

# Awesome Gem Favored to End Streak in Berkeley

By [Jack Shinar](#)

Updated: Monday, May 25, 2009 3:10 PM  
Courtesy of The BloodHorse.com

Though he's on a 12-race losing streak, [Awesome Gem](#) is the 5-2 favorite in the \$150,000 [Berkeley Stakes](#) (gr. III) at Golden Gate Fields on Memorial Day.

The Southern California-based Awesome Gem, winless since 2007, is one of 10 entered for the 1 1/16-mile event, which will be contested over the Tapeta racing surface on May 25.

Though the West Point Thoroughbreds' 6-year-old son of [Awesome Again](#) is light on victories -- with just four in 23 lifetime starts -- what the Craig Dollase trainee does have is a long string of runner-up finishes in top company and earnings of \$1,225,882. Awesome Gem's last win came in an optional claiming allowance race at Hollywood Park nearly two years ago.

He won the San Fernando Stakes (gr. II) in January 2007 and later that year ran second consecutively in the San Diego Handicap (gr. II), Pacific Classic (gr. I) and Goodwood Stakes (gr. I) before turning in a third-place finish behind [Curlin](#) in the Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) in the slop at Monmouth Park.

No one else in the Berkeley has those kind of credentials. Awesome Gem also performed well in his only prior start at Golden Gate, finishing second to Delightful Kiss after leading in the stretch run of the All American Stakes (gr. III) last September. The chestnut gelding has had one start in 2009, finishing a respectable fourth, 1 1/2 lengths behind the victorious Madeo, in the Inglewood Handicap (gr. IIIT) on the Hollywood Park turf April 26.

Awesome Gem breaks from post 8 under Alex Solis.