

# **Expert Analysis**

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Annan (4th race)

First Race

1. Rank 2. Broski 3. Mythical Reel

One more chance for ~RANK^? The nine-start maiden drops from a turf-mile stakes into a turf mile for maidens. His last-out fifth was okay; he was in contention at the quarter pole of the Pasadena Stakes before he faded. He removes blinkers for his second turf try, and gets Lasix. After facing tough company throughout his career, maybe the tenth time will be the charm. ~BROSKI^ is racing into shape; he has improved since he was gelded in December. He finished third both starts as a "G," including a better-than-looked effort last out while compromised by the race shape. BROSKI set the pace to deep stretch before being run over by rivals who rallied from last and next-to-last. The uncertainty this time is the mile and one-eighth distance. The sire of BROSKI was a sprinter whose best progeny are mostly sprinters. Second preference, nonetheless. ~MYTHICAL REEL^ is the program favorite off a close runner-up finish last out at a mile. He will rally late, which suits the course profile. Most mile-and-eighth turf races this meet were won from behind. UNRIVALED HERO is up in class from a solid third in a maiden-80. He is getting better, and runs as if he will like this longer distance.

#### Second Race

1. Tapatia Leah 2. Sexy Blue 3. Jolie Candy

~TAPATIA LEAH^ finished second, far clear of third, both recent starts at this maiden-50 class level. The pace-pressing filly could get a good trip behind the speedster to her outside, and if that one drifts wide like last out, LEAH can cut the corner and win by reproducing her last start. The likely pacesetter is ~SEXY BLUE^, who ran well last out. She dueled with the favorite and put her away, drifted wide into the lane, tried to fight back, and finished more than nine lengths clear of third. 'BLUE is speed, but the rival she put away last time is now drawn outside. That could put 'BLUE on the receiving end of pressure. Win or lose, 'BLUE will be involved in the pace. ~JOLIE CANDY^ is the aforementioned pace rival, moving from the inside to the outside where she can race in the clear without being gunned off her feet.

#### **Third Race**

1. Pilot Commander 2. Fort Bragg 3. For All Mankind

~PILOT COMMANDER^ is solid in this five-runner G3 sprint, based on a decisive N2X win last out and creditable fourth in the G1 Malibu two back. The lightly raced (3-for-6) sprinter worked well since raced including a team work with stablemate ~FORT BRAGG^ in which 'COMMANDER raced inside, took pressure, and held sway. The inside post is a challenge, but the sharp colt is the "now" horse in a stakes won by favorites six of the last nine years. FORT BRAGG gave the top choice all he could handle in the March 22 work. However, this is the first start in nearly four months for 'BRAGG, a G3 winner whose allowance win last out at Del Mar was validated when runner-up Roll On Big Joe subsequently won a N2X and G3. ~FOR ALL MANKIND^, G3 runner-up to 'Big Joe last out in a G3, is drawn outside where he figures for a pressing trip in the clear. SPIRIT OF MAKENA has not raced in a year and a half; VLAHOS adds speed to the field.

# **Fourth Race**

1. Annan 2. Just a Graze 3. Canani

~ANNAN^, whose last-out runner-up finish was better than it looks on paper, should win this Cal-bred maiden turf mile. After missing his entire 3yo season, he returned as improved horse this year at age 4. His last was his best yet. He was shuffled on the backstretch, and then shuffled completely out of position on the far turn, re-rallied between rivals, finished well, and galloped out alongside the winner. Super effort by ANNAN; the race was validated when winner King of Clubs returned to win an allowance. If he gets clear sailing, ANNAN looks tough. ~JUST A GRAZE^ stretches out for the first time, following a solid runner-up sprint. He is a full sibling to Feeling Grazeful, who was two-for-two in routes. ~CANANI^ also stretches out; his best finish was his only previous route, third in a similar race in January. FIGHT BACK is a seven-start maiden who did not have a great trip last out. He will rally late.

# Fifth Race

1. Brother o' Brien 2. Happy Does 3. Supermazel

Class dropper ~BROTHER O' BRIEN^ can win this \$5k claiming field. It's a route restricted to Northern California horses/horsemen. After misfiring vs. better in January, BROTHER O' BRIEN has been off nearly three months. He returns at the bottom level with speed figures that suit this level. He runs well fresh, three recent works over the SA track are solid, and trainer Tim McCanna is 5-for-7 with favorites this meet. BROTHER O' BRIEN is listed at 7-2, the program favorite is ~HAPPY DOES^. The latter finished in the money all four starts this meet, and has more speed than the top choice. He figures for another up-front trip, while ~SUPERMAZEL^ was compromised by a wide trip last out. He finished fourth as the favorite. Basically, if top choice BROTHER O' BRIEN does not win as expected, anything goes.

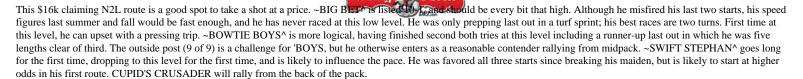
# Sixth Race

1. Lady Gregory 2. Unwritten Code 3. Dr. Ray D.

A solid cast of turf sprinters entered this \$25k starter/optional \$32k claiming. The call is ~LADY GREGORY^, who crushed a Cal-bred allowance last out in the best race of her 10-for-27 career. The durable and consistent mare has improved this season for high-percent trainer Jeff Mullins, she has tactical speed and a versatile style, and should tuck into a cozy trip right behind the speed. ~UNWRITTEN CODE^ is the pace of the race based on her front-running win on turf for \$25k. She won last out at the recently speed-favoring distance of six furlongs, but speed also has been good at six and a half on the flat. Four of the last seven races at this distance were won by the pacesetter. ~DR. RAY D.^ is the late threat. She rallied to third last time behind front-running winner UNWRITTEN CODE, and probably benefits by the extra half-furlong. CHAMPAGNE CAMMIE is sharp. She won by double digits last out on dirt, and she has won on turf.

# Seventh Race

1. Big Bet propick 2. Bowtie Boys 50329D ID 1762959 3/29/2025 3. Swift Stephan



Racina

# **Eighth Race**

1. Tirupati 2. Alpha Bella 3. Uncorked

Runner-up in a G2 turf mile last out, ~TIRUPATI^ is the choice in this G3 turf mile. The consistent filly has tactical speed for a pressing trip; her only misfire was when she was overmatched in the G1 Matriarch. She hit the board 11 other starts. ~ALPHA BELLA^ goes dirt to turf, which is fine in theory. Although she raced only on dirt four starts in California, in-the-money in three graded stakes, she won a G3 on turf last year in Florida, so she has a right to run well on turf. However, her improvement since relocating to California coincides with a focus on dirt races. The move to turf follows a misfire in a G1 on dirt. These turf fillies are easier. ~UNCORKED^ ran like she needed the start last time, finishing fourth in the same race in which the top choice fnished second. UNCORKED rallied, but flatted out while making her first start in four months. A G3 winner on the SA turf last spring, and runner-up in a pair of graded races at DMR, she should improve second start back.

#### Ninth Race

1. Tessuto 2. Touchdown Brown 3. Devil Among Us

Lots of contenders in this N1X sprint including ~TESSUTO^, who had a brutal trip last time in a similar spot. He was blocked and shuffled on the turn, blocked on the rail in the stretch, and eliminated. It was a toss race. Runner-up both previous starts at this level, TESSUTO might only need a clean trip to score a minor upset. ~TOUCHDOWN BROWN^ is on a roll, having won his last three starts and four of his last five. Although his last three wins were routes, he also can sprint. He won a relatively fast N3L claiming sprint at SA last fall. ~DEVIL AMONG US^ is speed; his last-out allowance win vs. Cal-breds was flattered when runner-up Lonesome Stew returned to win with a 94 Beyer. POSITIVITY finished in front of his top-choice stablemate both recent starts and will be rolling late. GRUBAUER, the surprising program favorite, faces a much tougher group than he dusted last out. Win or lose, 5-2 would be an underlay.

#### **Tenth Race**

1. Inner Fury 2. Velocity 3. Sunglow

Irish import ~INNER FURY^ has trained as if she can fire first out in this turf sprint for maiden 3yo fillies. She finished a troubled fourth her only start last year in Ireland; she worked well this month since being listed as a vet scratch Feb. 16. The training-track workout by INNER FURY on March 23 was solid (viewed online). It looks like a "go" first start back. Second-time starter ~VELOCITY^ is a must-use. Even though her debut was okay, it was a highly rated dirt race and she probably needed the start. She worked well before and after that race, including a bullet work on the synthetic training track that suggests the switch to turf is acceptable. Regardless, she is expected to make a forward move second start back. Program favorite ~SUNGLOW^ finished a respectable third in her U.S. debut, and is eligible to improve second start back.