



Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

BEST BET: *Self Sufficient (8th race)*

First Race

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bro Bro | 2. The Shillelagh | 3. It's a Factor |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|

A return to turf benefits dropper ~BRO BRO^ in this N1X mile for Cal-bred 3yos. He misfired in a dirt stakes last out, but his first two starts on turf were solid including a debut win and allowance third. This is his first route. Sired by Nyquist and produced by a two-turn mare whose progeny include a pair of two-turn winners, one mile should be okay. BRO BRO adds Lasix, worked well since raced, and meets a modest field. He can win if he stays the trip. ~THE SHILLELAGH^ could vie for favoritism following a respectable third in his first turf route. He ran his final quarter-mile in :23.57 despite losing ground three-wide most of the way. He moves from the outside post to the rail, and will be running late. ~IT'S A FACTOR^ looms an upset candidate, dropping into an age-restricted race after finishing fifth against older. THREE GEORGES and NO POKING AROUND were compromised by the race-shape last out. He set/pressed the pace, but the race was dominated by off-the-pace runners. 'GEORGES and 'AROUND both were in the thick of it to deep stretch, and ran better than their fourth- and seventh-place finishes indicate.

Second Race

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Mrazek's Old Dream | 2. Smokem Hot Girl | 3. Maga Kai |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|

This race is the new bottom class level for Cal-breds at Santa Anita: \$12.5k maiden-claiming. It is the right spot for ~MRAZEK'S OLD DREAM^, who virtually split the field both recent starts vs. open maiden-32s and open maiden-20s at this mile distance. 'DREAM can stay the trip and might be best of a modest field. ~SMOKEM HOT GIRL^ finished more than six lengths clear of third last out in an open maiden-8 mile that was her career debut. She earned a higher figure than the top choice, and with a race under her belt is eligible to improve. ~MAGA KAI^ also drops in class after she pressed and faced vs. much better. GO CAMI OH drops from Cal-bred MSW and switches to dirt. He did not finish close his first five starts, yet his figures compare favorably to this field.

Third Race

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. Lammas | 2. Genius Jimmy | 3. Sarwar |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|

~LAMMAS^, who won this N2X/optional claiming turf mile last month, can win right back in a small field that includes three he just defeated. A 13-time winner, LLAMAS has tactical speed to keep the leader in his sights, he will be among the first to attack. He is entered for the \$80k optional claim tag. ~GENIUS JIMMY^ has a chance to steal it. He finished fifth behind the top choice last out, but the pace scenario is entirely different here. Last out he put away three pace rivals (they finished 8-9-10), then got swallowed late. But he could make an easier lead this time, and with blinkers off might get comfortable and wire the field. He almost did exactly that two starts back in his comeback, missing by a neck. Win or lose, GENIUS JIMMY is likely to set the pace. ~SARWAR^, runner-up two of his last three starts at this level, could get a forwardly placed trip behind the pacesetter. EYE ON RYE switches jockeys to Umberto Rispoli and will be rolling late. CATHAL finished fourth as the favorite in the race that several of these exit. CATHAL is a late threat. EYE ON RY entered the Siren Lure Stakes (turf sprint) on Saturday. This allowance route makes more sense based on his fast-closing third last out.

Fourth Race

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Miss Miche Lada | 2. Dixie Blaze | 3. Cheering for Layla |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|

This \$8k maiden-claiming sprint is the new bottom level for open company. It is the right spot for ~MISS MICHE LADA^, in the money 7 of 11 starts against better maidens than these. 'LADA is clearly the fastest on numbers, she has speed for a pressing trip. Not sure if the class dropper should be trusted at a short price, however. ~DIXIE BLAZE^, in the money half her 10 starts, could improve off a midpack comeback against winners at Turf Paradise. That was her first start in seven months. She drops into a maiden-claiming race, and ran races last year almost as fast as the top choice. ~CHEERING FOR LAYLA^ stretches out on dirt for the first time. She finished in the money both recent starts vs. similar company in sprints.

Fifth Race

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Smart Code | 2. Mr. Leasure | 3. Let Seamus Go |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|

First start since September and first time running for a claim tag, ~SMART CODE^ returns as the "best horse" in this N2L starter/optional \$50k claiming turf mile. He has run well against better, he has run well fresh, and his work pattern suggests he is ready to fire with a pressing trip. ~MR. LEASURE^ is probably the speed of the field. Runner-up last out in a dirt route after setting easy fractions, it is uncertain if he can carry his speed two turns on turf. He won't mind the return to turf based on his maiden-50 turf sprint win in January and third-place starter allowance turf sprint in March. Come and catch him. ~LET SEAMUS GO^ parlayed a soft trip setting slow fractions to a six-length maiden-50 runaway. He won't get the same lone-speed trip this time, but he moves up in class in peak form and he ran okay from a pressing position early in his career. ANNAN finally got a good trip and romped by six in a maiden turf route. This is his first try against winners.

Sixth Race

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Ready to Pounce | 2. Keep Movin' On | 3. Nauvoo |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|

If his recent last-place finish can be forgiven, ~READY TO POUNCE^ is the right choice in this \$16k claiming route. He won for a \$25k tag two back; that race would probably be enough. Of course, he benefited from slow fractions in that race, but he also has run well rallying from behind quicker fractions. ~KEEP MOVIN' ON^ was in too tough last out against Cal-bred allowance foes; he fits at this claiming level although the top choice defeated him by more than six lengths two starts back. ~NAUVOO^ and ATOMIC DROP are eight-time winners likely to contest the pace. ATOMIC DROP is probably a bit quicker, and likely the one to catch. RIGHT HAND RYDER also has speed.

Seventh Race

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Artislaz | 2. Freedom's Not Free | 3. Bodi Zafa |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|

~ARTISLAS^ and ~FREEDOM'S NOT FREE^ top this \$100k turf-mile stakes for 3yos. The call is ARTISLAS. He crossed the wire first three route stakes last year as a 2yo, then took a break. He was only prepping last month when third in a turf sprint, his first start in more than three months. With that prep under his belt, stretching to his preferred two-

propickSA_USA20250511D ID 1762959 5/10/2025 6:48:07 PM

turn trip, he is likely to improve. FREEDOM'S NOT FREE has something the top choice lacks, which is a recent route race. He scored a decisive win in a \$100k turf mile stakes two months ago, appears to have trained well since, and has taken his game to a new level since switching to turf. Arizona invader ~BODI ZAFI^ might be overmatched against California company, but his four-race win streak commands respect. Prior to his last-start win in the Turf Paradise Derby on dirt, he won three successive turf routes including a stakes. INCANTO stretches out for the first time since last fall. He will influence the pace scenario. GAME WARRIOR finished a nose in front of FREEDOM'S NOT FREE two starts back in a sprint stakes, followed by an okay fourth on synthetic.

Eighth Race

1. Self Sufficient	2. Brazenly	3. Canada Gate
--------------------	-------------	----------------

With two comeback sprints under his belt, ~SELF SUFFICIENT^ stretches out as the likely pacesetter in this N1X dirt mile. He can wire the field based on his last-out third in which he dueled through a hot pace before tiring the final furlong. Bred to route, the lightly raced 4yo is the one to catch. He is wheeling back a little quick (15 days), but nonetheless can be long gone. ~BRAZENLY^ returns to preferred footing after a modest runner-up finish on turf. He runs best on dirt including highly rated second- and third-place finishes two and three back that earned figures higher than any of these (94 and 92 Beyer). ~CANADA GATE^ was not disgraced in his fourth-place comeback, his first start in five months. He was keen and unrelaxed early, unleashed a move into contention on the far turn, then went flat. Not bad, fast works since, improvement likely. MOMAD stretches out for the first time; LYELL'S SONG is racing for the first time since his maiden win nearly a year ago.

Ninth Race

1. Uncle Chilly	2. Known Idea	3. Smiling Beast
-----------------	---------------	------------------

Despite finishing tenth last out on the hillside turf course, ~UNCLE CHILLY^ gets the call in this Cal-bred N1X while returning to the main turf oval. It's the course on which 'CHILLY finished second two starts back. If he runs back to that effort, he can wear them down with a pressing trip. ~KNOWN IDEA^ returns from a six-month layoff to the SA course on which he ran two of his best races last spring. His work pattern leading to his comeback looks solid, he has speed to be forwardly placed. ~SMILING BEAST^ got a feel for turf last out when he finished a close fourth on the hill in the same race the top choice misfired in. 'BEAST lost ground, finished willingly, and missed by only two lengths while basically reproducing his dirt form. Obvious contender.