second-timers, and sire is good but not known for producing debut winners.

Seventh Race: 1.Not Unusual 2. Point of Reference 3.Catsalot

NOT UNUSUAL has won three straight and, arguably, beat tougher last time in a first-level allowance race. As a Cal-bred she gets to run for the allowance condition again, and this is an optional claiming heat. Won her debut here at the bottom level by 13 in her only try on Tapeta but has met solid runners since that race. POINT OF REFERENCE was unlucky to lose a photo in the California Oaks to a heavy favorite last year. She's stakes-placed here, at Emerald Downs and at Santa Anita. Was the third head in a photo behind the top pick last time and looms a legitimate contender here. CATSALOT would prefer the turf where she's scored all three career victories. She was second in the Cal Cup Distaff and won on the turf here before being outmatched in the Sunshine Millions last time. Record on synthetic surfaces is 5-0-3-1 as she makes her debut on Tapeta.

Eighth Race: 1.Slew the Man 2. Flashy Green 3.Cabo Chico

SLEW THE MAN was a strong second at this level in his first start in nearly two months last time. Was no match for the winner that day but was never challenged for second by stakes-placed Rescue Plan, who also resurfaces here. Will appreciate outside post and has speed to get a good position. Also getting seven pounds and Nocal's best apprentice. FLASHY GREEN looked good winning her debut despite not getting away well from the rail. Gets off the rail here and should break better so that she does not have so much to do late. Like the way she finished last time. CABO CHICO won sprinting and then sat close to decent route fractions when stretched out. Faded after getting lead in stretch and should enjoy the return to a sprint.

Ninth Race: 1.Fruitfully 2. Halekou Girl 3.Majaly

FRUITFULLY held her own in starter allowance company after being claimed from her maiden victory. Returned from 10 months on the sideline and did little after getting discouraged by early trouble. Barn dropped her, and she was odds-on last time when she basically turned in an even performance. She drops again here and should be ready to win in her third start following a pair of maintenance drills. HALEKOU GIRL graduated three back at the bottom level. She was given a boost for her debut against winners but was then dropped back to this level. Was fanned wide last time but did finish well sprinting. Should like today's extra distance. MAJALY makes her first start in 10 1/2 months. She's never run anywhere near this cheaply. Condition is a major question, but her past class makes here worth considering here.