

## SANTA ANITA, SATURDAY 3.2.19

### RACE 1

Wide open \$6250 Mares start the week. If LUCKY STUDENT was still trained by Hollendorfer, I'd make her super double tough. Tim Yakteen is no dummy. He knows at this level you've got to Burn 'em and Churn 'em. She proved last time, \$10,000 is too tough at this point in her career - she's 9 years old. Good (proper) entry. Also, smart to take the weight with the big boy. I'm sure at this point in her career, she's the teacher and the jocks are the students. She knows what to do. Peter Miller or not. What jumps off the page about DURANGA is the rapid, steady decline in claiming price. Not sure I've ever seen this. 16, 12.5, 10, 8, 6250. Coupled with the fact she's only gone through her NW3 lifetime condition, she's going to have to win without us. Get a load of the 2018 records of the outside four trainers in this race. 4 for 90. 1 for 57, 0 for 9 and 0 for 34. You can't be serious! I guess being able to pitch half the field is a good thing. I guess. Normally a horse like MADAM MOUSSE wouldn't get a very long look. In here, she has to. 5 wins, albeit up north, and Jonathan Wong make her interesting. Boy, how times have changed. There was a time I would have scoffed at anyone who was trying to make a case for a horse like MADAM MOUSSE. Now she's the top selection. LUCKY STUDENT and her dominate on numbers. STUDENT is now 9 years old and losing Hollendorfer is a very big deal.

**Top Selection MADAM MOUSSE. Exotics 4-7. Horizontals 1-4-7.**

**#1 MADAM MOUSSE\*\*\***

**#4 LUCKY STUDENT**

**#7 SHE'S LUCKY THAT WAY**

### RACE 2

Our good friend MO BOB (SCRATCHED) surfaces vs winners here in Race 2. We made a score on him last time. The entire race, I was screaming at Aaron Gryder for not using the speed I "thought" he would show. It's like the coach who sees his center lining up for a three pointer and starts yelling "No, no, no", swish - nice shot! It's that very versatility which makes BOB a player right back. Plus, D'Amato doesn't fall in love based on just one win. Doesn't over-estimate his true worth. IMPLICITLY is slightly interesting because he holds a dramatic early speed edge. Here's one that will roll your eyes: He's run 3 times on turf, finishing 7th each time and I think he's good on grass. His first two starts in a different lifetime were when they still thought he could be a serious horse. The other one is harder to explain, but for some reason Pedroza never allowed him to get into the game. He's by Artie Schiller. TARTINI is the classic example of a barn not willing to accept the fact he's not what they'd hoped. He should have been dropped into this spot, 5 or 6 races ago. Now who knows what to expect? BELLERIN is much like TARTINI. Plus, he had the misfortune of running into WHAT'SONTHEAGENDA last time. TARTINI might end up with bugs in his teeth, from smiling and thanking Jack Carava for FINALLY putting him in where he can take advantage of actually being a nice horse. Allowance company in SoCal is very, very tough. If TARTINI can produce the numbers that have been getting him trounced, he can now become the trouncer. He's the selection.

**Top Selection TARTINI. Exotics 2-6. Horizontals 2-4-6.**

**#4 TARTINI\*\*\*\***

**#6 BELLERIN**

**#2 I CAN DO THIS**

### **RACE 3**

\$16,000 non-winners of three life. Six horses, all from nondescript barns. I suppose CEE SAM'S GIRL deserves to be the favorite. Remember though, these aren't the types who start rattling off wins. It took her 9 tries at the NW2 level to earn her way into here. Twice she was 7/5 and came up short. SEA GLASS beat SAM two back, then tried wide open winners. Welcome back. Not only was she trounced, but she was 23/1. Shows you just how much tougher the wide-open, multiple winners are. ESKENFORADRINK has been keeping tougher open company. Mostly in sprints, which is her question mark. A 10-pound bug and blinkers give JUST BE HELD a desperate feeling. No doubt, CONFORMATION has been running vs tougher competition. She's entered out of her condition, NW2, which I hate. That being said the only time they gave up and ran her cheap she won very easy. This is giving up again. I was ready to pick ESKENFORADRINK on top. Couldn't pull the trigger. Her worst race last year was two turns. The barn was an amazing 0 for 55 and she's 5/2. Even with that, she can win. Top selection CONFORMATION

**Top selection CEE SAM'S GIRL. Exotics 4-5. Horizontals 2-4-5.**

**#2 CONFORMATION\*\*\*\***

**#5 CEE SAM'S GIRL**

**#2 ESKENFORADRINK**

### **RACE 4**

Any race CLAUDELLE (SCRATCHED) runs in catches my attention. I think she's vastly overrated and will have to run for a tag to break her maiden. After the 2nd start of her career, I thought HELLO BUBBLES (SCRATCHED) was going to be a star. That train quickly derailed. But why? Was I just wrong, or did they take away what she really wants, which is to run down the hill? Looks like FULL ECLIPSE will finally, in her third try, actually get to compete down the hill. Forced onto the dirt twice. she hasn't been awful. Interesting. LA SHRIMP (SCRATCHED) scratched when her race came off the grass a couple weeks ago. Word around the campfire is she's special. Gotta love any horse that can finish 2nd out of 20. Yep, she ran in a 20 -horse field in Ireland. HOLLY HUNDY (SCRATCHED) looked like a filly who would appreciate a turn back onto the hill.

**ADJUSTED FOR OFF THE TURF. TOP SELECTION TWICE GOLDEN. Exotics 5-14. Single in Horizontals.**

**#11 TWICE GOLDEN\*\*\*\***

**#5 FULL ECLIPSE**

**#14 CHOCOLATE SPEIGHTS**

### **RACE 5**

Another type race we're starting to see all too often. A six-horse field, where 4 of them just ran against each other. Like I said last week, I don't mind this as much and some of my handicapping

brethren. For some unexplained reason, people see 4 run back and just assume they'll replicate their finish positions. IMO flawed thinking that rarely comes to fruition. Good for us. Of the other two, CHOI just lost for a tag and it was sprinting. Looks like a favor to the racing office. BTW, this card was drawn late Wednesday afternoon when it was supposed to be carded on Tuesday morning. The one new face is SUPREMA. She's very interesting. What if she's always been looking to route on the main track at Santa Anita, and it's taken a while to get there? First it was a Del Mar sprint, then the rail at Los Al (not easy), then turf here? I have a feeling she's finally where she wants to be. I hope people forgive SOOTHING for her last, because it was sloppy. Yes it was, but she was also awful. If a fast track turns her around, it will be without us. As much as I'd like to pick SUPREMA. Horses like BOLD MONGOLIAN win a very very large percentage of races like this. I'll deal with the short price.

**Top selection BOLD MONGOLIAN. Exotics 1-2. Single in horizontals.**

**#6 BOLD MONGOLIAN\*\*\*\***

**#2 SUPREMA**

**#1 PAIGE RUNNER**

## **RACE 6**

The PASADENA. Super nice heat.....

STUBBINS-----Two hill wins by a neck and a nose and here he is in Stakes Company. Absent a few head bobs, he could still be a maiden. He deserves all the credit for those bobs going his way. Another concern is, was it the hill that really woke him up?

MUCH BETTER (SCRATCHED)-----The only other time he ran on this grass course, it went so well, he earned a spot in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. Yes, he was trounced in that heat, but so were many other very nice horses. His main track sprint win is nothing more than a prep for what he really wants. THIS!

EAGLE SONG-----Strange to see a horse like this in a guy like Mark Glatt's barn. Usually it's a Callaghan or D'Amato or even Drysdale type deal. Mark has done well with him. He might be a notch below the best of these. But it wouldn't surprise to see him continue to move forward, which just might tighten up that notch.

COLONIAL CREED (SCRATCHED)-----A filly vs the boys. Maybe Baltas couldn't get the right race for her against fillies. Her numbers are good enough to include in exotics.

SHINING THROUGH-----Rarely do we see one like him. Literally told us, it was his time to win. 9th, then 5th, 3rd, 2nd and bingo - a maiden score. Wonder if it will take a similar progression to become a Stakes winner? My feeling is yes, which makes today a no.

RIJEKA (SCRATCHED)-----3/5 yet finished behind two that run back here. Gelded since his last start. His nuts aren't all he loses. Gone too is Prat, which may be even more important. If he had no excuse in an allowance race, how can he find his way into the winner's circle in a Stakes?

MAJOR COBB-----Horse's that people name after themselves rarely become much. He's already a bit ahead of the curve. Needless to say, he's the toughest read in here. Decent synthetic form up North. His only start on grass was a win, but vs much, much easier competition. Jonathan Wong also makes him tough to toss, when by all rights it should be easy.

NEPTUNE'S STORM-----Cannot say one negative thing about him. Clearly, he was meant to be a turf router and managed with that in mind. Everything towards that end has gone perfectly. No reason that progression doesn't continue right into the winner's circle.

BIG SCOTT DADDY-----Won sprinting on dirt, first out. Didn't seem like a dirt horse. Didn't seem like a sprinter. Bodes pretty well here, doesn't it? Here's what we have to decide: Was his poor race 1st time routing because of the slop? Or because he's not this good? If you (we) decide the slop is to blame - Look out!!

Mike Smith **must** be **sure** BIG SCOTT DADDY is the real deal. He's taking off a Baffert horse he just won on, that's already Graded Stakes placed on grass, to ride a horse who's never run on turf. Either that or he and his agent Brad Pegram are totally rolling the dice with the weather forecast. Either way, it seems very smart. Enough to make him the pick. Another scenario is that Baffert told Smith he was going to scratch, if the race came off the turf.

**Top Selection BIG SCOTT DADDY. Exotics 7-8. Horizontals Single.**

**#9 BIG SCOTT DADDY\*\*\*\***

**#8 NEPTUNE'S STORM**

**#7 MAYOR COBB**

## **RACE 7**

Infuriating they continue to stick shit sack races into important positions on weekend cards. I know they have to be run, even with short fields, but putting them here in the Pick 4 and Pick 5 sequences, is just totally awful. I guess they know we'll bitch about it and little else. I guess they're right. It sure pisses me off, though. Total disregard for the horse players that line their pockets. Both of the first-time starters are from barns that can win early. Of those who have run, I suppose BOUNCING AROUND should get first look, because it's his first time for a claiming price. COIL TO STRIKE and SEA'S JOURNEY are what they are and seem somewhat reliable. PERFECT TALE runs once every three months, whether he wants to or not. SEA'S JOURNEY is a 5-year-old maiden. He wouldn't get claimed if Jerry ran him for \$12,500 up north. He is aggressive at the entry box. Why not run him for \$16,000 or \$20,000 and be 3/5? Because he really likes this horse. Obviously, he had a major problem. Whatever it was must be fixed. He'll be very tough.

**Top Selection SEA'S JOURNEY. Exotics 3-4-5. Single in Horizontals.**

**#6 SEA'S JOURNEY\*\*\*\***

**#4 PERFECT TALE**

**#5 BOUNCING AROUND**

## RACE 8

FLOR DE LAR MAR was rumored to be Baffert's best three-year-old filly. She didn't disappoint with a very nice win. While I wasn't bowled over by the effort, I'm certainly not going to knock it either. She went about her business in good order and produced a nice figure. Truth be told, when QAHIRA won at Del Mar, that felt a bit more special than FLOR. FLASHY KISSES got blinkers and wore front wraps last out. My gut tells me, O'Neill added the wraps just because of the moisture in the track. Check her out in the post parade, I'm interested to see if they come off. IMPERIAL CREED and PROUD EMMA both broke their maiden for a tag. Try as I might, I have a tough time seeing past that. Kind of a class scarlet letter. Probably not fair but who ever said handicapping was fair? STIRRING is obviously the "X-Factor". Broke her maiden and looked great doing it on this very track. Fast tracked into a Del Mar Stakes and just as fast to the shelf, where she's been for 6 months. Flat tire or grow up? Layoff or freshening? Gets blinks, Prat and a great post. Can she slay the two Baffert Dragonesses? Probably not.

**Top selection QAHIRA. Exotics with 1-7. Horizontals 1-3.**

**#3 QAHIRA\*\*\***

**#1 FLOR DE LA MAR**

**#7 STIRRED**

## RACE 9

I swear to god, I was going race by race. When I saw the Pasadena carded earlier, I was looking forward to a second Stakes, in the ninth. Imagine my anticipation, then dejection when I scrolled from race 8 to 9 and found this TURD as the 9th freaking race on a Saturday Santa Anita card. Un-f-ing believable we are subjected to this kind of shit. Takes all the starch out of tackling a card and looking to make scores. 8 Maiden 50's, going 5/8th on the turf. C'mon man, WTF? I'm actually not one that complains about stuff like this. I understand how the business works and why sometimes the bettors must come out on the short side of the equation. But this crap is starting to happen every weekend and it's just wrong. PALALEO is a tiny drink of water. Watching his last race, I remember thinking he'd have to go 5/8th to win or ship North. Looks like Bonde has the same idea. Seems like they're giving up quickly on BOWL OF SPAGHETTI (SCRATCHED), but Prat stays, and Miller is battling for the lead in the trainers race. Violent Behavior's numbers are fast enough to make him the pick.

**Top selection VIOLENT BEHAVIOR. Exotics 4-5-8. Horizontals 4-5-6-8.**

**#6 VIOLENT BEHAVIOR\*\***

**#5 PALALEO**

**#8 TRANSLUCENT**

## RACE 10

BUCK DUANE just ran 2nd in this exact race and now gets Prat over Fuentes. No dissing the bug boy but that makes this a total money run. If not today vs this motley crowd, then when? Almost every other entry, some from good barns, are returning to run at the bottom. Therefore, we have several returning to the level they actually belong. In a weird way, with so many of them, it makes

for a cool NW2 \$12,500 puzzle. Certainly, more interesting than most races at this level. I'm going back to all of the maiden breakers. Gonna make believe the bad entry choices and subsequent bad results never happened. Comparing and contrasting them all solely on the day they won. That should bring a muddled mess into much clearer focus. Using that criteria, the top selection is SMOKIN B.

**Top Selection SMOKIN B. Exotics 1-6-7. Horizontals 1-3-6-7.**

**#3 SMOKIN B\*\*\***

**#6 DISCO CAT**

**#7 AYACARA**