

BEST BET: Dangerous Devil (7th race)

First Race: 1. Richfield 2. Blue On Black 3. Academy of Music

After nearly 14 months on the sidelines, RICHFIELD turned in a strong effort in his comeback, setting the pace before tiring late. He's had a pair of maintenance works since that effort and should be much tighter here. He'll be the one to catch in this abbreviated sprint. BLUE ON BLACK drew the rail and will have to use his speed to gun early. Has good speed but has been sitting in a stalking position in his past two starts, finishing second both times. Has run well here in the past and is a major contender today. ACADEMY OF MUSIC has hit the board in his past three starts. Stepped up a notch last time and was favored but drops back to the bottom level here. Should be a factor in the lane and will be hoping the top two picks wear each other down with a pace duel.

Second Race: 1. Pecan Nut 2. Jet Iron 3. Lendell

PECAN NUT has shown improvement in his past two starts, running second against better and then again at this level last out. He's had the lead in both of those starts. Has run all right here in the past, but he is better on dirt than Tapeta. JET IRON was favored in his first start in five months. He didn't show much, although he was making up a bit of ground late. Scored a pair of game wins at this level earlier this year and should improve off the last with some decent works, including a six-furlong bullet move. LENDELL held on gamely for third at this level last time as he trailed the top pick. Stretched out for that one and should be better legged up for this. He has done his best running at this level.

Third Race: 1. Punctual 2. Washington Bridge 3. Young Paris

PUNCTUAL comes north after winning a tougher Hollywood Park allowance race to run for the condition again, which is something she is eligible to do as a Cal-bred. Set the pace in a Grade 1 race and seems to hold a pace advantage here. Only needs to repeat her last, and she should score another easy victory. WASHINGTON BRIDGE has been the runner-up against arguably Northern California's best sprinter in her past two starts. Scored her lone victory and also has those two runner-up efforts in her three starts here. YOUNG PARIS is a perfect 2-for-2 in her career. She's meeting tougher today and will need to show improvement. Was fanned wide last time and finished gamely for the win.

Fourth Race: 1. The Major 2. Best Verse 3. Lucky Bet

THE MAJOR has hit the board in his past five starts. Found himself a bit further off the pace than usual last time. Made a good move into the lane but was no match late for BEST VERSE as he hung a bit. Was favored over winning Best Verse in that race. Best Verse has won three of his past four starts. Likes this track where he has two wins and a second in four starts. Just as the top pick was a bit further off the pace in his last start, he was much farther back before unleashing a strong, four-wide rally. LUCKY BET gets a big drop here after a fade job in his last start. Has four wins in his past six starts, but three came on the turf and the fourth at Pleasanton. Has always been competitive here.

Fifth Race: 1. Most Popular 2. Crazy Thinking 3. Naux Faux Pas

MOST POPULAR went south last time and met better, running third after scoring one win and three seconds in her past four starts here. Has never run worse than second at this distance and never run worse than second here. Draws rail for the third straight time. Though she's won wire-to-wire, she's been coming from off the pace of late, but that style is good at this level. CRAZY THINKING has hit the board in eight straight starts. She has decent speed and run second in her past two starts following a victory against better. NAUX FAUX PAS ran third when moving up to this level after winning an easier condition for this tag. Has stalking speed and did finish all right last time, rallying a bit wide.

Sixth Race: 1. Lookn Even Finer 2. Avilion Air 3. Moon Stone Madness

LOOKN EVEN FINER makes her debut here, coming off a six-furlong bullet work. Has a nice series of drills for her bow. Point Given is a strong debut sire, and her dam, Lookn Mighty Fine was a multiple stakes winner. Her only other foal, also by Point Given, is a stakes-placed winner. AVILION AIR ran all right in her debut. She was third, and the runner-up in that race has come back to win her next start. Her sire, Songandaprayer, is good with 2 YOs. Her multiple stakes-winning dam has two previous foals, both winners. MOON STONE MADNESS set the pace before settling for third in her debut when she ran for a tag. Steps up with the big girls now. She's a half to two stakes-winners. Has a pair of maintenance drills since her debut.

Seventh Race: 1. Dangerous Devil 2. Vote 3. Sudden Excess

DANGEROUS DEVIL likes this course and likes this distance. He simply likes to win. Just won at this level while running in the allowance condition. Has a nice, patient style that should play well in a race where there should be a strong pace. Won last time on a yielding course, and the course will likely be on the softer side here, which is another factor that could play in his favor. VOTE has won all three 2009 starts in wire-to-wire style. He won his final start of 2008 in a similar manner when he won at this level. He's stepping up here, and there is other speed. Likes to win but is 0-for-6 at this distance while hitting the board four times. SUDDEN EXCESS was claimed from a wire-to-wire win at the bottom turf claiming level two back. Ran second to the top pick in a big step up last time. Sat back off a faster pace and did finish well.

Eighth Race: 1. Reagan Republican 2. Partnership Payout 3. Rosemount Lad

REAGAN REPUBLICAN returned to the races following a layoff of exactly one year. He set a very fast pace before fading a bit late. Obviously, he needed the race, and that was probably a tougher spot than this one. Showed improvement in his second start last year. If he does that again here, he could have a landslide victory. PARTNERSHIP PAYOUT has run second in both starts at this level after getting a nearly six-week layoff following his maiden win. Sat closer early last time and still finished well. Will get another stalking trip here. ROSEMOUNT LAD turned in a very good effort two back against much easier. Showed improvement as he stepped up last time. Tried this level once and showed little, but he's going in much better form now.

Ninth Race: 1. Soul Kiss 2. Action Gal 3. Spoonex

SOUL KISS was an odds-on winner at this level with two of today's rivals running second and third. Both career wins have come here, and she's hit the board in all three starts here. Sat back early and pulled away late at this distance in that victory and looks tough to beat here. ACTION GAL also comes into this race off a victory, but her win came against better. The abbreviated distance could work against her as she comes from off the pace. SPOONEX was the runner-up behind the top pick last time after setting the early pace. Had no answer when the winner blew past her, but the race wasn't that bad. She will be a contender again here and worth a look in exotics.