

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By CHUCK DYBDAL



BEST BET: Defensive Move (3rd race)

First Race: 1. River Lord 2. Deputy Prize 3. Wizard of Dormello

Socal import RIVER LORD was a beaten favorite in his debut here. He ran evenly and was bothered heading into the lane when the winner squeezed him back. Winner was disqualified to third as he moved up. Seems to like the track, posting a bullet work as well as recording an easy maintenance drill since raced. DEPUTY PRIZE dueled with the top pick last time and finished directly behind him but was beaten five lengths as he fell apart late. Probably won't mind as they shorten up a bit to a mile here, and he did run well at this distance against better both of turf and Tapeta here earlier. WIZARD OF DORMELLO has shown a bit of improvement sprinting of late after returning from 16 months on the sidelines. Didn't handle two turns all that well in the past, but he's going in better form now.

Second Race: 1. Sky Patriot 2. Griffinstown 3. Even Odds

SKY PATRIOT was very impressive in his local debut. The one-time \$250,000 sales buy graduated by four at 3-to-5 at the bottom level. He steps up for his debut against winners, but he need only repeat his last to be a strong contender here as he dueled for the lead early and pulled clear late. GRIFFINSTOWN makes his third start off a layoff. Rallied very wide last time and finished well. No excuses today with pair of races under belt. Has win and a second in his two tries for this tag. EVEN ODDS returned from three months on the sideline, returned to a sprint and moved off the turf. The result was a wire-to-wire victory as he controlled the early pace. Drawn to the outside but may have to hustle a bit here to get the lead.

Third Race: 1. Defensive Move 2. Randy Monarch 3. Corvallis Dee

DEFENSIVE MOVE has been claimed from his past two starts, winning both of them. Continues to move up the ladder, but he's very sharp right now. Keeps moving from one good barn to another, and new barn wins 33 percent with runners off a claim. He loves sprinting and is 5-for-11 here. Has good speed but doesn't mind stalking early. RANDY MONARCH goes the top pick two better, having been claimed in his past four starts at Los Alamitos. Getting a big jump up the ladder here, but he did win five races last year, not counting a win in a mixed-breed race. Only concern is Beyers have been dropping. CORVALLIS DEE is a past classer who is probably more comfortable around two turns. Rallied wide last time, making a belated move to finish an easy second without threatening the winner.

Fourth Race: 1. Letsgobyebye 2. Keyfargo 3. Rydell

LETSGOBYEBYE is game and seems to know where the wire is. He's won two straight at this level, by a head and a nose. Likes this track and has been showing improvement of late. KEYFARGO has won three straight as he cuts his claiming price in half for this. Began win streak in conditioned race for this tag, stepped up and was claimed in his next start, returning quickly to win on the rise again. He's another that has enjoyed success here with three wins in eight starts. RYDELL has split decisions with the top pick in his past two starts here. Will get first run on the second choice and then try to hold off the top pick. He has two wins and a pair of seconds in six starts here. Speaking of horses for courses, Johnny the Watch can't be ignored with five wins in eight starts here.

Fifth Race: 1. Come On Mama 2. Mean Joleene 3. Chars Problem

COME ON MAMA climbs up the class ladder here after scoring a solid win at this distance. She and MEAN JOLEENE are the only runners in here with two victories, and she has two good works — one a bullet — since that victory which was accomplished with the highest Beyer of her career. No reason she can't improve more as the leading rider sticks with her. Mean Joleene recorded a victory at this level last year before trying stakes company. This is her first start back for a tag since that win, and she should prove tough on the drop. CHARS PROBLEM turned in a very impressive effort to win her first try around two turns. She's bred to love the distance and responded well when finally given the chance. Has a pair of works since raced and is another that seems capable of improvement. Note that her last-race Beyer is 15 points higher than any of her rivals.

Sixth Race: 1. Shawklit Sundae 2. Topper's Smiling 3. I Love Charley

SHAWKLIT SUNDAE is a consistent sprinter who loves the Tapeta where she has four wins, two seconds and a pair of thirds in eight starts. Lost to arguably the sharpest runner on the grounds last time. Gets the edge for consistency, speed and the favorable outside post. TOPPER'S SMILING has been given a two-month fresher since being overhauled late after taking the lead in the lane. Has worked all right during the interim, but barn is usually better after giving runners a race. I LOVE CHARLEY ran evenly last time but did get passed late when she finished fourth against better. Won on a drop from \$16,000 to \$8,000 down south so barn hopes this drop will pay similar dividends.

Seventh Race: 1. Sidepocket Cat 2. R Fat Man 3. Camisado

SIDEPOCKET CAT had a two-race win streak snapped last time despite running another strong race. Was given a double jump up the class ladder for that race and drops a notch here. Has good style with speed to sit wherever he wants. He's not afraid to take the lead and is content stalking. And he has done some of his best running at this track. R FAT MAN has won two straight since suffering a double-digit defeat to the top pick. Dropped to bottom after that loss and got confidence-building victory. Doubled his claiming price when he won last time despite a wide trip and gets a double jump here. CAMISADO, like his primary rivals, loves this track with five victories in 11 starts. Has run second in his past two starts and will save ground as he stalks from the rail.

Eighth Race: 1. Nail Polish 2. Bunny At the Lake 3. Lo Risquette

NAIL POLISH graduated last time after running second in her previous three starts. She has stalking speed and is drawn perfectly to the outside. Has an easy maintenance work since her easy victory, and the leading man stays aboard. BUNNY AT THE LAKE graduated two back and just missed by a nose in her first start against winners at this level. Didn't have the cleanest of trips and did respond gamely in the lane. LO RISQUETTE is another last-out maiden winner at the bottom level. Has one work in the month since her graduation. Needs a little help up front for her closing style, but the return to a sprint for the first time since her debut didn't hurt last time. She'll be finishing strong here.