

SANTA ANITA ANALYSIS



BY BRAD FREE

BEST BET: RACE 7, TATAR

FIRST RACE

MY PI ROMANCER did everything but win last out. She opened up on a fast pace, stuck in there to deep stretch, then got swallowed and finished second. The one-three finishers rallied from last and next-to-last. 'ROMANCER returns in a similar turf mile for Cal-bred allowance fillies, and if she rations her speed she can win from just off the pace. She has run well from off the pace. That style probably will be required because she is sandwiched between two speed types. **LETHAL LEGACY** has the opposite style. A deep closer in a turf mile with abundant pace, 1-for-24 'LEGACY will be ridden for the first time by Corey Nakatani. That is a plus. **SPEAKERS** put it all together last out with a resounding maiden tally at Del Mar. The lightly raced and improving filly is another that will roll late. **MOONSHINE ANNIE** returns to the course on which she ran the best two races of her career; **LA PREMIERE ETOILE** stretches out and is likely to show speed.

SECOND RACE

SNAKED trained well into her debut, was bet from 6-1 morning line to 3-1, but was unprepared for a blazing pace battle and surrendered the final furlong. Not a bad fourth-place debut, actually. The 2yo filly returns at a similar maiden-75 level, probably meets less heat, and is likely to improve second out. Come and catch her. **KRISSYS MANICURE** ran well in her third-place debut, bombed second out, then took the summer off. She returns from a lay-off of more than two months, returns to her preferred Santa Anita surface, drops from special-weight to maiden-75, has a solid work tab and should come back an improved filly. **OMERTA** misfired in her debut at Del Mar, but posted a series of fast workouts since returning to Santa Anita. The second-start filly is another that is likely to improve with a race under her belt. Don't tell anyone. **MISCHIEVIOUS LASS** debuts with a solid work pattern, while **AVAIL** might be placed too low by this handicapper. She finished a creditable second in her debut last month.

THIRD RACE

Evenly matched **FAMILY GIRL** and **PULPIT RIDER** are tough to separate in this Cal-bred allowance for 2yo fillies. **FAMILY GIRL** adds blinkers after finishing second in a state-bred stakes at Del Mar, while **PULPIT RIDER** steps up to meet winners after a romping maiden win by more than eight lengths. The two-three finishers returned to win. Close call between the top pair. **SILVERSPUN PICKUP** won a low-rated maiden race in her career debut in August, and might be a better filly than her 40 Beyer indicates. Win or lose, expect her to run faster with experience and maturity.

FOURTH RACE

The first leg of the pick six is a wide-open turf sprint for 2yo maiden fillies; the extra distance is likely to benefit **FRACAS**. She finished evenly for fourth in her most recent start at Del Mar, racing five furlongs. She benefits by the stretch to six and a half, and gets the tepid call in a puzzling downhill dash. **EVER SO TRUE** is an Animal Kingdom first-time starter produced by a sibling to Yes It's True. The point is, **EVER SO TRUE** has both turf potential and speed potential in her pedigree. Purchased at a 2yo sale for \$210k, she makes her debut for a winning trainer-jockey combo. **LIMARI** has a sharp workout pattern for her debut. Sired by Medaglia d'Oro and produced by a European dam, she should like sprinting on turf. **TRUST FUND KITTY** finished second in a maiden-80 last out, as a daughter of Kitten's Joy she has a right to continue her improving pattern switching to turf and moving up in class. **GREAT MA NERI** finished in front of the top choice last out and might be the one to catch.

FIFTH RACE

UNIQUE BELLA returns from her layoff with a series of bullet works, a four-race win streak (three graded), and a significant speed-figure advantage. She was among the elite of the 3yo filly division before she was sidelined with tender shins; her workouts suggest she will pick up where she left off. Next stop, Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint on Nov. 4 at Del Mar. **BAD JU JU** can complete a low-paying exacta. A stakes winner on this track during the winter meet, her two starts in summer at Del Mar were decent enough. **PRINCESS KAREN** is the main pace rival for the top choice. Drawn inside the favorite, 'KAREN probably will use her speed to full advantage. She wired 3yo stakes fillies last out, and looks like the one to catch. 'BELLA will be breathing down her neck, however.

SIXTH RACE

BITZKA was overmatched in her stakes comeback, and she drops to age-restricted \$32k claiming as the logical choice. She won her first two starts by daylight, took a shot at a G1 (unplaced), then was sidelined. If she runs back to her 2016 summer form as a 2yo, she can make short work of these 3yo claiming fillies. However, **WHAT A TEN** is a tough cookie. She wired starter allowance rivals last out, is 2-for-2 in dirt sprints, and from the outside post will apply the pressure. **GEMINI JOURNEY**, a closer, returns from a two-month layoff, to the track on which she won a similar sprint for 3yo fillies in April. Looks for her late. **SLY HUMOR** has enough speed to insure an honest pace, as does Emerald Downs ship-in **BETDESILVERGOLD**.

SEVENTH RACE

TATAR should love the hill; he enters this Cal-bred maiden race as "best bet" on the card. Last out, he set a blazing pace in a turf route at Del Mar, battled back in the lane, and ultimately faded to fourth. He did the same thing one race prior. That speed-and-fade pattern around two turns often leads to success in Santa Anita turf sprints, which **TATAR** is trying for the first time. With a front-running or pace-pressing trip, the gelding figures to defeat this group. **VEGAS VIC** ran super last out, albeit on dirt. He finished second as the favorite, but earned a good figure while finishing more than five lengths clear of third. Turf should be okay for the colt, runner-up all three starts. Also-eligible **GOSOFAR** has something the top pair lack. That is, experience on the hill. The nine-start maiden finished second in three successive Cal-bred maiden races on the hill in spring. Threat if he draws into the field. **ACCREDITATION** gets a fairly significant rider switch while shortening from routes. He will fly late.

EIGHTH RACE

Tough to trust a horse dropping off a claim, but veteran **KAFISTER** is the choice nonetheless. A 12-time winner, he was kayoed in a pace battle in his comeback at Del Mar. He dueled and faded in the lane. Claimed for \$32k, he drops immediately to \$20k. That's probably okay. At age 7, he may be slowing down. First start for new connections, over a track on which he is 8-for-16, the honest veteran "should" be good enough to handle this class level. **NARDO** is rounding into form, and dropping from the same \$32k claiming race the top choice exits. He finished in front of **KAFISTER**, and might prefer the Santa Anita surface over Del Mar. **TASUNKE WITCO** raced wide and flattened out as the favorite in his California debut. Not a good effort. But he was claimed by a trainer who is 9-for-25 first off the claim the past year. Improvement is possible. **NATIVE TREASURE** will roll from the back.

NINTH RACE

The 7yo gelding **A RED TIE DAY** is realistically placed in this restricted \$32k claiming turf mile, after racing almost exclusively in stakes company the past year and a half. He is the "class" of the field, and this level makes sense for a veteran on the downslope of his career. **CROWN THE KITTEN** finished close against similar company in his recent starts on grass. He will be rolling late. **BUYMEABOND** was compromised last out by the race shape, and also trouble. The race was dominated by three front-runners; **BOND** rallied from last and was in tight quarters late. Threat from the back of the pack.