

# GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



## **BEST BET: Clouds of Glory (1st race)**

### **First Race: 1. Clouds of Glory 2. Inoplov 3. Iaintnobunnyrabbit**

It is simply a question of condition as to whether CLOUDS OF GLORY can graduate here. She performed steadily last fall, running second in her final start after setting the pace. She's been sidelined nearly three months, but she's worked steadily and hails from a barn that wins 40 percent off similar layoffs. This is her first time running for a tag. INOPILOV couldn't match the top pick when they met here in November. She does have a prep race at Santa Anita under her belt since then and adds blinkers here. IAINITNOBUNNYRABBIT has split decisions with Princess Hiawatha in their past two meetings. She seems to be on an uptick. Showed more speed last time, resulting in a career best and will get the same rider and tactics today.

### **Second Race: 1. Games We Play 2. Officer Allie 3. Desert Siren**

GAMES WE PLAY turned in a pretty even effort in her comeback despite lugging out when turning for home and hanging late when dropped to this level. She has earned a check in every start here. Has the speed to get good position early and is comfortable setting the pace. Has a maintenance drill since raced. OFFICER ALLIE is another that dropped to this level last time, running third after leading in the stretch. She tired a bit that day but has come back to record a bullet five-furlong work to indicate she's ready to roll. Outside draw gives her plenty of option as to how best to use her speed. DESERT SIREN graduated for this tag and was matched against better in her debut against winners. Rail may not help as she doesn't show great early foot, but she should have a brisk pace to chase, which could help her.

### **Third Race: 1. Sky Patriot 2. Yorkville Kid 3. Sky Majestic**

The claiming drop looks big, but SKY PATRIOT was running at the bottom level down south and makes his first Nocal start at the bottom level as well. Raced wide last time in his first start in seven weeks. Migrates to top barn and gets leading rider. Likely to find himself closer than usual early here. YORKVILLE KID has had a number of chances. He's consistent, whether sprinting or routing and just ran third when dropped back to this level. Two starts at the bottom rung of the claiming ladder have resulted in a second and third. SKY MAJESTIC ran evenly in his debut, not making much impact in the lane after racing wide. Has an easy maintenance drill since raced, and he, at least, seems to have the capability to improve.

### **Fourth Race: 1. Beautiful Dixie 2. Special Venture 3. Princess Susan M**

BEAUTIFUL DIXIE steps up a notch following a solid win when favored last time. Will be able to save ground with rail draw. Has hit board in all three starts this year in first races over Tapeta surface. Will make her presence felt in lane. SPECIAL VENTURE held the lead in the lane last time but was passed by three runners, including the top pick. That ended a streak of seven straight on-the-board performances, but she was part of the exotics payoff. Legitimate contender seems a must-play in exotics here. PRINCESS SUSAN M is a sprinter stretching out. She's tried this distance once and ran third. Should get a good trip and has hit the board in each start for her current barn and seven in a row overall.

### **Fifth Race: 1. Polish Charmer 2. Halo's Angel 3. Ashley 'n' Nicole**

POLISH CHARMER ran evenly in her first start against winners while running at this bottom level. She has missed only one paycheck in her career when tried on the turf. Graduated at this distance and has a first and second in two tries at it. Figures to get a dream stalking trip in this spot. Beaten favorite HALO'S ANGEL was pressured early, opened up on the turn but faded in the lane last time. She drops for this and figures to be gunning from the rail. ASHLEY 'N' NICOLE showed improvement in her second start following five months on the sidelines. Pace shouldn't be so hot that she can't get good position early, and she loves that stalking role.

### **Sixth Race: 1. Surf Academy 2. Choctaw Chief 3. Niccolo Dream**

SURF ACADEMY bids to repeat in a contentious race that sees many familiar faces. These runners are evenly matched and seem to take turns winning. He is going in good form and has hit the board in all three starts at the distance. CHOCTAW CHIEF has shown consistency but hasn't been a threat while meeting better. Getting a significant drop here that should make him a contender. Has never won here but has hit the board in three of four starts. NICCOLO DREAM has won two of his past three with the lone loss coming by a nose against the top pick after opening a clear lead in the lane. As with so many in here, a strong case can be made, not the least of which is how well he's run here and at the distance.

### **Seventh Race: 1. Sax 2. Catalina Fog 3. Lindsey's Storm**

SAX did nothing in his debut but had equipment problems. Dropped a not for his second start, he sat close early and pulled away late as he dropped, added blinkers and picked up the leading rider. It was a sensational effort, and we understand those who might expect a bounce here. Hasn't been rushed back and has a nice six-furlong work in his final drill before his return to action for high-percentage barn. CATALINA FOG is the lone member of this field with two career victories. He dropped to this level and rallied nicely to pick up the win. Can't fault recent form, and he has a nice work since raced. LINDSEY'S STORM cuts his claiming price in half after that big effort in a lower level claimer to graduate last time. Has hit the board in six of eight starts. Has an easy maintenance drill while freshening up for a month.

### **Eighth Race: 1. Sevensgoldnmissiles 2. Gulf Wing 3. Chavez Ravine**

The entry of SEVENSOLDNMISSILES and CHAVEZ RAVINE looks quite strong here. Sevensgoldnmissiles has been meeting better and will get easier company here. Have to go back a long way to find a win, but like the way he worked as he ran evenly. GULF WING did nothing down south in his last start following a seven-week break. Has run well here in the past, although most of those efforts have come on the turf. Is 0-for-1 on Tapeta. Chavez Ravine graduated two back then got a two-month freshener. Was a factor to the quarter pole last time at this level, giving way grudgingly in his first try against winner. Expect improvement here.

### **Ninth Race: 1. River Lord 2. Sound'o Glory 3. Deputy Prize**

RIVER LORD comes north, moving into a new barn as he seeks to graduate. He's had six weeks since his last race and has worked steadily since his arrival here, winding up drills with a nice five-furlong bullet. Blinkers come off today after a one-race experiment. SOUND'O GLORY had been routing on the turf. When he switched to the main track last time, he ran the best race of his life, sitting back and rallying nicely after trailing by double digits the first half mile. Sports two works in the five weeks since his last start. DEPUTY PRIZE has earned checks in each of his past four starts, the final three coming against better. Grabbed the lead at the quarter pole last time but had little left in the lane and was passed by the second choice.