

SANTA ANITA, SUNDAY 2.24.19

RACE 1

What can you say? It looks like a match race between a 6/5 and a 8/5. Two others are rank outsiders. One was beaten for a claiming tag, another hasn't run in a year and a half and wasn't anything when he did. He also may have been entered to make the race go with 5 since Shirreffs also has the rail horse. It's that horse CARIBBEAN that I find very interesting. JUSTIN'S QUEST is slowly but surely, accent on the "slowly", developing into a very nice horse. Of the three that can win, he is by far the most reliable to fire. What you may find surprising though, CARIBBEAN has actually run must faster than the other two. His race in late September was very, very fast. Perhaps too fast for his own good. PALADAR obviously has major physical problems. Ability is in there though. He ran fast as a two-year-old. Yes, I know that was a VERY long time ago. I have a feeling Baltas has figured out a way to mine that talent.

Top selection PALADAR. Exotics 1-4-5. Horizontals ALL.

#3 PALADAR***

#1 CARIBBEAN

#5 VICTORY ELEMENT

RACE 2

Four of the seven come out of the same race. NATIONS HOPE was 2nd. He seems most likely to improve, which doesn't bode very well for the three who finished behind him. MULZOFF is interesting on the stretch out. First time routing and blinkers pretty much tell us what they have in mind. MIDNIGHT ROAMER comes out of perhaps the most productive maiden race of the meeting. Question is, was it so productive as to help a horse who beat 1 finishing 24 1/2 lengths back? Could've NATION'S HOPE have done that? Amazingly, I think maybe not. Last time NATION'S HOPE ran "fast", and I say that with a grain of salt, he reacted with a bad race. MIDNIGHT ROAMER seems very likely to move forward, which puts him squarely in the mix. Enough to make him the top selection.

Top Selection MIDNIGHT ROAMER. Exotics 1-3-5. Horizontals 1-3-5-6.

#6 MIDNIGHT ROAMER***

#1 NATIONS HOPE

#3 MULZOFF

RACE 3

They only got six in here, but you won't hear me complain about this dash. Very cool heat, that any one of them can win. The last time MADAKAT SUNSET ran down the hill, she was super impressive. It was her only start for a tag and O'Neill made an excellent claim. We liked her right back and she got beat in the last jump, at 14/1 by the horse we picked on top, X S GOLD. OPERANDI has a great record on this course. Feels like she's tailing off just a bit. SHESA CHATTYKAT blitzed a field on this course and not surprisingly, was claimed for \$40,000. It was non-2 lifetime and a weak field. But she looked very good beating them. The outside 4 all won their last race and three of them were claimed including GYPSY BLU for \$20,000 which makes her the biggest bargain. TAKE A LEAP won routing, which is a testament to her versatility because I think she's better sprinting. I'd like to say TINY TINA is one we don't have to worry about, because it's been since September that she ran. Can't do it. This is D'Amato's specialty and he calls upon Prat. Comes down to feel.

Top selection SHESA CHATTYKAT. Exotics 1-6. Single in horizontals.

#3 SHESA CHATTYKAT****

#1 MADAKAT SUNSET

#6 TINY TINA

RACE 4

There are four in here that MUST make the lead, or they can't win. Even I can do that math and know it doesn't bode well for all but one. And how well for that one? My feeling is, NO WINE UNTASTED will win the early war. Will that soften her up for a stretch runner? BABY ICE is just a tad on the cheap side. What the hell is Rosario doing riding for Neil French? Maybe MISTRESSOFTHENIGHT to pick up the pieces?

Top selection NO WINE UNTASTED. Exotics 3-5 Horizontals 1-3-5.

#1 NO WINE UNTASTED***

#3 MISTRESS OF THE NIGHT

#5 BABY ICE

RACE 5

This race, albeit for maiden special weights, is very similar to the maiden claimer in the 2nd. The first five in the gate all exit the same race. Some people really hate situations like that. I like it because for some unexplained reason, the public seems to bet as though the previous race will be exactly replicated. So, if we can find one

that finished behind STYLIN OCEAN, we'll actually get a better price. KITTY BOOM BOOM and GOODTHINGSCOMEINPINK are both routing and turfing for the first time. The latter out of two claiming races. at 5/1 and 4/1 respectively - I can see them being the play.

Earlier in the meet we caught a \$17.00 Mandella horse named TRUFFALINO. We liked her entirely based on what Joe Talamo did on her gallop-out following the race. RUBY BRADLEY is very similar. Phil D'Amato was the assistant to my good and great friend Mike Mitchell for many years. Mike was VERY big on how horses galloped out after races and perhaps even more after workouts. He felt it built stamina and also taught horses to run through the wire and stay to the task even when they are tired. I asked you to look at TRUFFALINO after her race. Please do that here. You'll quickly see why RUBY BRADLEY is the top selection.

Top Selection RUBY BRADLEY. Exotics 2-5-6. Horizontals 2-3-5-6.

#3 RUBY BRADLEY***

#6 KITTY BOOM BOOM

#5 STYLIN OCEAN

RACE 6

Normally I would quickly pitch a horse like HE WILL. This race has come up so weak for the level, I actually think he's a player even though his recent form is not too shiny. SHEER FLATTERY is going to take a lot of \$\$\$ because he's dropping back to his winning level. That \$40,000 was perhaps the easiest \$40k in five years at SA. He'll be over-bet. VERY VERY STELLA was very, very bad last out. Uncharacteristic for him. Bonde has been doing everything right. He's very interesting.

Top selection VERY VERY STELLA Exotics 1-3. Horizontals 1-3-4.

#4 VERY VERY STELLA***

#1 HE WILL

#3 SECRET TOUCH

RACE 7

Seventh consecutive race with seven OR LESS carded before scratches. Is it a good thing they fired Rick Hammerle? Sure, you can't make chicken soup out of chicken shit, and our new secretary is finding that out. Rick did a GREAT job filling fields for many years. It's a joke he was let go. KAZAN is this races version of HE WILL. One will be over-bet on dirt, the other on turf. They are an identical bet against types and that gives us a chance for score in back-to-back races. This race is wide open in

name only. Many are either graduates of NW3 life or still eligible. CIMPL MAN is everything the others are not. A multiple winner who's been super sharp vs tough wide-open company. He's the clear-cut top selection. Yes, he was claimed by Dan Hendricks whose numbers are bleak. 1 for 53 in 2018. I think this horse may be at the point where he doesn't care who trains him. He just runs!

*NOTE: Because of a bad recent workout CIMPL MAN was downgraded from ****4 to **2 stars. He was originally a single in our horizontals. I left him on top because he's SO MUCH better than these but now have less confidence. Tread lightly.*

Top selection CIMPL MAN. Exotics 2-3-5. Horizontals 2-3-5-6-7.

#7 CIMPL MAN**

#2 INCREDIBLE LUCK

#5 MAGIC MUSKITIER

RACE 8

Don't know about you, but this card is wearing me down. Another five-horse field and another where they all have been running against each other. The one that hasn't is because she's a freaking Maiden. It's an insult to our intelligence for them to expect us to not know what shit this is. There was a time when an association would make a race like this "non-betting" and run it before the "real" races started. SHOW IT AND MOE IT is crazy good right now. There was a time she and SY were pretty much the same. MOE is widening that gap with every start. Can we beat SY for 2nd? My gut tells me Yes, with either COCO or BARBARA. Let's give that a try.

Top selection SHOW IT AND MOE IT. Exotics 2-4. Single in horizontals.

#1 SHOW IT AND MOE IT****

#2 COCO KISSES

#4 BARBARA BEATRICE

RACE 9

WOOOO-HOOOOO finally a 10-horse field. I don't care if they're cockroaches at least there are 10 of them. We are still dealing with many horses exiting the same race. But as I said earlier, I don't really mind that. COMBAT ZONE was terrific last time. He gives off every feel like he won't be a maiden for long. Lined at 5/2, which you may think is too short. What if Prat were named? He'd be 6/5. I love the fact that Sadler gave this one to Pedroza last time and love it even more that he sticks with him. This race will mean the world to Martin. Speaking of terrific, SUPER TERRIFIC is first-time for a tag and very dangerous. More so than any barn at this

meet, we've done well with Brian Koriner. No reason to get off that bandwagon now. SINGLE ME OUT is also first-time tag. The horse who beat last out, OSTINI, beat winners yesterday.

Top selection SUPER TERRIFIC Exotics 1-2-6-8. Horizontals 1-2-6-7-8.

#7 SUPER TERRIFIC***

#2 AUSSIE FOX

#1 COMBAT ZONE