

Date: January 10, 2019

Track: Golden Gate Fields

By Chuck Dybdal

BEST BET: Touched by Autism (5th race)

First Race

1. Vacaville Special

2. Colonel Deering

3. Stratus Bird

VACAVILLE SPECIAL figures to offer a bit of value here as she drops after racing evenly without ever threatening. She beat cheaper and was claimed two back. She's won three of six here, but her maiden win was on a DQ, and her two victories against winners came against cheaper. **COLONEL DEERING** had a third and a second against similar this fall after a 4 1/2-month lay. She's been freshened for this but has a pair of six-furlong works so should be able to maintain her recent form. **STRATUS BIRD** has two wins and two seconds in two starts here. She likes the front end but is making her first start in more than nine months on a track that sometimes works against comebacking speedsters.

Second Race

1. Our Renee

2. Regal Lady

3. Neon Gypsy

OUR RENEE is one of five runners in this heat to have competed against each other in a similar race on Nov. 24. She set the pace most of the way before giving way in the lane. She was then nipped for third by late-running long shot Blushing Bug. She's worked steadily since then and merits another shot. **REGAL LADY** stalked in the aforementioned race then set the early pace before settling for third in a sprint. Didn't use her speed in the last meeting and may be content to stalk again. **NEON GYPSY** is the lone new face in this field. She won a sprint against easier then ran third, beaten less than a length at this level. She's more of a sprinter, but she showed last time that two turns is something she can handle.

Third Race

1. Cocktail Racer

2. She's a Spy

3. Merittris

COCKTAIL RACER drops into the claiming ranks at the bottom level today after running in straight maiden heats in her first three starts. She's not super quick, but she should get a stalking trip here with her outside draw. Both siblings are winners. **SHE'S A SPY** has picked up a check in each start. She's on an uptick here and has a nice stalking style that will have her in contention throughout. **MERITTRIS** is the daughter of a stakes winner. She set the pace last time when dropped to the lowest level of her career. And today she drops again to the bottom level.

Fourth Race

1. Dom the Bomb

2. Looks Good N a Tux

3. Jason X L

DOM THE BOMB makes his first start here after running decently back east and in the Midwest. He makes his first start in seven weeks and does have a work over the track. Condition is a question, and this track is not always kind to comebackers who like to show speed. He's a solid runner who has enjoyed success on synthetics before. **LOOKS GOOD N A TUX** is a solid runner here. He set the pace in a route when dropped to this level last time before fading. He's better when sprinting and should get a dream trip here. **JASON X L** hasn't sprinted in some time, but he has four wins and six exacta finishes at this distance. Watch for him late.

Fifth Race

1. Touched by Autism

2. Rye

3. Sunset Dragunn

TOUCHED BY AUTISM comes off a game sprint stakes win when he also drew the rail. He stalked nicely, moved out for room and wore down rivals in the lane. Has a pair of decent works since, including a half-mile bullet. **RYE** is better known as a route specialist and has won on the turf course here. He's making his first start since last May, and this is strictly a prep for upcoming routes, but he should be fit and did run third in his lone start at this distance. **SUNSET DRAGUNN** was caught in the final strides after a big effort in a stakes last time. He likes this track, but he's trailed the top pick in their past three starts.

Sixth Race

1. Drip Drop

2. Killarney Lass

3. Stellarium

DRIP DROP, like most of her rivals, is making her turf debut here. Has decent turf breeding and the speed to be a pace factor throughout. She has never missed a paycheck and has three easy maintenance drills since her last start. **KILLARNEY LASS** is the daughter of a stakes-place turf runner. Both siblings are winners on the turf. She's making her first start since what may have been a freak-out win last fall at Emerald Downs, but if she comes anywhere close to that effort, she could dominate here. **STELLARIUM** is the lone turf winner in the field. She has won twice when routing on the turf, although she was disqualified from her first win. Watch for her in the lane.

Seventh Race

1. The Pet

2. Happier Together

3. Filthy

THE PET not only drops into the claiming ranks for the first time, she comes north and will run at the bottom level. She's shown speed routing and will likely be a pace factor as she cuts back into a sprint. Would like to see more than two works, but the most recent was a decent six-furlong gate move. **HAPPIER TOGETHER** is a stalker type who has hit the board in both sprint starts here since dropping to this level. Has a pair of works since her most recent race, which was arguably her best yet. **FILTHY** has shown speed in the past and will be a pace factor here. All three siblings are winners. She is dropping a notch to the bottom level today.