

1st RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Mark Ratzky*

2-Year-Olds, claiming price \$32,000, Five Furlongs.



Owner
Daniel Ray

Horses listed by program number

1. Smokin Amelia - Held safe over outside neighbor It's Saul Right to pick up the diploma two back here during the summer stand, then lined up against the boys a month ago down at the seaside and was no threat after some early trouble; back with the ladies, back to Orange County and re-adding the blinkers.

2. It's Saul Right - After a series of frustrations, including near-misses to a pair of today's rivals, she finally earned the diploma last month down at Del Mar; figures to be sitting another nice stalking journey for Vasquez and no surprise if this gal comes right back with a winning effort.

3. Paddle on Polly - It's been rough sledding for this one since she posted that game 12-1 upset at Santa Anita with Ellingwood in one of those abbreviated affairs in Arcadia, but she's been knocking heads with tougher customers and has to be respected in the Orange County debut.

4. Smiling Princess - Put it all together here last week, shaking off her foes when straightening for home to post a romping diploma earner with Pereira; she figures to see snappier fractions this time around but that score could have been a great confidence booster for this Palma representative.

5. Isla Jane - Debuted under the lights here in one of those 1000-yard events two months ago and looked more like a 3-5 shot than a 3-1 chance in a cakewalk for Treece and Rojas; obviously tougher task today while moving to the mile layout, but was looking for bigger game at the wire in that score.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

- 2. It's Saul Right
- 4. Smiling Princess
- 1. Smokin Amelia

Mark Ratzky

- 2. It's Saul Right
- 4. Smiling Princess
- 1. Smokin Amelia

2nd RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Bob Mieszerski*



Trainer
Robertino Diodoro

3-Year-Olds and up, starter allowance, Six Furlongs

Horses listed by program number

1. Slam Dunk Sermon - Gelding who has been a hot commodity at the claim box was tagged for a fourth consecutive race when fifth of eight at this trip nearly two months ago. Protected in first for new connections and returns to a track he won over during the Summer meet. Veteran who has won 10 of 26 lifetime can rebound.

2. Alvaaro - Switches surfaces and cuts back in distance after completing the trifecta when 3-1 in race taken by favored Tom's Surprise 20 days ago. Gelding has been 1-2-3 nine of 12 on the main track and was beaten by a neck the last time he tried dirt three starts ago at Sacramento.

3. Cajun Brother - Had the lead, but couldn't quite stay in his California debut nearly a month ago. Finished double digits in front of the rest of the field and could be primed for his first win of 2022 for stable that clicked here with Love My Jimmy Sept. 22. Seeking initial tally since Sept. 15, 2021 at Gulfstream Park when claimed for \$35,000 from Michael Yates.

4. Sunrise Journey - Pressed quick splits while inside going longer trip and did well to check in third of 10. Will appreciate the shorter journey and did win in first for this stable at this distance after being claimed for \$25,000 from Salvador Naranjo July 2. Threat to take these all the ways if able to get loose early.

5. Flying Charlie - Late running gelding is stuck on thirds as he's been the bottom half of the trifecta in his three most recent outings, the latest vs. weaker over the daytime oval nine days ago. Would be a surprise.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

4. Sunrise Journey
1. Slam Dunk Sermon
3. Cajun Brother

Mark Ratzky

1. Slam Dunk Sermon
2. Alvaaro
4. Sunrise Journey

3rd RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by Mark Ratzky



Trainer
Shelbe Ruis

3-Year-Olds & Up, maiden claiming \$20,000, One Mile.

Horses listed by program number

1. Armaveer - Had to settle minor awards in the last three trips to the post while racing under these exact conditions, two of those coming during the summer stand here; lands inside and won't have to make a huge move forward to threaten with this group.

2. Memes - Earned a couple of small slices since the March claim, including that mile run last time at Del Mar where he sat close and weakened, but now he drops below the purchase price and finds a sweet spot to make the local debut for veteran Spawr.

3. Torrid Tommy - Has been his own worst enemy with early issues in his last three trips to the post, the most recent at the seaside off a three-month respite; should really appreciate the top in class for his first try here while covering some added real estate.

4. Fifty Cent Dollars - A bystander in the Churchill Downs intro in May, then turned up at Del Mar last month going once around for this same tag and was never in the hunt while finishing a 6 lengths behind Armaveer; blinks on and has to pick up game.

5. Carson's Legacy - Last two trips to the post have come at this level sprinting down at Del Mar and he hasn't menaced while having trouble coming away from there; gets first chance to stretch his legs with the venture to Orange County.

6. Big Brother - Best race of the trio came over the tapeta at Golden Gate in April when a solid runner-up at 24-1 going once around; had early issues when trying the turf up there in the most recent and not out of the question.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

2. Memes
6. Big Brother
1. Armaveer

Mark Ratzky

2. Memes
1. Armaveer
6. Big Brother

4th RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Mark Ratzky*



Trainer
E.G. Harty

2-Year-Olds, fillies, maiden claiming \$50,000,
Mile and One-Sixteenth

Horses listed by program number

1. Lord of Light - Debuted down at Del Mar in late July carrying a high pricetag, took a little bit of money and failed to threaten; five seaside moves in the interim for Hollendorfer with Maldonado guiding from the cozy inside slot.

2. Weasley - Yet to make an impact in the two starts, one in June in Arcadia and the other down south at the end of July, but did have early problems in the most recent and Gonzalez is willing to give it another chance; like 4 of these, trying two turns for the first time.

3. Smokem Howard - The most experience as he makes his 7th stab at the brass ring; just one modest show finish to brag about to this point and tailed when he tried this layout during the summer stand; getting first taste of a distance.

4. Ice Storm - Made introduction going once around on the Del Mar green last month, played bumper cars coming away from the gate and failed to menace; Tiago on the re-ride and every right to move forward with that one under the belt and a cleaner getaway.

5. Capacity - First of an Engler pair; nothing doing in two Churchill runs to start career and then bobbled at the break in the Del Mar foray where he finished double digits behind today's rival Lord of Light; obviously needs to pick things up.

6. Macnamara - Capacity's stablemate suited up here last weekend going a mile, was away slowly and just a bystander while chasing home a better group; drops into a seller on the quick turnaround and now has the services of Vasquez.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

1. Lord of Light
6. Macnamara
4. Ice Storm

Mark Ratzky

1. Lord of Light
4. Ice Storm
6. Macnamara

5th RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Bob Mieszerski*

3-Year-Olds & Up, maidens, Six Furlongs



Gary Fenton
of *Little Red Feather*

Horses listed by program number

1. Grazen Sun - Draws inside post again after finishing fourth of seven a week ago vs. fellow state bred. The effort came after more than five months on the bench. Stablemate of debuter Krahenbuhl.

2. Conch Daddy - Returns in spot where he can't be claimed after being taken for \$30,000 from Doug O'Neill when second as the favorite here nearly three months ago. Keeps same rider and goes for stable that had a superb Del Mar season. Interesting.

3. Andros - Sire has won with 105 of 747 debuters and first foal from a dam who was unraced. Purchased for \$500,000 as a yearling at the Keeneland September sale and has prepped well locally for Hall of Fame stable.

4. Burton Way - Speighster gets about 14% first out winners and 1-for-7 dam's best prior foal is Spankurst (5 wins, \$141,292). Solid works on tab, but prefer to see an outing from gelding purchased for \$80,000 last year.

5. Raffiki - Shortens up after tiring when stretched out vs. \$40,000 claimers in first of the meet eight days ago. Seeking first on the board finish, so a turnaround is needed for him to handle these. Longshot.

6. Krahenbuhl - Sire is about 10% with his rookies from a large sample and dam, who earned nearly \$500,000, has had two of three prior foals succeed, including Sidney's Hope (\$72,404). Could come out firing and trainer-jock combination scored with 2-year-old maiden Big Celebration here Sept. 22.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

3. Andros
6. Krahenbuhl
2. Conch Daddy

Mark Ratzky

3. Andros
2. Conch Daddy
6. Krahenbuhl

6th RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Bob Mieszerski*

3-Year-Olds & up, California bred or sired,
allowance/claiming, claiming price \$20,000, Six Furlongs



*Gary Hartumian of
Rockingham Ranch*

Horses listed by program number

1. Catemaco - Gelding hasn't threatened since a daylight debut win on the first day of 2021. Cuts back to distance of his victory after beating one home in a route nearly a month ago. Turnaround needed in his local bow.

2. Count Tolstoy - Picks a difficult spot to make his 2022 debut. Idle since holding on at shorter trip over softer company under the lights close to a year ago. Has done his best work at night, so looking elsewhere for the winner.

3. Heaven's Music - Goes for new connections after being claimed for \$16,000 from Javier Sierra when a troubled fifth six weeks ago. Respect stable that won three races the first three days of the meet, but would be a surprise.

4. Bud Knight - Shortens up and returns to dirt after checking in fifth of 12 when 41-1 22 days ago. Hasn't been a factor in three starts since being claimed for \$25,000 from Leonard Powell in June and is winless in six tries on dirt. Outsider.

5. Prayer of Jabez - Dominated six opponents when favored and was claimed for \$16,000 from Jonathan Wong. Rider who was aboard for that score remains, so could contend if able to maintain his form for new stable.

6. Alpine Thunder - Away since finishing off the board in a miler taken by course specialist Crash Corrigan July 8. Owns a win over the daytime oval and is best around one turn, so not impossible.

7. Ray's Prospect - Enters off consecutive wins at night, the latest when outfinishing Fun Coupon two weeks ago. Improvement mandatory to compete with these.

8. Star Racer - Gelding is seeking his first on the board finish of 2022 and makes a rate main track appearance after running to his 90-1 odds at shorter trip on grass 15 days ago. Turnaround needed.

9. Liberty Forever - Fired a winning shot fresh for productive stable, leading throughout as the rthe favorite on turf after more than seven months on the shelf. Race already produced a next out graduate in Let's Acclimate, who won locally Sept. 18. Threat if he takes to this surface.

10. Lovesick Blues - Well clear when second behind Doc Adams going longer Aug. 28 and has been 1-2-3 in six of eight on dirt. Has won two of his last three going short. The one to defeat on the cut back.

11. Pyeong Chang - Stablemate of Liberty Forever adds zip to the race and draws a cozier post after faltering in his Del Mar finale 23 days ago. Graduated by daylight here during the 2021 Winter meet when trained by Jeff Mullins.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

10. Lovesick Blues
9. Liberty Forever
11. Pyeong Chang

Mark Ratzky

10. Lovesick Blues
9. Liberty Forever
4. Bud Knight

7th RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Bob Mieszerski*

3-Year-Olds & Up, maiden fillies & mares, claiming price
\$50,000, Six Furlongs



Owner
Kaleem Shah

Horses listed by program number

1. Katerini - Shows up tagged for the first time in her initial start in some 11 months. Lightly-raced miss finished directly behind a next out winner in her debut as a 2-year-old, so expect her to be prominent early at the very least for stable that can have 'em ready after a layoff.

2. Yadiama - Off the rail after finishing directly behind Rosy Edge for bit lower price tag a month ago. Gets aggressive jockey who in the mix to win the September riding title, but improvement needed for her to challenge for the top prize.

3. Spooky Lady - Drops into a claimer for the first time for Hall of Fame trainer after failing at 7-10 when last seen during the Summer meet about 2 1/2 months ago. The softer company could be the tonic for filly purchased for \$300,000 at the 2020 Keeneland September sale and this trainer-jockey combination scored Thursday with class dropping maiden Encode.

4. Rosy Edge - Bumped in price after checking in distant third when 26-1 in Aug. 25 debut. Two easy drills in the interim for homebred and she certainly has a right to move forward with that last one under her belt.

5. Wishing On a Star - Shortens up in distance, adds blinkers and steps into a seller for the first time after failing to factor vs. tougher going much longer on grass five weeks ago. Trained in only previous try on dirt, but could do better with the equipment and lesser foes.

6. American Lily - Bayern has won with 30 of 163 rookies and 2-for-2 dam produced All Out Blitz, who earned \$309,131 and was runner-up in the 2018 Sham Stakes. Readied at San Luis Rey for her debut and has a potent trainer-jockey combination in her corner.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

- 3. Spooky Lady
- 6. American Lily
- 1. Katerini

Mark Ratzky

- 6. American Lily
- 3. Spooky Lady
- 1. Katerini

8th RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Bob Mieszerski*



Trainer
David Hofmans

3-Year-Olds & Up, maidens, claiming price \$20,000,
One Mile

Horses listed by program number

1. Mourvedre - Drops in price and goes long after being defeated by a combined 24 1/4 lengths in a pair of sprints vs. fellow state bred. Could show some speed from the inside box, but will have King Rob to contend with early and would really have to step up his game for stable seeking its third victory of 2022.

2. Tiger's Arrow - Yet to hit the bullseye in eight starts. Removes the blinkers in first since he was sixth of seven vs. stronger on the Tapeta surface at Golden Gate Fields more than seven months ago. Gets talented rider as he debuts for new trainer and could come back firing against this gang.

3. Chris Fix - Rallied from far back in a race at this trip featured a very quick pace for the level to miss by a half-length when nearly 11-1 a little over five weeks ago. Keeps the same pilot and should get a nice setup once more, so could be along in time.

4. King Rob - Gelding will hope start No. 13 is the lucky one after he opened up a long lead before fading to fourth in same contest Chris Fix exits. Must respect his zip and could find a field he can wire one of these days for stable hitting at a 15% rate this year.

5. Sierra Pass - Was off slowly and failed to threaten once more when dismissed at 120-1 in first of the meet eight days ago. Gelding has never been within hailing distance of the winner while trying different surfaces and distances, Pass.

6. Sippin N Kissin - Most experienced member of the cast goes inside to outside and stretches out again after finishing directly behind a pair of next out winners in No Ice Cream and Arrest. Tough to trust with 14 losses on his resume, but can't be ignored in this context.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

- 2. Tiger's Arrow
- 3. Chris Fix
- 6. Sippin N Kissin

Mark Ratzky

- 2. Tiger's Arrow
- 6. Sippin N Kissin
- 3. Chris Fix

9th RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Mark Ratzky*



Trainer
Reed Saldana

3-Year-Olds & Up, claiming price \$6,250,
Five Furlongs.

Horses listed by program number

1. Big Cheddar - Dueled from the rail here opening week and did a steady fade through the long stretch, finishing two lengths behind today's foe Sharp Warning; one show finish from the 4 runs over this mile strip with the most recent victory posted during the evening hours in late May.

2. Equipo A - Jumped to a clear early lead her last week and while no match for the winner, did early hold safe over the remaining quartet including today's rival Soul Prodigy; most recent win came going an abbreviated 2.5 furlongs under the lights here in July; figures to be trying runaway tactics once again.

3. Street Behavior - Has been racing exclusively on the smaller night course this season, posting a win over softer in early February followed by a half-dozen minor awards at 1000 yards; one show from two tries on the bigger layout here and will have to pick up his game to reach.

4. Soul Prodigy - Carried out on the turn and lacked a response when racing here opening week, finishing six and a half-lengths behind today's foe Equipo in that contest; both snapshots in 2022 have come on the five-eighths evening course with a place and a show in the other two tries on this mile layout.

5. Highly Distorted - Hasn't been a threat in three starts since the July claim here, but did do the track-and-attack to perfection that day to reward the chalkplayers at 3-5 at a bit longer distance; may be able to work out the right journey with Edgar.

6. Crosskirk - The two lifetime tallies were registered here in the spring under the stars pushed quick fractions and gave way the only time he competed here during the afternoon at the summer meeting when tackling tougher company; no factor when last seen on the Del Mar lawn, but gets some class relief now.

7. Sharp Warning - Suited up here last week and was no threat at long odds, although he did finish a couple of lengths ahead of today's rival Big Cheddar that afternoon; one show finish from the 4 daytime appearances here and have to go back to October over the smaller night track for last snapshot.

8. Captain N. Barron - Veteran is making his 66th lifetime trip to the post, with a pair of scores from his 13 runs over this larger day oval while coming off three wins from his last four outings over the five-eighths evening course here; must always respect this guy.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

8. Captain N. Barron

2. Equipo A

5. Highly Distorted

Mark Ratzky

5. Highly Distorted

8. Captain N. Barron

2. Equipo A

10th RACE

A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Bob Mieszerski*



Trainer
Bob Baffert

2-Year-Olds, Capote Stakes,
Six & One-Half Furlongs

Horses listed by program number

1. Massimo - Stablemate of Hard to Figure chased the talented National Treasure – another member of this Hall of Fame barn – when 7-2 in his latest 22 days ago. Has worked twice in the interim and should be major player. Trainer won this race last year with Enbarr, who also entered the contest as a maiden.

2. Top of My Game - Most experienced member of the field goes for new connections after being claimed for \$62,500 from Luis Mendez out of a decisive score in his California debut nearly two months ago. The win was flattered when the runner-up returned to graduate and his ability to sit a bit could serve him well in this spot and the extra sixteenth of a mile shouldn't be a hindrance.

3. Hard to Figure - Rolled a pair of thirds to begin his career, most recently chasing stablemate and runaway winner Carmel Road in a miler a month ago. Should be plenty fit as he cuts back and does have a pair of bullet drills since the effort. Colt purchased for \$200,000 at the OBS sale earlier this year could be primed for his best as he sheds blinkers.

4. Man Child - Distant third when 28-1 in a Grade III won by eventual Del Mar Futurity runner-up Havnameltdown six weeks ago. Kentucky bred purchased for \$45,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale is proven over this track as he was game in a first out score July 3 during the Summer meet.

5. Flame Rider - Gelding returned in style after more than three months on the bench as he rolled to an easy score when favored Sept. 1. The drop in class also undoubtedly was a help for gelding who was a \$35,000 buy as a yearling about 11 months ago. Facing more zip, so siding against him going back-to-back.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

1. Massimo
2. Top of My Game
3. Hard to Figure

Mark Ratzky

1. Massimo
2. Top of My Game
4. Man Child



A Closer Look...

Race Analysis
by *Bob Mieszerski*



Trainer
Steve Knapp

3-Year-olds and up, claiming price \$12,500,
Five & One-Half Furlongs.

Horses listed by program number

1. El Tigre Terrible - First of 3 in here exiting that Tizhotndusty race last month at Del Mar and split the trio without threatening the winner; had been away since January that day and now drops to the lowest level of his career for Glatt barn.

2. Around the Dial- Scored a very game win here during the summer under starter conditions, then turned in a solid runner-up finish here last week despite having his share of trouble that afternoon; segues back into a straight claimer on the quick turnaround and his best puts him in the hunt at what should be acceptable odds.

3. River Tiber - Suited up here during the summer session and proved a punctual odds-on favorite over a softer conditioned group, then was dull in the first start off the claim down at Del Mar; blinkers come off and it depends on which runner shows up this time around.

4. Active Account - Failed to menace in the two Del Mar forays while racing for this tag, the most recent over a mile, with a place and a show from the two local appearances; back to one turn and seems more likely for one of the smaller prizes.

5. Black Storm - Recorded a 29-1 surprise off the Uranga claim in the first down at Del Mar, then lacked the needed kick in that Tizhotndusty contest that three of these exit; obvious threat if he can run back to that August 19 outing.

6. Reckoning Day - Hasn't been seen since late May in a miler at Santa Anita where everything went wrong early; all 4 of the wins have come here, with a trio under the lights including the most recent in mid-January going 1000 yards; consideration at a square price.

7. Smileforme - First try off the metz claim saw this guy complete a huge exacta behind today's foe Black Storm at Del Mar two back while no match for the rival, then he had a wide trip behind a quick pace when last seen down there earlier this month and faltered; does sport a win and second from the two outings over this unique mile strip.

8. Half Right - Carved out the fractions in that aforementioned Tizhotndusty race at the seaside earlier this month and was unable to match strides while finishing best of the three who show up from here today; perfect in two appearances here during daylight hours with the most recent snapshot coming at last year's winter stand; lands the cozy slot.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski

- 2. Around the Dial
- 1. El Tigre Terrible
- 5. Black Storm

Mark Ratzky

- 5. Black Storm
- 2. Around the Dial
- 1. El Tigre Terrible