



Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

BEST BET: *Our Bucky Charm (1st race)*

First Race

1. Our Bucky Charm	2. Agency	3. Yogi Boy
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~OUR BUCKY CHARM^ should be tough in this N3L starter turf sprint based on his last-start runner-up in a fast N1X/optional claiming turf sprint. He ran super. He dueled to deep stretch, put away his pace rivals, and only got collared by a winner who rallied from last. Excellent try by 'CHARM, whose pressing style should play well in a race without much speed. From the outside post, he should get a good trip in the clear. He can win if he holds off ~AGENCY^, who ran well last out at this level. He missed by a length as odds-on favorite, but he virtually matched his career-high figure and finished more than five lengths clear of third. Both starts on the comeback trail by AGENCY were solid; he should vie for favoritism. ~YOGI BOY^ nearly overcame an impossible trip last out. He stumbled and steadied, dropped to last, then flew late to miss by a neck. This field is tougher than the N3L claiming race in which he had trouble, but he will be finishing.

Second Race

1. Himika	2. Bottle of Rouge	3. Stuffy Mist
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Two-year-old fillies sprint five furlongs. ~HIMIKA^ is the one to beat; she breezed 9.80 seconds at a spring 2yo sale and was purchased for \$900k. HIMIKA showed speed from the gate in her Santa Anita workout last weekend, and must use her speed from the inside post. Though sired by Curlin (11 percent wins debut juveniles), HIMIKA showed precocity at the sale and in recent local works. She gets speed from her dam, who was a fast sprinter who won her career debut by six lengths. Bob Baffert-trained juveniles typically come out firing at this five-furlong distance: 7-for-9 with juvenile debut fillies at this distance since summer 2021. Baffert also entered ~BOTTLE OF ROUGE^, who is by Vito Rosso (8 percent wins, debut juveniles). 'ROUGE has a series of fast works including a buile:46.60 gate work May 26. Juan Garcia-trained ~STUFFY MIST^ has worked fast. Juvenile debut progeny of Maximus Mischief have won at a 14 percent rate according to Formulator. GLASSHEART, runner-up first out, is the only entrant with racing experience.

Third Race

1. Dontgetfooledagain	2. Master Jacques	3. Fincairn
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Low-level \$8k claiming maidens race one mile. It's a slow group. ~DONTGETFOOLEDAGAIN^ held third last out after she dueled, put away her pace rival, then got swallowed by one-two finishers who rallied from the middle and back. Not bad, 'FOOLEDAGAIN is the tepid choice to win with a forwardly placed trip. ~MASTER JACQUES^ stretches out for the first time on dirt; her even-paced sprint style suggests she will appreciate the slower fractions of this route. ~FINCAIRN^ is a 13-start maiden who finished third as the favorite last out vs. similar. ONE BOLD BID stretches out with two mediocre comeback sprints under her belt. Two turns is the trip right based on her pedigree. She is by Blame, produced by a mare who was a turf miler. GREY AREA has maiden-claiming sprint speed.

Fourth Race

1. Sareeha	2. Empress Ellie	3. She's a Joker
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~SAREEHA^ meets easier in this \$25k claiming starter turf mile than the N2X and stakes fillies she faced recent starts. She is faster than these on figures, the class drop is significant. Although her most recent start was disappointing, it was her first start in nearly two months and the field included her highly regarded runner-up stablemate Khinjani. Basically, this is the easiest chance for eight-time winner SAREEHA since last year. ~EMPRESS ELLIE^ was claimed for \$25k from a decisive victory last out, the seventh win of her career. It was only the second start of the year for 'ELLIE, who enters the summer season relatively fresh. She could win if she runs two alike. Close call between the top pair. ~SHE'S A JOKER^ missed by only neck in her third-place comeback; the race was flattered when winner Over Attracted returned to win her next start.

Fifth Race

1. Ultimate Gamble	2. Momad	3. Arrowthegreat
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A better-than-looked sixth-place comeback by ~ULTIMATE GAMBLE^ gives him a license to upset this N2X/optional claiming dirt mile. 'GAMBLE had been off nine months when he returned in a sprint won by stablemate/favorite Judge Miller. 'GAMBLE, who is not a sprinter, lagged at the back, finished evenly, and galloped out in front. It was a useful tune-up for the lightly raced 5yo, whose SA routes in 2023-24 rank among the fastest by any in the field. With a step forward second start back, 'GAMBLE can spring the upset. ~MOMAD^ moves up a notch after winning a N1X that was his first career route. He benefitted by a relatively soft pace, but he was game to the wire and the speed figure came up high (96 Beyer). He may not get the same easy front-running trip this time, but he seems to have found his niche at two turns. ~ARROWTHEGREAT^ was overmatched in the G2 Hollywood Gold Cup; his allowance runner-up two back puts him in the hunt. MIRAHMADI is a need-the-lead front-runner who occasionally runs well when he gets his lone-speed trip.

Sixth Race

1. Disposition	2. Arya's Ride	3. Waiting for My Cue
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Comeback filly ~DISPOSITION^ is the logical choice in the maiden-20 sprint, her first start since last summer and first time at this low class level. She ran the best race of her career when she finished third in her career debut in a MSW in spring 2024, so she does run well fresh. Whatever she can do these days, she is likely to do first start back. ~ARYA'S RIDE^ was in tough last month in her debut in a MSW; she raced wide and faded. With a major drop in class, and a race under her belt, improvement is likely. ~WAITING FOR MY CUE^ trained okay into her debut, but she misfired at 9-2. Now she drops in class for her second start, and is likely to improve off her fifth-place debut.

Seventh Race

1. Super Ellie	2. Cornelia Fort	3. Andiamo Ragazza
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~SUPER ELLIE^ is better than her last start suggests; she finished fifth as the 2-1 favorite in a claiming turf mile. She had an alibi. She broke last, was not asked for speed, trailed to the far turn, angled outside and finished on her own. It was not as bad as it looks on paper. Her win over this turf course three starts back ranks among the fastest turf routes by any in the field; the gray filly can return to form with a rider switch to Kazushi Kimura. ~CORNELIA FORT^ figures to vie for favoritism in this starter allowance, based on her runner-

up finish last out in a Cal-bred stakes. She was claimed from a runner-up finish for \$20k two starts ago. She already earned back her claim price by finishing second in the stakes. ~ANDIAMO RAGAZZA^ stretches out with turf-sprint figures among the highest figs by any in this field. Two turns is an uncertainty, however. She finished tenth her only previous route. Third preference, nonetheless.

Eighth Race

1. Grievous Angel	2. Darlin Tami	3. Honey Jo
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First-time starter ~GRIEVOUS ANGEL^ debuts with a strong series of works at Los Alamitos for trainer Phil D'Amato. 'ANGEL is by the stallion Tough Sunday, whose six runners include three debut winners. The dam of 'ANGEL produced five winners (four multiple winners). None won first out, three won second time out. ~DARLIN TAMI^ is a six-start maiden with five in-the-money finishes. Six furlongs is a long way for the distance-challenged front-runner, who squandered the lead her last four starts. She nonetheless figures as a contender, and is best of the familiar faces. First-time starter ~HONEY JO^ debuts with fast works, though maidens from this stable typically race into condition rather than fire first time out. The past five years, Peter Eurton-trained maidens won 8 percent first out, 20 percent second time out. FANCY FACTS is another firster who appears to have worked well.

Ninth Race

1. Crazy Cavalier	2. Ghost Coast	3. Hamlin
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A mile and one-eighth is a challenging distance for ~CRAZY CAVALIER^, a 10-start maiden who finished third last out at one mile. The gelding finished in the money seven times, but most were sprints. 'CAVALIER is dubious at this distance, yet options are minimal; this field came up weak. Also-eligible ~GHOST COAST^ ran well both starts this season, runner-up at this level including a mile-and-one-eighth race two starts back. He is an 11-start maiden, but figures as one of the choices if he scratches into the field. ~HAMLIN^ stretches out, drops in class and is new to this maiden-50 level. SKYQUEST drops in class and is a first-time gelding. Upset candidate?