

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By CHUCK DYBDAL



BEST BET: Mim's Man (4th race)

First Race: 1. Little Bug 2. Frisco Fox 3. Codi Dee

LITTLE BUG has run third in her past three starts. Stepped up to this level last time following a claim. Beyers have been pretty consistent. Router sprinted last time and finished evenly. May be geared up better for a sprint this time and looks as if she'll be able to offer some value. FRISCO FOX looms the one to catch here. She moves from one good barn to another following that wire-to-wire score. Did run third to the top pick in a route, but she is more of a sprinter. CODI DEE has never won sprinting but has hit the board in six of eight starts at the distance. She figures to be a presence in the lane with her late kick.

Second Race: 1. Ringmaster 2. Northwind Luck 3. Slew the Dew

RINGMASTER is a career 1-for-36, which is cause enough to be eliminated by some handicappers. Has hit the board in all three starts since his arrival here, twice losing photos. Certainly has found his right competitive level and should be in contention during the run home. NORTHWIND LUCK set the pace last time, clearing easily at 36-to-1. Has never won at this distance or on a synthetic surface, but seemed to waken up a bit last time. Will probably offer enough value to merit a long look and will be the one that can determine the pace. SLEW THE DEW has been given nine weeks sin being overmatched in his first start against winner. Has worked steadily of late and did graduate in game style two back. Rail draw not as big a drawback at this distance.

Third Race: 1. Siren Lure 2. Red Arrow 3. Mutak Gold

Old-timer SIREN LURE was once a Grade 1 winner and Breeders' Cup hopeful. He's lost a step or two at age eight, but he has run two strong races here, including a stakes win. Has been on sidelines three months with no other races filling. Barn has him set for big one in return. RED ARROW has won two straight down south and ran a huge race last time in his third American start. Need only repeat that one to win here, and he was graded stakes-placed in his native Australia. MUTAK GOLD has won two straight allowance races here since being claimed on the same day the top pick earned his second straight win. He's improving but may have to go some to beat the top pair.

Fourth Race: 1. Mim's Man 2. Game of Luck 3. Punch Up

MIM'S MAN had a six-race win streak snapped last time in allowance company after being claimed by the top barn in his previous start. May have too much speed for this field, although Yagotkissesforpops has some speed and should be showing it in his first start in nine months. Mim's Man worked his way steadily up the claiming ladder, and even his regression last time is better than anyone else in here. GAME OF LUCK was third behind the top pick last time while turning in an even effort. He, too, had a recent run of six straight wins. Like the top pick, he is 5-for-7 here. He gets a better draw than the top pick but isn't as quick. PUNCH UP rallied very wide last time, taking the lead in the stretch and then gamely hanging on to win a photo. Numbers don't match the top pair, but he has been running consistently.

Fifth Race: 1. Cole Rocks 2. Seeking Honor 3. Royal Gold Cat

COLE ROCKS hasn't shown much sprinting, but his route fractions are always good, and he set the pace against better in his debut here. Drops to the bottom level and cuts back to a sprint. Looks as if he'll enjoy this abbreviated distance. SEEKING HONOR is the first foal of an unraced dam to race. Young sire has sent out one debut winner from six starters. Low-percentage connections, but works seem intriguing. Like the half-mile bullet drill. ROYAL GOLD CAT is a comebacker, who flashed a bit of early speed last year. Would up drills with a six-furlong bullet drill for new barn as he moves north for this after 7 1/2 months on the sidelines.

Sixth Race: 1. Sanfran 2. Unusual Treasure 3. First Takin

SANFRAN had a ton of trouble last time after a series of good races. He has never shown keen early speed, but he stumbled leaving the gate last time and found himself farther back than usual in a strong heat at this level. He was very wide as he tried to make up ground into the lane and hung late. Cleaner trip makes him a factor here. UNUSUAL TREASURE won for a \$4,000 tag in a conditioned heat two race back. Ran evenly without making any impact last time when he moved up the ladder. Hasn't been the most consistent of runners in the past, but he seems to be going well now and could offer value. The real value, though, could come from FIRST TAKIN, who has done his best running at GGF and comes off a good third in a conditioned race for \$4,000. This is a tougher spot, and he was no factor the last time he ran at this level.

Seventh Race: 1. Captain Roy 2. Stormy Surge 3. Shem

CAPTAIN ROY pulled off a mild surprise last time. He's been unlucky but does have talent, which he showed running third in a three-way photo in a stakes in his second career start. Ran exclusively on turf last year, but has handled Tapeta well here. Should be a factor in the lane. STORMY SURGE is a definite contender having won at this level two back before running third last time. Willing to sit back just a bit but is always in contention and usually finishes strongly. SHEM has won twice at this level and bids for a repeat here. Set a comfortable pace last time and resisted all challenges. Certainly capable of doing that again as he should be able to get the lead here.

Eighth Race: 1. Tolnai 2. Faulkwood Shores 3. Jet Iron

TOLNAI likes to set the pace, but FAULKWOOD SHORES may be a bit quicker. That is really no concern because the Argentine-bred has won before with a stalking trip. Tired a bit late last time in his first start in three months but should be much tighter here. Faulkwood Shores seems the likely candidate to set the pace here. He is winless since 2007, which is not a plus, but he has picked up a check in each start this year. Unfortunately, all his wins have come on turf. JET IRON drops back to the claiming level of his last win. Has run consistently of late, which is tough for cheap horses to do. Recent form makes him a contender.

Ninth Race: 1. Sushiwood 2. Luck Is Fleeting 3. Simply Michael

SUSHIWOOD looked good in his second start, finishing well to claim second in his first race in over four months. Was only his second career start so there should be room for improvement. Probably needs the bottom-level competition, but is bred to like two turns and both starts have been at one mile. LUCK IS FLEETING and SIMPLY MICHAEL are pretty evenly matched as we've seen in their past three meetings as they've been trading decisions. LUCK IS FLEETING has led in the lane in his past two starts. Simply Michael has shown a strong belated kick and may enjoy today's extra distance.