

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



BEST BET: *Tempt Fate* (1st race)

First Race: 1.Tempt Fate 2.Ocean Cracker 3.The Emerald King

TEMPT FATE lost his debut to a highly regarded runner ridden by Kent Desormeaux in January of 2007 on Golden Gate Derby Day. This is his first start since, but if you check the works, he seems quite ready. Returns for a claiming tag, but the works hint he has overcome whatever problems he might have suffered. OCEAN CRACKER is another comebacker having been gone 51 months. Hit board in all his career starts here and hit the board in his final three starts last year. Has three six-furlong drills that should have him as fit as can be after this long on the sidelines. THE EMERALD KING has one race under his belt following a nearly 10-month layoff. Has stalking speed and did run third at Bay Meadows in his debut in 2004 as a 2YO before a nearly three-year layoff.

Second Race: 1.Lighten Up Rule 2.Sea Topper 3.Just Get'er Done

LIGHTEN UP RULE makes his first start in six weeks and has her claiming price cut in half. She's a consistent sort who will be making her Nocal debut. Has three works, winding up with a bullet since her last start, which she won with a wide rally. SEA TOPPER has an outstanding .500 record with eight wins in 16 starts. Was claimed from a win vs. cheaper and ran all right before tiring following a pace duel against better when sprinting last time. This is her first try at the distance, but the breeding hints she'll be able to handle the assignment. JUST GET'ER DONE steps up a notch off a dominating odds-on victory. Has a win and a second in two starts here since coming down from Emerald Downs. Sports a pair of good drills since raced.

Third Race: 1.Pretorian Falls 2.Diamond Berries 3.Quan's Girl

PRETORIAN FALLS is a money burner with four straight seconds at this level when favored. She doesn't have much early speed but can be counted on to make a good move to get into contention in the lane. Switching over from grass, where she has hit the board in seven of nine starts. Has an easy maintenance drill since raced. DIAMOND BERRIES is a stakes-placed runner from the Northwest, who has been running primarily in Canada this year. Does have a decent work over the track preparing for her synthetic surface bow. QUAN'S GIRL will be making her main-track debut here. This is her third start since a nearly five-month layoff. Distance should be no problem, and she works regularly over the surface.

Fourth Race: 1.Bar Room Gal 2.Rain N Jewels 3.Love the Chase

BAR ROOM GAL stalked nicely in her debut but hung in the lane as she tired. Barn shows a big profit with second-timers, and this one is dropping from straight maiden company into a (high) claimer. Like the two works since raced. RAIN N JEWELS is part of an entry with LOVE THE CHASE. She was a nondescript third in her debut and improved dramatically in her second start, taking the lead in the lane before losing in the closing stride. Wouldn't surprise to see additional improvement here. LOVE THE CHASE is by a good win-early sire, who has scored with 16 percent of his firsters. Has a steady work pattern, and we like the presence of a six-furlong drill on the tab.

Fifth Race: 1.Lunar Mystery 2.Acekingqueenjacten 3.Cottonwood Babe

LUNAR MYSTERY gets another drop as she seeks a win for high-percentage barn. Cut her price in half last time and drops again here. Doesn't have the greatest of speed but can get a stalking trip. Has won twice here and has easy maintenance drill since raced. ACEKINGQUEENJACTEN got a big drop to this level and responded with a wire-to-wire win. Has run well here and has the speed to control the pace. Beat better on the front end at Santa Rosa this summer and has master speed rider aboard. COTTONWOOD BABE seems a good fit at this level, having beaten \$4,000 types two back and hit the board for a \$6,250 tag last time. Can stalk and will be battling with the top pick to get first run here.

Sixth Race: 1.Starstream 2.Heart's Music 3.Stanford Dolly

STARSTREAM bids for a hat trick here after a pair of odds-on victories. Loves the course, the turf, the distance. Held gamely to win at this level last time as she refused to give way to HEART'S MUSIC, who was rallying late after getting away poorly. Expect Heart's Music to play a bigger role as a pace player in this spot. She set the pace two back and stalked and won three back. Like her gameness when forced to run a different style last time, but the top pick just seems to have her number. STANFORD DOLLY was claimed last time and doubles her claiming value here. Will appreciate the return to a route and did run second for a similar tag on the turf at Bay Meadows.

Seventh Race: 1.Nina's Benchmark 2.Danger 3.Topoftheday

NINA'S BENCHMARK ran pretty evenly before tiring just a bit in his debut. Dropped and ran more than evenly last time with a wire-to-wire score. Not that you become an expert based on two races, but don't think he absolutely needs the lead here, which may allow him to finish even better. DANGER was second in a stakes as a maiden. He just broke his maiden in a straight maiden heat and will likely have plenty to do late running here to hit the board. TOPOFTHE DAY couldn't win at the bottom maiden claiming level, but he did nicely here last time for winning for a \$20,000 tag.

Eighth Race: 1.Not So Brief 2.Saint John 3.Dixiedoodlede

Does NOT SO BRIEF want the lead? As he showed last time, he does have some speed, and he didn't do that poorly after being three wide as part of a red-hot pace duel down the backside in his first try around two turns. Distance should help this runner. SAINT JOHN has a disappointing record in two tries. First foal gets a big drop down the ladder, which could allow it to wake up here. DIXIEDOODLEDE is by an unraced dam, whose other foal is a winner. Sire is solid with first-timers, hitting with 19 of 124. Didn't do much running in his last work, but one before that catches our eye.