# By Chuck Dybdal

# BEST BET: Awesome Anywhere (7th race)

## **First Race**

1. Hot N Breezy 2. Boot Scootin' Kid 3. Missalma

HOT N BREEZY has earned checks in all nice career starts. She ran third when favored and then second in his past two starts here when running at this bargain-basement level. Sat closer last time but only because fractions were very slow. She'll finish well. BOOT SCOOTIN' KID has been running consistently of late both sprinting and routing at this distance. Was the beaten favorite last time at this distance when she raced wide and had little left in the lane. MISSALMA had been showing improvement until she did nothing in her last start. She's dropping a notch here and did run second at this level, beating the top pick two back. She'll be a threat if she bounces back.

### **Second Race**

1. You'll Be Lucky	2. Kid Arcade	3. Unlawful Act

YOU'LL BE LUCKY rallied wide late in his first start in six weeks and was the third head in a photo last time when favored. He has an easy work since for barn that wins 21 percent in the second start following similar layoffs. He's been going in good form and may only have to repeat her last to win here. KID ARCADE was also coming back last time when he nipped the top pick for second. The two are pretty nicely matched, but this one is 0-for-5 on the turf, albeit with three seconds. UNLAWFUL ACT was fourth behind the top two picks last time. He's another that has never won on the turf, but he's hit the board in four of six starts on this course.

## Third Race

1. International Diva	2. Bellasario	3. Little Miss Hottie

INTERNATIONAL DIVA made her first main-track start here last time when she dropped to this bottom level last time. She sat back and made a good move into the lane. Although the beaten favorite that day, she did finish well and was not challenged at all for second. BELLASARIO broke her maiden in her 12th career start. She had trailed Apphia in her two previous start, but she ran well last time and will likely offer better value here. LITTLE MISS HOTTIE takes blinkers off today. She is hardly a win machine with one victory in 30 lifetime starts, including 23 here. Her value comes at the bottom of your exotics, but the stalker should be in good position throughout.

#### **Fourth Race**

# 1. True Validity 2. Smiling Sunset 3. City of Pearls

TRUE VALIDITY hit the board in her first two Socal starts, but has regressed a bit. She has decent early foot and is coming north for the first time with a nice bullet drill since his comeback try. She's been working nicely since fading in her comeback and may face easier in this spot. SMILING SUNSET ran third as the favorite in her debut. She stalked nicely despite breaking slowly. She seemed to hang a bit late. She's a sister of a 2 YO stakes winner. CITY OF PEARLS makes her debut here. She's by a good debut sire, and her lone sibling was a winner at age two. She began her career down south but has come north for her final drills before racing for the first time.

#### Fifth Race

1. Tap Fever	2. Mr. Gee's Journey	3. Zucchini

**TAP FEVER** is looking for his first turf win after missing by a nose last time at this level. He's a full brother of a multiple stakes winner on the turf. He has two nice maintenance drills since his strong effort. Has no speed but will save ground from the rail **MR. GEE'S JOURNEY** was nipped by the top pick, finishing third in a three-way photo in his first start at this level last time. He has speed, which he will use with his inside draw. **ZUCCHINI** raced in mid pack in a solid race at this level in his turf debut. Has a decent turf sire, and dam won twice on the turf. We expect some improvement here.

## Sixth Race

1. Pure Perfection	2. Our Renee	3. Regal Lady

PURE PERFECTION has enjoyed success here, but she's lived up to her name when running at this distance, four starts, four victories -- pure perfection. She's a stalker who should get a clean trip with his outside draw and be in perfect position when she hits the stretch. She won for this tag two back. OUR RENEE chased home the top pick two back and then scored a nice win on the turf last time. She has enjoyed success on the main track here, including that runner-up at this distance. REGAL LADY set the pace, nearly pulling off an upset until the final strides at this distance last time when stretched out. She likes this distance and should get a good trip from the rail.

#### **Seventh Race**

# 1. Awesome Anywhere 2. Annie's Candy 3. Mah Gellin

A tough, competitive field of runners going in good form signed up for this stakes, and eight of the original nine who signed up for last Saturday's running signed up again. AWESOME ANYWHERE seems to be living up to his name. He's won three straight, starting here when he got claimed and then going south for two more wins, showing major improvement each time. He has speed and went wire-to-wire last time when earning a triple-digit Beyer. The key is he doesn't need the lead. ANNIE'S CANDY moved to a new barn last time while scoring his second straight win and is a stablemate of the top pick. He's been Mr. Consistency of late and won a sprint stakes at Pleasanton this summer. He's rooting for a torrid pace duel since he should be getting first run in the lane. MAH GELLIN has run second to the top two picks in his past two starts. He set the pace both time before getting run down by the top pick and then the second choice. He's a tough old-timer.

## **Eighth Race**

1. King Eddie	2. Cannonball Comin	3. On Trust

The super sharp **KING EDDIE** has been part of the exacta in every starts since coming north this summer. After four straight seconds, he won as the odds-on pick last time in a maiden race that does not count against him here. Has a pair of decent maintenance drills in preparation for this big step up to starter competition. **CANNONBALL COMIN** is another that has been competing well. He's been the runner-up at this level in his past two starts and has been second in his past three tries at this level. Watch for him in the lane. **ON TRUST** finally graduated when dropped into the claiming ranks for the first time this spring. He was favored that day and finished strongly to win. He's making his first mark in eight-plus months, but he's always run well fresh in the past.

### **Ninth Race**

	1. Gabo's Macondo	2. G. G. Ryder	3. Camino Del Paraiso	
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**GABO'S MACONDO** is unbeaten in three starts since being claimed from a win at Sacramento this summer. He's won twice on the turf course here and then won the Bull Dog at Fresno last out. He's never finished off the board on the main track here. He has good speed and is usually a pace factor, although he does not need the lead to win. **G. G. RYDER** has been a force in GGF graded stakes, although he hasn't had the best of luck in the Berkeley in the past. He wasn't nominated for the San Francisco Mile or All American earlier this year, but he's turned in two straight solid efforts since a summer layoff. **CAMINO DEL PARAISO** is a value play who actually ran third behind Editore last year. Editore is back and is Flamboyant, who edged him in the San Francisco Mile to become a millionaire earlier this year. Contention runs deeps as should be expected in a Grade 3 stakes.

# 1. Ancestry 2. Charlie Cowden 3. Gallant Heat

**ANCESTRY** has been the runner-up in both starts since returning from a 15-month layoff. He showed improvement in his comeback after his 2017 debut and then ran even better last time. Stalker nicely drawn outside where he'll get a good trip. **CHARLIE COWDEN** is making his GGF debut as he makes his first start of 2018. He was the beaten favorite down south last December and returns dropping to the bottom level here. He's been gelded since his last start and has been working steadily for his comeback. **GALLANT HEAT** makes his first start since being re-claimed on April 1. He makes the final drop to the bottom level here. He's been heavily favored in all three starts this year and has been the runner-up in his past four starts.