

GOLDEN GATE ANALYSIS

By CHUCK DYBDAL



BEST BET: Merry Marino (3rd race)

First Race: 1.Sweet Sweet Taylor 2.Raising Suzzie 3.Acid

SWEET SWEET TAYLOR heads a tough entry with ACID. Both come off seconds in their previous starts, Sweet Sweet Taylor at Hastings against better and Acid in a comeback here against easier. Sweet Sweet Taylor can run on or off the pace, and her outside draw gives her strategic options as she meets older. RAISING SUZZIE just broke her maiden at the bottom level. Gets a mild drop for this following that wire-to-wire score that was 27 points higher than her previous Beyer. She could be tough if she repeats her last and seems to have a chance to steal this one. Acid is 1-for-26 in her career, but, until recently, she was meeting much better.

Second Race: 1.Forasteiro 2.Change Your Mask 3.Proud Cajun

FORASTEIRO brings a two-race winning streak into this heat but takes a major step up the claiming ladder. Showed little in his first two starts on the turf, but he's turned things around since moving to the main track. Doubles his claiming price here and also moves up one condition. Have to go with sharp runner here. CHANGE YOUR MASK made two starts on the turf here with a win and a third. He also has a third on the main track here against better. Comes north after fading against better in his first start in three months. Drop will help as will having that last race under his belt. PROUD CAJUN was claimed by the leading barn last time for this tag as he hung in the lane when fourth in an open race at this level. That loss snapped a two-race win streak. Lone win here came on the turf.

Third Race: 1.Merry Marino 2. Point of Reference 3.Dixie Hawks

How good is MERRY MARINO? That 10-length win in her debut was impressive, and she was not really asked in the lane. Has three maintenance drills since that race. Like the way she settled in early and exploded into the lane. Should be room for improvement off her debut. POINT OF REFERENCE just got up to graduate in her second start as the favorite. Should have won easier but had to check in the lane, and she then quickly got back into gear in a better-than-looks effort. DIXIE HAWKS graduated down south and has already had a try at this level. Comes north in hopes of finding easier for the top barn. Rates as a contender, and look who takes the call for her Nocal debut.

Fourth Race: 1.Summer Solstice 2.Dustin the Track 3.Coachman

SUMMER SOLSTICE did nothing in his debut when asked to go two turns on the turf. Barn went with Plan B in second start, sprinting him on the main track. What a difference the surface and distance switches made. He stalked, put his head in front in the lane after battling head-and-head and then pulled clear. Comes right back at the same level against winners after meeting better in his debut. DUSTIN THE TRACK was tested against older and better when he made his two-turn debut in his first start against winners. Has been given a freshener by a hot barn, which returns him to the sprint ranks and drops him back to the level he graduated at. Has three works since raced, including a nice six-furlong move. Though he faded late, he did set the pace in his last start. COACHMAN has been running against better in Canada. Barn takes a calculated gamble with this drop. Barn shows a profit with new faces and has given him a decent half-mile work over the Tapeta.

Fifth Race:

1.Polish Charmer 2. Sweet Silence 3.Pogey NogeY

POLISH CHARMER ran second to a decent-looking prospect last time and gets another drop here. She has been second in two of her past three start and bound herself farther back than usual because of a very rapid pace last time. Shouldn't have as much to do late today. SWEET SILENCE has earned checks in six straight races since dropping to this level and just had a streak of four straight on-the-board finishes snapped. Has turned in consistent effort of late and will get first run on the top pick. POGEY NOGEY ran second in her debut here with a style that suggest the extra distance may work fin for her. Note she flattened out late, which has been a trend in all her races. Still, she should be overlooked in exotics.

Sixth Race: 1.Guts 2.Letsgobyeybe 3.Seattle Delegate

No GUTS on your mutual ticket could mean no glory. Aptly named runner showed plenty of guts winning the Cal Cup Starter Handicap, and he did well last time in another turf marathon here. Likes the turf but may prefer a longer distance. Should be flying at the finish and has his claiming price cut in half to a career low. LETSGOBYEBYE has started twice for this tag and won both times. He turned in a solid effort at twice this price two back, and the last was a pretty fast race. Still, the drop should make him worth a long look here. SEATTLE DELEGATE has been well-backed of late and favored in his past three tries for this tag. Has only won one of those starts and finished off the board in the other two. Lost photo to Storm Dragon, who is in this field, but a wide trip may have made the difference.

Seventh Race: 1.Black Mallou 2.Mr. Nutcracker 3.One Ofthe Others

BLACK MALLOU likes to win and has run well here. Dropping a notch after a game victory followed by a runner-up finish. Leading rider wins at a good percentage for this trainer and has won with this gelding in the past. MR. NUTCRACKER is a Hastings import that has been showing speed routing. Will get more of a stalking trip here, and did win stalking in a conditioned route for this tag. Did graduate for this tag in a wire-to-wire performance. ONE OFTHE OTHERS sat close in a race won by the top pick. He sat off the pace while in a traffic jam last out before unleashing a strong stretch kick to pull away late.

Eighth Race: 1.Alight in Darkness 2.Beau Geni 3.Selina's Mask

ALIGHT IN DARKNESS has won two straight against the bottom level of competition on the grounds. This is a tougher crew despite the fact she qualified for this race by winning last time for the bottom claiming tag. She seems to have things together now so let's look for a hat trick. BEAU GENI put together a four-race win streak earlier this year but turned in a disappointing effort last time. Can rebound here and did have trouble, getting eliminated at the quarter pole. Rushed up into the lane after that but couldn't sustain her closing bid last time. SELINA'S MASK set the place against similar here last time. Prior to that, she ran second at this distance in her first start in open company running for this tag. Has speed but doesn't need the lead.