

Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

BEST BET: *Crazy Cami (9th race)*

First Race

1. Sakura Flavor

2. My Perfect Wave

3. Newport Dreamz

~SAKURA FLAVOR^, runner-up both recent starts at this turf mile N3L claiming level, gets the call over dropper ~MY PERFECT WAVE^. The most recent start by SAKURA FLAVOR was the best of her career. She rallied to the lead in the stretch, opened up, and got collared while finishing nearly five lengths clear of third. If she runs two alike, she should win. However, MY PERFECT WAVE is arguably the "best horse" in the field, dropping for the first time into a claiming race after losing her chance when she stumbled badly and trailed throughout as the favorite in a second-level allowance. Her stakes and allowance races in Dec-Jan-Feb (win, seventh, fourth) are fast enough to win at this claiming level. However, the class drop is suspicious and she does not have a published workout since May 24. ~NEWPORT DREAMZ^ benefitted from a slow pace winning a N2L claiming race last out. She figures for another up-front trip while moving up to N3L claiming.

Second Race

1. Miz Clubcali

2. Eltonsingsanother

3. Perfect Life

~MIZ CLUBCALI^, decisive \$12.5k claiming winner last out, drops back to the \$10k level at which she was claimed two starts back by trainer Gary Stute. If the mare reproduces her three-length last-out victory, she will be tough at a short price. The challenge is pace. This sprint came up light on true speed. 'CLUBCALI rallies from behind. The pace scenario does benefit ~ELTONSINGSANOTHER^, who could make the lead against a field without a true front-runner. She finished fourth both recent starts chasing quick fractions; she could find herself setting the pace on slower splits. The top choice defeated ELTONSINGSANOTHER by more than three lengths last out, but a softer pace gives 'ELTON a chance to turn the tables at a price. ~PERFECT LIFE^ wheels back six days after a N3L claiming upset. Back to back? She will rally late.

Third Race

1. First Light

2. Hot Day Girl

3. Impressionistic

A creditable fourth-place debut by ~FIRST LIGHT^ stamps her the choice in this turf mile for Cal-bred maiden fillies and mares. She trained well going into her career debut at a mile on turf, and set the pace to deep stretch before she tired and missed by three lengths. Solid debut nonetheless. With a race under her belt, she is likely to make a forward move. 'LIGHT is trained by Carla Gaines, who also entered ~HOT DAY GIRL^. The latter broke slowly both starts, but she passed eight rivals last time, rallying from 12th to fourth while beaten only four lengths. Her closing rally was partly the product of a collapsing pace, but at least 'GIRL showed some late run. With the highest figure in the lineup, 'GIRL could vie for favoritism. ~IMPRESSIONISTIC^ pressed the pace and split the field in a creditable one-turn debut. Second-start maidens trained by Leonard Powell generally improve. IMPRESSIONISTIC, sired by Smiling Tiger, may get stamina from her dam, who won going a mile and three-sixteenths in Europe.

Fourth Race

1. Dorie Miller

2. Clubhouse Cutie

3. Mperfection

Who will beat ~DORIE MILLER^ this time? Someone always does, yet the 2-for-35 mare (11 seconds, 7 thirds) is the choice in this Cal-bred allowance dirt mile. Her runner-up finish last out was flattered when winner Ryan's Girl ran back and won her third straight. 'MILLER was somewhat compromised by a slow start in that race. If they all run to their figures, 'MILLER should win. But she is tough to trust; her most recent win was 18 starts ago in September 2024. ~CLUBHOUSE CUTIE^ finished nearly two lengths behind the top choice last out, and it is possibly that 'CUTIE (sibling to The Chosen Vron) would prefer to sprint. But she is in good current form, and figures to be forwardly placed. ~MPERFECTION^ will rally from the back. She has been a turf filly throughout her 11-start career (one win), but if she handles dirt, she has a chance from off the pace. The turf front-runner PAVEL'S ETOILE merits a similar comment; the difference is running style. 'ETOILE will be forwardly placed.

Fifth Race

1. Mici's Express

2. Grandisimo

3. Mongolian Altai

Despite losing both recent starts by 28+ and 14+ lengths, ~MICI'S EXPRESS^ gets the call in this \$10k claiming N3L dirt mile. He was overmatched last out in a starter allowance on turf; he misfired two back in the race from which he was claimed. But his runner-up finish three back in a fast Cal-bred allowance would be fast enough to win at this level. Second-off-the-claim once was a high-percent move by trainer Isidro Tamayo (23 percent from winter 2021 through spring 2024; 0-for-26 second-off-claim since). ~GRANDISIMO^ finished second in back-to-back races at this distance and class level. The front-runner/pace-presser was claimed last out by Andy Mathis, whose last 20 starters produced six wins, four seconds (through Sunday). ~MONGOLIAN ALTAI^ has not raced since last summer, but he was fast enough a year ago to win at this level, and it is an optimistic sign he returns from his layoff in a claiming race while employing the "no-claim" waiver.

Sixth Race

1. Fausto

2. Raging Inferno

3. Divisible By

~FAUSTO^, a 10-start maiden, is the horse to beat in this maiden-50 turf route. He finished second his only previous try at this level two starts back, followed by a respectable third in a fast MSW dirt race that was validated when winner Midway Lane returned to win again. FAUSTO has the top figures in the lineup; the challenge is the mile and one-eighth distance. This is his first try beyond a mile. ~RAGING INFERNO^ ran super in his comeback last month. He engaged in a pace battle, shook off his early rivals, and held second in a race that saw the one-three finishers rally from the back. 'INFERNO had the race-shape against him, yet he ran well making his first start in more than five months. With a prep under his belt, and if he rations his speed more efficiently, he has a big shot second start back. ~DIVISIBLE BY^ drops to maiden-claiming for the first time after a wide-trip MSW comeback. LORENZO BERNINI is speed, up from the maiden-20 ranks. He is likely to set the pace as far as he can.

Seventh Race

1. Lease Instead

2. Icecream Ontheside

3. Thirsty Caitlin

A pair of second-time starters who finished fourth first out, ~LEASE INSTEAD^ and ~ICECREAM ON THE SIDE^, are the choices to upset potential favorite THIRSTY CATILIN in this maiden sprint for Cal-bred 2yo fillies. LEASE INSTEAD was well-bet into her debut, but she raced greenly, dropped to the back of the field, and finished on her own. She ran like a filly that needed the start. She came back with a :35.60 gate work last weekend, and is likely to improve a ton second out. A similar comment applies to ICECREAM ON THE SIDE. She chased from fourth position in her debut, was no match for the nine-length runaway winner, but raced evenly to split the field. Second time out, she should run better. ~THIRSTY CATILIN^ finished second both starts, missing by a head, and a nose. Good tries at four and one-half furlongs, now she stretches to five. However, although 'CAITLIN lost by only a nose last out, the winner Free Closer was many lengths the best after breaking slowly. Other than winner Free Closer, the field might not have been particularly strong.

Eighth Race

1. Sumter	2. First Peace	3. Irish Royalty
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The class of the field, repeatedly proven on the hillside turf course, ~SUMTER^ is the one to beat in this G3 turf sprint. He won a similar hillside G3 in March, followed by a tough-trip fifth in a G3 mile in April. He was blocked from the quarter pole to deep stretch, never had a chance, and galloped out with run after the finish. The veteran cuts back to a sprint, his versatile style is adaptable to any pace scenario. ~FIRST PEACE^, also a hillside specialist, makes his first start since September. His seven starts on the hill produced three wins (two stakes) and three runner-up finishes. Although the 2025 campaign by 'PEACE did not pan out, he has worked well for his comeback and is expected to fire first start back. He does run well fresh. ~IRISH ROYALTY^ was supplemented to this stakes after scoring his third win from four starts this year. He is making an ambitious class hike from N2X to G3, but he is razor sharp with numbers that suggest he might be this good. ZIO JO needed his comeback, a sixth-place finish that was his first start in three months. The G1-placed gelding is likely to improve second start back.

Ninth Race

1. Crazy Cami	2. Lady Gambita	3. Surfin the Coast
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~CRAZY CAMI^ is the fastest in this starter allowance sprint, and most probable winner on the Saturday cad. She was not good enough in a N1X last out, but her runner-up finish two starts back at this N2L starter level towers over the field. ~LADY GAMBITA^ meets easier than last out, when she finished an even-paced fourth. She switches riders to Joel Rosario and is likely to set or press the pace along with debut winner ~SURFIN THE COAST^. The latter won first out for a stable that typically races maidens into shape rather than fire first out. 'COAST has room to improve, and she should be a pace factor.

Tenth Race

1. Zalamo	2. Atomic Age	3. None Above the Law
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The fast \$32k claiming win last out by ~ZALAMO^, at this mile and one-eighth turf distance, was flattered when runner-up Lord Bullingdon subsequently won his next start. ZALAMO meets a similar field while moving up in class to N1X/optional \$50k claiming, he is proven at the distance and can mow them down late. ~ATOMIC AGE^ has worked well for his first start in California, and first for meet-leading trainer Phil D'Amato. 'AGE earned a good number winning a maiden race last fall at Aqueduct, although five of his six rivals from that race are still maidens (through Monday). Based on his works, ATOMIC AGE should fire first start back. ~NONE ABOVE THE LAW^ has not won a race in nearly two years, but the 8yo stakes-winning veteran is usually close. He won the G2 Del Mar Derby in 2021.

Eleventh Race

1. Mizumi	2. Marjoram	3. Bank Shot
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Debut sprint winner ~MIZUMI^ and hillside turf stakes winner ~MARJORAM^ are the principals in the G3 Summertime Oaks. Despite a lack of seasoning, MIZUMI is the call. She ran fast winning her debut, she is bred to run long, and likely to set the pace. Come and catch her. MARJORAM stretches out and switches to dirt after a come-from-behind victory on the hill. Sired by Quality Road, she should handle two turns. However, she did not break sharply any of her three sprints, and missed a workout since raced (gap from May 22 to June 6). There is no doubt MARJORAM has above-average ability, but "off slow" all three starts and an imperfect work pattern suggest she might be vulnerable. ~BANK SHOT^ faced top company and hit the board all three graded stakes routes during the winter meet. She is proven around two turns, enters fresh off a two-month break, and has enough speed to be forwardly placed chasing front-runner MIZUMI.

Twelfth Race

1. Butterfly Beach	2. Vegas Nightclub	3. Forza Palermo
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Last-out runner-up ~BUTTERFLY BEACH^ is rounding into form, and ready to win this Cal-bred maiden-50 turf sprint. She showed surprising speed last time, and though she was worn down late she finished more than eight lengths clear of third. A similar effort would probably be enough for this. ~VEGAS NIGHTCLUB^ was well-bet into her debut, but she broke slowly from the rail, ranged into contention, then went flat. Blinkers are added for her second start, the switch to turf should be okay (by Clubhouse Ride). ~FORZA PALERMO^ split the field in a creditable Cal-bred MSW debut; she drops to Cal-bred maiden-claiming for her second start. The past year, trainer Peter Miller is 9-for-36 (25 percent) with second-start maidens.