



Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Aggro (4th race)

First Race

1. The Old Nine

2. Mongolian Altai

3. Navy Jack

Last-out maiden winner ~THE OLD NINE^ is likely to win his second straight; he is realistically spotted in a N2L claiming turf sprint after a decent maiden-50 win over the same turf course. He benefited setting a slow pace in his maiden win, and could get a similar trip here in a small, weak field with little speed. Only five entered. ~MONGOLIAN ALTAI^ drops in class after finishing last vs. tougher. Any of his previous three efforts, including a pair of respectable off-the-board finishes against better on turf, make him a contender rallying from off the pace. ~NAVY JACK^ showed little in either comeback start vs. N1X rivals. He benefits by a huge drop to \$25k claiming N2L. Blinkers on.

Second Race

1. Maniae

2. Goodnight Nellie

3. Nanci Griffith

Just five entered this N2L starter restricted to horses previously based in Northern California. ~MANIAE^ is the choice based on her last-out runner-up finish at this level. She rallied wide, missed by a head, and finished more than three lengths clear of third. Although she drew the rail, that should be no big deal. She won a maiden-50 from the rail two starts back. MANIAE is trained by Andy Mathis, who also entered debut winner ~GOODNIGHT NELLIE^. The field 'NELLIE defeated by more than three lengths was not great (six ran back, one maiden-20 winner next out). But this field is not great, either. Mathis one-two? ~NANCI GRIFFITH^ is 1-for-16, but dropping from tougher Cal-bred turf allowance races than this dirt sprint. TINY PRANCER is a potential pace factor in a sprint without a confirmed pacesetter.

Third Race

1. Big Bet

2. Fast Service

3. Sunset Storm

~BIG BET^ and ~FAST SERVICE^ are closely matched in this \$5k claiming mile, non-winners of two, tailored to horses from Northern California. 'BET and 'SERVICE finished three-two last out in a sprint, but 'BET had to wait briefly for room into the stretch while FAST SERVICE cut the corner and always had clear sailing. Both geldings have run okay around two turns, 'BET might have a touch more speed, and the SA track recently has been kind to route front-runners/pace-pressers. But it is a close call, because FAST SERVICE hit the board his last four starts. In his most recent route two starts back, he got bounced around at the break and never had a fair shot. ~SUNSET STORM^ finished second last out, three lengths in front of trip-compromised FAST SERVICE.

Fourth Race

1. Aggro

2. Wishful Winker

3. Lady Rider

~AGGRO^ stands out in this maiden-20 mile, based on back-to-back runner-up finishes at this class level and distance. Although she lost at odds-on last out, that was after being hounded by pace rival Petite Ange, who she put away before getting worn down. Petite Ange flattered the race by winning her next start by more than six lengths. AGGRO was claimed off her runner-up finish by Steve Knapp, who has a 48 percent win rate (14-for-29) with first-off-the-claim favorites the past five years. With a front-running or pace-pressing trip, AGGRO should deliver as the chalk in the first leg of the pick six. ~WISHFUL WINKER^ stretches out for the first time, with speed to make the lead if she wants. Her even-paced style suggests two turns will be okay; trainer Mike Puype won with 2 of his last 4 stretch-out maiden-claiming starters. ~LADY RIDER^ goes long off an okay fourth-place career debut at five and a half. She is bred to stay a route.

Fifth Race

1. Favor to You

2. Prime and Ready

3. Proud Starlet

Close call between late-runner ~FAVOR TO YOU^ and pace-presser ~PRIME AND READY^ in this entry-level allowance turf sprint for 3yo fillies. The nod goes to FAVOR TO YOU, who took advantage of a return to one turn and a ground-saving trip to score a game maiden win in the third start of her career. Both turf sprints both were strong; 'YOU finished second to subsequent stakes winner Jungle Peace in her debut in February. FAVOR TO YOU can win from off the pace if she reels in PRIME AND READY, who missed by less than a length at this level two back, and ran well last time vs. older starter allowance fillies and mares. Back with 3yos, proven over the Santa Anita turf (2-for-5), she could tuck into a cozy trip positioned second behind the speedster drawn directly to her outside. 'READY will get first run over the top choice. Comebacker ~PROUD STARLET^ is the aforementioned likely pacesetter, first start since October. She won her debut last summer, so the layoff is not a major concern. Also, the switch to turf should be okay. She is by Mendelssohn. Win or lose, 'STARLET is probably the one to catch.

Sixth Race

1. Far Over Loaded

2. Got Your Six

3. Master Jacques

Maiden-8s sprint five and a half, the race goes through front-runners ~FAR OVER LOADED^ and ~GOT YOUR SIX^. Both benefit by the cutback in distance; the call is five-time runner-up FAR OVER LOADED, who has run well despite speed duels. He finished four lengths clear of third last out at this level, and can win on the front end unless GOT YOUR SIX runs him into submission. The latter is racing at the bottom level for the first time; he is every bit as quick as the top choice the first quarter-mile. Speed has been good at this distance lately; four of the last eight races won by the pacesetter. If the top pair hook up, class-drop first-time gelding ~MASTER JACQUES^ could be along in time. He drops from maiden-20 to the bottom, and will pick them up late.

Seventh Race

1. Beef Winslow

2. Heart Headed

3. Awesome Rhythm

~BEEF WINSLOW^ stretches out from a decent third-place comeback vs. tougher; the runner-up returned to finish second in a Grade 2. The race by 'WINSLOW was his comeback; he is the fastest in this \$50k claiming field based on year-old form. He figures for a comfortable trip positioned second or third behind the pacesetter in the outside post. ~HEART HEADED^ also drops. He won a N2X two back, misfired with some trouble next out, and is now in for \$50k. The drop is reasonable; he was claimed for this price three starts back

and already is close to earning back his purchase (\$41,900 earned since claimed). ~AWESOME RHYTHM^ is the aforementioned pacesetter in the outside post. He probably is best as a sprinter, but he figures to make the lead and could take these a long way.

Eighth Race

1. Princesa Del Tigre	2. Garden Party	3. Dorine's Wild Cat
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Third start following an extended layoff, veteran ~PRINCESA DEL TIGRE^ meets a modest field of Cal-bred allowance dirt-route fillies and mares. Both comeback starts were decent, both on turf. She set the pace and finished third by neck in March, then did the same thing and tired to fourth. Decent efforts both. She has run well on dirt, and is likely for an up-front trip setting or pressing the pace. If she runs back to her most recent start on dirt, third in a stakes last summer at Pleasanton, she can grind out the win. If the pace is fast, lightly raced last-out maiden winner ~GARDEN PARTY^ looms an off-the-pace upset candidate. Although unproven on dirt (last at even-money in her debut on dirt last summer), she has trained well on the main track this season. With only four starts, she has a right to improve. Her maiden win on turf did not earn much of a figure (62 Beyer), but she should be rolling late and has room to improve having raced only four times. ~DORINE'S WILD CAT^, the only starter entered for the optional \$20k claim tag, also will rally late. She has no speed, but she does finish. SAND TO SEA stretches out from sprints and could influence the pace.

Ninth Race

1. Burning Rubber	2. Bazooka Charlie	3. My Hero
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~BURNING RUBBER^ can win this maiden-50 turf sprint if she merely reproduces her solid third-place comeback under similar conditions. She was caught wide through the turn, and finished less than two lengths behind The Old Nine, the favorite in race 1. ~BAZOOKA CHARLIE^ ran well in her Cal-bred MSW debut last fall, then went to the sidelines. She raced greenly and finished well for fourth her only start. Off since, new trainer, Lasix on, class drop to maiden-50, she is a contender although it is uncertain if she suits the sprint distance. The impression from her debut is she wants to run long. Second preference, anyway. ~MY HERO^ returns from a two-month break for the Michael McCarthy-Umberto Rispoli trainer-jockey tandem, who scored a dramatic Preakness victory last weekend with Journalism. Not sure if sprinting is the right game for MY HERO; her best races have been two turns.