

**HOLLYWOOD ANALYSIS**

By BRAD FREE

**BEST BET: Aspen Diamond (9th race)****First Race: 1.Granite 2.Fil's Regent 3.Giveitagomate**

GRANITE had no shot chance to win his debut after he was slammed sideways at the break. Despite the incident, he finished a decent fourth in a race won (via disqualification) by lower-odds stablemate Jack Flash. GRANITE trained well since, and is believed to have more speed than he was able to show. He drops into a race for Calbreds, and figures to improve a ton second time out. FIL'S REGENT had a tough trip 10 days ago. He gunned up inside into a tight spot on the turn, took up slightly at the five-sixteenths, then raced evenly thereafter and finished third. A bullet work half-mile since then has sharpened his speed even more; he probably is the one to catch. GIVEITAGOMATE makes his first career start for high-percent debut trainer Adam Kitchingman. The won of Storm Creek is out of a dam that already has produced six winners. CHILLIWACK ran poorly without an alibi her first start around a turn, but she is eligible to improve. Although she is the only filly in the race, gender is less relevant in early-season 2-year-old races.

**Second Race: 1.Almacita 2.In Daddy's Honor 3.Beau Chant**

Even though ALMACITA needed a perfect ground-saving trip to win a \$16k claimer seven days ago, she certainly does have a nose for the wire (three wins in her last six starts). Claimed off her most recent victory, wheeling back in a week, and moving up a couple notches, the sharp ALMACITA is the tepid choice to win right back. She has improved since March 9, when she defeated by her main rival. That is IN DADDY'S HONOR, who finished nearly four lengths in front of the top choice two months ago. IN DADDY'S HONOR missed by a head as the odds-on favorite last time however, and the filly she lost to (Applaud Dubai) returned to lose to the top choice. IN DADDY'S HONOR will be positioned in front of the top pick turning for home. BEAU CHANT finished fifth in a Calbred N1X last out, beaten only three and a half lengths. She earned a big number in that turf sprint, has two good works since then over this track, and her main-track maiden win one back fits with these. CATCH CANDY and SWEET ROSEMAN both were claimed last time by stables that are deady first-off-claim.

**Third Race: 1.Magnificence 2.Renegade Ruby 3.Cotton Bay**

THIS N2X features the comeback of a potential star. MAGNIFICENCE scored breathtaking wins both starts in spring 2007, then was sidelined with a relatively minor ankle injury (no surgery). MAGNIFICENCE returns with a solid workout pattern for trainer Bruce Headley; her new rider David Flores has been aboard in morning works. Comfortably drawn outside in this five-horse field, MAGNIFICENCE looks like an odds-on winner first start back. RENAGADE RUBY drilled N1X foes last month, and trained well since. She is an improving filly with an edge in recent racing, but the truth is that she is not in the same league as the top choice. COTTON BAY has fast works for his first start since summer. She runs well fresh.

**Fourth Race: 1.Sneaky Jack 2.Smooch 3.O Bee Naki**

Front-runner SNEAKY JACK lost her chance at the break last time when she hopped and was away dead last. She still finished a creditable third, and was claimed by Vladimir Cerin in a three-way shake. Up a notch, JACK faces only one serious pace rival. SNEAKY JACK is fast, but does not necessarily require the lead. As long as she avoids a duel with class-drop front-runner PERFECT RHYME, then SNEAKY JACK can win. SMOOCH trounced restricted (non-winners of two lifetime) claimers last out, earning a number that makes her competitive against this tougher field of open claimers. The off-the-pace running style of SMOOCH means she can stay out of the favorite's way in the early going, and try to tag them late. The numbers say it can be done, even though this is a stronger field. O BEE NAKI drops two class levels, and she reeled off three straight on this surface at about this level during the fall meet. ANGEL EYED drops for a productive stable; PERFECT RHYME is the aforementioned front-runner who will keep SNEAKY JACK honest up front.

**Fifth Race: 1.Liberian Freighter 2.Man to Man 3.Cadillac**

Lightly raced LIBERIAN FREIGHTER continues to improve. He won a Calbred N1X last out with a pressing trip behind a fast pace, and now enters an open N1X that came up without an ounce of speed. LIBERIAN FREIGHTER should clear the field, and be long gone out front. The others in this field are simply slower late-runners. MAN TO MAN finished a creditable third in his comeback from a short layoff. He raced within striking range of a strong pace last time, and in this spot he is likely to be the one positioned closest to the top pick. If the front-runner fades, MAN TO MAN would be the first to attack. CADILLAC ran very well in his U.S. debut in a turf sprint, while compromised by the race-shape. He broke slow, trailed early, but finished fast for third in a race the one-two pacesetters dominated. CADILLAC stretches out to two turns, and he will be finishing.

**Sixth Race: 1.Texas Dolly 2.Vicki's Mandate 3.Ready Mode**

TEXAS DOLLY disappointed as the favorite her last two starts, but that was against \$62.5k and \$50k maiden-claimers. Trainer Rafael Becerra is holding a hot hand the last three weeks, and drops DOLLY into a maiden-32 in which she is a perfect fit. The front-runners are suspect; TEXAS DOLLY can reel them in late. VICKI'S MANDATE folded at odds-on, but was claimed by Peter Miller and goes from an inside post to the far outside. She'll be chasing the pace, racing in the clear, and probably would inherit the lead if and when the pacesetter stops. Not sure how genuine VICKIE'S MANDATE is late, however. READY MODE is the speed of the speed. This is her first start since she set a wicked half-mile in December, and folded badly. Claimed for \$80, she returns for \$32k. She will set the pace to the top of the lane, but her stamina is suspect. PURE REFINEMENT drops again, to a new low.

**Seventh Race: 1.Ann's Plan 2.No Ka Oi 3.Exquisite Beauty**

ANNS PLAN and NO KA OI are both razor-sharp. ANNS PLAN, a front-runner, is moving up in class and switching to grass while seeking her third straight. NO KA OI, a late-runner, is up slightly in class and seeking her fourth straight. The edge goes to ANNS PLAN. She overcame an inside post and fast fractions to drill \$20k main-track claimers last time, and switches surfaces while facing a field that came up light on speed. Settling or pressing comfortable fractions, ANNS PLAN has the tactical edge and can win if she holds off the late rally of NO KA OI. The latter was re-claimed by Jack Carava last time off a big come-from-behind win over this course. She is a proven turf sprinter, but the soft pace scenario does not play to her closing style. EXQUISITE BEAUTY drops for Becerra, seeking her proper level. Her most recent win was on this course, at this distance. RUNAWAY COZZENE is the only other apparent front-runner, besides the top pick.

**Eighth Race: 1.Two Step Salsa 2.Dixie Chatter 3.Salute the Sarge**

TWO STEP SALSA can win this G3 gate to wire. The improving colt enters as the speed of the field, and benefits from a change in surface (from turf to main). He washed out and went nuts in the gate racing at night last time, but still finished second in that turf stake. Offspring of Petonville are better on the main track. Since all his rivals are closers, TWO STEP SALSA can control the pace out front. Come catch him. DIXIE CHATTER is the "best horse," making his first start since winning the G1 Norfolk last fall. He got sick and scratched from the Breeders' Cup, then had his fall-winter campaign derailed by a bone bruise to an ankle. He hasn't missed a beat since the middle of March however, and seven furlongs can be good distance for top-class two-turn comebacks. Despite the lay-off, indicators are DIXIE CHATTER is ready to fire. SALUTE THE SARGE is back doing what he does best. That is, sprint. He will roll late. AFLEET RULER goes route to sprint, while RAPIDITY won four races in a 12-day span early this year in England. This is his U.S. debut, he had a big workout in company on Wednesday. WINDS LEGACY has trained well for his return, and he likes this track. Interesting race, top to bottom.

**Ninth Race: 1.Aspen Diamond 2.Cassablanca 3.Splendid Kiss**

ASPEN DIAMOND is sitting on a maiden win, second time out. She trained super into her debut, but that turf sprint looked like a schooling race. She pulled hard early, raced greenly crossing the dirt, then was not seriously asked through the lane and finished full of run. Two turns is what she wants, she continues to work well, and she meets what looks like an ordinary group. Best bet on the card, in the final race of the week. CASSABLANCA missed by a neck to a good filly last time, while finishing three and one-half lengths clear of third. CASSABLANCA is the late threat. SPLENDID KISS stretches out and switches to turf. It's what she is bred to do, and her first two races (third, fifth) were decent.