

# Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

**BEST BET:** *Gazon (4th race)*

## First Race

### 1. Central Dispatch

### 2. Tigerhon

### 3. Special Club

Close call between ~CENTRAL DISPATCH^ and ~TIGERHON^, second and first last month at this six-furlong turf trip. Although he lost by a head to his rival, CENTRAL DISPATCH is the call to turn the tables. He is quicker than TIGERHON, and this small field does not include much other pace. Speed has been good recently at six furlongs on turf; DISPATCH is the call to wire the field. However, he was worn down by TIGERHON last out, who was able to get outside his rival and press the pace two-wide. Although TIGERHON is drawn inside his rival again, he could allow DISPATCH to clear the field and then engage from the outside just as he did last out. Close call between two sharp geldings. ~SPECIAL CLUB^ is a late threat. He misfired last out vs. better, but his previous Santa Anita turf sprint was a Cal-bred allowance win four starts back. Look for CLUB to be rolling in the lane.

## Second Race

### 1. Romantic Ride

### 2. Tommy Norris

### 3. Courtside Action

Runner-up by a nose last out in a similar Cal-bred N1X sprint for 3yos, ~ROMANTIC RIDE^ can win this shorter (five and one-half furlongs) race if he can reel in pacesetter ~TOMMY NORRIS^. The runner-up try by RIDE last out was his first dirt race in California, he worked well before and since, and looms the choice to rally for the win. But he'll have to catch front-runner TOMMY NORRIS, who returns to his preferred dirt footing after disappointing on turf. NORRIS is the speed of the field; he won this condition already and is entered for the \$50k optional claim tag. Win or lose, NORRIS figures to lead the field into the stretch. However, only of the 16 races this meet at five and one-half furlongs was won by the pacesetter (through Memorial Day). ~COURTSIDE ACTION^ trounced a soft field of Cal-bred maiden-50s by more than five lengths first out with a respectable speed figure.

## Third Race

### 1. Toulouse Detrac

### 2. Aloha Dreamin

### 3. Donttellourwives

~TOULOUSE DETRAC^ on the lead, or ~ALOHA DREAMIN^ rallying from behind? The call is the speed, even if six furlongs is a reach. DETRAC set a fast pace last out racing five and a half, held a clear lead to inside the furlong pole, and got collared. The extra half-furlong of this race presents a challenge, but she is undeniably the one to catch. ALOHA DREAMIN finished more than two lengths behind the top choice last out, and was claimed. Blinkers are back on (she wore blinkers her most recent win); new trainer Jeff Mullins won with five of his last nine runners first off the claim. ~DONTTELLOURWIVES^ plummets in class from N1X to \$10k claiming non-winner of three. She could wake up vs. this easier field.

## Fourth Race

### 1. Gazon

### 2. Travelin' Show

### 3. Gregory's Pride

Lone front-runner ~GAZON^ should wire this N3L claiming turf sprint at a short price. The only true speed, he dueled to deep stretch last time before fading to second. Now he figures to shake loose over a turf course that has been kind to speed at six furlongs. Through Memorial Day, five of the last eight turf sprints at this distance were won by the pacesetter. GAZON can follow suit. ~TRAVELIN' SHOW^ drops from N3L starter to \$30k claiming N3L after finishing near the back of the field both recent. SHOW has enough natural speed to keep the top choice in his sights. Late-runner ~GREGORY'S PRIDE^ missed by only a head last out in a similar race two months ago, He'll be flying late, while Turf Paradise-invading longshot SARK has enough speed to be forwardly placed partway.

## Fifth Race

### 1. Christa McAuliffe

### 2. Dottie Hinson

### 3. Whopper Factor

~CHRISTA MCAULIFFE^ finally put it all together in the sixth start of her career, running away to win a maiden race by more than eight lengths in a performance that stamps her the one to beat in this Cal N1X sprint for 3yo fillies. Drawn outside (post 6 of 6), MCAULIFFE should get a pace-pressing outside trip similar to the trip she benefitted from last out. She can win if she runs two alike. ~DOTTIE HINSON^ won her only start last fall at Del Mar by more than four lengths, and returns with a solid recent work pattern. HINSON will rally from the back. ~WHOPPER FACTOR^ has speed based on her seven-length debut win last September. This is her first start since. A GREAT SHAKING is speed, but her best races have been on turf. Her first three dirt starts were not great. But she has improved since, and is quick enough to make the lead. If she handles dirt, she could wire the field.

## Sixth Race

### 1. Dreamrider

### 2. Allequin Summer

### 3. Prime Artist

Based on his five-length maiden-50 romp last out, ~DREAMRIDER^ can win right back in this N2L starter. His maiden victory was his first start without blinkers, he settled nicely off the pace and ran away like a new horse. Two easy works since, he can make it two straight wins. ~ALLEQUIN SUMMER^ finished second in a Cal-bred N1X last out; both his turf routes were decent runner-up finishes. SUMMER should be forwardly placed, positioned in front of the top choice. ~PRIME ARTIST^ finished third under similar circumstances last out. STAY FOR THE BOOM and MADDIE TEE stretch out with speed to influence the pace scenario.

## Seventh Race

### 1. Duke Silver

### 2. Moon

### 3. Newton

After he broke slow from the rail and blazed a half-mile in :44.19, front-runner ~DUKE SILVER^ was foiled last out. It was his second start; he finished fourth. But the maiden gets the call to wire this field even stretching from six furlongs to six and a half. He drew a better post (5 of 9), and if he breaks better and rations his speed more efficiently he can be long gone. ~MOON^ ran better in his third-place debut than the eight-length margin indicates. He lacked speed from the rail, finished with run, and galloped out far in front. Although the Munnings colt might want two turns (dam Grade 2 route winner Harvest Moon), MOON showed plenty of promise in the sprint and benefits by the additional half-furlong. He'll

be rolling late, though one suspects he will be even better when he goes long. ~NEWTON^ is a fast-working firster trained by Bob Baffert, who also entered debut runner-up SIR DAVIS. The latter was compromised by a slow start first out.

**Eighth Race**

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| <b>1. Detain</b> | <b>2. Scipio</b> | <b>3. Tempus Volat</b> |
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Group 1-placed ~DETAIN^ might need the race; the Euro-import is making his first start in more than eight months. But he is the class of the field, and he has run well fresh. He won his career debut in summer 2024; he won his comeback in spring 2025. He adds Lasix for his U.S. debut, and though Michael McCarthy-trained imports typically race into condition rather than fire first start back, DETAIN is nonetheless the one to beat. ~SCIPIO^, stakes winner and stakes-placed at 2 and 3, returns from a long layoff while adding a "cheater" blinker and Lasix. SCIPIO showed much promise early in his career, he was given extra time off when he tailed off last year. He reportedly has worked well for his comeback. ~TEMPUS VOLAT^ had tough trips both starts this year, eighth and seventh in inconclusive performances. A stakes winner and G2-placed vs. 3yos last year, he could outrun his price with a clean trip. Late-runner WATSONVILLE won this N2X condition in January; he is entered for the \$80k optional claim tag. IRON MAN CAL, gelded since raced, has worked exceptionally well recently including a May 25 workout in company with Stronghold, who exited the work to win a G3 sprint. DHITJARI stretches to a route for the first time in the U.S. as a front-running upset candidate.

**Ninth Race**

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| <b>1. R Danny Boy</b> | <b>2. Big Notion</b> | <b>3. Subic Boy</b> |
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~R DANNY BOY^, runner-up twice at this Cal-bred maiden-12.5k class level, only needs to repeat his most recent start. He has speed to be forwardly placed, he finished three lengths clear of third last out. ~BIG NOTION^ drops from Cal-bred maiden-50 down to the bottom. Though he does not have much early speed, he will be running late. ~SUBIC BOY^ is quick, racing into condition and making his third start following a long break. He will be involved in the pace. ROCKABILLY REBEL finished a better-than-looked third with a troubled trip in his debut. He can improve second time out.

**Tenth Race**

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| <b>1. Hardtobebetternow</b> | <b>2. Off the Bench</b> | <b>3. Island Paradise</b> |
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~HARDTOBEBETTERNOW^, runner-up last out in a Cal-bred MSW turf mile, returns from a layoff of nearly four months and drops to Cal-bred maiden-50. He has speed to avoid excessive ground loss on the first turn breaking from post 9. ~OFF THE BENCH^ was not the least bit disgraced in his comeback. He set the pace to deep stretch, and tired while making his first start in nearly four months. Now he drops from Cal-bred MSW to Cal-bred MCL, and might be more effective if he is rated off the pace. ~ISLAND PARADISE^ returns from a break of nearly three months; the first two starts of his career (third, fifth) make him a contender. SUNK COST FALLACY stretches to a route for the first time since last fall.