LOS ALAMITOS
RACE COURSE ANALYSIS

BY BRAD FREE

BEST BET: RACE 2, TIZ CLEVER AS EVER

FIRST RACE

HERUNBRIDLEDPOWER can rebound at Los Alamitos after a Del Mar dud. She pressed the pace and faded as the favorite. But she was claimed by Rosemary Trela, who is 3-for-8 first off the claim the past five years, freshened a month and a half, and drops from open $8k claiming to restricted $6,250 (non-winners this year). Stabled at Los Alamitos, she won her only previous start here and can again win with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. **BLOOM-ING HANNAH** goes route to sprint and also drops in class after tossing in a clunker at Del Mar. She was claimed by Eddie Truman, who is 8-for-40 f.o.c. he past five years, she has won over the track, and benefits by the top apprentice rider Evin Roman. **VERY THANKFUL** is an 11-for-32 pro stretching out from four front-running wins in nighttime races at four and one-half furlongs or less. She probably will set the pace. Not sure if she wants five and a half furlongs, however. SMIL'N FROM ABOVE will pick them up late.

SECOND RACE

This maiden-20 sprint is a split of race 2. **TIZ CLEVER AS EVER** enters as the most probable winner on the card. She was freshened nearly two months following a solid runner-up finish on this track in July, an effort that was validated when runner-up Spinyatta returned to win comfortably. TIZ CLEVER AS EVER has the top figures in the field, she has been working fast over this track, has speed and looks tough to beat at a short price. **DISCREETLY LEAH** drops from special-weight, and is another stabled locally. She faced good company her first two starts, and returns at the rock-bottom level for maidens. Expect her to be forwardly placed under Martin Pedroza. **BLISSFUL ROSE** also should be in the hunt early. She finished a distant third as the favorite last out at Del Mar, but this group is easier. The top choice should be tough to beat, however.

THIRD RACE

Dominating winner of the G3 Longacres Mile last out, **GOLD RUSH DANCER** looks formidable in this $75k stakes. He came out of his career-best victory last month in top shape; he worked a bullet half last weekend at Del Mar in :46.80 seconds. 'DANCER ran well over the Los Alamitos surface in July, finishing a respectable third in just his second start of the season. He enters fall in the top form for trainer Vann Belvoir, who went 2-for-3 closing weekend at Del Mar. **SOI PHET** is 9 years old, and still getting the job done. Third last out behind G1 winner Cupid, SOI PHET loves this racetrack. He has three wins and two seconds at Los Al, including a win and a runner-up in this stakes the last two years. **HE WILL** was in tough in the G2 Del Mar Mile Handicap last out. He drops in class, switches to dirt, and will be rolling late. Front-runners EL HUERFANO and START A RUNNIN insure an honest pace.

FOURTH RACE

This maiden-20 is a split of race 2. **SASSY ROSE** returns from a seven-month layoff at the bottom, with a sharp work here one week ago that suggests she is ready to fire first start back for trainer Art Sherman. The best race of her five-start career was her only start on this racing surface last fall, a runner-up finish vs. similar. First-time starter **SPENDER** appears to have trained well enough to be competitive against low-level maidens. The filly would be the first winner produced by stakes-winning dam Broadway Hennessey; trainer Vann Belvoir occasionally fires with this type. Belvoir is 4-for-35 with debut maiden-claiming starters the past five years, but they produced a flat-bet profit thanks to these winning prices: 5-1, 7-1, 16-1, 23-1. **TAP ON A STAR** showed speed and faded last out at Del Mar. Her back-to-back third-place finishes in spring-summer at Santa Anita and Los Al give her a look on the front end.

FIFTH RACE

SENSE OF GLORY did not finish the race his last two starts ("walked off" and "eased"), yet he is the choice to win this restricted $16k claiming race. Perhaps he did not care for the Del Mar surface. His previous form in spring at Santa Anita is good enough for this level; he worked sharp five furlongs since his latest misfire. **QUE CHISTOSO** is the best late threat. He was claimed off a runner-up finish last out vs. similar, and will be rolling in the lane. Not sure if the pace scenario suits his closing style, however. **SPANISH EYES** should be forwardly placed. His two starts in summer at Del Mar were nondescript finishes in claiming races for 3yos, but his pressing style means he should be positioned in a good spot in a race that might unfold at a soft tempo.

SIXTH RACE

First-time starter **TRUMPER** is ready to fire for trainer Art Sherman, jockey Stewart Elliott and Los Al owner Ed All-red. The 2yo gelding capped his work pattern with a bullet gate drill here nine days ago; his full sister Shacklefords Lady won her career debut by more than five lengths last year at Penn. First-time starter **CHOO CHOO** appears to have trained well for Jerry Hollendorfer; the sibling to multiple graded winner Blueskiesnrainbows has been stabled at this track all summer and posted a bullet gate work two weeks ago. Hollendorfer also entered first-time starter **AFLEET ASCENT**, who also appears to have worked well over this track. He is a sibling to four multiple winners, though none won first time out. COUNTRY FAST has a solid workout pattern from San Luis Rey Downs.

SEVENTH RACE

ST. RENO meets a slightly easier group in this $8k claiming starter allowance than the $12.5k claiming cast he tried last time. He ran okay, finishing fourth of seven. A front-runner/presser, he drops in class and figures for a pressing trip outside pace rival **JOHNS JOURNEY**. The latter is a Los Al horse for course, having won 3 of 5 over this track including an $8k claiming sprint here two months ago. He runs well with time between races, and will be involved in the pace scenario. **NAGYS PIGGY BANK** finished sixth in his California debut, but meets an easier cast here, at a shorter distance, with a pressing style that could lead to a cozy trip positioned thirst behind the top pair.

EIGHTH RACE

Runner-up in the G1 Test last out at Saratoga, **FAYPIEN** is the one to beat in this $75k stakes. In the money all five starts, the only entrant with a pair of 90-plus Beyer Figures, working well over this track since returning from New York, FAYPIEN enters with only one knock. That is, odds. Her price could be short. Trainer Bob Baffert went 4-for-6 with favorites during the July meet at this track. **CHALON** set the pace and tired to fourth in the Test. She benefits from the cutback in distance, seven furlongs to six, and probably is best of the speed. **QUEEN LAILA** returns from a three-month respite following a romping N1X win. The lightly raced filly is stuck on the rail, but each start was better than the one before and she does fire fresh (debut winner). PRINCESS KAREN has been working fast for her comeback, while DELITEFULL LADY has an upset chance off her maiden win two back.

NINTH RACE

DRAMATIC RIDE adds blinkers and drops in class after being compromised by a slow start in his fourth-place debut. First-time starter **RODELER**, by Swiss Yodeler, makes his debut with a win-early pedigree. His sibling Causa won her career debut. **NOVA** drops from Cal-bred special-weight to maiden-30, while HYDROSTATIC has been away since a fifth-place debut in May. He is a sibling to stakes winner Better Bet.