

SANTA ANITA ANALYSIS



BY BRAD FREE

BEST BET: RACE 1, KISS LIMIT

FIRST RACE

KISS LIMIT faced tougher last out, and ran poorly. But he meets an easier bunch filled with question marks, and gets a rider switch to seven-pound apprentice Austin Solis. In this case, the term "best bet" merely implies "most probable winner." It's a five-horse field. **ACCELERANT**, a 10yo veteran by the late California stallion Unusual Heat, finished a creditable third in his return from a short freshening. A two-turn distance has been his preferred trip throughout his career, he will pick them off late. **PRESS BARON** is an eight-win veteran whose recent Northern California form makes him a proper fit. The question is footing. He is an 8yo, racing on dirt for only the second time in his career. He finished last in his only previous start on dirt.

SECOND RACE

TIZ NO BLUFF faced tougher winners last out, and finished a creditable second behind his stablemate, the favorite. 'BLUFF returns to the maiden-claiming ranks; his rivals include several stretch-out sprinters, so the pace should be legit. The 5yo is tough to back with confidence, however. Deep-closing career maidens often prefer to chase. **MAKE IT A TRIPLE** stretches out following a pair of fourth-place finishes in sprints. He is bred to run long, adds blinkers, and will be forwardly placed. He faces a legitimate pace rival in **MUCHO CHROME**, who is running long for the first time. He finished ninth in his comeback last month, but that was a highly special-weight. This is his first route, first time entered for a claim tag. Y'S PASSION also shows up in a maiden-claiming race for the first time, first start in more than a year.

THIRD RACE

MAJESTIC QUALITY faced tough company throughout her nine-start career. The G2-placed filly returns to the maiden ranks after splitting the field in the Santa Anita Oaks. Sharp recent works, proven around two turns, easier foes. However, she faces a promising upstart who ran well both sprints and is bred to relish two turns. **UTANA**, by Curlin, lost her debut by a neck then finished second behind subsequent stakes winner Faypien. **UTANA** finished willingly both starts around one turn, and is quite likely to improve running long. No surprise if she starts as the favorite. On paper, a two-filly race. **TIZCOOL** adds blinkers after running the best race of her career, finishing second, in the first route of her career. **MISS REMEMBERING** broke slowly and merely ran around the track in her debut. She can improve second out, and is another that might do better at this trip.

FOURTH RACE

Looks like a good amount of speed in this Cal-bred N1X sprint, but **CANDY RULER** showed in her maiden win she can take heat and keep running. She dueled last time, and kicked clear to win by more than two lengths. Solid victory by the Twirling Candy filly, produced by stakes winner Miles Rules. No reason she cannot fire right back, other than the pace scenario. The comeback filly **DIXIE CHICK ROCKS** showed in her maiden win last summer that she is effective rallying from behind. First start since August, but trainer Dan Hendricks does well with layoff types, and the filly's recent works look solid. **HAVEITURE WAY** set a strong pace and ran away from maidens last out. She adds more heat the pace scenario. Competitive race to kick off the pick six, cannot count out any of the seven entrants.

FIFTH RACE

A seemingly bleak field of maiden-30 fillies sprint six furlongs, second-time starter **POWDER** has upset potential. Her workouts prior to her debut were ordinary, but she actually ran okay facing special-weight Calbred maidens. She was forwardly placed chasing a strong pace (race-4 selection Candy Ruler won), and retreated through the lane. **POWDER** wheels back three weeks later facing easier, and should improve second time out. Maybe. **TENTHOUSAN-DREASONS** flashed keen speed and backed up in her debut slightly more than two weeks ago. Shorter distance this time, easier company, another who can improve. **CALIFORNIASUMMER** adds blinkers, returns to dirt, drops in class and adds speed. She will be ridden for the first time by apprentice Evin Roman. That is a positive. **LADY BELLAMY** is first-time maiden-claiming.

SIXTH RACE

After facing stakes company her first five U.S. starts, **LA FORCE** drops to N1X and stretches to a mile and one-eighth. Though her "class" on this circuit is undetermined, her most recent start was her best yet. She added blinkers, raced closer to the pace than any previous local start, and finished fifth of 12 in a stake that already produced two next-out winners (Sircat Sally, Madame Dancealot). Seems like blinkers may have turned around **LA FORCE**, who gets the call in a scramble. **ZAFFINAH** is a threat on the front end. She improved each subsequent start including a front-running wire job last out in which she set a strong pace and held by a nose. Her win was validated when the runner-up returned to win. The pace at nine furlongs could be easier for **ZAFFINAH**, who might be the one to catch depending on strategy employed by **SABURAI**. The latter pressed her way to victory last out in a maiden sprint, and obviously is quick enough to contest the pace.

SEVENTH RACE

SOUTHERN MISCHIEF wanted no part of two turns last out, and faded. Her fifth-place sprint two starts back, vs. special-weight fillies, was decent. She is quick, and drops to maiden claiming (\$100,000). **MOON KITTY** has a similar pattern. She has speed, and is dropping out of special-weight for the first time. The knock on 'KITTY is she has yet to reproduce the promise she showed in her career debut last summer when she probably was best after a slow start and wide trip. One last chance? **SETTLE DOWN EILEEN** finished a disappointing second last out in a maiden race won by a filly that had lost her first 20 starts. This shorter distance of five and one-half furlongs might benefit 'EILEEN. She is trained by Bill Spawr, who also entered first-time starter **CANDY SWIRLS**. Meanwhile, the speed of the field might be **RUNNIN FOR TUITION**.

EIGHTH RACE

MADIBA has returned to top form since being gelded in winter. He followed a solid runner-up \$40k claiming comeback in March, with a highly rated \$50k claiming win in April. Now he shows up in a second-level allowance, not risked for a tag, with a running style that should lead to a good trip forwardly placed, right behind the speed. **CANDY PROMISES** stretches to two turns for the first time since he "got good." Up in class following a pair of highly rated sprint wins, he is fast enough to make the lead. **COLONIST**, stablemate of the top choice, is a lightly raced 3yo that is learning the ropes. Maiden win two back, N1X win last out over 3yos, he faces older seasoned veterans here. The race could unfold at a solid pace, which would flatter his closing rally. Good colt getting better. **SOI PHET** is the "class" of the field, a 9yo multiple stakes winner that is racing for the first time since November. He has won 11 races and more than \$750k.

NINTH RACE

Fun way to end the Sunday card, a turf stakes that attracted a deep, competitive field. **PACIFIC HEAT**, a three-time stakes winner early in her career, finished a solid second in her recent comeback after being more aggressive than her connections preferred. Still, it was a good return from a one-year layoff. Good works since, likely to be more settled with a race under her belt, and if she can be rated, she could tuck into a cozy trip saving ground covered up behind the speed. She is trained by Peter Eurton, whose stretch-runner **CHEEKABOO** would benefit from a lively pace. She was a G2 winner early in her career; her closing style suits the potential race shape. Blinkers are on to increase her focus. **ROO'S VALENTINE** is likely to set the pace; she is state-bred stakes winner who is tough when left alone. **SHEHASTHERITESTUFF** will roll late.