A Closer Look...

Race Analysis by Mark Ratzky

Horses listed by program number

1. Trixie Nine • One of several in this cast who have been doing their most recent work here on the smaller night oval and one of two sophomores; has had to settle for minor awards without threatening since being claimed in June and will have to show more if she wants to threaten.

2. Princess Val • Her 8 lifetime scores is tops in the field and she prevailed in her only outing over the mile track here, posting a 21-1 upset at the summer stand last season; comes off a game near miss here under the lights three weeks ago by Melton and he shows some confidence stepping her up to this level.

3. Warren’s Tea Party • Graduation came in her 10th appearance over the smaller track here at the lowest level and she’s had to settle for nibbles in the interim; a second and a third from five starts on the mile layout and once again figures to fill out one of the minor placings.

4. Gianis • Claimed out of a winning effort here all the way back on May 8 by Clarke, who has terrific numbers in all the pertinent categories; has had to be happy with 4 seconds from 9 outings over the larger oval here, but the barn tells you she’s doing pretty well by bringing her back in this spot.

5. Smil’n From Above • The thing that jumps off the page with this gal is the 2 wins from 75 starts to go along with 32 place and show finishes, including 4 seconds and 2 thirds from her eight attempts on this layout; the guess would be that she is going to add her undercard totals after all is said and done today.

6. Bella Angelina • Like her inside neighbor, she is heavy on the place/show end with 30 of those and five victories; most recently seen at Ferndale, where she completed an exacta and then a trifecta while facing some pretty easy company; does have some No Cal races that would put her in the picture with this group.

7. Gold Journey • Decimated her rivals over this track nearly a year to the day, was a voided claim that day and vanished until May; returned to her winning ways in the most recent tour three weeks ago under the lights and that indicates she may be headed back in the right direction; figures to be right on top of the action from the get-go and looms large right back.

8. Papa’s Lady • One of 2 3-year-olds in the field and was off the board on this mile course when meeting tougher types in her debut back in the spring, earned the diploma at the lowest level at night in early July and was red-tagged from the next one; no factor most recently after a rough beginning and we’re looking elsewhere.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski
4. Gianis
2, Princess Val
5. Smil’n From Above

Mark Ratzky
7. Gold Journey
2. Princess Val
4. Gianis
A Closer Look...

3-Year-Olds and up, claiming price $16,000, One Mile

Top Recent Equibase Speed Figure at this distance: Wrightwood & Winning Causeway

Horses listed by program number

1. Wrightwood • This is his home track and he may find himself sitting in a good spot behind the speed as Theriot has gotten to know him now and Koriner adds the blinkers, which has been a very productive move by the barn; has met tougher company in the five previous appearances over this track and has been knocking on the door in the last pair down at Del Mar; a clean start would help, as he’s been plagued by less-than-ideal takeoffs.

2. Rough Passage • Looks like strictly the one to catch for Mulhall and the veteran Pedroza; burned up in the first one following a Florida invasion, then fought it out gamely 13 days ago at the seaside to be in a blanket finish while earning a number that would make him very tough in this line-up; victorious in his only start over this track and if Martin gets his way, they could be long gone.

3. Winning Causeway • Claimed by the high-percentage Diodoro in the initial Del Mar try, then used front-end tactics and could not quite keep the momentum going after carving out some modest fractions; figures to be sitting on Rough Passage's hip in this compact cast with Elliot getting the ride for the first time and his best effort puts him right in the thick of things.

4. Tough Emblem • Posted a 28-1 surprise over this track in May, earning the graduation papers with a late surge under then 7-pound apprentice Pena; hasn’t really come close to winning since, but does seem to fit at or about this level and will be attempting some late heroics in a race that may not play to that style.

5. My Son John • It took him nine starts to earn a diploma, with Desormeaux guiding him to victory in June around one turn at Santa Anita; nothing doing in the most recent under starter allowance conditions going this journey down south, so they segue into a conditioned claimer in hopes of turning things around; don’t see him threatening the inside trio today.

Handicappers Selections

Bob Mieszerski  
2. Rough Passage  
1. Wrightwood  
3. Winning Causeway

Mark Ratzky  
2. Rough Passage  
1. Wrightwood  
3. Winning Causeway
A Closer Look...

Horses listed by program number

1. **Rockport Kat** - Hails from the high-percentage Baltas barn and will be making his first start since late March and first with a claiming price since he broke his maiden last summer; has been knocking heads with runners that would crush this group in the three starts this season and sports a 1:11 4/5 Del Mar morning spin that should have right on edge with Baze giving directions

2. **Big Tire** - Finished a pretty good third over the Del Mar lawn in the initial try off the Brocklebank claim last month, now he returns to the main track where he has recorded all three of his lifetime decisions; met a razor-sharp customer in his only try over this mile layout last December and he's re-united with Gonzalez, who has guided him to his most recent victories; his best makes him dangerous.

3. **Afleet Domination** - Chased home Travers winner Arrogate two back in Arcadia; left little doubt in his lone outing over this course at the end of last year, dominating maiden claimers at this mile distance, then added a starter allowance upset at this same trip at Santa Anita in February; beaten double digits in the last trio, including that Arrogate contest, and gets some class relief for this go-around.

4. **Go Long** - Did the track-and-attack to perfection in June at Santa Anita was racing for this same tag and was halted by Sadler, who threw him in with some hard-knocking types at Del Mar off the purchase and he was well beaten after an eventful journey, with the winner coming right back to score; the return to claimingville should suit him nicely and he faced better in his only local appearance last December.

5. **City Steel** - The most interesting member of the cast, as he invades from the East Coast for Hess, who red-tagged the gelding for 20K at Belmont in early June; no factor in a grass race at that track 13 days later, now he shows up here with a steady Del Mar worktab in tow and Perez trying his hand; the 8 lifetime tallies is tops in the field.

6. **Out of Patience** - Claimed out of his last by Miller, who is super with his fresh buys while also showing a positive ROI for those who follow at the windows; has clicked in 4 of his 10 tries this season, including his most recent over this track when he surged when it counted to capture a starter affair in April; helps make things very interesting with his top effort.

**Handicappers Selections**

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Horses listed by program number

1. **Big Break** - No match for today's rival Gracie Ragazza three back when the favorite in that Del Mar miler and once again when that foes was runner-up and she tired while doing her work from a tough post; the rail now with Theriot getting a chance and the five-race blinker experiment is over; needs to find that form that got her a solid Arcadia victory to start the year.

2. **Gracie Ragazza** - Glatt barn is having a fine year and this gal is 3-for-4 over this layout and 2-for-16 everywhere else; love the way she got the job when last seen locally in April and then added another sharp score in June over at Santa Anita; Baze should be able to drop this mare into a sweet spot behind the speed and she deserves the top billing today.

3. **Be a Lady** - Pender representative stretches out on dirt for the first time, with her only route try coming in a stakes on the Golden Gate lawn; she's been sitting close to some rapid fractions sprinting this summer, including a troubled stretch run last time, so you would think that the lead is there for the taking for Pedroza; dangerous if she can keep the momentum going.

4. **Pageant Material** - One of the two sophomores in the cast and makes her first start since March while going from one solid barn to another with D'Amato taking over for Baltas; idle since March, when she had the misfortune of lining up against Songbird in the Santa Ysabel across town; the blinkers came off and the maidenbreaker came at this exact distance back in January; intriguing.

5. **Miss Star Maker** - Camped just off the leader for Verenzuela at the seaside last month and responded when it counted to take the measure of a softer state-bred field going this once-around journey; solid runner-up finishes in the two appearances over this layout on her resume and she may find herself once again sitting just off the stretch-out speed; needs to dig deep, but must be considered.

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**Handicappers Selections**

**Bob Mieszerski**
- 2. Gracie Ragazza
- 4. Pageant Material
- 5. Miss Star Maker

**Mark Ratzky**
- 2. Gracie Ragazza
- 4. Pageant Material
- 5. Miss Star Maker
A Closer Look...

3-Year-Olds & Up, fillies & mares, claiming price $6,250, Five & One Half Furlongs

Horses listed by program number

1. Veronica Bay • Returns to Southern California after finishing third for this price tag going longer on turf. Has one exacta finish in 23 starts since the beginning of 2015 and has never won on dirt.

2. Goliath’s Girl • Claiming price reduced and should appreciate the cut back in distance after failing to threaten in consecutive routes. Has a win, a second and a third in three of her four main track races around one turn. Should be a major player for stable fresh off a training title at Del Mar.

3. Song for Jade • Blinkers return claim tag cut on filly who has stopped badly in two races since being claimed for $20,000 from Janet Armstrong out of an easy maiden win nearly two months ago. Will show her zip, but was off the board in two of three races previously when wearing blinkers.

4. Adellusion • Finished well, but much too late when fourth in blanket finish when 3-5 favorite vs. softer under the lights eight weeks ago. Winless this year after going 4-for-13 as a 4-year-old and has won over this track in the afternoon. Should be rolling late.

5. Twenty Four Black • No factor when fifth of seven vs. lesser under lights and only win this year came in slow race against $2,500 claimers three races ago. Would be a surprise.

6. Milady Maid • Picked up first win of year with rail-skimming trip 13 days ago in Ferndale. Steps up in price and siding against a repeat.

7. Sudden Quest • Flees rail after splitting cheaper field at night at shorter distance nearly four weeks ago. Hampered by lack of early speed, but could run on for a piece.

8. Run Brionie Run • Finished fourth - with some trouble - when facing tougher Aug. 12. Returned with a bullet half mile work Sept. 1. Figures to be badly outrun early and only win came going much longer on the Golden Gate Fields turf nearly five months ago, but should pick up a lot of tiring horses.

9. Jase’s Aunty Aimee • Needed 16 starts to break through, rallying from off the pace to beat weak group under the lights Aug. 14. Not expecting her to go-back-to-back and has failed to hit the board in eight previous tries in the afternoon over this surface.

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A Closer Look...

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

Horses listed by program number

1. King of Leon • Eased when far back at 60-1 in debut three weeks ago. Locally-based Argentinian bred could need a drop in class to be competitive. Pass.

2. Stylistics United • Finished eighth of 10 in same race King of Leon exits. Lacked speed and failed to make any impact. Worked a bullet half-mile in the interim for stable seeking second win of 2016.

3. Ideal • Couldn't get by the newly-gelded Nuke Laloosh when second at 2-5 Aug. 18. Finished well clear of the rest of the field and should be a major player in this spot for Hall of Fame trainer.

4. Lord Simba • Sire is about 10% with his debuters and both of dam's prior foals have won - Lady of the Nile (3-for-13, $82,133) and recent Del Mar route winner Princess Coco. Has worked well over this surface for Hall of Fame trainer and isn't meeting a stellar bunch, so $300,000 2-year-old purchase should be a major player at first asking.

5. Handful of Stripes • Makes first start in three months since losing by a head as the 3-2 favorite at this distance. Has worked well for comeback and could be an off the pace threat.

6. Elegant Street • Completed exacta at 6-1 vs. $40,000 claimers in improved performance one month ago and most experienced member of field can contend if able to two alike.

7. Super Touch • Finished directly behind Elegant Street when making first start in nearly seven weeks. May be one to catch and was second at 22-1 during the Spring meet in April.

8. States Hero • Street Hero is 8-for-94 with his debuters and dam, who was a one-time winner, has had eight winners from 11 prior foals. Moderate work tab for stable that isn't known for first out success.

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A Closer Look...

3-Year-Olds & Up, allowance/claiming, claiming price
$40,000, Six & One Half Furlongs

Horses listed by program number

1. Horse Greedy • Battled for command, then weakened to finish last in race dominated by late runners when favored from this post three weeks ago. Shortens up a sixteenth of a mile and certainly fits off his maiden victory three starts back. First shot to run over the track where colt is based.

2. Overcomer • Enters having won three in a row and four of last five, but these are deeper waters. Toyed with much softer four weeks ago when 5-2 choice and was claimed for $12,500 from Bob Hess, Jr. Won easily over this track vs. lesser last Sept. 20 when claimed for $16,000 from Steve Miyadi.

3. Celebrated Talent • Disappointed when 3-1 20 days ago, finishing fifth of seven in a bit tougher race. Won at this distance at Belmont Park three races ago when claimed for $50,000 from Linda Rice. Yet to demonstrate he can win outside New York.

4. Classico • Distant third when directly behind next out turf winner American League seven weeks ago. First race against older for sophomore who is 1-for-1 at Los Alamitos, scoring vs. $50,000 claimers during the Spring season in April.

5. Pray Hard • Finished sixth after wide trip in same race Horse Greedy exits. Has finished second in two prior starts over this track vs. lesser company, but difficult to ignore gelding who has been 1-2 in half of his 26 starts.

6. Hye I’m Jack • Stablemate of Classico goes route to sprint after finishing sixth of 10 vs. California bred seven weeks ago. Won a starter allowance at 13-1 in last try vs. open company nearly 15 months ago. Needs to improve recent.

7. Sleepwalker • Idle since finishing fourth after a slow takeoff nearly seven months ago. Solid work tab over this surface for return and ran third in two earlier attempts at this level, but only win came on turf via disqualification Oct. 16, 2015.

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1. **Songforjohnmichael** - Finished directly behind Magic Mark a little over two weeks ago when dismissed at 18-1. Winless in five starts since a 21-1 upset at shorter distance more than six months ago. Could be late factor in first Los Alamitos appearance.

2. **Magic Mark** - Set fast fractions and kept on going to post 10-1 surprise in second division of a stakes 16 days ago. Lightly-raced 6-year-old is proven over this surface, upsetting eight rivals to win the 2015 Bertrando more than 14 months ago. Back-to-back wins wouldn’t be novel. He won two in a row twice in a span of six months in 2014.

3. **El Huerfano** - Switches surfaces and shortens up three-eighths of a mile after finishing fourth at 56-1 in a Grade II 19 days ago. Last victory came four starts back at this distance vs. open company in an optional claimer and should be plenty fit after competing in that grass marathon.

4. **Soi Phet** - Gelding has earned almost of his hefty bankroll ($705,096) since being claimed for $16,000 by current connections May 23, 2013 at Hollywood Park. Collected 10th lifetime win when capturing first division of an Aug. 24 stakes. Two-time stakes winner over this track should be tough right back.

5. **Avanti Bello** - Finished behind Magic Mark and Songforjohnmichael 16 days ago after a pace pressing trip. Third in two previous races over this track, chasing Boozer and Soi Phet in the 2016 Bertrando and Ambitious Brew and Soi Phet in this event a year ago. Should be forward factor and was extremely game in victory May 28 when defeating Soi Phet in a California bred stakes.

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Horses listed by program number

1. Mister Fancy Bean • Takes off blinks after tiring at lower level on turf 27 days ago at Santa Rosa. Yet to hit the board and unlikely to threaten.
2. Alston • Had streak of four consecutive on the board finishes snapped when sixth of 10 in race dominated by comebacker Candy Cowboy. Dangerous if able to run back to June 23 effort when second behind Big Discovery.
3. Bundesliga • Failed to improve when stretched out and hasn’t been close in two since being claimed for $20,000 from Bob Baffert out of his June 19 debut.
4. Woodie B Awesome • Rallied to complete exacta behind heavily-favored winner at this level and should be a contender right back for jockey-trainer combo that won California Chrome Stakes with Uncle Lino during the Spring meet.
5. Thespian • Yet to act like much of a race horse as he has been well beaten in two races at shorter distance. Needs a form reversal.
6. Coach Q • Drops into a much softer spot for Hall of Fame trainer in first since finishing fifth of six more than three months ago. May improve with the softer company and as a first time gelding. Named in honor of Joel Quenneville, who has won multiple Stanley Cups as the head coach of the Chicago Blackhawks.
7. Drylightning • Has one on the board finish in his career and came under the lights at lower level. Well beaten in only other try at this distance over a year ago when trained by Nestor Capitaine.
8. Silver Chrome • Stretches out again after finishing distant third going shorter 17 days ago. Finished directly behind Alston at this trip May 29 and should be a pace factor.
9. Gavination • Has missed 11 chances, but best races have come around two turns, so has to be given a look vs. suspect group.
10. Full of Glitter • Failed to complete the course in sprint debut 17 days ago for owner-trainer that hasn’t started any other horses in 2016. Pass.
11. Money Makin Mike • Fits off third place effort two back in race won by class dropper Clickjab. Late threat if he participates.
12. Glitter’s Song • Defeated one horse in two starts earlier this year, so takes the blinkers off for first in three months. Formerly trained by Cliff Sise, Jr. Tough to endorse.

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