



Santa Anita Quick Picks

06/18/22

Race 1 | Turf | 9 Furlongs

#2 Lord Sheldon

They had the confidence to try around two turns on first asking triggering the COMP* with the asterisk indicating a REV was triggered at the same time as the COMP. This natural even energy distribution can translate really well to a surface switch + more distance so great to see the connections read my mind and spring for 9 panels on the grass here.

He can add some value to the exacta boxed to solid Value Plays' Top Contender **#4 Flintmore** and **#8 Rio King** looking to move forward off an early career PLOW.

Win Bet: **2**

Exacta Box: **2** w **4 8**

Race 2 | Dirt | 6 Furlongs

Limited to no data for this event as we get 3 debut runners and 3 experienced runners but all with recency on turf.

#1 Spooky Lady

Trainer/owner are 2 for 2 with debut runners. Had one in April, one in May, now looking for one in June. Gets first jump to flee the rail and slingshot the turn against an unproven field.

#4 Real Fire

Sadler 2nd career starts going turf to dirt good for 29% winners including a recent hot streak of 4 over last 5.

Trainer statistics alone leading you to an exacta that features the likely Top 2 on the tote board is seldom a good wager. Skip.

Race 3 | Dirt | 5 Furlongs

#5 Tom's Regret

97 is a super hot 2F Figure to be popping the gate at on debut. Followed that by shipping to Churchill to beat boys and now returns home. Not sure there's a need to discuss or search for reasons she could regress here or someone else could move forward because at the end of the day, you're going to have to search long and hard to find other juveniles putting up 97 2F Figures so a regression here still wouldn't mean a loss.

Win: **5** at Even money or better

Race 4 | Turf | 6.5 Furlongs

Bit of a suspect group as a whole here with some erratic campaigns while several are being dropped in for a tag for the first time. **#4 Annie's Song** would have to rate the Top Contender here with the speed to control the race while off a good running line against winners although I still don't fully trust her at a short price. Top Contenders at short prices aren't great bets if they're earning that label simply by being the most likely to show up in a questionable field. Skip.

Race 5 | Dirt | 8 Furlongs

#1 So Softly

Looks to move forward 22 days back off a positive conditioning move in a 74/60h NPT. She set a 74 4F Figure routing while none of today's experienced runners have reached that 4F Figure when set down in a sprint. Should be an immediate threat from the rail here and any amount of relaxed pace she seems poised to see here gives her reason to move her Final Figure forward, especially with the foundation of a 63 Final two back. I would consider a win bet at 2/1 or better.

#2 Worthiness

Only runner in here to break a 60 Final on debut and has a right to move forward 2nd out. The NEG pattern isn't ideal for a stretch out in distance but none of these runners are really either as we're looking at cheap maidens. After a slow start on debut, suddenly spurted a fast bullet work out of nowhere so perhaps woken up for second try. Possible to hook up with #1 and melt race down?

#6 Beignet

Not sure I should be messing with a race where the runner slow on two different surfaces while beaten 42 lengths between them shows up as a 2/1 morning line. That must have been one heck of a 5-furlong workout between now and last. To his credit, he is taking the ultimate drop here to face much weaker.

Race 6 | Turf | 6.5 Furlongs

#3 Amy C

Her 4F Figures have been increasing with ever mile try so this might be a good look to let her set down for a shorter spin here.

#7 Bella D

Has one of the best running lines in field's recency for sprinting at 82h/79 and gets some relief now in for a tag after facing stakes runners that moved on to continue stakes tries.

\$3 Trifecta: **37** w **37** w **ALL**

\$2 Trifecta: **37** w **ALL** w **37**

\$1 Trifecta: **ALL** w **37** w **37**

Race 7 | Dirt | 8.5 Furlongs

#1 Lady Mystify

Been all over and tried many different places. Sometimes has the speed to last, sometimes challenged and folds.

#2 Bye Bye Bertie

Has some competitive dirt figures buried in past but overall, best days are on grass.

#3 Blue Stripe

Threat here off the 73h/71 season debut eligible to propel forward as perhaps the only runner that seems certain to run well. Doesn't make her a certain winner here though.

#4 Private Mission

Prompted a big NPT with an "off" Final prompting a break after another forward performance. She was better on March return but still not near her best. Now another 3 months in training, she looks to be back to form and can easily win if finding back to that 74/73h running line which cooks this field. Short price though on an "if".

#5 Midnight Jamboree

While NPTs often promote next out improvement, it's still a conditioning move that involves some stress and when runners can't handle it, they sometimes could regress like this one did 22 days back. He's now eligible to jump forward 2nd off the NPT back to those nicely compressed running lines looking to break that 70 Final Figure for the first time in a bit.

#6 Varda

Used NPT to increase Final Figure while relaxing 4F Figure, the most common positive that comes out of that form cycle pattern. Has never broken a 70 Final though leaving her a bit of ground to make up on these.

Bit of a disappointing Graded Stakes line-up here from a bettor's perspective as most of the field appears "hopeful" to be in good form than they do "certain" to be in good form. Likely skip but could easily take some shots if the public lets any of these go off at a silly price.

Race 8 | Turf | 9 Furlongs

#1 Tiz Plus

In a race filled with runners willing to stay reserved and look to accelerate late off their PLOWs, TDLs, and recent form of having to run further, this might be a decent spot to watch out for the rail runner to get away and attempt a steal after prompting 77/78h at GGX and 78/78 here at SAX in last couple.

#3 Gold Phoenix

Like the durability to be going for 5 consecutive contests without a full break to start career while only runner coming in here off their own Best Lifetime Final Figure. On the uptick and poised to stalk and pounce late.

#7 Planetario

Mandella has had these international shippers in condition to run well enough on first asking stateside to be considered. No split data for Brazilian races so assessment will have to be between looks on the track and the tote board. Re-work bets with him in mind if needed.

Win: **1** at 5/1 or better

Exacta Box: **13**

Race 9 | Dirt | 6.5 Furlongs

#8 Pyeong Chang

Earned an NPT off the bench 60+ days and now returns in less than 30 days. The NPT angle becomes more powerful when these lay-off triggers are met. We hope today's rider learns to be more patient with this one than he usually is.

Win: **8** at 9/5 or better

\$2 Trifecta: **8** w **2** w **ALL**

\$1 Trifecta: **8** w **ALL** w **2**

Race 10 | Turf | 8 Furlongs

#5 Liberal

Always passing late and sporting easily the most consistently large turf spreads of this field.

#8 Count Of Amazonia

Running line a bit lower than normal off the break but did trigger PLOW and was going long for first time in a while so seems eligible now to take a good step forward while owning some past figures that make him really strong here being dropped in against claimers.

Exacta Box: **5** **8**

Race 11 | Dirt | 5 Furlongs

#6 Midnight Lightning

We have no COMP runners to key on here but this one did set a bit better 4F/Final line the rest when improving on 2nd start. Keep in mind it's always good check if the NEG runners were hit with that label honestly or if it came about because the runner was well in control and didn't need to finish with much.

Win: **6** at 3/1 or better

Race 12 | Turf | 8 Furlongs

#1 If Id Told You

Would have liked to see better energy distribution off the TDL but nonetheless, it's not a "next out or bust" type of form cycle pattern and still holds importance as we're coming back to try again now still in the same campaign.

#2 So I'm Told

Needs a good amount of improvement but is young with some positives as a debut winner and looking to spring forward off a PLOW/COMP combo.

#3 Bang For Your Buck

First try at a mile ranked him a 68/76h, good for easily best running line of field's recent spins.

Win: **3** at 5/2 or better

Exacta Box: **3** w **1 2**

Superfectas:

3 w **1 2** w **1 2 4 7 8 9** w **1 2 4 7 8 9**
3 w **1 2 4 7 8 9** w **1 2** w **1 2 4 7 8 9**
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\$12 total (for all 3 tix) per \$0.10 base