

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By CHUCK DYBDAL



BEST BET: Namirah (4th race)

First Race: 1.Rule the Storm 2.Princess Hiawatha 3.Sittywofitty

RULE THE STORM gets an all-important drop back to the claiming ranks here and has never run this cheap. Has handled routed in the past and has a series of recent six-furlong works to keep her condition since her last start more than seven weeks ago. Barn shows a nice profit off similar layoffs. PRINCESS HIAWATHA has turned in a series of consistent efforts at this level, never missing a paycheck. She likes turf and ran second last time in her first start on Tapeta. Has earned a check in a stakes as a maiden and is a viable contender here. SITTYT-WOFITTY makes her debut today. Works are OK, but barn is not known for winning with first-timers. It does have success in routes, and this one has a bullet drill at seven furlongs and may be worth a look since she'll likely offer some value.

Second Race: 1.Win to Win 2.Seafire 3.Stella's Posada

WIN TO WIN gets a significant drop here from barn that likes to win. Drops like this are just part of the game now, and he has a pair of works since his last start. There's some speed here if he wishes to stalk, which could be his best trip. Has run well here in past and shines at this distance. SEAFIRE bids for a hat trick here as he comes off a solid win at this level. Likes the front end and draws outside his other pace rivals, including Caped for Flight, who is stuck on the rail. Also likes to win as 4-for-8 record attests and is another that runs well here. STELLA'S POSADA steps up off a win. He's a hard-knocking time who is usually in the hunt. He has speed to run against here which fits his style nicely.

Third Race: 1.Miss Lion Heart 2.Hidden Romance 3.Indian Pride

MISS LION HEART is by a stakes-placed dam and a half to stakes-winning High Again. She's run twice down south and was the beaten favorite last time. Hasn't seriously threatened but has run strong races. Has a work over the track since her arrival here. Positive trainer stats and likely to offer a hint of value. HIDDEN ROMANCE turned in a strong effort as the favorite in her debut. She got a good stalking trip but raced a bit greenly. Should be improved off that start and has a pair of decent works since. Note that leading rider takes the call right back. INDIAN PRIDE draws the rail for her debut. Rail not as big a concern at this distance as it is at six furlongs. Barn does all right with first-timers, and she's by a dynamite early-win sire. Like the fact she has a strong six-furlong work under her belt. One of three in here, including top pick, sent north in search of diploma.

Fourth Race: 1.Namirah 2.Oh So Smooth 3.Dancer On Ice

NAMIRAH barely ran a step last time and gets a big drop here. Plenty of reason to like her today. That last race came on the turf, which she didn't like at all in making her first start on grass. Lack of turf breeding could explain the performance. She's run second in both main-track starts here so we know she likes the surface, and barn shows a flat-bet profit on the switch back from turf. Will be sitting back to make late run. Her late kick could be more effective at this lower level. OH SO SMOOTH has run decently since returnings from a five-month layoff. Dropped to this level last time and responded by sitting closer and finishing well to be second. Lone victory did come routing here. DANCER ON ICE returns to the main track after a pair of decent turf tries against better. She's another that should be a better fit at this level with a late kick that may be more productive against cheapies. Ran third in lone start at this level.

Fifth Race: 1.Tense Voyage 2.Lo Risquette 3.Stevie's Fuhrlong

TENSE VOYAGE has turned in a series of consistent efforts of late, and consistency is not generally a hallmark of these bottom-of-the-barrel runners. Only one work in five weeks, but barn does show flat-bet profit after similar fresheners. LO RISQUETTE seems to prefer routes to sprinting. Has only routed on the turf and has picked up a check each time. Dropping for this and should get a good stalking trip while being in good position throughout. STEVIE'S FUHLONG is getting a big drop here. Check the race by Princess Hiawatha against better in the first race today. This one just got done chasing her and finished fairly close. She's another that has done most of her running on turf but likes going two turns and was third in her only try at the distance.

Sixth Race: 1.Unvarnished 2.It's Happy Hour 3.Lenny G

UNVARNISHED is not really bred for sprinting, and his lone win came on the turf. Has been running longer one-turn races down south. While he has not been close, his fractions for six furlongs are enough to make him competitive here, and maybe he'll be able to kick past these. IT'S HAPPY HOUR just graduated at the bottom level with an improved try. He has hit the board in four straight and has never missed a paycheck. But he's never faced runners this good. Still, there's something to be said about improving runners. LENNY G returned from a year on the sidelines and ran all right when favored in his comeback. He won his next start and now tries winners at the same level. Certainly seems to have room for more improvement as he's yet to match the Beyer he got in his debut last year.

Seventh Race: 1.Steadfast Steve 2.Devilofaprice 3.Freedom Ride

STEADFAST STEVE stretched out last time in his third career start and tried the turf. He dueled for the lead, opening by a length in the lane but tired and faded late. He returns to the main track here and drops a notch. Has a pair of decent works for barn that has a lot of pluses when you look at training angles. DEVILOFAPRICE ran evenly but did make a bit of midrace move in his first start around two turns. Expect improvement with that race under his belt even though he wasn't able to get past FREEDOM RIDE after the opening quarter. He's one that should offer some value. Freedom Ride sat close while racing wide. The wide trip got to him as he hung late, but that was his best try yet, and he's back at the same level.

Eighth Race: 1.Saipan 2.Noble Courage 3.Ocean Cracker

SAIPAN put together a nice series of races at the start of his career last year. He ran all right in his first start in nine months and actually gets an easier field here. Notched his career-best Beyer despite racing wide and hanging late. Believe he will improve off that start while offering value. NOBLE COURAGE is one of those interesting runners who qualified for this while in the maiden ranks but ended up graduating against staright maidens. Went gate to wire and hung on gamely for that win in his debut here, and he showed enough to go off as the favorite again. OCEAN CRACKER spent nearly a year on the sidelines before coming back nearly six weeks ago to graduate for a tag. Has hit board in all four starts here but would like to see a little more morning activity.