

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



BEST BET: Foggy Haze (2nd race)

First Race: 1. Leo the Cat 2. Royal Robert 3. Summer Solstice

LEO THE CAT looks as if he'll be able to make the lead in this field based on his past two starts. Continues to drop down the claiming ladder as he makes his first start in five weeks at half the price he ran for last time. Only has one work in the interim, but the work was a bullet. Barn shows a high win percentage and flat-bet profit off similar layoffs. ROYAL ROBERT is another getting a big drop. Didn't like the company, the distance or the surface last time as he returns to a main-track sprint off a turf route. Ran pretty well for twice this price, stepping up off a bottom-level maiden win, but he seems to be a nibbler, often in the money but without that strong will to win. SUMMER SOLSTICE was dropped to this level last time, got the lead in the lane but was outnodded at the finish line. Has a decent maintenance drill since raced.

Second Race: 1. Foggy Haze 2. Miss Sought After 3. Mountain Villager

FOGGY HAZE dropped to this level last time and nearly pulled off a win. She stuck her head in front in the lane but was nipped at the wire. Important jockey switch as she moves to the leading rider. Has lost photos in two of past three starts. MISS SOUGHT AFTER just trailed the top pick after leading her most of the way and adds blinkers for today's race. She has worked steadily since then, while the top pick has only galloped. Last was her first try around two turns, and she should finish stronger here. Plus rail draw should lead to ground-saving trip. MOUNTAIN VILLAGER is a veteran router, whose lone victory came on the turf. Regressed a bit last time, but she ran wide the whole way and had nothing left after a strong mid-race move. Can improve on drop.

Third Race: 1. Fruitfully 2. Buttons and Bows 3. Croxie

FRUITFULLY has run second in both starts at this level, the second time after a seven-week layoff. She's had an easy maintenance work since. Overcame a wide trip last time and finished well, winning a three-way photo for second with BUTTONS AND BOWS sitting close behind but unable to pass her in the lane. She has run third in both starts at this level since scoring a straight maiden victory on the turf. Has a bit more early foot than the top pick. CROXIE set the pace when fourth behind the top pair while making her debut against winners in her first start around two turns. Has a work since raced and figures to hold on better here after being in a head-and-head pace duel to the lane last time.

Fourth Race: 1. Telepathic 2. Naughty Cal 3. City Blend

TELEPATHIC gave a strong effort in his first start after nearly two months on the sideline. He was in contention all the way, grabbed the lead in the lane and was nipped at the wire. Barn shows a flat-bet profit in the second start off a layoff and has enjoyed good success with this rider. NAUGHTY CAL is a consistent check earner. Graduated on the turf and did pick up a check last time against better when he rushed up after stumbling out of the gate. Better start may be all he needs here. CITY BLEND has turned in a pair of strong efforts at this level since graduating against cheper. Like the fact he'll over value in the exotics.

Fifth Race: 1. Bravo Slew 2. Flatter Me Again 3. Alder Ed

BRAVO SLEW makes his debut here, winding up preparations with a pair of six-furlong works. Worked much better in his second try at distance. Low-percentage barn doesn't send out many first-timers and is winless with them the past two years. On the positive side, he's by one of the best debut sires and is out of a stakes-placed dam. Doesn't hurt that this seems to be a pretty weak bunch. FLATTER ME AGAIN tested straight maidens in debut here after some success in first two career starts against claimers at Emerald Downs. Returning from another two-month layoff and has worked all right of late for comeback. Has speed, an outside post and five-pound weight break with new apprentice. ALDER ED was freshened for more than three months before coming back to the races on New Year's Day. Does have a work since, and barn shows hefty profit in second start.

Sixth Race: 1. Refinery 2. Swen Ray 3. Alex and Me

REFINERY was entered in a \$4,000 starter race Sunday before entering this race for a tag today. He figured to be a solid contender there, and he is a solid contender here as he cuts back to a sprint. Had lead in lane last time in a route so he's likely to finish much stronger here. SWEN RAY has lost and won photos at this level since returning from a five-month layoff. Has speed and a perfect outside draw. Has a couple of maintenance drills to maintain sharpness since his last start. ALEX AND ME won in a starter race at this level two back. Mini step up last time and closed nicely after being forced to go wide on the turn into the lane. Rider fits him well, and he loves the track here.

Seventh Race: 1. Mim's Man 2. You're My Boy Blue 3. Tango Mango

MIM'S MAN is on a big-time roll. He's won four straight and takes another steep up the ladder today. Has good speed and three works, including one bullet, in the six weeks since his last start. Despite his success, he's offered value as he's stepped up the claiming ladder. YOU'RE MY BOY BLUE cuts his claiming price in half here. Was the odds-on pick in a Stockton stakes last fall but has run in claimers since then when he did finish third but was beat a double-digit margin by a stablemate. Regressed a bit last time but has worked nicely since. TANGO MANGO was claimed in his debut here following a five-month layoff. Ran well in Canada but tired a bit here. Has a couple of works since. Barn doesn't claim many, but wins 40 percent with new faces when it does.

Eighth Race: 1. Wood Art 2. Fabuloso 3. Dotsy Jean

WOOD ART dops a notch here to the lowest level in her career. Making third start following long layoff. Hit board in both previous starts and should have no excuses here as she stretches out. Has proven she can handle two turns on the turf. FABULOSO just won wire-to-wire on the turf. Has a cozy outside draw and should be able to grab the lead. Has master on front-riders to keep her from going too fast early. DOTSY JEAN just trailed the second choice on the turf. Will be sitting in good position throughout and did win two of her past starts on the main track here, although they were in sprints.