

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



BEST BET: Six Pack Man (6th race)

First Race: 1. Fu Peg He Rat 2. Rosemount Lad 3. Unvarnished

FU PEG HE RAT comes north and meets easier company here. He's sakes-placed around two turns and has a pair of bullet works since his arrival here. Running for solid barn, but note that the barn has not done well with new faces of late. ROSEMOUNT LAD has moved up the claiming ladder and runs in this claim-proof spot at the top of his game. Will be attempting two turns for the first time, but his sprint style suggests he'll handle the added distance, and his breeding suggests he may be even better at a mile than sprinting. UNVARNISHED did little last time, but he's a route specialist who is back at his best game here. Barn takes the blinkers off again, but he's run equally well both with and without blinkers.

Second Race: 1. Illusive Dealer 2. Warren's Hotrod 3. Oh How Nice

ILLUSIVE DEALER is getting a weight break here with an apprentice who got an even effort from him against better on the turf. Was a runner-up in his past two starts here at this level, including one race at this distance. WARREN'S HOTROD moves back to the main track after running on the turf of late. Didn't do much on the main track here last spring, but he was sprinting then and he's also grown up and improved since then. OH HOW NICE has turned in a pair of consistent efforts since returning from a five-month break. Gets the final drop to the bottom level here.

Third Race: 1. Trapper's Bounty 2. Five Silver Stars 3. Feeling Fancy

TRAPPER'S BOUNTY looked good winning her debut. She set a pressured pace and pulled clear late. Has taken six-plus weeks before making her second start but has worked steadily. Rail draw no help, but she seems quick enough to avoid any problems. FIVE SILVER STARS ran a smasher, stalking early before winning by 10 in her debut. Moves to the barn of Nocal's leading trainer for her first start in five months and has been working nicely down south for her return before getting her final work over this track. FEELING FANCY did not have the smoothest of trips when she ran in a stakes race at Hollywood Park last time. That was her first start in six months after winning her debut at Emerald Downs. Expect improvement with that race under her belt.

Fourth Race: 1. Stilorgan 2. Revoluta 3. Velikaya

STILORGAN set the pace from the rail against better in his first try against winners. He dueled through fast early fractions before faltering late. Drops to the bottom level today and gets off the rail, which should make things easier. He has four works since that start so he should remain sharp. Stakes-placed REVOLUTA comes off a pair of efforts similar to the top picks where he set the pace against better before fading. He seems quicker than the top pick, but that one has the advantage of being drawn to the outside and can get a good stalking trip. There is, of course, something to be said for speed. VELIKAYA, like the top two picks, is dropping to the bottom level. A natural stalker, he figures to get an ideal trip.

Fifth Race: 1. Ball Yard 2. Shoot to the Moon 3. Blended to Win

BALL YARD adds blinkers today after running in a pair of decent route tries and running third in a New Year's Day sprint after leading in the lane. Getting a weight break with an apprentice who has shown some talent. It doesn't hurt that this is a pretty weak field. SHOOT TO THE MOON makes his debut today. Has a six-furlong work, which we always like to see. Check the Dec. 19 drill at today's distance. That work could translate into a winning effort here. BLENDED TO WIN flashed some early speed before fading behind the top pick last time. Raced a bit wide, which could explain the fade. Wound up closer to the pace last time and may be asked to sit close early again here.

Sixth Race: 1. Six Pack Man 2. Huzyrhuckleberry 3. Two Turn General

SIX PACK MAN has been the beaten favorite in his past three starts, running second twice and winding up the fourth nose in a four-way photo in the other start. He's run second in his two tries for this tag and was second against better last time in a troubled trip when he raced wide and then got bumped. HUZURHUCKLEBERRY scored his lone victory and has hit the board in seven of nine starts here. Sits back and makes a strong late run. Is a definite contender at this level. TWO TURN GENERAL finished one-half length behind the top pick last time with a troubled trip, including a bumping incident turning for home. Continues to drop down the claiming level and could get a good trip with his outside draw.

Seventh Race: 1. Solo Flash 2. Lapollo 3. Retros Last Flight

SOLO FLASH turned in a good try in his debut. Didn't show much speed but came flying through the stretch. Gets some extra distance here, but the rail draw could work against him if he doesn't flash a bit more speed. LAPOLLO makes his first start since Stockton last June. He showed some early talent, but the Beyers have dropped as he's dropped down the ladder. Has superior works for his comeback. RETROS LAST FLIGHT ran evenly here last month in his first start in 15 months. Has two good works since and hasn't been rushed back so don't expect a bounce.

Eighth Race: 1. Our Minesweeper 2. Connemara 3. Shudacudawudya

OUR MINESWEEPER may offer a little value here with unbeaten Todd Pletcher trainee CONNEMARA the likely favorite. He's more experienced than his primary rival and appears early foot. He's shown that he likes two turns and has a stakes win and second in his two tries at one mile. He also has a home track advantage as well as recency. Connemara is undefeated and showed an amazing turn of speed as well as plenty of heart when he won his debut. Has plenty of talent and has been working well, but Our Minesweeper may be a bit sharper today. Look out in the El Camino, though. SHUDACUDAWUDYA only entered this race when Bob Baffert opted not to send Macias north. He should be on the lead. If he can relax, he could prove tough to catch, but this is his first try around two turns and not the easiest of fields.

Ninth Race: 1. Goodbye Goodman 2. Powerized 3. Only Top Money

GOODBYE GOODMAN showed real gameness in his debut. He broke slowly from the rail rushed into contention but got shuffled back on the turn before unleashing a strong rally to finish second. Gets off the rail today. Has an easy work since that race and should show improvement here. POWERIZED comes off the best effort of any of these. Stalked nicely and finished well despite racing wide. He's the one to beat off that one. ONLY TOP MONEY has shown improvement of late. Comes off his best try yet and has finished third in his past two sprints while sitting very close until fading in the lane when favored in his route debut.