

Expert Analysis

By Steve Andersen

BEST BET: *Bad Uncle Barry* (9th race)

First Race

1. Keep Movin' On

2. Tiggrrrr Whitworth

3. Mici's Express

Eight days after he finished third in a \$10,000 claimer at a mile, ~KEEP MOVIN' ON^ starts for the lowest level of his career in a \$5,000 claimer at a mile. Winless in 11 starts since a starter allowance at Fresno in September 2024, Keep Movin' On had his best result in five starts this year on Oct. 4, closing to finish 1 3-4 lengths behind Crypto Ride. In this field of eight, Keep Movin' On should have a pace to help his closing style. ~TIGGRRR WHITWORTH^ is one of the runners like to be forward early. This has been a busy year for Tiggrrr Whitworth with two wins in 12 starts, including a victory in a conditional \$10,000 claimer in May in which he was near the front throughout. On Sept. 27, Tiggrrr Whitworth set the pace in a \$16,000 claimer for nonwinners of three as a 42-1 outsider, but could not keep pace late with 7-2 Fomo Joe who was near the front throughout. Tiggrrr Whitworth was well clear of the six others in that field. ~MICI'S EXPRESS^, who drew the inside post, won a \$10,000 claimer for nonwinners of three at a mile here in June by stalking the early pace. The winner of the \$188,000 California Cup Derby for statebred 3-year-olds in January 2024, Mici's Express was fourth in a \$16,000 claimer at 6 1-2 furlongs on Sept. 26, a distance that seems shorter than his best trip.

Second Race

1. Jetway

2. Throwthefirstpunch

3. Fuzzy Stare

~JETWAY^ starts on turf for the first time in his seventh start in a weak \$50,000 claiming race for maidens at 6 1-2 furlongs. Jetway, who was gelded in late September since his last start, closed with a wide rally to finish second in a \$30,000 claiming race for maidens at six furlongs at Los Al on Sept. 18. He is a half-brother to a modest turf winner at Mountaineer Park in August, Breezy Money. Jetway will be ridden Joel Rosario who is likely to have the 3-year-old forward early in this field of seven. ~THROWTHEFIRSTPUNCH^ is winless in 12 starts, with a caveat. He finished first in a maiden race for statebreds at Los Al in late June only to be disqualified for interference in the stretch. At Del Mar on Aug. 15, Throwthefirstpunch finished third in a maiden race for statebreds at five furlongs on turf, closing from fifth in the stretch. He set the pace in a maiden race for statebreds at a mile on turf on Sept. 7 before fading rapidly through the stretch. The loss implies that a sprint is a better fit. ~FUZZY STARE^ is winless in six starts, including a third and two fourth-place finishes in turf sprints. This is Fuzzy Stare's longest turf race and that may help his stalking style.

Third Race

1. Shady Tiger

2. John Metcalfe

3. Practical Blame

~SHADY TIGER^ was claimed for \$16,000 by trainer Jeff Mullins at Del Mar on Sept. 7, the day he finished second in a one-mile race on dirt. Mullins, who has won with six of the 16 horses he has claimed in the last year, has entered Shady Tiger in an allowance race-optional claimer for statebreds at a mile. Shady Tiger is entered to be claimed for \$20,000. A winner of 4 of 13 starts, he fits with this group as a contender from off the pace. The drawback is Shady Tiger is winless in eight starts since the \$127,500 Snow Chief Stakes for statebred 3-year-olds at 1 1-8 miles on turf at Santa Anita in May 2024. ~JOHN METCALFE^ is another runner easy to like. John Metcalfe needed nine races to beat maidens, doing so at a mile on dirt in April. After finishing seventh in this year's Snow Chief Stakes in May, John Metcalfe did not race again until he finished second in an allowance race for statebreds at a mile on dirt at Del Mar in late July. Similar to Shady Tiger, John Metcalfe can be a factor from off the pace. ~PRACTICAL BLAME^ starts from the inside post after a third-place finish in a race at this level of competition at a mile on Aug. 20. The race has been productive. Rodrigoknows, who finished first, returned to win an allowance race at six furlongs on turf here on Oct. 3.

Fourth Race

1. Treximo

2. Strike a Match

3. Ride the Tiger

~TREMIMO^ has sufficient speed to lead, but has not been able to sustain the effort in six starts. Twice, he has been caught late and beaten a nose. In this \$20,000 claimer for maidens at 5 1-2 furlongs, Treximo is expected to be on the pace early with no guarantee he can be in front at the wire. There is a possibility he can be effective when near the front but not leading as evidenced by his nose loss here in June. The presence of ~STRIKE A MATCH^ in this field is somewhat puzzling. He finished fifth of seven, beaten 10 lengths in his debut as the 5-2 favorite in a six-furlong maiden race at Del Mar on Sept. 5. Strike a Match was near the front early and steadily faded through the stretch. Bought for \$300,000 as a yearling, Strike a Match has been given a substantial drop in class for his second start. It is not a confidence-inspiring move, but one that will draw betting support. ~RIDE THE TIGER^, who has been gelded since his last start, is quick enough to lead but has not been competitive in five starts. He was near the front for the first half-mile of a \$20,000 claimer for maidens at 5 1-2 furlongs at Del Mar before fading to finish second by 10 1-4 behind pacesetter, and 8-5 favorite, Carolina Legacy.

Fifth Race

1. Jennys Wine Girl

2. Watch Over Us

3. Angelica Bay

~JENNYS WINE GIRL^ scored an appealing win in a \$50,000 claimer for statebred maiden fillies and mares at six furlongs on turf here in June, but has failed to replicate that effort in three subsequent starts. She starts from post 2 in this \$25,000 claimer for fillies and mares who are nonwinners of two at 6 1-2 furlongs on turf with a chance to reverse that streak. Jennys Wine Girl, trained by Richard Baltas, will be fitted with blinkers for the first time in her 11th start. The equipment may help Jennys Wine Girl stay focused on leading or racing near the front in a field of eight that lacks many other frontrunners. ~WATCH OVER US^ had two starts in June and July, winning a \$12,500 claimer for maidens from the front at Los Al in June and finishing a fair third of eight in a starter allowance-optional claimer at five furlongs on turf at Del Mar in her last start. She is probably not quick enough to keep pace with Jennys Wine Girl early but can stick around for a top three finish. ~ANGELICA BAY^ was last of nine after a wide trip in a starter allowance-optional claimer at five furlongs on turf and will benefit from a start in this \$25,000 claimer. She closed well to finish third in a race at this level on Aug. 13 at Del Mar after a tardy start.

Sixth Race

1. Mooberry

2. Lovely Maya

3. Clubhouse Rose

~MOOBERRY^ and ~LOVELY MAYA^ were third and second in a \$30,000 claimer for maiden 2-year-old fillies at 5 1-2 furlongs at Los Al on Sept. 19. Since then, Mooberry finished sixth of eight in a maiden race at a mile on turf here on Oct. 2. Lovely Maya has not started since Sept. 19. Because she has experience around two turns, Mooberry is preferred in this \$32,000 claimer for maiden 2-year-old fillies at a mile. The race has not drawn many appealing starters in a field of nine. Mooberry is out of Mademoiselle Coco, a two-time winner around two turns. Lovely Maya has a pedigree that suggests stamina will not be an issue. She is a half-sister to Vitruvian Man, who was third at 47-1 in the Santa

Anita Derby in April. Lovely Maya is part of the first crop of the young stallion ~~Idol~~, who has not enough two-turn runners this year to gauge whether they are effect at the distance. Idol won the Santa Anita Handicap at 1 1-4 miles. ~CLUBHOUSE ROSE^ has been trouble-prone at the start in each of her three races. It would be nice to see what she can do with a clean break. At Los Al on Sept. 20, she broke slowly and rallied wide to finish second. This is her first start at a mile, and a chance to show she is more than a late-running sprinter. Clubhouse Rose is a half-sister to three winners at a mile.

Seventh Race		
1. Slick	2. Tirupati	3. Pura Vida Princesa

The 4-year-old filly ~SLICK^ has not raced since December, but has run well enough following a layoff in the past to indicate she can be a factor in the \$80,000 Swingtime Stakes for fillies and mares at a mile on turf. She does not have a lengthy list of frightening rivals. Slick finished third by a half-length in an allowance race at Del Mar in July 2025 after a seven-money gap between starts. Slick races as a stalker and there should be a good pace to follow in the Swingtime. ~TIRUPATI^ won the Grade 3 Wilshire Stakes at Santa Anita in March 2025, but is winless in her last six races. She was second or third in three allowance races in Kentucky and New York from early July to early September, and a few of those performances would leave her in good position in this field. Tirupati can lead or stalk the pace as can ~PURA VIDA PRINCESA^ who has won half of her six starts this year in that manner for trainer Doug O'Neill. Pura Vida Princesa was last of 10 in the Grade 2 John C. Mabee Stakes at 1 1-8 miles on turf at Del Mar on Sept. 7, and seems better suited to the restricted Swingtime Stakes.

Eighth Race		
1. Luka's Choice	2. Diamond Tornado	3. Johnny B

~LUKA'S CHOICE^ finished fourth of eight in a \$50,000 claimer for statebred maidens at 5 1-2 furlongs at Los Alamitos on Sept. 12 in his debut, a race that may have been an ideal prep for a return to the same level of competition in this field of nine. Luka's Choice is trained by Craig Lewis, who has won with three of his last 10 second-time starters. Luka's Choice started from post 2 in a field of eight on Sept. 12, and drew post six in this lineup, a position that may better suit his apparent stalking style. ~DIAMOND TORNADO^ is winless in four starts and was third by a neck in the same race as Luka's Choice on Sept. 12. For Diamond Tornado, the Sept. 12 race was his first in a maiden claimer and first as a gelding. He was always near the front and led briefly in the stretch. A similar trip leaves him in contention in this lineup. ~JOHNNY B^ was claimed for \$20,000 by Ian Kruljac in a maiden race at Del Mar on Aug. 23, the day he lost by a nose as the 9-5 favorite. Johnny B ran a game race from the outside post, dueling for the lead, and holding a slim advantage in the stretch before he was caught. Johnny B has had three half-mile workouts in recent weeks and will be ridden for the first time by Juan Hernandez, a booking certain to draw attention.

Ninth Race		
1. Bad Uncle Barry	2. Nasty Habit	3. Jimmy's Dailys

The three-time winner ~BAD UNCLE BARRY^ is quick enough to lead or stalk the pace and has an excellent chance to end a two-race losing streak in this allowance race at six furlongs on turf. Bad Uncle Barry drew post 6 in a field of eight, a good position for jockey Umberto Rispoli to assess the field in the opening furlong. Bad Uncle Barry has won at distances ranging from five furlongs to 6 1-2 furlongs on turf in his nine-race career. He has been worse than third only once. ~NASTY HABIT^, who starts from the outside post, is entered to be claimed for \$80,000 in the optional claiming provision of this race. Trained by Peter Miller, Nasty Habit has won his last two starts by disputing or stalking the pace. Along with Bad Uncle Barry, Nasty Habit will be forward early. ~JIMMY'S DAILYS^, ninth after a wide trip in the Grade 2 Pat O'Brien Stakes at seven furlongs at Del Mar on Aug. 29, was recently transferred from trainer Jose D'Angelo to Doug O'Neill. Jimmy's Dailys will start in a turf sprint for the first time on Monday. He has won twice at seven furlongs, and is a half-brother to the speedy 3-year-old Liam Smith, who has run well in a turf sprint.

Tenth Race		
1. Moonflight	2. Will Do One	3. Psalm

~MOONFLIGHT^ finished a well-beaten third behind Imperial Honor in his debut in a maiden race at 5 1-2 furlongs at Del Mar on Sept. 7, and should be better suited to this one-mile maiden race for 2-year-olds. Moonflight is by Flightline, the 2022 Horse of the Year, and is out of Harvest Moon, the winner of the Grade 2 Zenyatta Stakes at 1 1-16 miles at Santa Anita in 2020. The pedigree suggests distance will suit Moonflight, who is trained by Simon Callaghan. ~WILL DO ONE^ set the pace in a maiden race at a mile on Aug. 22 and finished second to Take a Picture, who raced in a stalking position. Will Do One finished more than 14 lengths clear of the third-place finisher. Will Do One, trained by Gary Mandella, may not set the pace in this field of 10 but is expected to have a forward position. ~PSALM^ was a disappointment in the Aug. 22 maiden race, finishing last of five as the 13-10 favorite. Bought for \$1.25 million as a yearling, Psalm will be fitted with blinkers for this race. Since the loss, Psalm has recorded several quick workouts for trainer Michael McCarthy, who also starts the promising colt Articulation. On Aug. 15, Articulation finished a troubled sixth in a maiden race at 5 1-2 furlongs. He will be fitted with blinkers for his first start at a mile.