

Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Prime and Ready (4th race)

First Race

1. **Smiling Tizzy**

2. **Unrivald Hero**

3. **Tariff**

With two sprints under his belt, ~SMILING TIZZY^ is ready to stretch out and win. He split the field (virtually) in two MSW turf sprints, and now goes long in a maiden-80 that is light on pace. 'TIZZY figures for a forwardly placed trip and is bred to route: sired by Paynter and produced by a two-turn turf mare. ~UNRIVALED HERO^ ran the best race of his four-start career last out, runner-up vs. maiden-50s in a turf mile. He had to wait for room a couple times during the race, but he never got stopped and finished willingly before he galloped out alongside the winner. Good try by 'HERO, who will be rolling in the lane. ~TARIFF^ drops from MSW, adds Lasix, and adds blinkers. He has been facing good company; the winner of the race he exits (Scipio) was scheduled to start as one of the favorites in the Baffle Stakes on Sunday. SPUN NOT STIRRED was gelded since raced, and also adds Lasix and blinkers. WEST IS WEST is the wild card; he stretches out, drops in class, and tries dirt. He could influence the pace.

Second Race

1. **Saltwater Cowboy**

2. **Lone Scout**

3. **Fireman Dan**

~SALTWATER COWBOY^ gets a more favorable pace scenario than last out when he finished fourth at this N3L claiming level. The fractions were extreme; 'COWBOY chased before he tired to fourth. Not bad. Now he meets a small field in a race likely to unfold at a softer tempo. 'COWBOY can set or press easier splits, and win with an up-front trip. ~LONE SCOUT^ rallied from the back to finish a half-length in front of the top choice last out. The difference is this race is likely to unfold slower. But 'SCOUT has run well from a forward position, and like the top choice, he probably benefits by the easier pace scenario. ~FIREMAN DAN^ has not raced on dirt since a series of in-the-money finishes last spring, including a N2L claiming win. He has been facing better on turf, and fits with these. ALWAYS ON CAY stretches out from sprints and could influence the pace.

Third Race

1. **Coastal Cowgirl**

2. **Affair**

3. **Maxwell St Blues**

~COASTAL COWGIRL^ plummets from MSW to maiden-20, she is quick enough to make the lead, with speed figures fast enough for this level. ~AFFAIR^ will vie for favoritism based on back-to-back runner-up finishes at this level. She lost her punch late both races, and certainly benefits by the cutback in distance from seven furlongs to six and a half. ~MAXWELL ST BLUES^, previously based in Northern California, makes her SoCal debut having finished third all four starts. She has a useful workout over the Santa Anita track since raced, and would benefit if the top pair back up. TOM'S STAR changed trainers since raced. Her two Los Alamitos works since the barn switch hints at possible improvement.

Fourth Race

1. **Prime and Ready**

2. **Spotted Haze**

3. **Liquid Spirit**

Up in class off a decisive maiden-50 turf win, ~PRIME AND READY^ should be tough to beat. Her maiden win was strong. She raced comfortably in traffic, swung outside into the lane, and dominated by nearly three lengths. Not sure if there was much behind her (none she defeated have run back), but from a visual perspective the win was solid. With a pressing trip from the outside post, 'READY enters as most probable winner on the card. ~SPOTTED HAZE^ got hammered to odds-on in her debut, and ran to the action. She won by six. That race was on dirt, this race is turf. Nonetheless, it was an easy win by a filly who figures as a contender even with the surface switch. Progeny of Stanford are fine on turf (17 percent wins). ~LIQUID SPIRIT^ also moves to turf for the first time following a debut win and \$25k claiming runner-up. Her sire Conquest Fahrenheit was a multiple stakes winner on turf, but his progeny are just 1-for-31 on turf according to Formulator.

Fifth Race

1. **Gray Frost**

2. **Princess Hekawi**

3. **Hollywood Mistress**

Northern California low-level starter allowance horses race a mile, and if ~GRAY FROST^ runs like she did eight days ago, this race is history. Based at PLN last year, she trounced an \$8k claiming field at SA by more than 12 lengths with a big fig. The quick turnaround indicates she came of the race in top shape. Obvious choice. ~PRINCESS HEKAWI^ took advantage of a slow pace to wire starter allowance rivals here three weeks ago. The pace is likely to be quicker, but 'HEKAWI does not require the lead. She has been effective from a pressing position. ~HOLLYWOOD MISTRESS^ had no shot last time with a wide trip rallying from behind a slow pace. She gets an inside draw this time, in a race that should unfold with faster fractions. Come-from-behind upset candidate?

Sixth Race

1. **Player B**

2. **Rexford**

3. **Caribbean King**

~PLAYER B^, run down by deep closers while finishing second both recent starts, gets the call to win this starter allowance turf sprint with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. He benefits by the half-furlong cutback to six furlongs; he will be forwardly placed but does not need to set the pace. He also is reunited with Hector Berrios, who rode him both career victories last winter/spring. ~REXFORD^ is the late threat, runner-up two of his last three starts at this N3L starter level. The downside is he is likely to lose ground from the outside post. ~CARIBBEAN KING^ finished a creditable third last out in a similar spot. It was actually a good performance considering he broke through the gate before the start, rallied to the lead in the stretch, then lost his punch. INVINCIBLE is likely to improve second start back following a three-month break.

Seventh Race

1. **Bobby's Alibi**

2. **Dr. Flash Dancer**

3. **Reef City**

A \$5k claiming race restricted to Northern California horses and horsemen is led by a pair of veterans trained by Faith Taylor. She starts dropper ~BOBBY'S ALIBI^ and last-out third-place finisher ~DR. FLASH DANCER^. The edge goes to the dropper. 'ALIBI finished a creditable third over the SA track last out while facing better than these. 'ALIBI has held his form since autumn, his speed figures rank among the highest in the field, and he appears the most likely winner rallying from off the pace. His stablemate DR. FLASH DANCER has an opposite style; he sets or presses the pace. 'DANCER finished an okay third over this track last month at this level, and will get the jump over the top choice. ~REEF CITY^ cuts back to a sprint after a runner-up comeback in a route race here two weeks ago.

Eighth Race

1. Cali Cat

2. King of Dragons

3. Got'm Cot'm

Runner-up by a nose behind the odds-on favorite last out at this Cal-bred N1X condition, ~CALI CAT^ is the one to beat stretching from six furlongs to six and one-half. His near-miss was his first start in more than three months; he benefits by the longer distance. He won a maiden turf mile last summer at Del Mar. This field has enough pace to flatter his rally; the horse who beat him last out (Triple Diamonds) was scheduled to start as a contender in the Baffle Stakes on Sunday (race 9). ~KING OF DRAGONS^ had a nightmare trip last time in a stakes. He got bottled up behind a crawling pace, repeatedly tossed his head while uncomfortable, and flattened out. Hard-pulling route horses are sometimes more settled in sprints, because they are outrun naturally without the rider taking hold. 'DRAGONS is first-time Lasix and should be rolling late. ~GOT'M COT'M^ has been facing stakes rivals; he benefits by a drop to N1X. This is his first start on turf, his dam was a two-time turf winner. FRANK BULITT is speed on the rail, first-time Lasix. He probably is the one to catch.

Ninth Race

1. Care for Autism

2. Robin's Tough Love

3. Autism Inspiration

~CARE FOR AUTISM^ won this NoCal-restricted claiming race last month with a pressing trip as the favorite. It is reasonable to consider the field's only two-time winner the one to beat running back at the same level. ~ROBIN'S TOUGH LOVE^ was green as grass winning her debut by a nose. She broke slowly, was climbing early, lost ground while wide, raced wide, lugged in through the lane, and somehow got up. If she learned anything from that first out, she should improve a bunch. ~AUTISM INSPIRATION^ finished a half-length behind the top choice last out. 'INSPIRATION will rally from behind. RHYTHM GAL looms the upsetter, dropping from \$25k claiming to \$12.5k for her second start at the meet.

Tenth Race

1. Sabertooth

2. Shapoval

3. Miles Finch

~SABERTOOTH^ figures to start at a short price in this Cal-bred maiden turf mile. A five-time runner-up including in-the-money finishes in three stakes, he adds Lasix for his first start as a 3yo while dropping from a third in a stakes to state-bred maiden. Not sure if he can be trusted, however. He started at a short price his last two maiden races, and missed in both. ~SHAPOVAL^ ran well in his debut, finishing third in a sprint while looking for more ground. He gets it second time out. Also-eligible ~MILES FINCH^ stretches back out to his likely preferred two-turn trip, while adding blinkers. Tough outside post, but he is quick enough to establish position and drop in without losing too much ground. FIX IT QUICK goes long off a pair of sprints. He is bred for this trip.