

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



BEST BET: Horowitz (9th race)

First Race: 1.Bev's Ex 2.Monkey Boy Jack 3.Kaptain Kordough

BEV'S EX was an easy winner in his debut here when dropped to this bottom level. He remains at the bottom level but is meeting better as he moves up one condition. Like the fact that he has a solid work since his last start. Lightly raced veteran has never really run that bad a race since his debut. MONKEY BOY JACK should be sitting in good stalking position just off what could be a contentious pace. May not be quite as close as he was last time, but by sitting back just a bit, he'll likely finish better. KAPTAIN KORDOUGH returns after a three-month freshening up. Have to like his record here with two wins and a second in three starts. He also ran second in his other Nocal start. Only has one work in the past month, but it was a decent half-mile drill.

Second Race: 1.Super Salesman 2.Ippon 3.Ball Yard

SUPER SALESMAN drops back to the bottom level today after a troubled try last time. He ran evenly while turning in his best effort year despite having no room to run at the eighth pole. He trailed the other two picks here two back when he was forced to steady late. IPPON dueled on the lead before getting caught late last time. The runner-up effort was his best try yet and came in his debut with blinkers. The beaten favorite is worth another look here. BALL YARD stuck his head in front of the second choice briefly in the lane two back before getting outfinished. Tired badly last time but has a nice work since and could bounce back here.

Third Race: 1.Carson's Copper 2.Laday Tale 3.Leader of the Band

CARSON'S COPPER dominated on the pace last time in his return here but was caught in the final strides. Outside post will help the speedy runner here with other pace rivals drawn inside him. Should love the shorter distance. LADAY TALE hit the board in five straight races before going to the sidelines for a year. He came back last month, sat close to the lead and sticking his head in front in the lane before settling for second as the beaten favorite. Has an easy maintenance drill since then. Has never finished off the board here. LEADER OF THE BAND qualifies for this despite two recent wins because they came against easier at Portland. Came back here and was a good third against similar in chasing the top pick last time.

Fourth Race: 1.Light of a Star 2.Doubloon City 3.Melody Makin

LIGHT OF A STAR came within a neck of six straight wins. He returned from a six-week freshener to beat better in his last start and drops a notch for this. He loves this track and has a record of success at the distance. DOUBLOON CITY has won four straight. He was claimed in his last start and returns in a new barn with a steady series of works. Check the record: he's 8-for-9 here, and he ran third against much better in his lone loss. Take it as a positive that the barn is willing to move him up to this spot. MELODY MAKIN comes in with only a two-race winning streak. Beat better in a conditioned heat following a seven month-layoff last time. Has gone 2-for-3 here and has never finished worse than second at this distance.

Fifth Race: 1.Silver Sparkster 2.Stringtown Cat 3.Golden Boy Mark

SILVER SPARKSTER drops a notch after a tough-luck loss in his second start. He dueled the whole way and was edged in the final strides in a game effort. Has an easy work since that start, which showed improvement over his debut. STRINGTOWN CAT also settled for second after setting the pace in his last start. Should be an interesting pace battle between him and the top pick, and he has the advantage of the outside draw. Think the top pick is capable of more improvement. GOLDEN BOY MARK comes north for the first time and drops to the bottom level for his first start in nearly two months. Has a pair of works here as he debuts for a new barn.

Sixth Race: 1.Dizzy in Denmark 2.Cloudbreaker 3.Sandita

DIZZY IN DENMARK won his first two career starts before finished second last time. Lost to a pretty good runner, and the third-place finish has already come back to win his next start. Has worked steadily since his last start and has run at a higher rate consistently than his rivals. CLOUDBREAKER is a consistent check earner, who can both route and sprint. Cuts back to a sprint today but hooks the top pick, who handled him with relative ease. Comes off a troubled trip and could offer a bit of value in exotics. SANDITA won his last start for this tag two back. Turned in a decent try against better last time and certainly looms a legitimate contender here.

Seventh Race: 1.Saintly I Ain't 2.Old College Try 3.Powerized

SAINTLY I AIN'T comes off his best race and has three drills since his last try. Now drops to the bottom level, which could be all it takes to graduate. Leading rider takes the call again, which could be a strong hint that gelding is ready for a good try. OLD COLLEGE TRY showed improvement on the drop in his second start. Now he drops again to the bottom level. Turned in a solid work since his last start. POWERIZED has turned in his two best efforts in his past two starts, although he did regress a bit last time. That effort might be worth a second look as he did finish all right after breaking slowly.

Eighth Race: 1.Fort Funston 2.Second Hand Lion 3.Full Power Ahead

FORT FUNSTON is a solid sprinter who has always run well here. He was a beaten favorite two back when he returned here on opening day of this meet. Hedropped a notch to this level and came away with a strong win as he stalked nicely and finished strongly. SECOND HAND LION won his last start at this level but has met better in his past two starts. He's a stalker who should be sitting in a good spot as the field turns for home. Finished pretty evenly last time when third against better and figures to be a major player in the lane again today. FULL POWER AHEAD outfinished the top two picks to win two back. He ran evenly while wide last time and wasn't able to finish as strongly last time. Dropping a notch here and gets his winning rider back for this.

Ninth Race: 1.Horowitz 2.Alwayswise 3.Sum R Rich

HOROWITZ makes his Nocal debut here. He ran second in his first try on the main track last time when he dropped into a bottom-level maiden claimer down south. He's running at the bottom level again here. Check his six-furlong fraction last time. It's much faster than any of these has run. ALWAYSWISE has finished second in his past two starts since returning to the sprint game. Granted, he was disqualified after losing a photo, but he's running at the top of his game right now. SUM R RICH turned in a solid effort, running second in his last start. Finished nicely after running evenly in the lane in his previous start.