

Analysis By:Brad Free

4 WHIRL CANDY ran the best race of his four-start career last out, and if he repeats the third-place effort he can win this dirt route for older maidens. 'CANDY pressed a strong pace, made the lead on the far turn, then got swallowed late by closers that rallied from tenth and eighth, respectively. Solid effort, big works since, speed for an up-front trip. **1 SEICHE** had a tough trip in his third-place debut, blocked through the lane in a sprint while possibly best. An older sibling to sharp recent 2yo maiden winner Vittorio, SEICHE is bred to run long. However, it is tough to stretch out successfully off just a single sprint. The past five years, trainer Bob Baffert is 3-for-49 with second-start maidens going sprint to route. Two of the three winners were future G1 winners Arrogate and Mor Spirit. Baffert also entered **5 GARTH**, who could be the speed of the field running long for the first time. He has 45-and-change speed that probably puts him on the lead at the halfway point of this mile race. DIVINE ARMOR misfired last out on turf, returns to dirt, and figures as a contender based on three in-the-money finishes in winter at Santa Anita.