## SANTA ANITA, OCTOBER 252018

Only 63 horses running today. Should be easy, right? Yeah, right. Probably not much money to be made today, unless we can dig up a longshot or two.


## First race

Only five horses, and the \#1 is 2-5 a couple of hours before the race. Looks like someone put $\$ 500$ or so on her early. Good idea to check during the day to see if that someone keeps dumping money on her. According to the HorseSheets, she's just number three. Her record at the distance and at Santa Anita is unimpressive; she does have the highest speed rating ATDS, but that was six races back against easier. She's been dropping for her last four races. In her last she did have trouble and was steadied, which counts for something, and she closed okay. She has very little early speed, but neither has anyone else in here. So \#1 may be trying to wire, especially with Tyler up. Trouble is early speed has not been winning races of this kind recently. Plus three of the other horses in here beat her in her last, not a positive sign. With the track hardly open at this time, you'd tend to think that early money came from someone on the backside. Her pattern for the last six races has been two bad races, then a good one. Her last two have been bad, so maybe she's due for a good one. \#2 closed to win her last race, also ATDS. She has the highest speed rating ATDS, but that was over a year ago, and she has evidently never put two wins together. \#4 is third off a layoff, normally a fairly productive angle, but it looks like Baltas was trying to dump her in the last race, and succeeded, to an ofer trainer. \#5 sank to her lowest level in her last, lost, and was claimed, but gets Bejarano today. \#6's only turf race was a disaster, but that was a year ago against much, much tougher, with Talamo up, and she gets the reasonably hot bug for this one. None of them has worked worth a damn since their last race, so it pretty much all boils down to a crapshoot. In that case, I generally trust The HorseSheet's picks, which would be the \#2 and \#5. Don't like horses to win two in a row at this level, so I would probably go with \#5 to close on whoever is in front. Probably won't pay anything, however, with Bejarano up.

PICK: A shaky \#5. Or \#1, if the backside is right. Or everyone. Or no one. Daily double: VERY shaky 5,1 with the 2,3,1. (Which might pay \$11 the best way, so foggeddaaboudit.)
Update: came in 5, 4, 2, 1


## SECOND RACE

Well, that was fun. Way too much time spent on an unpredictable race. Anyway, moving on to the second, a 50 k maiden mile on the dirt, which none of these have ever run. Whoopee. \#1 got away pretty quickly from the five-hole in her last. Today she switches to Desormeaux for Desormeaux. Don't think she ran her race in her last; rail is winning at $27 \%$ ATDS, so she has a shot. Everyone's favorite, \#2, has put two good races together without a win, and has a good work since her last. She's also a BTL horse, a very productive angle. Desormeaux moves to his brother's horse, the \#1. \#3 drops a little, puts on the blinkers, and comes in from Del Mar after a two-month layoff, with some excellent works at Santa Anita. \#4 ran a pretty bad race at $6 f$ in her last, but she's bred to route; not crazy about the connections, but that may just be me. \#5 didn't run that well at Del Mar in her only two races, with no excuses; she also has had good works since. \#6 tried to spurt away from the one-hole in her last, a 5.5 f dirt sprint at Del Mar, and went to sleep halfway; she has had some okay works since. Upshot: Here's another one where I'll trust The Fat Cowboy's picks, but maidens are always unpredictable unless you have a huge angle to work with, especially when none have run 1) at this track, or 2 ) at this distance, or 3 ) recently

PICK: \#2 to close on whoever's in front. Which will probably be the \#3 or, if the horse and Desormeaux feel good, maybe the \#1.

UPDATE: came in 3,5,2. \$2 double paid \$30. For some unknown reason Van Dyke tried to wire the field with \#2, and the \#3 closed on him to win. Should have been the other way around, but what the heck. You never know with maidens, jockeys, trainers, and ex-wives.


## Third Race

Kind of an interesting race. \#1 appears to be the early speed, and could wire. However, there are six other early speed horses and only one good closer, the \#3, whose numbers don't really add up; that's why he's 15-1 on the morning line even though he's an honest $3^{\text {rd }}$ highest speed average in his last three races. Of course, this is run on that crazy $6.5 f$ turf course at Santa Anita, where they come out running downhill. So early speed figures can be deceiving. Taking a closer look, the \#1's early speed has almost all come in routes. However, she has run this course at least twice in the past: won one, placed in the other one, and showed really good early speed. \#2, also a route horse, has also won at this distance: five races ago, closing. \#3, an 8 -year-old, does not look capable of winning today. \#4 is very quick, moving from the 7 -hole, and basically wired the field ATDS in his last against somewhat easier. \#5 drops in class today, gets new very good connections, has the right running style for this, but has never run here on this 6.5 f course. He is $5-2$ on the morning line due to his connections and cutting his class in half, which doesn't make him a shoo-in. \#6 is a decent closer, but may not be able to keep up with the rest of these unless the early speed dies. the \#7 has only been on the turf once in his life, with unsatisfactory results; can't see him doing much here. The \#8 has run this course four times against slightly better, winning two of them by closing. Pretty sure the \#1 will be gunning for the lead, maybe with \#4 running right with him. After that it kind of turns into a tossup. At this distance and surface (ATDS) early speed is king, so with no one providing a serious challenge, the \#1 may last. I'll probably look at the \#4, \#2, and \#8 to close on him.

PICK: \#1 TO WIRE. 4, 2, 8, 5 try to catch him. Maybe a 1,4 exacta box if you're nuts? Or maybe even a 1,4,5 ? Nah. I don't do exactas.
UPDATE: Came $5,4,2,6,1$. \#5 paid $\$ 5.40$. Double paid $\$ 21$. Exacta paid $\$ 13$. Pick 3 paid $\$ 28$. \#1 tried his best to wire, but gave it up at the top of the stretch. Phooey. Didn't like the \#5 pretty much out of spite, but he was a huge class dropper with terrific connections who had never run ATDS at Santa Anita. Mea Culpa.
(Warned you this wasn't going to be a big payoff day.)


## Fourth Race

$6.5 f$ on the dirt, with 5 runners. A challenge. They all have about the same running style, they all run at about the same speed, and they are all in about the same class. \#1 is Baffert and Talamo, coming off a 77-day layoff, with slightly the best average speed at this distance and surface. They're all closers, with the \#2, who has won 2 in a row, being slightly the best closer of the bunch. Problem is, \#2 is also the quickest horse of the bunch. So... quickest and best closer: that usually says winner winner chicken dinner. 2 also had the best last TOTAL PACE, with the \#4 and \#6; 2 and 6 won, the \#4 came in third and was claimed for $\$ 62.5 \mathrm{k}$. So what do you do with five evenly matched horses? Because I don't like horses to win 2 in a row except at higher levels, and certainly don't expect them to win three in a row, I would ordinarily have thrown out the \#2, but since he's obviously the quickest (look at CALL1 and CALL2) and won his last by a wide margin (a Big Win) I'll go against the cowboy and take him.

PICK: \#2 to wire; \#6 or \#4 (BEST PACE LAST) to try and catch him


## Race Five

Seven furlongs on the dirt for 20 k maiden claimers. Looking at the class droppers first, we find \#11 is dropping like an anvil, from two 60 k maiden stakes races, one on dirt and the last on turf, at Del Mar; her works are okay here, and so are her connections. She also has excellent early speed for this class. Only problem: she cost $\$ 100 \mathrm{k}$ and is now being offered for 20 k . Hmmm. Gotta hate that. The \#9 and \#10 have been running against much tougher with no success at all. On to the rest. \#6 and \# 12 are putting on the blinkers, while \#8 is taking them off. 6 , 7 , and 11 are pretty much on top in the AVG SPD column. The \#1, however, has had one standout race ATDS here, from the 7-hole on a wet/fast track against similar company four races back. \#6 ran a good enough race to win this one two back, then was moved up in class and put on the turf with unsatisfactory results. So we'll figure the \#6 and \#11 and maybe even the \#1 will do their best to wire the field, and one of them may succeed. In that case, we'd like to find a closer who has shown some speed and spunk, but l'm having trouble doing that. So how about an immense longshot, just for fun? The \#8, who has run like a piggy in all of her races so far, now sheds the blinkers for a trainer who is pretty good at that angle, and is third off a layoff. What do you think? I think I'll at least have her to show, at 30 to 1 or higher, and may have her elsewhere, too. Hey, we're out here to have fun, aren't we?

PICKS: 6, 11, 1,8 That ought to get your juices flowing.
UPDATE: Came in $11,12,7,6$. The pick 5 paid $\$ 225$, but everything else was very mediocre, including the $\$ 3.60$ payoff for the \#11.


## Race Six










 with the AVG SPD column in here, with preference to \#4, realizing the \#7 could show us some surprising early speed.

PICK: \#4. He's had his chances; this may be his day. He may be chasing a surprising \#7, whom I hope he catches


## Race Seven.

A 6 f 16 k handicap stakes race for California fillies and mares. The horse that immediately leaps off the page here is the \#5, tops in all the last four categories. Usually that can mean a single. We'll see. If she matches her last race she'll open up a can of you know what on these other horses, but the question is: will she match her last race? \#1 is a kind of a closer who's been running against good quality horses without much luck at the big tracks (won at Sacramento and at Los Al thoroughbreds). Puts blinkers back on. \#2 has run some nice races, including a win at a race similar to this 3 back, switches to Blanc. \#3 hasn't been winning against cheaper. \#4 drops after getting pounded at a mile here in his last against better. Bejarano gives the mount back to Tiago, who has ridden her considerably better, making her a valid contender. Our \#5 ran that big race two months ago at Del Mar in a 6k dirt race against cheaper. She was claimed out of that race from a pretty good trainer to one who is 41 wins out of 386 lifetime starts, and 0 for 0 this season at Santa Anita. Not a really good move, I'm thinking. She has run okay here earlier in the year, but I'm afraid she's just not my cup of tea today. The \#6 comes off a 54 day layoff from Del Mar. She won two of her last three, but without impressive speed figures. The \#7 won her last race six back here at $6.5 f$ against better, and drops off of two pretty poor races against better for this. So... \#3 will probably show early speed and die again. \#5, 2 and $\# 7$ may be right with - or ahead - of her, depending on what the jockey's decide to do. \#6 and \#4 will come late to pick up the pieces. The question mark is the \#5, who could get in front and lead them all a merry chase, but I'm going to let her beat me if she can.

PICK: \#4. With \#6, \#7, or maybe anyone.


Race Eight


 win l'll take either the \#9 or \#10, whoever has the higher odds.

PICK: \#1 or \#9, whichever has the highest odds. \#7 and/or \#10 might be in there somewhere.

8.066 Bonneville S>R D>T Flashed speed. *Pressed pace from $\begin{aligned} & 1 \text {-hole.BTL horse. 1st off } 63 \text { day layoff. }\end{aligned}$

8.022 PEACH COVE RスR T>T Flashed speed. Made big overall move $\begin{gathered}\text { (4). Class } \theta \text { Finished } 1 \text { from post } 8\end{gathered}$


## $\begin{array}{llllllllllllllll}63 & 1 & 74 & 10 & 63 & 1 & 88 & 84 & 5.7 & 6.0 & 1.0 & 8.6 & 10.0 & 0.9 & 89 & 98 \\ 82 & 80,85,80,78,65\end{array}$

$\begin{array}{lllllllllllllll}79 & 9 & 79 & 18 & 79 & 18 & 81 & 97 & 4.8 & 4.3 & 1.1 & 4.8 & 4.3 & 1.1 & 70 \\ 67 & 88 & 77,76,86,77,81\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllll}83 & 7 & 82 & 10 & 83 & 7 & 83 & 97 & 5.9 & 3.7 & 1.6 & 5.2 & 2.5 & 2.1 & 70 & 69 \\ 89 & 79,79,81,86,77\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllll}81 & 8 & 80 & 10 & 81 & 9 & 86 & 93 & 5.3 & 3.3 & 1.6 & 5.0 & 2.8 & 1.8 & 72 & 72 \\ 81 & 78,78,83,78,81\end{array}$ 5-hole. Uncharacteristic race? Clear
early. .class a Finished 2 from post 5
TJW= 59











2-hole. Made big overall move (4).
*Stretch gain (1). BrL horse *Stretch gain (1). BTL horse. 1st off 53
day layotf. Class -5 Finished 2 from
post 2 TTW 68 day layoff. Class
post 2 TJW= 68

-hole. Clear early. Class -5 Finished 1
from post 7 TJW= 48
 day layoff. Class $\theta$ Finished 8 from post
8 TJW $=52$
 ${ }_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{T} W=50} \mathrm{E}$. $\mathrm{Class} \theta$ Finished 3 from post 4


 Stalked pace; no rally

$11 \mathrm{~S} \quad 0 \quad 0.0307 .5$

- 15.00179 LA $4.0 \mathrm{~A} \times \mathrm{C} \quad 0.0116100 .9 \quad 0 \quad 0$

Stalked pace; no rally/
talked raili;weakened
stwn 2nd turn) tueno bid
Btw
tur Came out str; ;up 2nd
3wd str; wkened late 3wd str; ;kkned late
Brk out; ;impd; angld out Came out str;up wire/
Saved ground; no rally

DATE TRK \# DT PP PRG horse SRR SUR notes from last race


6.544 STONE $\quad$ S $>5$ D>D $\begin{aligned} & \text { from post } 3 \text { TJTh }=85 \\ & \text { Flashed speed. Made big overall move } \\ & \text { (3). 1st off }\end{aligned}$
6.533 STPEET STS Finished 3 from post 6 TJWh 56
6.533 STREET S 55 Dorse. 1st off 49 day layoff. Class 5

6.511 LOOKIE LOO R>S D>D Finished 2 from post 3 TJW= 24 5 -hole. Uncharacteristic Pace from | WATCH:UTL |
| :--- |
| horse. Clear early. 1 st off |
| day layof | day layoff. Class -5 Finished 2 from

post 5 TJW $=90$
Flashed speed. *Pressed Pace from
6.522 AWESOME S>S D>D Flashed speed. *Pressed Pace from $\begin{aligned} & \text { 7-hole. Clear early. Class } \theta \text { Finished }\end{aligned}$


$\begin{array}{lllllllllllllll}93 & 9 & 93 & 10 & 93 & 10 & 98 & 86 & 4.3 & 4.1 & 1.0 & 4.3 & 4.1 & 1.0 & 93 \\ 99 & 91 & 95,89,92,98,99\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lllllllllllllll}92 & 9 & 91 & 10 & 92 & 9 & 89 & 86 & 4.5 & 3.8 & 1.2 & 4.6 & 3.3 & 1.4 & 89 \\ 95 & 88 & 88,95,94,92,91\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lllllllllllllllll}95 & 2 & 92 & 6 & 92 & 3 & 85 & 85 & 3.8 & 3.0 & 1.3 & 3.6 & 2.4 & 1.5 & 88 & 94 & 86 \\ 94,87,95,94,96\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llllllllllllllll}89 & 8 & 88 & 10 & 89 & 9 & 96 & 86 & 4.4 & 2.9 & 1.5 & 4.8 & 2.4 & 1.7 & 93 & 100 \\ 92 & 97,94,78,89,86\end{array}$





 $19 \mathrm{E} / \mathrm{P} \quad 5 \quad 21.9 \quad 44.8 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad 2.50148 \mathrm{SA} \quad 6.5$ A0>A $\quad 22.7134105 .6 \quad 193 \quad 285$ 4wd; 3 wd ;cleared/Roused 2w; rallied; drvg/ Trailed


DATE TRK \# DT PP PRG HORSE SRR SUR notes from last race Flashed speed. *Pressed Pace from

8.066 SHADOW RスR T>T Flashed speed. *Pressed Pace from $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6-hole. Uncharacteristic } \\ & \text { Frace? } \\ & \text { Finished }\end{aligned}$



( $\begin{aligned} & \text { one pattern. Class } \theta \text { Finished } 6 \text { from } \\ & \text { post } 4 \text { TTW }=66\end{aligned}$

8.022 Norvo $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { (1.5). BTL horse. } 1 \text { st off } 74 \text { day layoff. } \\ & \text { Class } 30 \text { Finished } 2 \text { from post } 4 \text { TWW= } 67\end{aligned}$


ASP
110 RX SPD R\# TDS AVT S1 S2 SYS

$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllll}83 & 5 & 78 & 10 & 84 & 6 & 80 & 98 & 5.2 & 5.1 & 1.0 & 3.6 & 4.9 & 0.7 & 75 & 70 \\ 86 & 84,89,91,55,86\end{array}$

$\begin{array}{lllllllllllllllll}80 & 1 & 83 & 7 & 80 & 1 & 93 & 57 & 3.8 & 3.0 & 1.3 & 4.0 & 4.8 & 1.0 & 91 & 96 & 87 \\ 89 & 83,85,81,83\end{array}$

DSLR
dsLr bris P Calli call2 meds equip mline cls trk dis chng sppnt pwr comb pact pace tas
 Inside;dueled;outkickd/
5wd into str; $;$ outkicked/ 5wd into str; outkicked/
3wd into satr; no bid










$\begin{array}{lll}6.0 & 77 \text { SLY HUMOR S S D D D }\end{array}$

$\begin{array}{lllllllllllllll}84 & 82 & 10 & 84 & 9 & 89 & 80 & 4.3 & 4.7 & 0.9 & 4.2 & 3.8 & 1.1 & 91 & 95\end{array} 7981,63,89,82,79$

 5-hole. *Stretch gain (1.37). Fast last
race (15).BTL horse. 1 st off 60 day
race (15). BTL horse. 1st off 60 day
layoff. Class -35 Finished 2 from post 5
TW= 53
066 DURANGA S>S D>D Flashed speed. *Pressed Pace from (12). Uncharacteristic early speed?
WATch! 1st off 54 day layoff. Class 28


DSLR BRIS P CALL1 CALL2 MEDS Eequip Mline cls trk dis chng sppnt pur comb $\begin{gathered}\text { ERLY tott } \\ \text { PACE PACL } \\ \text { Totl } \\ \text { LAS }\end{gathered}$







 Swd into str; led; clear/
Came out str; rallied
 Re-rallied; $4 w ;$ led $3 / 16$

DATE TRK \# DT PP PRG HORSE SRR SUR $\quad$ NOTES RROM LAST RACE



$\underset{\substack{\text { pattern. } \\ \text { TJW } \\ \text { 43 }}}{ }$

 ERR 0 ERR 0 ERR 057 - 9 ERR ERR ERR ERR ERR

e, $, 0,0, \theta$ $\theta, \theta, \theta, \theta, \theta$ $56,62,25, \theta, 0$

ERLY TOTL
PCAE PACE
TOTL
dSLR bris P Calli call2 meds equip muine cis trk dis chng sppnt pwr comb pace pace

 $\begin{array}{llllllllll}12 & \mathrm{NA} & 0 & 0 & 2.4 & 0 & & 0\end{array}$
,
6.566 MONaCo S>S D>T 1st off 35 day layoff. Class - 20
 (5.75). Big late move ( 5.75 ). . Class
Finished 5 from post 2 TJW= 45




11-hole. *Stretch gain (1). Fast last
race (11). 2 races in one pattern. Class
5 Finished 2 from post 11 TJW= 53





$\qquad$ gnnd; willingly/ Re-bid
3wd oute
 Saved ground; no rally/
5wd into strjweakened/
Tnside lost whin $3 / 16$
 $27 \mathrm{P} \quad 2$
 led; steadied $6-1 / 2 / 2$ pace; gave way
3ud into str; willingly/
chased bturn ;io bid/ Chased btwn nno bidd
Ins7/16; $4 \mathrm{ww} / 16 ; 5 \mathrm{Fw} / 4$

