

Analysis By: **Brad Free**

4 HARD NOT TO LOVE, 0-for-5 in routes and 5-for-6 in sprints, shortens to her preferred trip following a better-than-looked third in a route. She won this G2 one year ago, which was the last time she sprinted. The one-eyed 'LOVE ran super last out in a G2 route. She got keyed up away from the gate, produced surprising speed to duel inside, sucked out of the duel on the backstretch, came around to re-engage between horses on the far turn, tried to re-rally in the lane, missed by many lengths but galloped out with run past the wire. Odd trip, and a performance much better than the low figure. Now she cuts back to a sprint, and can reel them in. Favorites are 9-for-15 in this race since 2006. **5 QAHIRA** rationed her speed last out, and scored a sharp off-the-pace victory in a minor stakes race while under a confident hand ride. The margin was only a length, the performance was visually decisive. At age 5, she is in career-best form, with a versatile style that should lead to another pressing trip just off the speedsters in posts 1-2. **3 FAIR MAIDEN** looped the field to win the G1 La Brea vs. 3yo fillies opening day of the meet, winning clear by more than two lengths. This is her first against older, but four of the last seven La Brea winners who ran back this race won again. **MERNEITH** drew the rail and therefore must gun. She will be pressed by **MISS STORMY D**, who finished a nose in front of the top choice last out around two turns. **AMUSE** and **SECRET KEEPER** have run races that put them in the hunt.