

Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Proudly Hailed (5th race)

First Race

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| 1. Tiyara | 2. Famous Forza | 3. Bear's Board |
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The maiden-50 debut victory by ~TIYARA^ at this mile turf distance stamps her the one beat in this starter allowance. TIYARA saved ground, waited for room into the stretch, rallied inside and won going away. Nice career launch by the American Pharoah filly whose dam was a turf stakes winner. Sharp filly can fire right back. ~FAMOUS FORZA^, lightly raced and improving, stretches out for the first time. Sired by multiple graded turf route winner Mo Forza, the filly responded to a surface switch to turf. 'FORZA popped at 67-1 two back vs. maidens, and finished a respectable seventh last out in a hillside stake. She drops to starter allowance, and goes long with speed to be forwardly placed. ~BEAR'S BOARD^ upset males last out in a maiden-32 dirt route. She is not really bred for turf (by Mastery), but her Lasix-on maiden dirt win was strong. 'BOARD will contest the pace, along with FLAMINGO STAR.

Second Race

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| 1. Brooklyn Blonde | 2. Mass | 3. Wolf Hill |
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An okay runner-up comeback by ~BROOKLYN BLONDE^ makes her the one to catch as she stretches to a mile against a modest field of 3yo maiden fillies. Her comeback was her first start in nearly six months, she ran like a filly that can improve second start back. She set/pressed the pace before she was collared by stablemate Piney Woods. 'BLONDE is quick enough to make the lead in this dirt mile, and probably the one to catch. She is trained by Michael McCarthy, who also entered first-time starter ~MASS^. The latter is a \$610k yearling by Not This Time with promising works. It is always tough to win a route first time out, but McCarthy did it with his most recent dirt firster, Smoovin Saturday, in November at Del Mar. ~WOLF HILL^ is past due. Her first four starts produced three seconds and one third. She finished second, while far clear of third, both routes. FORTUNATE TRUTH showed promise last fall when third in two routes. The late-developing Authentic filly will rally late.

Third Race

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| 1. Thirsty Rebel | 2. Romantic Ride | 3. Arkadelphia |
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Turf is an uncertainty for ~THRISTY REBEL^ in this Cal-bred allowance sprint, but there is no doubt he is the best horse based on his Cal-bred dirt romp two back and respectable fourth last out in a G2. He worked well on synthetic, so perhaps he will handle turf even though Stay Thirsty progeny generally prefer dirt. ~ROMANTIC RIDE^ faces winners after a modest maiden sprint win over this main-oval course. Not sure who was behind him, because none of the horses he defeated ran back since. Nonetheless, 'RIDE ran well both starts here this winter (troubled runner-up two back) and he will be rolling late. ~ARKADELPHIA^ is speed, though six furlongs might be a reach. He wired a five-furlong turf sprint at Del Mar in summer; last out he won a 1,000-yard night race at Los Alamitos. Come and catch him.

Fourth Race

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| 1. Ottis Betts | 2. Fighting Thunder | 3. Tiggrrr Whitworth |
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Based on his third-place debut, ~OTTIS BETTS^ is a logical choice in this Cal-bred maiden-20. He finished third by a length, earned the highest last-out figure in the field (47 Beyer), and adds Lasix for his second start. ~FIGHTING THUNDER^ returns from a four-month break after a ninth-place debut last fall. The race he exits turned out highly productive: four next-out winners, two next-out runners-up. 'THUNDER is likely to improve second time out while adding Lasix and meeting a relatively modest field. ~TIGGRRR WHITWORTH^ finished only a half-length behind top choice OTTIS BETTS last out and has speed to be forwardly placed.

Fifth Race

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| 1. Proudly Hailed | 2. A Day to Remember | 3. Bee Eye Gee |
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~PROUDLY HAILED^ looks solid in this N2L starter turf sprint, based on his better-than-looked runner-up finish last out while racing above his eligibility in a N3L starter. 'HAILED was squeezed early and shuffled to last, rallied three-wide on the turn, and barely missed to the rail-skimming winner. Good try by 'HAILED, who drops a notch and should win at a short price with a clean trip. ~A DAY TO REMEMBER^ finished a length behind the top choice when they met in January. In the money all five sprints, 'REMEMBER has a little more speed than the favorite. ~BEE EYE GEE^ makes his first start since autumn 2024 while running for the \$50k optional claim tag. 'GEE runs well fresh; he won a maiden turf sprint at SA following a nine-month layoff. He is trained by Brian Koriner, who also entered first-time gelding comeback dropper I'M OUTER HERE.

Sixth Race

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| 1. East Boca Kibbutz | 2. Elsa Dutton | 3. Stubborn |
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Runner-up as the favorite both recent starts, 5yo maiden-claiming mare ~EAST BOCA KIBBUTZ^ gets another chance at the same maiden-20 level. He has speed to be forwardly placed right behind the likely pacesetter to his outside. When that rival fades, 'KIBBUTZ can get first run. ~ELSA DUTTON^ should vie for favoritism while making her first start since last June, first try at this low maiden-claiming level, and first since moving to trainer Steve Knapp. The filly's workouts look decent, her rivals are modest. ~STUBBORN^ trailed throughout in her comeback, and now drops from maiden-50 to maiden-20 and switches to third-leading rider Emisael Jaramillo (standings through last weekend).

Seventh Race

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| 1. Angelica Bay | 2. Holly Goquickly | 3. Justivar |
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~ANGELICA BAY^ and ~HOLLY GOQUICKLY^, second and third last out in a similar maiden-50 turf route, are the unimaginative choices shortening from nine furlongs to eight. Both late-runners ran well. 'BAY uncorked a wide move on the far turn while losing ground, but she sustained her rally to the wire. Good try despite ground loss; she gets the call to break her maiden in the 12th start of her career. She is tough to trust, and so is HOLLY GOQUICKLY. The latter flew home with a :35.71 final three-eighths in the same race. It was the first start for 'GOQUICKLY since last May. She will be rolling late. ~JUSTIVAR^ missed by less than two lengths last out in a maiden-62.5k; this maiden-50 is slightly easier. GLOBAL CONSORT is speed. She ran like she needed the start last out. She chased and tired late to fourth while racing for the first time since autumn. 'CONSORT benefits by the shortage of pace in this field.

Eighth Race

1. Thirsty Trickster

2. Miss Practical

3. Gold Currency

Last-out starter allowance winner ~THIRSTY TRICKSTER^ and last-out Cal-bred allowance runner-up ~MISS PRACTICAL^ top this Cal-bred allowance sprint. The call is the filly with more speed. THIRSTY TRICKSTER crushed softer by more than five lengths, she worked well since, and will be positioned in front of her main rival while probably sitting second behind the speed. When the pace backs up, TRICKSTER will be in the right spot to pounce. She can win if she holds off MISS PRACTICAL, come-from-behind runner-up both starts on the comeback trail. She did not have great trips either race (shuffled, wide). She will be rolling late. But the speed of the field is comebacker ~GOLD CURRENCY^, unraced since a pedal-to-the-metal debut win here last January. CURRENCY appears to have trained well for her return, she is expected to lead the field as far as she can.

Ninth Race

1. Call Me Sir

2. Mysterious Husband

3. Sneaking Candy

The gradually improving ~CALL ME SIR^ drops to the N2L starter level after facing tougher both recent. He finished a close fourth last out in a \$175k Cal-bred stakes; he missed by a nose two back in a Cal-bred allowance. These rivals are easier, though a modest pace scenario is problematic for the late-runner. Top choice, nonetheless. SIR is trained by Mark Glatt, who also entered ~MYSTERIOUS HUSBAND^. The latter would probably win if he reproduced any of his starts in late 2024/early 2025 including a maiden special-weight win his most recent start a year ago. The question is whether he is cranked for his comeback, If so, he is the best horse in the field. ~SNEAKING CANDY^ is speed, dropping in for a claim tag and stretching out from a ninth-place comeback sprint. He is likely to set the pace. That would give the top choice a target to run at.