

# GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



## **BEST BET: Southern Orchid (8th race)**

### **First Race: 1. Magnificent Blend 2. Rooster 3. Win to Win**

MAGNIFICENT BLEND goes for his fourth straight win here at this level. He's been favored in each start and has the perfect stalking style to get the job done. He's been as consistent as a metronome of late and loves this track. He's certainly found the perfect level of competition. ROOSTER steps up off a nice win following a two-month break. He hasn't been rushed back but has only one bullet three-furlong drill in the month since he's raced. Capable of competing at this level and often gets a piece of the action. WIN TO WIN has been unable to handle the top pick in his past two starts, but he has a win, three seconds and a third in his past five starts and seems a "must-play" in exotics. He's hit the board in all four starts here and seven of eight at the distance.

### **Second Race: 1. Watch Me Win 2. Beyla 3. Britney Heat**

You may just WATCH ME WIN live up to her name today. She ran second here at this level in her return to the Bay Area and first start in nearly seven weeks. She hung a bit late at 41-to-1 last time but, with that race under her belt, should hold on better here. She may sit a bit closer early here. BEYLA gets a significant drop as she is sent north for her first start in four months. Ran well on the Bay Meadows turf earlier this year, losing a four-way photo against better. Making her first start off a claim, but leading barn usually sends them out ready. BRITNEY HEAT takes blinkers off after a disappointing try last time when dropped to this level. Had excuses last time after being forced quite wide so she should enjoy saving ground from the rail.

### **Third Race: 1. Poetic Note 2. Toy Toy Toy 3. Prancin'N Dancin'**

POETIC NOTE has run well since returning to the races following a 16-month layoff. He has met better and turned in a nice even effort while racing wide last time. This drop should make him ultra competitive. TOY TOY TOY has been sprinting of late and brings a streak of four straight seconds into this. He's the ultimate second banana with eight seconds and only one career win. He's run second in six of his eight starts here and has two seconds at this distance. PRANCIN' N DANCIN' has a pair of seconds at this level here after graduating in Fresno. Stuck his head in front in the lane last time before losing a photo. He seems on an uptick now and had a nice maintenance work since his last start.

### **Fourth Race: 1. Lindsey's Storm 2. Coulee Slew 3. Royal Royce**

LINDSEY'S STORM has shown steady improvement and has turned in a pair of good efforts following a seven-week layoff. Meeting some new faces here, but, with his pattern of improvement, he seems perfectly spotted to pose for pictures after the race. COULEE SLEW draws the rail, which isn't the best of positions for first-timers but isn't as bad at this distance as at six furlongs. Steady works and by a sire who sizzles with first-timers. Lone sibling has four wins. ROYAL ROYCE is another first-timer by a good debut sire. Both his siblings each have a pair of wins. He'll be ready with three six-furlong works under his belt, and leading barn signs up the leading rider for the mount.

### **Fifth Race: 1. Shakalaka 2. Patriotic Prince 3. Olympic Enforcer**

BOOM SHAKALAKA as John Madden or Bill Murray might say. Held on gamely in a wire-to-wire score for the second condition at this tag and moves up to the third condition here. One that nearly caught him last time came right back to win. Moves back to the sprint ranks following a pair of front-running efforts in routes and has enough speed to set the pace here. PATRIOTIC PRINCE has closed with a rush to hit the board in his past two starts here. Track plays fair, but he has been leaving himself too much to do of late so may be encouraged to sit a bit closer here. Has nice maintenance drill since raced. OLYMPIC ENFORCER has never run this cheap. He drops another notch here after an improved try last time. This will be his third start since a brief layoff so he'll have no excuses today.

### **Sixth Race: 1. Kelen Scores 2. Exitoneonine 3. Old Mason**

KELEN SCORES is the first foal of a stakes-placed mare. Sire not particularly strong with debuting juveniles but does win at a better than 10-percent clip from limited numbers. Wound up preparations for his debut with a pair of bullet works for barn that has success with first-timers. Drawn nicely to the outside and doesn't have any real monsters lurking in this bottom-level claimer. EXITONEONINE comes north and gets a big drop. Has shown some early foot before fading. Perhaps the shorter distance and softer company will make him braver late. OLD MASON has a pair of thirds in three starts at this level. Has been fairly consistent and does have a work since raced. He can be a contender here and merits an even longer look in exotics.

### **Seventh Race: 1. Joshua's Dream 2. Daytona 3. Tony's Legacy**

JOSHUA'S DREAM won at the second condition for this tag last time, overcoming a poor start. Has worked steadily since, including a strong five-furlong bullet drill in his final work. Missed by a nose against better in his previous start. Absence of Mr. Baze, who chooses Ascari, another horse he just won with in his debut here, could help the price. DAYTONA could be a horse from the classic movie 'The Sting.' Place it on Daytona. After all, has been favored in his past four starts and run second in his past three. He turns in good enough efforts, but he's only 2-for-29 and winless this year. Still, you can't ignore him. TONY'S LEGACY has chased the second pick in his past two starts and narrowed the gap last time. He's shown an ability to close, but he did hang a bit last time after a wide trip.

### **Eighth Race: 1. Southern Orchid 2. Judy Patootie 3. Powers Lilsis**

SOUTHERN ORCHID took a while to get to the races, but she looked very good in her debut. She stalked while under a confident ride. Pulled away to win with ease and has three works since that start. Note barn has promoted her to the first string after staying at Pleasanton earlier in her development. JUDY PATOOTIE comes north off a pair of solid tries. She graduated in a high-level maiden claimer. She set the pace against allowance company but couldn't hold on late. She's drawn outside and can use that to her advantage. She's likely meeting somewhat easier competition here. POWERS LILSIS has hit the board in five of six starts here. Missed by a nose at this level last time after winning a straight first-level allowance race two back. She's going in good form and could be a factor since she has enough speed to escape any traps along the rail.

### **Ninth Race: 1. River Island Honey 2. A Coyote Ugly 3. Deianira**

RIVER ISLAND HONEY has turned in a pair of solid efforts with a pair of thirds at this meet. Spent two months on the sidelines following the first start, but she came back strong, nearly matching her previous best Beyer. Didn't show her usual speed last time and should be closer early. A COYOTE UGLY showed vast improvement in start No. 2 when runner-up in a main-track sprint after routing on the turf in her debut. It was a nice effort as she raced inside and finished evenly. DEIANIRA returned to a sprint last time and wound up second. Don't be deceived by the 0-for-2 record at this distance, she's a decent sprinter.