

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



BEST BET: Nicole H (3rd race)

First Race: 1.Grilln N Chilln 2.So Behold 3.Scott's Spirit

GRILLN N CHILLN has run all right since returning from a 13-month layoff. He cuts his claiming price in half here after regressing a bit last time following a pair of seconds. Outside draw works perfectly for this stalker, and easy company could be just the ticket for admission to the winner's circle. SO BEHOLD puts on blinkers as he comes north and drops into conditioned company. Was a runner-up in his only appearance here. Will sit back a bit and try to be a factor late. SCOTT'S SPIRIT makes his third start following a fresher and should be a strong factor. Ran second at this level in his debut here, and improvement seems likely. Rail draw shouldn't matter in this short field.

Second Race: 1.Carson's Copper 2.Pleasure Grounds 3.Buck Tuddy Buck

CARSON'S COPPER has been the runner-up in his past two starts here. Showed improvement after switching to this high-percentage barn last time when he went off the favorite. Hasn't won in ages but should be sitting pretty here, shortening up just a bid after faltering in the late going in his previous two starts. PLEASURE GROUNDS is a past classer, who was no match for the top pick last time as he made his first start in four months. He's capable of better and will likely offer some real value. Note that he was favored in his last start before getting that four-month break. BUCK TUDDY BUCK is moving to a new barn after earning checks in both starts following a nearly nine-month layoff. Stalker typed chased the top pick last time and should be a factor in the lane here.

Third Race: 1.Nicole H 2.On the Cover 3.Princess Lucayan

NICOLE H has run second in both starts down south, including last time as an odds-on favorite at seven furlongs. Stretching out today and is certainly bred to enjoy two turns. Has a series of strong works since her last start and finds a beatable field here. ON THE COVER has run consistently during her brief career and finished fourth when sent her to run in a stakes in her second start. Has experience around two turns and has met some solid competition in her brief career. PRINCESS LUCAYAN has moved up from the claiming ranks and was nipped late last time going a mile. Ran second for a tag in her lone start at this distance.

Fourth Race: 1.Jane N Ali 2.Zanda Blue 3.Tripulina Ridge

JANE N ALI scored her lone career victory here when moved up on a disqualification in a turf route. Comes north for the second time while cutting her claiming price in half. Faded last time and cuts back slightly on the distance. Should be in contention at the head of the stretch. Believe she'll offer a bit of value. ZANDA BLUE makes her first start in nearly seven weeks. She's back at the same level but is in an easier conditioned heat. Graduated at this distance two back after being disqualified from her initial victory early in her career against better. TRIPULINA RIDGE dropped to this level last time and ran evenly while finishing third. It was a nice effort and showed she is a legitimate contender at this distance. Rider knows her well and has always picked up a check with her.

Fifth Race: 1.After Reality 2.Blame the Jockey 3.Alpine Warrior

AFTER REALITY graduated when favored at first asking for this tag. He was stepped up in his debut against winners but did little. Barn wisely drops him into a conditioned race at the same price as his graduation score. Has two solid works since his last start, including a nice half-mile bullet. BLAME THE JOCKEY drops a notch and also moves from open company to a conditioned heat. Has hit the board in all three starts here and should be tough here when he cranks things up in the lane. ALPINE WARRIOR snapped a streak of three straight runner-up finishes when he graduated on New Year's Day. Comes north for his first try against winners. Wound up Social preparations with a five-furlong bullet drill and drops into an action spot. Getting the leading man is a hint he will be live here.

Sixth Race: 1.Brite Bobby 2.Rocky Road 3.Gherig

BRITE BOBBY returns to a sprint after setting the pace in a route last time. Previously ran second after setting the early pace sprinting when dropped to this level. He does move up into open company here although the claiming price remains the same. Gets a weight break that could prove important since he'll likely be a part of the pace scenario anyway. He's done his best running here in the past. ROCKY ROAD bids for a repeat after dropping to this level and winning for a high-percentage barn last out. Has an easy maintenance drill since raced for barn that enjoys success with runners coming off wins. GHERIG ran second the whole way last time. He couldn't hold off Rocky Road's late charge as he was bidding for a repeat. He also trailed the top pick three back, but must be used on the lower end of exotics.

Seventh Race: 1.Just Get'er Done 2.Ghost Tree 3.Monica C C

JUST GET'ER DONE dropped a notch last time and got'er done as the favorite, pulling away late. Takes a step back up the ladder here for the leading barn that purchased her privately two back. Was tiring a bit late in that race when bumped in the stretch of a turf race for this level and did move up to fourth on a DQ. Likes this track and has won four of nine career starts here. GHOST TREE graduated here for this tag last fall and has been meeting better since then. Cuts claiming price in half for return to winning level. Has beaten better at this distance. MONICA C C dropped to this level, winning a conditioned heat here last time. Both career victories against winners have come in conditioned heats at this level.

Eighth Race: 1.Cowboy Heart 2.King Congo 3.Strong Premonition

COWBOY HEART is bidding for a repeat here as he makes his first start since winning a starter allowance race on the turf. Getting a big drop but has run at this level — placing third — previously. Has speed and should be able to get the lead from his outside post. Condition is a question, but he's worked steadily since his win. KING CONGO is gunning for a hat trick here. Won at the bottom level, then won at this level, digging in late to hold on. Has speed as does the top pick but has run well as a stalker. STRONG PREMONITION was gaining on the second choice last time. He is content to sit back, and, tactically that could be the perfect way to go in this race where the pace could be contentious.