

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By **CHUCK DYBDAL**



BEST BET: Miki's King (5th race)

First Race: 1. Skyspy 2. Colonel Courtney 3. Premier Diablo

SKYSPY is as sharp as any horse on the grounds with three straight victories, including one at this level last time. He's shown improvement in each of those starts and is 2-for-2 since being claimed for \$5,000. Has enough speed that rail draw shouldn't affect him, although would prefer outside post. Venerable COLONEL COURTNEY has seven career wins here, all pre-Tapeta. Nine-year-old has been running down south and comes back here looking for easier. PREMIER DIABLO has hit the board in his past two starts at this level. He just got done chasing the top pick. Not much early foot, but he closes well and did beat easier here three back.

Second Race: 1. Seeingisbelieving 2. Cowboy Heart 3. Rooftop

SEEINGISBELIEVING has a pair of decent sprints to start his career and stretches out and drops today. Had a ton of trouble last time, breaking a bit slowly from the rail, getting floated very wide as he loomed into contention and finally having his rider drop his whip. Barn is good at stretching runners out. COWBOY HEART moves to a new barn and has been freshened for this. Barn has high win percentage with new faces and takes the blinkers off, which has been another high-percentage move. Has been working steadily and gets to meet easier here. ROOFTOP has shown improvement since stretching out. Rallied very wide last time and was flying late. Won't get 56-to-1 here today, but he could still provide some value.

Third Race: 1. Ringmaster 2. Standing High 3. Christie's Glory

RINGMASTER comes north, drops to the bottom level and moves into a high-percentage barn. Oh, yes, he also gets the leading rider. Are those enough reasons to overlook that 1-for-33 career record? Has been running well enough to handle this bunch and does have a pair of works over the track. Still, 1-for-33 may tell you something. STANDING HIGH is another Social expatriate who has been the runner-up in his past two starts here when dropped to this level. Had the lead in the lane last time before fading badly and just holding second. Top jock switched off him for top pick here. CHRISTIE'S GLORY was second under similar conditions before moving to starter allowance company for runners that have competed for this tag. Facing easier company here and shouldn't be ignored in exotics.

Fourth Race: 1. Bien Amour 2. Sweet Sweet Taylor 3. Sylvie

BIEN AMOUR was gone nearly a year after graduating in January 2008. Has hit board in both starts at this level since her comeback, prepping in a sprint and then finishing second around two turns last time out. Should be primed for her best now. SWEET SWEET TAYLOR made a good move into the lane in her route debut last time before hanging late. Having that trip under her belt should make her much tougher here. It's been a while since SYLVIE raced at this bottom level. She has been no factor in her past two starts, but the quality of competition here makes her worth a look at the bottom end of exotics where she'll likely add value to your ticket.

Fifth Race: 1. Miki's King 2. Uintah 3. Courageous Command

MIKI'S KING comes north for one reason, well, maybe two. Most importantly from a betting standpoint, he's here to pick up his diploma. That's why there is a big drop to the bottom level despite the improvement after stretching out. Was privately purchased after his last start. Making first start for barn that wins 30 percent with new faces. Didn't show much, waltzing through lone workout here, but it was probably primarily to introduce him to the track. UINTAH has hit the board three times since stretching out. Passed tired horses here last time when dropped to this level and running third as the favorite. Tab the rider switch. COURAGEOUS COMMAND made a good move into the lane when stretched out last time. Came home evenly as several past him. Has two works since and should be much tighter today in third start off layoff.

Sixth Race: 1. Thundering Justice 2. Pecan Nut 3. Lewptedo

Contentious heat includes pair of runners that ran second and third while beaten less than a length last time (Refinery and Austie), and they will likely get good support here. Can't argue with their form, but THUNDERING JUSTICE could play a big role here. Ran second in his previous sprint and set an honest pace routing last time. Faded as the favorite that day but has come back with a pair of bullet half-mile drills to indicate his sharpness. PECAN NUT is part of an entry with Honor Gulch. He comes off some event efforts and could offer irresistible value here. Has been given a brief freshener but has worked nicely in the interim. LEWPTEDO shortens up today and sheds blinkers in first start off a claim. Returned from freshener and raced evenly in route while sitting fairly close to decent fractions. Could make presence felt late here.

Seventh Race: 1. Lo Risquette 2. Top Crop 3. Natpolean

LO RISQUETTE will run without blinkers here. She dropped to this level last time and made a good move into the lane before fading late. She should appreciate the sprint distance, and the late-running style actually works well at this distance where leaders are often tempted to go too fast early. TOP CROP did not get away sharply in her debut. She rallied wide and did pass some runners while making no impact on the winner. Has an easy work since then and should show some improvement today as she draws a better post. NATPOLEAN ran at the bottom level down south and comes north hoping the bottom level here is easier. Has a bullet work since raced and hints at having enough speed that the rail draw shouldn't work against her.

Eighth Race: 1. Stormy Surge 2. Wild Cycle 3. Putmeinyourwill

STORMY SURGE moves to a new barn via the claim after missing by a head in a thrilling stretch duel. Has never finished worse than second here and has done well at the distance in the past. Been going in top form and has worked steadily for new barn. Getting a big step up the claiming ladder here. WILD CYCLE doubles his claiming price here after scoring a solid win last time. As with the top pick, he's run well here and at this distance. Has shown improvement of late and should offer enough value to merit a long look. PUTMEINYOURWILL is a former stakes winner who came within a neck of knocking off millionaire McCann's Mojave here in a graded stakes. Has been off for six months but is working well for his return, and leading barn does well with comebackers.

Ninth Race: 1. Newport Topper 2. Stormy Racer 3. Princess Susan M

It's not often that you can look at a legitimate contender sent out by the leading barn and believe she could be a value play, but NEWPORT TOPPER may be that horse. She is dropping for this and has been running consistently, picking up checks at higher levels. She has some speed and is drawn to the outside, which is an advantageous post. STORMY RACER makes her debut here after being claimed for this price when third as the favorite down south. Has hit the board in four straight and has the speed to sit a good trip early. Has pair of works over track for barn that wins 25 percent off the claim. PRINCESS SUSAN M doubles her claiming price after winning a conditioned heat last time. She has been running well, hitting the board in her past six starts, but she's meeting much tougher here. Has trio of maintenance drills since raced.