

# 1<sup>st</sup> RACE

## A Closer Look...

*Race Analysis*  
by Mark Ratzky



Owner  
Silvia Soto

3-Year-Olds & Up, claiming price \$10,000,  
Five & One-Half Furlongs.

### Horses listed by program number

**1. Big Cheddar** - The majority of his starts this year have come over the smaller night oval here with the most recent score coming in late May going 1000 yards; made one appearance on the bigger course during the summer session and was well beaten by today's rival Scratchy Apache that afternoon.

**2. Sharp Warning** - Like his inside neighbor, he's been doing most of his recent work under the lights here and has had to settle for minor awards while finishing behind several of today's foes; most recent tally came back in late October going 4.5 furlongs over the smaller night oval.

**3. McWherter** - Looks like the one to catch for the solid team of trainer Miller and pilot Cedillo; dropping to the lowest level of his career and his speed and this easier company should do wonders for his outlook as he returns to the main track after battling hard between horses last month.

**4. Majestic Wind** - The first of 2 members of this cast with a victory over this unique strip, earning that score with a coast-to-coaster during the summer session; re-united with Baze, who was aboard for that decision; adds more early fuel to the fire and another in here who is dipping down to a career-low level; must respect.

**5. Mr Freebie** - The other with a local winner's circle snapshot as the 9th time proved to be the charm at the summer stand when he earned the graduation papers over a softer group; hard-used from the inside in that 1,000 race under the lights last month and could not match the top pair late.

**6. B D R Dragster** - All 6 starts have come over the night track here with a pair of tallies; got the job done on the class drop in his last, but will need to step up his game if he wants to an encore here.

**7. Bob's Sniper** - Made 9-5 look like a gift when he wired a night cast here for the Pineda/Payeras combination; winless in his 5 runs over the bigger daytime course here, but was only beaten a nose in a starter affair during the summer session in a strong outing.

**8. Scratchy Apache** - Hard to fault the last two appearances under the stars here with a solid stalk-and-pounce tally a month ago for Uranga and Ramirez; tougher task, but lands the cozy post and has to be considered with a tracking journey.

### Handicappers Selections

*Bob Mieszerski*

3. McWherter  
7. Bob's Sniper  
1. Big Cheddar

*Mark Ratzky*

3. McWherter  
7. Bob's Sniper  
8. Scratchy Apache

# 2<sup>nd</sup> RACE

## A Closer Look...

*Race Analysis*  
by *Mark Ratzky*



*Owner*  
*Paul Reddam*

3-Year-Olds and Up, fillies and mares, California-bred,  
Maiden special weight, Six Furlongs.

### Horses listed by program number

**1. Roubaix** - By far the most missed chances as she makes her 13th stab, but this also looks like the softest assignment of her career as she gets a makeover with the switch to dirt, a sprint and this unique track; apprentice will be looking to work out a trip from the rail.

**2. Kaylas Joy** - Has had troubled trips in both starts at Del Mar this summer, faltering in that most recent assignment when trying a mile of the seaside green last month; no surprise if she's much comfortable under today's conditions.

**3. Sister's Revenge** - The lone new face in the cast with some modest local drills on her tab; sire is just 1-for-54 with beginners while this is the first to the races for the dam, who won 7 of her 40 starts for 110K; check tote and post parade for more clues.

**4. Three Point Oh** - Exits that same turf miler down at the seaside as Kaylas Joy, carving out the fractions to the stretch before giving way when push came to shove; figures to appreciate the return to the short game and figures right in the thick of things with Maldonado at the controls.

**5. Mining Crypto** - Set a pressured from the inside when coming off the bench for Mendez at Del Mar a couple of weeks ago and weakened late while earning a minor award; blinkers go on, she gets off the rail and should be very much at home with this group.

**6. Glorious Spring** - Debuted against a better group of distaffers going once around on the Del Mar lawn in late July, had an awkward takeoff and was never in it; Grazen filly gets a start-over today with a nice last seaside move in tow and Vasquez doing the honors from the cozy outside slot.

## Handicappers Selections

*Bob Mieserski*

5. Mining Crypto  
4. Three Point Oh  
6. Glorious Spring

*Mark Ratzky*

4. Three Point Oh  
5. Mining Crypto  
6. Glorious Spring

# 3<sup>rd</sup> RACE

## A Closer Look...

*Race Analysis*  
by *Bob Mieszerski*

3-Year-Olds & Up, maidens, claiming price \$40,000,  
One Mile



*Jack & Laurie Wolf of  
Starlight Racing*

### Horses listed by program number

**1. Rafikki** - Homebred stretches out after failing to come close in a pair of sprints, the most recent when eighth of 10 when 39-1 20 days ago. Did show good speed before retreating in that contest, so could get brave if able control things from the rail in his local debut as he shows up tagged for the first time.

**2. Go Laker Go** - Nothing but airballs for homebred gelding since coming to California as he's been defeated by a combined 37 1/4 lengths in three appearances, the latest when last of 11 going shorter three weeks ago. Major turnaround needed.

**3. Len's Luck** - Lightly-raced sophomore has been shelved since finishing fourth of eight when 5-1 over the Tapeta surface at Golden Gate Fields last Halloween. Chased eventual repeater Charter Oak when debuting for slightly higher price tag here during the 2021 Los Angeles County Fair meet. Solid return drills at San Luis Rey, so could fire off the bench.

**4. Ivory Sky** - Most experienced member of the field returns to dirt after checking in ninth of 11 when 56-1 in his first in more than four months Aug. 25. Seeking first on the board finish for stable which he won twice in 2022. Longshot once more.

**5. Candy for Carmel** - Lacked a rally when returned to turf in same race Ivory Sky exits when returning from a layoff of almost two months. Was 16 lengths clear of the rest of the field when runner-up for higher price tag in last main track race, so must be considered with the move back to dirt.

**6. Western Cape** - First time in seller for Curlin colt, who was purchased for \$400,000 at the Keeneland September sale in 2020. Split field at this trip in race dominated by heavily-favored Hero Status two weeks ago and was third behind stablemate Rhetoric in debut here during the Summer meet earlier this year. May have found his friends for Hall of Fame trainer.

## Handicappers Selections

*Bob Mieszerski*

6. Western Cape  
5. Candy for Carmel  
1. Rafikki

*Mark Ratzky*

6. Western Cape  
5. Candy for Carmel  
3. Len's Luck

# 4<sup>th</sup> RACE

## A Closer Look...

*Race Analysis*  
by *Bob Mieszerski*



*Trainer*  
*Paula Capestro*

3-Year-Olds and Up, maidens, claiming price \$20,000,  
Six Furlongs.

### Horses listed by program number

**1. Cross Examine** - Completed the trifecta when finishing directly in front of Hiding the Brick 30 days ago. before failing to fire in most recent Sept. 1. Lands inside box again, but should make his presence felt late in this context.

**2. Absolute Truth** - Gelding who didn't begin his career until he was almost midway through his 5-year-old season has yet to come close and was last in his lone try over the daytime oval June 26. Pass.

**3. Sayers** - Drops after being claimed for \$40,000 from Phil D'Amato when last of 10 in debut six weeks ago. Lacks speed, so looking elsewhere for the winner.

**4. Asphalt Andy** - Distant second in last pair under the lights, most recently two weeks ago. Chased much better in lone race over the daytime oval during the 2021 Winter meet. Would be a surprise.

**5. Mask Off** - Showed speed and weakened for higher price tag in first in more than nine months. Should benefit from the outing for high percentage trainer and may be tough to catch vs. these. Flees the rail after drawing inside in the first two starts of his career.

**6. Sierra Pass** - Has no speed and yet to threaten either at night or in the daytime. Hard to envision.

**7. Precedent** - Gelding claimed for \$50,000 earlier this year has finished in front of four rivals in three starts for these connections. Capable of being close early, but needs to perk up considerably to contend.

**8. Mongolian Box** - Cuts back and has claiming price halved after finishing seventh of eight in miler 16 days ago. Worked a bullet half mile over this track last month, so maybe he'll wake up with the lesser company and the scenery change.

**9. Hiding the Brick** - Should be prominent from the outset with these and could stick around for a share at the very least. Gelding actually crossed the wire first when 24-1 in his third career start July 16, 2021 at Del Mar, but was disqualified and placed second.

**10. Wesley's Boy** - Was virtually eased when stretched to eight furlongs at this level four weeks ago. Showed little in debut at night a month earlier, so would be a stunner if he gets the job done today.

### Handicappers Selections

*Bob Mieszerski*

5. Mask Off  
1. Cross Examine  
9. Hiding the Brick

*Mark Ratzky*

5. Mask Off  
2. Cross Examine  
8. Mongolian Box

# 5<sup>th</sup> RACE

## A Closer Look...

*Race Analysis*  
by *Mark Ratzky*



*Jockey*  
*Edwin Maldonado*

3-Year-Olds and Up, top claiming price \$16,000,  
Six & One Half Furlongs

### Horses listed by program number

**1. Economical** - Lost a heartbreaker two back down at Del Mar going a mile after doing all the heavy lifting, then jumped in the air in the most recent down there and was just a bystander; red-tagged by Metz, who shortens him up to one corner and tries this unique strip for the first time while racing for the purchase price.

**2. Me Macho** - Just the lone victory from his 22 starts, but on a more positive note that win was registered here from 4 Orange County appearances going a mile last December; just a few nibbles in the interim and has been away for the last 11 weeks with a couple of sharp local a.m. drills on his card.

**3. Arthur Spooner** - Re-united with Baze, who in his only teaming with this guy got the maiden score going a mile over in Arcadia back in mid-April; popped and stopped going the once-around at Del Mar a few weeks ago and is one of many in here shortening up in distance for this assignment; an even third a year ago in the lone try over this strip.

**4. Mighty Matt** - Arrived for some ship-and-win money at Del Mar this summer and gave way readily in both those outings; stretched out to a mile after being claimed from that initial venture, sat close to the final bend and then drifted and gave way when things got serious; drops below the purchase price for first Orange County venture.

**5. Smiling At Val** - Dropped into a seller for the 5th start and was on the right end of the photo at the seaside going 7 furlongs after battling every step; had an eventful journey while chasing a swifter group in the first start off the Knapp claim down there and will be more at home with these.

**6. Butkus** - Had to settle for modest show finishes in the two Del Mar runs this summer for Miller, but would appear to land a much more comfortable spot with the return to sprinting; his lone local effort resulted in a sharp maidenbreaker last summer and should be right in the thick of it.

**7. Prince Magician** - Only one tally from 18 attempts, but like rival Me Macho that score did come over this unique strip when he romped going a mile last summer; makes second start off the Aguirre claim and returns to the short game with Maldonado guiding from the cozy outside post.

## Handicappers Selections

*Bob Mieszerski*

6. Butkus  
7. Prince Magician  
3. Arthur Spooner

*Mark Ratzky*

6. Butkus  
3. Arthur Spooner  
7. Prince Magician

# 6<sup>th</sup> RACE

## A Closer Look...

*Race Analysis*  
by *Bob Mieszerski*

2-Year-Old Fillies, maidens, claiming price \$30,000,  
Five & One Half Furlongs



Owner  
Heinz Steinmann

### Horses listed by program number

**1. Fast Investment** - Did not break cleanly and never got involved when debuting in race dominated by class dropper Funkhuouser. Will need a better takeoff today from this slot if she's going to make some noise, but California bred purchased for \$11,000 early in the year could benefit from the experience.

**2. Shelly Nose Best** - Sire has won with three of 52 debuters and 4-for-11 dam's had four of her six prior foals succeed. Prefer to see an outing.

**3. Smiling Princess** - Closest to the runaway winner early, but weakened to finish fifth of 10 when 15-1 last month. Needs to work on her stamina, but could stick around for a share vs. this bunch.

**4. Draw Near** - Steps into a claimer after seeing all the heels when dispatched at 65-1 in her Tapeta debut at Golden Gate Fields two weeks ago. The softer company and the switch to dirt could help the homebred.

**5. Paytricia** - Was eased and walked off the track when 14-1 in same race in which Smiling Princess was third Aug. 12. Did finish directly behind recent Del Mar graduate It's Saul Right over this track July 1, so improvement is possible.

**6. Eddie's On Patrol** - Sire has won with 36 of 239 rookies and dam's two other foals are a combined 3-for-13 with each of the wins coming in sprints on dirt. Won't have to be a superstar to contend.

**7. Anacarava** - Caravaggio has won with two of his first 18 debuters and 0-for-1 dam's other foal was winless in two races. May need more distance and grass to show her best stuff.

**8. Runaway Sally** - First foal from unraced dam and sire has won 12% of his rookies. Readied at San Luis Rey for this and could make some noise for trainer who is capable of winning with a firster.

## Handicappers Selections

*Bob Mieszerski*

- 6. Eddie's On Patrol
- 3. Smiling Princess
- 5. Paytricia

*Mark Ratzky*

- 8. Runaway Sally
- 6. Eddie's On Patrol
- 3. Smiling Princess

# 7<sup>th</sup> RACE

## A Closer Look...

*Race Analysis*  
by Mark Ratzky



Jockey  
Hector Berrios

3-Year-Olds and Up, fillies and mares, starter allowance,  
Six Furlongs.

### Horses listed by program number

**1. Spring Spinning** - Registered a come-from-behind upset going a mile on the Del Mar lawn two back, then faltered when stepping up to face a much tougher group over that turf course; the last time she tested this course was first off the Saldana claim at the summer stand and she was a stalk-then-pounce graduate going a bit shorter journey; will need very best to get job done.

**2. Lalic** - All 8 starts have been on turf and comes off a good runner-up effort 5 weeks ago at the seaside after an awkward start; goes from one solid barn to another with Miller taking her from Sadler and he brings her back in a spot where she can't be claimed; rattled off three straight victories last year at the beginning of her career, failed to menace in the next trio and then got some welcome class relief when last seen in that abbreviated lawn party.

**3. Bye Bye Bertie** - First of 2 for Powell; after being claimed last year, she went on to win 5 of her next 6 starts in smart fashion, but has failed to be a threat in the most recent pair while taking on stakes competition in those contests; has actually won 2 of her 4 outings when running short on dirt and the lone appearance over this course saw her facing some tough customers in last year's Bayakoa.

**4. Harper's Gallop** - The other Powell charge; opened a big lead when last seen at Del Mar going a mile and lacked the needed response when the attacks came; owns a win from 2 attempts over this unique strip, that coming at last year's summer stand when traveling a mile, while the other was in stakes company; must be considered.

**5. Respectfully** - Forced a quick pace going a mile over the Del Mar green last time and paid the price when push came to shove; did score nice back-to-back tallies at Sant Anita this spring over dirt and turf and the only time she completed over this strip she broke her maiden in romping fashion at second asking at the 2020 winter session.

**6. Little Rachel** - Got some class relief after being given a little time and responded with the perfect track-and-attack score down at the seaside in late July as the even-money choice; promptly claimed from Sadler by Bonde, who has given her a string of Del Mar works; the lone local appearance saw her completing the exacta in her 3<sup>rd</sup> lifetime appearance while still a maiden.

**7. Pistachio Princess** - She's earned the title of Queen of the Night for Ruiz and Payeras under the lights here with four straight excellent victories going 1000 yards, including the big dance in late June; the only time she competed over the bigger day-time track she earned her graduation papers at last year's summer meet; razor sharp mare gets really tested.

**8. Keepmeinthemoment** - Handled an easier group in coast-to-coast fashion two back going this distance at Del Mar, then jumped up a couple of notches for the most recent down there and faltered after having an awkward takeoff; claimed from Wong by Solis and will be making her initial attempt over this unique course.

**9. Equilove** - Has been forcing the pace in her last trio, one here and the last pair down at Del Mar, and in that last one ran into a buzzsaw in Annie Graham after not having the cleanest of starts; note that all three of her lifetime tallies have come on the green and all were sprinting; figures to keep things honest up front. we'll have to see if she takes to this unique new surface.

## Handicappers Selections

*Bob Mieszerski*

- 3. Bye Bye Bertie
- 4. Harper's Gallop
- 2. Lalic

*Mark Ratzky*

- 4. Harper's Gallop
- 2. Lilac
- 3. Bye Bye Bertie

# 8<sup>th</sup> RACE

## A Closer Look...

*Race Analysis*  
by *Bob Mieszerski*



*Owner*  
*Nick Alexander*

3-Year-Olds & Up, California bred or sired,  
E.B. Johnston Stakes, One Mile

### Horses listed by program number

**1. Big City Lights** - Sophomore returned in style from a layoff of more than 13 months, leading throughout as the favorite in a state bred stakes nearly seven weeks ago. Colt purchased for \$22,000 as a yearling is perfect so far, winning his three starts by a combined 21 lengths. Has trained well in the interim for Hall of Fame trainer. Major player.

**2. The Chosen Vron** - Gets some class relief after splitting the field in a Grade II won impressively by Laurel River three weeks ago. Won four of six as a 3-year-old, but is winless in two 2022 starts and will be making his first appearance on this surface. Capable on best day and did win a Grade III at 8 ½ furlongs last year.

**3. Crash Corrigan** - In terms of wins the gray is the most accomplished member of the field at Los Alamitos. He's won three of five locally and was second in one of his defeats. However, he's done all of his winning in sprints and was last of six the only time he tried eight furlongs here during the 2020 Winter meet when trained by Steve Miyadi.

**4. Desmond Doss** - Will be aiming for his third local stakes victory after capturing the Bertrando Stakes for a second year in a row during the Summer Thoroughbred Festival some 2 ½ months ago. Failed to fire his best shot in an optional claimer at a shorter trip three weeks ago, but can bounce back with the change in scenery.

**5. Appreciated** - Failed to threaten going shorter on the grass when making his first start in nearly six months 16 days ago. Although most effective on turf, has won twice on main track and distance no issue as won the 10-furlong Curlin Stakes at Meydan Race Course in United Arab Emirates in February.

**6. Luvluv** - Back to the dirt and was a winner the last time he competed here June 26. That victory at this trip came vs. softer, so would be a surprised if he can upend this crew.

## Handicappers Selections

*Bob Mieszerski*

1. Big City Lights
2. The Chosen Vron
4. Desmond Doss

*Mark Ratzky*

1. Big City Lights
4. Desmond Doss
3. The Chosen Vron



## A Closer Look...

*Race Analysis*  
by *Bob Mieszerski*



*Trainer*  
*Jerry Hollendorfer*

2-Year-Olds, maidens, One Mile

### Horses listed by program number

**1. Jeweled Shillelagh** - First foal from dam who failed to win in her lone start and sire has won with two of 14 debuters. Lands inside box and stable won with a first time starter (Malibu Coast) around two turns on turf Sept. 11 at Del Mar.

**2. Odonata** - Bullet drill at San Luis Rey eight days ago prepping for first since finishing fourth of nine when 16-1 seven weeks ago. Third in OK debut over this track during the Summer meet in July, so should show speed as he goes long for the first time for winning stable.

**3. Chickfingerfriday** - Stablemate of Odonata split the field at this trip on grass a little over a month ago and failed to threaten vs. fellow state bred over this track two starts back. May need softer to graduate.

**4. Rich Gold - 5. Macnamara**- Sire has won with about 10% of his firsters and dam's had two of her six prior foals win, including 2006 Test heroine Paola Queen. Prefer to watch one.

**6. South Coast Route** - Stablemate of Rich Gold was a close third in his debut here July 5, but was unplaced in two subsequent races by the beach. Sire won the Grade I Travers in 2017, so new gelding may perk up with the stretch out.

**7. Nielson** - Sire has had nearly 13% debut winners from a large sample and 15-for-25 dam has produced My Prankster (\$313,840). Purchased for \$850,000 at the Keeneland September sale last year and Hall of Fame rider takes the call for Hall of Fame trainer.

**8. Omnipresent** - Rolled fours in a pair of sprints to kick off his career, the latest when 12-1 four weeks ago. May take to the trip for Hall of Fame trainer, so better is possible.

**9. Gandolfini** - Stablemate of Neilson is by Justify, who has won with seven of his first 28 rookies and by a dam who was a nine time winner, but who has yet to have a winner from two prior foals. Solid works on tab and could come out running.

### Handicappers Selections

*Bob Mieszerski*

*Mark Ratzky*

7. Neilson

7. Neilson

9. Gandolfini

9. Gandolfini

6. South Coast Route

2. Odonata