

LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ANALYSIS



BY MICHAEL HAMMERSLY

BEST BET: RACE 8, DANCING BELLE

FIRST RACE

AMERICAN CURRENCY showed talent when 2nd at SA Sept. 29, was then gone almost 2 months before coming back to whip maidens at DMR Nov. 16, looking like a new horse. Could be the light went on for this guy with the layoff and his speed should have him prominent from the bell yet again. **WALK ON WATER** WALK ON WATER posted his lone win on GG synthetic in June but has handled dirt well, including running 3rd in a stakes at SR this summer. He's been freshened and drops, and that 3rd last time out at GG Sept. 1 looks even better when you note 3 he faced that day came right back to win. **HANDSOME SWEDE** looked good whipping maidens here Sept. 24. He was then no factor facing winners for the first time at SW Oct. 29 when 7th, but today's drop and return to this place may get him back on track.

SECOND RACE

EL SUPER came back after a couple months off to gamely win here Sept. 14 routing. He was the in too deep in a route at SA Oct. 7 when he also dueled and faded, and was then 4th in a sprint at DMR. Nov. 2. He's down in class and back to routing and that may be just what the Dr. ordered. **TASUNKE WITCO** whipped the top pick in a \$16K sprint at DMR Nov. 2 so he's got the goods. He came back to be 5th in a \$20K sprint there Nov. 26. Today's drop helps, but he also moves to a route and note he finished off the board in his only 2 prior tries at this distance. **ROMAN TIZZY** has been a warrior for a long time - hey, you don't win 8 times by accident. The veteran 8yo comes here in sharp form and note 2 wins over this track.

THIRD RACE

MOON KITTY can be forgiven for her last 3 as all 3 came on turf, came vs. tougher and came after 5 months off. She gets a significant drop here, moves to dirt (her lone win came on dirt at this trip) and that may get her back on track. She's also reunited with Roman, who was up for that aforementioned lone win on dirt in the spring. **FREEDOM JOURNEY** looms a top threat having won 3 of 5, including a handy win for \$50K at DMR Nov. 2. Considering she ran so well that day, however, why then the drop in price, hmmm? Hey, they don't give anything away out here. **SLY HUMOR** ran second behind FREEDOM JOURNEY when the met in a \$50K sprint at DMR Nov. 2. That made for a third straight strong outing and that plus 3 nice works since encourage.

FOURTH RACE

PICA was freshened 3 months and came back firing to win a race like this at SA Oct. 29. She has ample speed and versatility to get a good trip. **SALLY SIMPSON** looked super blasting restricted (\$16K N2L) foes at DMR Nov. 11. She was claimed that day by Harrington and moves up not only in value but now faces open foes, but she's obviously on top of her game right now. She's run well here before, too. **DISSENSION** comes off a solid 3rd to PICA in a race just like this at SA Oct. 29. That was her first start in 4 months so she's eligible to improve. She's been a pro for a long time (11 wins) so she's due ample respect even if she's not quite as strong as she once was.

FIFTH RACE

GOSOFAR has certainly had a number of chances but he likely won't get many chances better than this as for the first time he races for a tag; He's certainly run well on dirt and in fact his top Beyer (79) came on this track at this trip just over 2 months ago. **SAWBUCK** was knocking on the door in the fall of 2016. He hasn't been seen in over 11 months, and that's a concern, but it's a good sign that Sadler claimed him for \$50K when last seen and brings him back for the same price. Some sharp recent works encourage, too. **PATH OF EXILE** was away slowly and no factor when 7th in a race like this at SA June 10. He hasn't been seen since but it's nice to see no drop for this return and he's certainly capable of better. Some solid recent works encourage, too.

SIXTH RACE

HECK YEAH brings plenty of strong works into his debut for a trainer well known for having his 2yos ready to fire first time out. Lots of works indicate a foundation, and some sharp works indicate speed. **RAVEN CREEK** is the proven commodity with four solid races to start his career. And if anything, he's getting better. It's his first time here but he's run well on DMR dirt, SA dirt and SA turf so odds are he'll handle this place. **OUR TIGER'S BOY** debuts with plenty of works so he appears to have a bottom, and some brisk moves, so he appears to have speed. Trainer Bonde does well first time out and this colt's 4 sibs to race are all winners including Latika (5 wins, \$64k) and Ithastobegeorge (2 wins, \$175K).

SEVENTH RACE

IMAGE OF JOPLIN has always been a tough customer (10 wins) but after six months off he's come back possibly good as ever with two smashing wins at SA this fall. He's worked well since and while he's risked for a \$40K tag that's a lot more than they paid to claim him Sept. 29 (\$16K). There's ample other speed in here but he's shown he can press and finish. **DONWORTH** is one-time classy horse and while he's no longer that game it's encouraging Miller saw fit to plunk down \$40K to claim him last time. This isn't an easy spot, but it's surely easier than what he's been up against the past couple years. **GOT EVEN** has loads of speed, the rail and comes off two straight wins so he's plenty scary. That said, there are others in here who can keep him honest early, though as he showed at DMR Nov. 12 he can duel and keep going.

EIGHTH RACE

DANCING BELLE gets significant class relief here. As a maiden she ran 2nd in the G2 Sorrento, then 4th in the G1 Del Mar Debutante and G1 Chandelier. They regroup with her as she's been freshened and is back in vs. maidens only and that can do the trick. **SUMMER'S INDY** has been knocking on the door with three 2nds to start her career, one of those over this track a few months ago. Her top Beyer (72) beats the best DANCING BELLE has done so far (70). **THIRTEEN SQUARED** chased the pace at DMR Nov. 12 before tiring to 4th, behind today's foe SUMMER'S INDY in 2nd (beaten by 4 lengths). That was a step forward after she faded in her prior start at SA. Two smart works since encourage.