

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By CHUCK DYBDAL



BEST BET: Magnificent Blend (2nd race)

First Race: 1. Smoke Cat 2. Baby Gotham 3. Harvard Grad

SMOKE CAT has been a runner-up in both career starts. The one that beat him last time came right back to repeat against winners. Showed improvement in his second start and has a pair of works since. Going in good form for low-percentage barn. BABY GOTHAM has been the runner-up in his past two starts, but he's 0-for-21 in his career. His best is good enough to win, and it's a positive that barn steps him up a notch today. HARVARD GRAD returns to the sprint game after three route tries against better here. Drawn outside where he'll lag and find a good path before unleashing a strong kick late. Has good work since raced.

Second Race: 1. Magnificent Blend 2. Rooster 3. El Palqui

MAGNIFICENT BLEND had a three-race win streak snapped last time and was claimed by a high-percentage barn. Has been given seven weeks but has worked steadily for barn that wins 32 percent off the claim. Loves to win and has hit board in eight of nine starts here. Getting a slight drop, but barn is good about placing horses where they can win. ROOSTER takes blinkers off today. Has good speed and seems to be a needs-the-lead type. Has enough natural speed that he can get the lead, and he may be able to conserve a bit without the blinkers on. EL PALQUI is a god fit at this level, earning a check in every start. Has worked twice since his last start. May have to be urged a bit early with the rail draw.

Third Race: 1. Big League Dream 2. West Portal 3. Rain N Jewels

BIG LEAGUE DREAM ran second for this tag in her debut. It was an even effort, and, while she did not seriously threaten, neither was she threatened herself. Has solid half-mile gate drill since her debut. WEST PORTAL flashed speed before fading in her debut at Solano last summer. Returning 6 1/2 months later and dropping into a mid-level maiden claimer. Has worked steadily and wound up preparations with a six-furlong work. Barn does all right after layoffs and very well on the drop from straight maiden to the claiming ranks. RAIN N JEWELS was claimed last time after being dropped. Ran third at this level after engaging in a contentious pace duel two back. Has easy half-mile work since claim.

Fourth Race: 1. Ayelu 2. Arashi 3. Beautiful Dixie

AYELU has been showing improvement of late. Was claimed from a conditioned win at a lower level. Has a second and first since being stretched out again and previously beat better routing on the turf. Should get great trip from rail and should offer value. ARASHI likes this track and is 2-for-3 at this distance. She returns to her winning claiming level from two back when she went wire-to-wire. Should be a pace factor here but has enough competition maybe to be setting things up for the top pick. BEAUTIFUL DIXIE makes her third start following a layoff of more than three months. Ran better last time when stretched out again and drops a notch here. Has hit board in both starts this year.

Fifth Race: 1. Hidden Romance 2. Adonia 3. Our First Lady

HIDDEN ROMANCE has been favored while turning in a pair of solid efforts in her first two starts. She has decent speed and has run evenly in both tries, showing improvement in her second start. Rail could be only drawback if she doesn't break well but really poses no major handicap. ADONIA has worked nicely for her debut, winning up with a six-furlong bullet and a five-furlong bullet gate drill. She's the first foal of a multiple stakes-placed dam, and first-crop sire seems to have win-early capability. OUR FIRST LADY is a half to multiple stakes-winning Bold Chieftain as well as stakes-placed Hooked on Niners and Capt. Fly Hook. Didn't do much in turf debut when she hesitated when the gate opened. Will offer more value than Blossom Rock who has been close but unable to match the top pick.

Sixth Race: 1. Rocket Kitty 2. Devilish Denae 3. Made for Magic

ROCKET KITTY disappointed as the favorite last time, fading badly after taking the lead in the lane in what could be a key race. Both the winner and runner-up have come back to win. Should be able to dictate the pace here with the ability to take the lead and the patience to sit close as the situation dictates. DEVILISH DENAE has hit the board in all six starts here. She seems in peak form having won sprinting and run second when favored at this level last time. Stalker type has easy maintenance work since raced for top trainer-jockey combo. MADE FOR MAGIC makes her third start off a layoff and stretches out today. She is stakes-placed at a mile in her only two-turf race.

Seventh Race: 1. Quindici Man 2. Royal Mango 3. Stalking Gold

QUINDICI MAN ran last in his first attempt around two turns, but he did have trouble early, and the race was on the turf, which he didn't seem to like. Breeding suggests two turns should be no problem for this colt who ran second in a pair of New Mexico stakes last year. ROYAL MANGO was privately purchased by leading barn after running a strong second at this level last time. May actually be better on the turf. Will sit early, save ground and make his presence felt late. STALKING GOLD has run consistently, never failing to pick up a check since stretching out. Solid effort to graduate last time, circling the field and winning unchallenged in the lane as he switched back to the main track from turf.

Eighth Race: 1. Adulate 2. Alley K'Kats 3. Whatsamillion

ADULATE sprinted without success early in his career against much better. He's shown good speed routing since coming north with fractions good enough to win this race. Has a nice half-mile bullet since raced. Rail may be a drawback, but he is cutting his claiming price in half for this. ALLEY K' KATS has been a consistent check earner. Has shown improvement his past two starts, a maiden win followed by arguably his best race in his debut against winners when he closed nicely after rallying wide. He, too, is cutting his claiming price in half. WHATSAMILLION moves to a new barn and puts blinkers back on here. Low-profile barn does well with new faces. Like the top pick, he's cutting back in distance after showing speed routing.

