



Expert Analysis

By Steve Andersen

BEST BET: *Jordi Bear (6th race)*

First Race

1. Smashing Machine	2. Deucari	3. Conquer We Must
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~SMASHING MACHINE^ appears to have an advantage in this six-furlong maiden race on turf to start the Santa Anita autumn meeting. Trained by Bob Baffert, Smashing Machine was second in two maiden races at Del Mar - a five-furlong turf race on Aug. 21, and a six-furlong race on dirt on Sept. 5. Smashing Machine closed from fifth in the turf race and set the pace in the dirt race before yielding his advantage nearing the sixteenth pole. Smashing Machine figures to be prominent in this field, probably stalking the first-time starter ~DEUCARI^. Trained by Richard Baltas, Deucari has displayed a fast set of workouts at a half-mile and five furlongs at San Luis Rey Downs and Santa Anita since late August. Deucari is a full-brother to the three-time winner Good Temper. ~CONQUER WE MUST^ returns to a sprint for the first time since April after finishing seventh of 10 in a maiden race at 1 1-8 miles on turf at Del Mar on Aug. 8 as the 9-5 favorite. Conquer We Must, who has been plagued by slow starts in his three races, will be ridden for the first time by Joel Rosario, the leading rider at the Del Mar summer meeting that ended on Sept. 7.

Second Race

1. Druliner	2. Sissy Girl	3. Magic Advice
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A class drop from maiden races for statebreds on turf to a \$50,000 claimer for statebred maidens at six furlongs on dirt may put ~DRULINER^ in the winner's circle for the first time in her eighth start. Trained by Craig Lewis, Druliner was last of nine in a one-mile maiden race on turf at Del Mar on Aug. 30, the worst defeat of her brief career. Druliner was beaten 1 1-2 lengths when fourth at five furlongs on dirt in July 2025 and returns to that surface for the first time in more than a year. Druliner will be fitted with blinkers for the first time on Friday. She may race closer to the pace. It's a good sign that Juan Hernandez remains aboard. ~SISSY GIRL^ is winless in three starts since mid-June. She was second in her debut in a six-furlong maiden race on turf in June, closing from eighth. In her last start, Sissy Girl set the pace in a \$50,000 claimer for maidens racing against males at 1 1/16 miles on turf and faded in the final three furlongs. A return to sprints and a move to dirt may help a filly who dam was a maiden race winner at Golden Gate Fields in 2019. The first-time starter ~MAGIC ADVICE^ starts from the outside post for trainer Hector Palma, who has won with three of 12 debut runners this year. Magic Advice is by Cat Burglar, who wins with 13 percent of first-time starters.

Third Race

1. Giant Kid	2. Eltonsingsanother	3. Willow Cove
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~GIANT KID^ may only be a clean trip from her fourth career, which could occur in this \$10,000 claimer at 5 1-2 furlongs for fillies and mares. This is Giant Kid's third race following a layoff of nearly 21 months. Trained by Bill McLean, Giant Kid was fifth in two starts in August at Del Mar. She raced in traffic on Aug. 1 and broke slowly on Aug. 30. She typically races as a closer and won with that style twice at Pleasanton in June 2024. In this field of seven, Gaint Kid should have sufficient speed to follow. ~ELTONSINGSANOTHER^, who starts from the inside post, is quick enough to lead, but also effective as a stalker. In a \$16,000 claimer at Los Al on Sept. 11, Eltonsingsanother closed from fourth of seven to finish a close second. She won convincingly at Del Mar in an \$8,000 claimer at six furlongs on Aug. 23. Eltonsingsanother could be pressured early by ~WILLOW COVE^, who won at Santa Anita in February by leading throughout a \$10,000 claimer for nonwinners of two. She won a 1,000-yard race at the Los Al evening meeting on July 12 from the front. Willow Cove is trained by Los Al-based Jesus Uranga, who had a 14-1 winner at Santa Anita last October, but is winless with 18 starters, including two second-place finishes, this year.

Fourth Race

1. Born to Rock	2. Mighty Toro	3. Fausto
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~BORN TO ROCK^ has been gelded since he finished fifth as the 7-2 favorite in a \$50,000 claiming race for maidens at a mile on turf on Aug. 22, his seventh start. He races for the same level in this race at 1 1-8 miles, which may suit his stalking style. Born to Rock was second by a half-length in a \$50,000 claimer for maidens at 1 1-16 miles on turf on Aug. 1 when he raced in third for the first mile. ~MIGHTY TORO^ starts from the outside in this field of six, and is quick enough to set the pace. He led in a maiden race at a mile before finishing sixth at Del Mar on July 18 in his first start since last October. On Aug. 22, Mighty Toro was beaten a half-length after closing from fifth of 11. He led in the stretch in that field. Aside from After Dawn, there does not appear to be much speed in this field. ~FAUSTO^ starts from the inside post in his 13th start. A 5-year-old gelding, he was second or third in four consecutive starts around two turns from late February to mid-June. He was eighth and seventh at Del Mar, but lost the latter race by only three lengths, closing from last of 12. He was second in his only previous start at 1 1-8 miles on turf, in mid-June at Santa Anita.

Fifth Race

1. Big Time Coach	2. Patricia's Boy	3. Mrsaintpatrick
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~BIG TIME COACH^ starts from the outside post in a field of eight he can win. Big Time Coach was third in a race at the same level, a \$20,000 claimer for maidens at five furlongs at Los Al on Sept. 11, closing from eight of nine. This six-furlong race may better suit Big Time Coach who has closed ground in his first two appearances. He will have a pace to follow. The first-time starter ~PATRICIA'S BOY^ is trained by Vladimir Cerin who won with this gelding's 4-year-old full brother Grey's Boy in his first start at 10-1 at Santa Anita in March. Patricia's Boy is by He B Fire N Ice who is not known as a sire of first-time winners. In the case of Patricia's Boy, the booking of top rider Juan Hernandez will draw attention. Patricia's Boy worked a solid half-mile in 48.20 seconds at Santa Anita on Aug. 31, but had three five-furlong workouts on the slower side in September. A positive for Patricia's Boy is the lack of depth in this field. ~MRSAINTPATRICK^ will be the runner to catch. He was second in a \$20,000 claimer for statebred maidens at five furlongs at Los Alamitos on Sept. 11, leading to the final strides. An extra furlong will be a test.

Sixth Race

1. Jordi Bear	2. He's a Knockout	3. Piedra Fria
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~JORDI BEAR^ is winless in three starts in the United States, but has kept good company, finishing behind Proletariat each time, including the Grade 2 Del Mar Derby at 1 1/8 miles on Aug. 23. Jordi Bear should record his first win in more than a year in this allowance race-optional claimer at a mile on turf. It is easy to see Jordi Bear gaining a good trip as a stalker in this field of six. ~HE'S A KNOCKOUT^ and ~PIEDRA FRIA^ are likely to be part of the pace. He's a Knockout won the Real Good Deal Stakes for California-bred 3-year-olds at seven furlongs on dirt at Del Mar on July 31, but was seventh of 10 in a six-furlong allowance race against open company on dirt on Aug. 29. He has won two sprints on

turf, and was a good fifth, despite a poor start, in the Snow Chief Stakes for statebreds at 1 1/8 miles on turf at Santa Anita in May. He's a Knockout drew the inside post here, which could lead to pressure from Piedra Fria, who won a maiden race in an 11-1 upset at five furlongs on turf at Del Mar on Aug. 21 in his debut. A mile is a new distance for Piedra Fria who worked a quick five furlongs in 58.80 seconds from the gate last Friday for trainer Doug O'Neill.

Seventh Race

1. Harbor Code	2. Battle School	3. Desert Kat
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~HARBOR CODE^ has a sharp drop in class from a close second in a \$25,000 claimer for nonwinners of two at five furlongs on turf at Del Mar on Aug. 21 to this \$12,500 claimer for nonwinners of two at 5 1-2 furlongs. Trained by Pancho Rodriguez, Harbor Code was claimed for \$12,500 at Del Mar on July 18, the day he finished a disappointing fifth. The recent second was Harbor Code's best race since a win in a \$50,000 claimer for maidens at Del Mar in July 2025. Harbor Code should be effective as a stalker in this field of seven, and may even be on the lead depending on how Kiddo Light is ridden. ~BATTLE SCHOOL^ won as expected as the 2-1 favorite in a \$12,500 claimer for maidens at six furlongs at Los Al on Sept. 11 in his fifth start. He, too, seems best-suited to racing as a stalker along with ~DESERT KAT^, who starts from the outside post. Desert Kat was second in a race at this level at Del Mar on July 19, but a well-beaten third in a \$12,500 claimer for nonwinners of two there on Aug. 8 when his chances were compromised by a slow start. The July 19 race was Desert Kat's best performance in eight starts this year.

Eighth Race

1. Thebeachisback	2. Vallendar	3. Maude
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~THEBEACHISBACK^ and ~VALLENDAR^ are unlikely to be far apart through this maiden race for 2-year-old fillies at six furlongs. Both have displayed the ability to close from off the pace. Thebeachisback was third in a maiden race at 5 1-2 furlongs on dirt on Aug. 22, losing by 1 1-2 lengths, while Vallendar closed from sixth of eight to finish third by three-quarters of a length at 39-1 in a five-furlong maiden race on turf on Aug. 28. Thebeachisback, who starts from the outside in a field of eight, is given a slight edge considering he may be closer to the front early than Vallendar. Thebeachisback will be ridden by Juan Hernandez, who has several live mounts on Friday's program. ~MAUDE^ is a first-time starter with a pedigree that suggests she will do well on turf. Maude is by City of Light, the sire of the Grade 1 turf stakes winner Formidable Man, and is out of Amnesia, a minor stakes winner on turf at Santa Rosa. Amnesia is the dam of the turf stakes winner St Anthony. The booking of jockey Joel Rosario is interesting, but Maude is trained by Neil Drysdale whose runners often benefit from a start. GOLDENLYNN starts from the inside after a series of sharp works for trainer Blaine Wright. Goldenlynn is by Golden Pal, a first-year stallion who has won with an above average 21 percent of his debut runners in recent months including several on turf.