

SANTA ANITA, SUNDAY 3.3.2019

RACE 1

\$16,000 NW3 life, but not horrible. Several interesting ways to mount an attack. KAWARA must not be very sound. He was scratched from a spot a couple of weeks ago where he looked pretty tough. Must not have passed the vet in the morning. You guys might not know this, but every horse that's scheduled to run must pass inspection from the State Veterinarian on the morning they are scheduled to run. The exam consists of flexing the knee and ankle joints and jogging on the road in front of the barn. The vet's gets to know which horses can be a little stiff in the morning, but fine with the adrenaline pumping through the veins in the afternoon. Mostly, they look for puffiness or heat in the joints and tendons or something that seems different from the time before. They keep copious notes and get to know each horse individually. First thing to look for in a NW3 life is horses that have been running wide open vs multiple winners. For that criteria HARD ARCH jumps off the page. Don't be fooled by claiming price. Although he ran for just \$10,000, those horses are significantly tougher than these for \$16,000. For a cheapie, ODYSSEY EXPLORER is remarkably consistent. OH MAN is also interesting but has three big questions to answer. Will he route? Can he win two in a row, which at this level is rare? And the biggest question is, can Lerner, off the claim, get the same result as Baltas? HARD ARCH ran so poorly last time it cost him his balls. First time Gelding today, should really like conditioned company. He's the top selection.

Top Selection HARD ARCH. Exotics 2-7-8. Single in Horizontals.

#4 HARD ARCH***

#2 KAWARA

#8 OH MAN

RACE 2

For the first time ever, as far as I can tell, Santa Anita is running races at 5 furlongs on turf. I like it. Trainers, yes even Mega Trainers like Baffert, like and need cash flow. APPOLINA is the kind of filly he might be forced to run wide open for an outside owner. Since he owns her himself, she's in for \$50,000 and I expect quite live. The bug boy being named tells me he thinks he needs every possible edge. If you like MISS LADY ANN don't talk yourself off her because she ran for \$20,000. Maiden claimers are maiden claimers. Which is why GEMAGINE could very well be the one. Her first race was sneaky fast. She didn't figure to like two turns. This is classic Doug O'Neill. The other two first time starters are from very good barns. A

positive and negative, both at the same time. The Sadler worked a 1/2 mile in November (!) and just now makes it to the races on March 1? Might be another one of those where the trainer didn't want to break the news that she's slow.

Top selection GEMAGINE. Exotics 1-7. Horizontals 1-5-7.

#5 GEMAGINE***

#1 APPOLINA

#7 MISS LADY ANN

RACE 3

LIEUTENANT DAN could be one of those types that ran too fast for their own good and will never get back to that number. His maiden breaker was wicked fast. Enough to make him 3/5 vs winners, and he was awful. We know it's in there. Very tough read. TEACHER'S TREASURE (SCRATCHED) gets Prat and Blinkers. Both figures to help quite a bit. I BELONG TO RACING actually hung in there nicely when over-matched. It's the only one who ran wide-open last time. His post position and being the 2nd longest shot on the board makes him very interesting. Enough to make him the selection.

Top Selection I BELONG TO BECKY. Exotics 2-4. Horizontals 2-4-5.

#5 I BELONG TO BECKY***

#4 RICKEY B

#2 LIEUTENANT DAN

RACE 4

Finally, someone claimed CROWN THE KITTEN. I've always felt he was better than what Gus Headley was getting out of him. Clearly, he was taken to run on the grass, where 4 of his 5 career wins have been accomplished. He must be doing OK. It's rare to see a horse work in 58 2/5th at Los Alamitos. TWENTYTETY VISION won on opening day. Don't be dissuaded by his lay-off. This is a level, that's hard to fill, especially on the grass. He's working like a horse that's been ready to run all along. It's hard to imagine him not being extremely tough. ORIGINAL INTENT takes a massive class hike. Dean Greenman must have found something, because his win was huge. Yes, he only beat \$12,500 NW2, but he was a different horse. He's likely to be overlooked. Not by us! If you like TWENTYTWENTYVISION don't let me talk you off. It seems like exactly what they had hoped for is happening with CROWN THE KITTEN. That's enough for us to try to blur 20/20 Vision. See what I did there?

Top selection CROWN THE KITTEN. Exotics 2-4-6. Horizontals 2-4-7.

#7 CROWN THE KITTEN***
#4 TWENTYTWENTYVISION
#2 ORIGINAL INTENT

RACE 5

KING ABNER-----He's so good right now, he tricked Phil D'Amato into thinking he could get a mile and an eighth. Didn't work. This is his grade and he plays it very well.

UNUSUALLY GREEN-----Anytime you can have the 2nd longest shot on the board running fastest at the finish, it must be respected. Jonathan Wong continues to test traditional thinking, taking this guy at age 8. Very interesting.

SURFING STAR-----Needless to say, he's not very sound. It's because he's damn fast. His win in November was massive. Took extreme heat and not only lasted but drew off. He'll have to be just as good today, with the KING lurking on the rail.

EDWARDS GOING LEFT-----What to do with EDWARD? He's likely to get the best trip. His numbers are much better than the races looked visually. Very tough read. Or is it if one trusts the numbers as much as I do.

SHADES OF VICTORY-----Funny how one race can change the career path of a horse. He shocked a field of Cal-Breds at 80/1, six races ago at Los Alamitos. His next start was against ACCELERATE, who would go on to win the Breeder's Cup Classic. Before the shocker, he was a claimer. Pssst - He still is!

I'm going to handicap the morning line as much as the race. EDWARDS GOING LEFT has been made the 8/5 favorite. I think he's going to be the 3rd choice. I'd make it KING ABNER 8/5, SURFING STAR 9/5, EDWARDS GOING LEFT 2/1. I know, it doesn't seem to make much difference, but if we can get a "3rd" choice home, it can really help the horizontals. Let's try it.

Top Selection EDWARDS GOING LEFT. No Exotics. Horizontals 1-4.

#4 EDWARDS GOING LEFT***
#1 KING ABNER
#3 SURFING STAR

RACE 6

Normally I don't need extra help sounding stupid. STURDY ONE did facilitate that, scoring by an easy 4 lengths when I proclaimed her hopeless the other day. I won't make that mistake again! Or?? The same reason I didn't like her the other day, still applies. She's not that fast. In her favor here is race shape. She figures to get a perfect trip. Puzzled by CHRISTY JACKSON. She loses blinkers and Bejarano, both seemed to help. Odd heat, or is my obstinate way just making it odd? CINNAMON TWIST has run twice on a wet track. It produced the two best races of her career. She'll have to improve off her last. I think she will and some. I like this filly today.

Top Selection CINNAMON TWIST. Exotics 3-5-7. Horizontals 3-5-6-7.

#6 CINNAMON TWIST****

#7 STURDY ONE

#3 SCATHING

RACE 7

Some kinda tough 1st Allowance dash. Made even more complicated by 7-time winner DISTINCTIVE B. While these young pups are trying to earn their stripes, General B has been fighting Desert Storms vs some of the toughest sprinters in the land. Even a couple of times as a field filler for the Commander in Chief, Breeder's Cup Sprint winner ROY H. Interesting to see Smith on PADDOCK PICK. Can either of Baffert's win? HECK YEAH! – See what I did there? The only bad "finish" COIL ME HOME was 5/8th on turf. I said "finish" rather than "race" because he was a beast that day too, galloping out past them all. He's going to be tough. He'll have to be. This is a salty heat.

Top selection COIL ME HOME. Exotics 1-5-8. Horizontals 7-8.

#7 COIL ME HOME****

#8 DISTINCTIVE B

#1 LEROY

RACE 8

There have been many horses I thought would win at this meet, that crapped out. Nature of the Beast. None more than COOL BOBBY. I thought he was an international cinch. Surprised I didn't make him a *****5 Star. I have no clue what happened, except it was bad. Another chance? Interesting switch to Rosario on SOLOMINI. Makes me think, the plan is to anchor him early and make one run. Good plan the way this one shapes up. Don't fall in love with him. Just blew up at

30 cents on the dollar. Even though KYEMORE was sent last time, Richie Baltas is much too smart to send him into what would be five-wide-doom. Can he sit and finish? I think so, which makes him a tough customer. Very cool, interesting, fun race. The only one I'm sure is going to ride the way I want is SOLOMINI, therefore he's the pick.

Top Selection SOLOMINI. Exotics 2-7. Horizontals 2-4-7.

#4 SOLOMINI***

#7 KYEMORE

#2 CALIFORNIA JOURNEY

RACE 9

Simon Callaghan continues to drop TRUE VALIDITY in search of a win. He may have found just what he needed – Flavien Prat. It's so much fun to have a rider that gives you the balls to approach a trainer after his horse finished 2nd twice in a row, and the jockey you're trying to screw out of the mount, did nothing wrong. That's real power. Only two guys who can try that and not get chased out of the shed row: Ron Anderson, who has Rosario and Derek Lawson, Flavien Prat's agent. SEASIDE DANCER will take money being 1st time for a tag. Be careful with her. Yes, she did finish 4th, 5th and 4th again, but all three of those defeats were by double digits. ACADIA FLEET is first time Peter Miller. A massive trainer switch and gets in light. She's the pick.

Top Selection ACADIA FLEET. Exotics 2-4-5. Horizontals 2-4-5-8.

#8 ACADIA FLEET***

#5 SEASIDE DANCER

#2 TRUE VALIDITY