

# Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

**BEST BET: Pratchett (6th race)**

## First Race

**1. Skatingthroughlife**

**2. Cyprus Moon**

**3. Way too Sexy**

Second-time starter ~SKATINGTHROUGHHLIFE<sup>^</sup> is likely to improve off her better-than-looked fifth-place debut; she can upset this maiden turf sprint. Her debut was solid. She raced wide, finished well and galloped out willingly after the wire. Tab for an improved effort second time out. ~CYPRUS MOON<sup>^</sup> finished second as the favorite in the same race as the top choice. 'MOON could vie for favoritism after hitting the board five of six starts. Not sure if this six-furlong distance is ideal, however. She is all speed, and lost ground late every start. Second preference, nonetheless. First-time starters ~WAY TOO SEXY<sup>^</sup> and CONSIDER HER LUCKY appear to have trained well. 'SEXY is by Flatter (11 percent debut wins); she is the second runner from a stakes-winning mare. Her trainer wins often with first-time starters on dirt; he is 1-for-25 with firsters on turf the past five years. CONSIDER HER LUCKY is a sibling to G3 winner Skinner.

## Second Race

**1. Style Cat**

**2. Silverado Storm**

**3. One Smokin Dude**

~STYLE CAT<sup>^</sup> is the fastest in this Cal-bred juvenile allowance sprint based on his last two starts at Del Mar: highly rated win turf allowance, respectable fourth Cal-bred stakes. The challenge for 'CAT is to reproduce DMR form at Santa Anita. Neither previous SA start was great. He has improved since the last time he raced here. 'CAT is the horse to beat, not sure if a short price is justified. Conversely, ~SILVERADO STORM<sup>^</sup> ran the best race of his five-start career the only time he raced at SA. That was a maiden-50 win by more than five lengths. He was overmatched in a stakes two back, he stumbled at the break and was eliminated last out. With a clean takeoff, he will be involved in the pace. ~ONE SMOKIN DUDE<sup>^</sup> is gradually improve, up in class off a maiden win. 'DUDE will be running late.

## Third Race

**1. Fifth Street**

**2. Nashoba's Joy**

**3. Bee Eye Gee**

~FIFTH STREET<sup>^</sup> is the fastest in this N2L claiming turf sprint based on recent fast races on dirt including a pair of runner-up finishes. Although the surface switch creates uncertainty (unplaced only previous turf start), his pedigree suggests turf should be fine. A pace-presser in sharp form, he can win if he handles the footing. ~NASHOBA'S JOY<sup>^</sup> returns to the class level at which he finished a close third two starts back at a mile. He is a two-turn veteran whose sprint ability is uncertain, but he will be rolling late and they are going six and a half. The distance is the longest main-oval turf sprint distance currently offered. ~BEE EYE GEE<sup>^</sup> drops for the first time to claiming. His only win was his only tuft sprint, way back in June.

## Fourth Race

**1. Ignatowski**

**2. Factory Drive**

**3. Cyber Smart**

An 11-start maiden with in-the-money finishes five of his last six, ~IGNATOWSKI<sup>^</sup> is the tepid choice in this maiden-20 sprint. If the late-runner gets pace to run at, he can wear them down for the consistently productive trainer-jockey combo of Steve Knapp and Tiago Pereira. ~FACTORY DRIVE<sup>^</sup> faced maiden special-weight rivals twice early this year, and finished far back. Off six months, he shows up at the rock-bottom class level. The 67 Beyer he earned in his debut would probably be fast enough. ~CYBER SMART<sup>^</sup> makes his debut in a soft spot, while BRUCKNER was gelded since he was claimed from a fourth-place finish last out in a route race at this class level. He could improve.

## Fifth Race

**1. Rascality**

**2. Queen Maxima**

**3. Ang N Ash**

~RASCALITY<sup>^</sup> and ~QUEEN MAXIMA<sup>^</sup> are the choices in this filly-mare allowance turf sprint. The call is comeback dropper RASCALITY, who posted a series of bullet workouts for her first start since finishing ninth in a G2 turf mile in July. RASCALITY runs well fresh, won a maiden race by four lengths here last winter making her first start in five months; she finished second in a G3 turf sprint last spring while returning from a two-month break. The point is, she runs well fresh and likes the SA turf. She is working like she will fire first start back. QUEEN MAXIMA is the "now" filly, runner-up in back-to-back starts including a stakes runner-up two starts back on the hill. This race is on the flat; her runner-up by a nose finish last out on the flat at DMR is the highest-rated in the field. Close call between the top pair. ~ANG N ASH<sup>^</sup> is back doing what she does best, which is sprint. She had a tough trip out in a route; she got stuck in traffic and had no shot. Sprinting is her deal.

## Sixth Race

**1. Pratchett**

**2. Eagles Dare**

**3. Last Call Paul**

~PRATCHETT<sup>^</sup> should be tough in this Cal-bred maiden-50 based on his third-place debut at this level last winter and his highly rated runner-up finish in his maiden-20 comeback last month. He finished more than five lengths clear of third, earned a relatively high 72 Beyer, worked twice since over the SA track, and looks tough to beat with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. Trainer Mike Puype's last eight favorites in maiden-claiming dirt sprints produced seven wins, one second. ~EAGLES DARE<sup>^</sup> drops to maiden-50 after facing MSW rivals his first two starts. His third-place debut here in April was a creditable effort that shows he handles the SA surface. ~LAST CALL PAUL<sup>^</sup> is a 17-start maiden with seven seconds and three thirds. Runner-up four of his last five starts, this is his first start in two months. SEATTLE SURF is a nine-start maiden who finished second his last two starts.

## Seventh Race

**1. Artislas**

**2. King of Dragons**

**3. Sabertooth**

Stakes winner ~ARTISLAS<sup>^</sup> faces easier in this \$100k stakes following a better-than-looked eighth in a tougher \$200k stakes at this same turf-mile trip. He broke from an outside post, lost ground, raced in heavy traffic on the backstretch and through the far turn, finished well, and missed by only three and one-half lengths. It was a solid effort against a good field. Seven runners from the stakes ran back, three won next out and three finished second. ARTISLAS finished first across the wire in a pair of G3 turf miles in fall, switches to Prat, and can wear them down. ~KING OF DRAGONS<sup>^</sup> improved each subsequent start including a maiden win last out over two well-regarded stakes-placed maidens. Although the

class hike from MSW to stakes is a challenge, it is hardly insurmountable. Five of the last 10 winners of this stakes entered off maiden races. ~SABERTOOTH^ disappointed last out at odds-on; he finished second to 'DRAGONS. The best race by SABERTOOTH was his only start over the SA turf in fall. FOMO JOE stretches to a mile off a front-running debut sprint win. Come and catch him.

### **Eighth Race**

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| <b>1. Duty First</b> | <b>2. Tequila Talkin</b> | <b>3. Mega Moon</b> |
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~DUTY FIRST^ returns from a layoff of nearly a year, while employing the "no-claim waiver." That usually signals confidence. Fast races a year ago by DUTY FIRST would be fast enough for this N3L claiming sprint. ~TEQUILA TALKIN^ has something the top choice lacks. That is, current form. Claimed last out from a decisive N2L win, he has speed to establish position from the inside post. ~MEGA MOON^ ranks among the fastest in the field on figures, but he faces uncertainty switching to dirt and shortening to a sprint. But he figures as a contender off respectable turf efforts vs. better.

### **Ninth Race**

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| <b>1. Guiltyofhavingfun</b> | <b>2. We the Hobby</b> | <b>3. Maga Kai</b> |
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~GUILTYOFHAVINGFUN^ is sitting on a maiden win in this Cal-bred maiden turf sprint, based on her runner-up finish in a similar Cal-bred maiden turf sprint. She finished more than four lengths clear of third while improving markedly over her debut. Obvious choice with a forwardly placed trip. ~WE THE HOBBY^ finished far behind the top choice last out at DMR, but the runner-up finish by 'HOBBY two starts back over the SA course puts her in the hunt. Second-time starter ~MAGA KAI^ virtually split the field first time out; she is likely to move forward with a race under her belt. SASAFRAN has posted a series of fast works for her career debut.