THE PICK 4 MATRIX
featuring the Santa Anita Late P4
&
the Golden Hour P4

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10/28/2022

*NOTE: Because this analysis is posted in advance, always check my Twitter feed **@ScatoniSureShot** for real-time updates based on scratches and track conditions—as this analysis is written for surfaces that are fast and firm. Thanks!*

INTRO
We're back for the penultimate week of racing at the Great Race Place. It's been tough sledding so far this meet: we've caught some really nice prices and cashed some decent win bets, but we haven't been able to connect the dots on anything meaningful just yet in the multi-race wagers, getting blown up by a couple of impossible horses. Still, we persevere…and today's a new day. We've got a decent 9-race card at Santa Anita (Late P4: R6-R9), and an 8-race card at the Gate, where the last two races of the day could certainly spice things up in the low-takeout $1 Golden Hour P4 (SA8/GG7/SA9/GG8).

SA LATE P4 LEG 1 (SA R6):
We start today's Late P4 with a $50K optional-claiming/$50K starter-allowance for 2-year-old fillies going 6-furlongs on the main track.

     #1 IT'S SAUL RIGHT (6/1) was 7/10 against a few of these last time at the $32K/N2L level, and she ran an even third. She was claimed out of that race by a trainer who has done excellent work of late with his new runners, but this gal will now have to turn the tables on the foes who just beat her, while also facing some new runners who might be a tad bit classier. GRADE: C.

     #2 SMOKIN AMELIA (8/1) was 2/1 in that same conditional-claimer as the rail horse, and she ran second after attending the pace (and having a little bit of trouble). I don't like that she lacked the necessary oomph last time, despite getting a 7-pound weight-break, but at least she keeps that advantage today if you're a believer. GRADE: C.

     #3 SMILING PRINCESS (5/2) was 5/1 in that same conditional-claimer, but she emerged victorious with a perfect stalking trip. She draws outside those same foes yet again, so she'll have every chance to beat them right back—but I'm not sure how strong that race was, and there are some classier looking foes drawn outside of her today. That said, she is the only runner in the field with two wins, hence she'll run for the $50K tag. GRADE: C.

     #4 SMOKEM FOR YOU (12/1) broke her maiden at the Cal-bred $50K level at Del Mar, despite having to break from the rail, so that was a pretty nice effort—but it was a pretty slow race, and now she has to face winners for the first time. GRADE: X.

#5 BIZZY GAL (12/1), the first Miller entrant, just broke her maiden at Los Al in wire fashion over a speed-friendly track. She was supposed to win as the 9/5 favorite, so we'll see how she does against winners today while moving to the big-girl circuit. GRADE: B.

#6 REIGN SONG (8/1) stalked and pounced to get her maiden victory against Cal-bred $50K foes last time as the 4/5 favorite. It was a decent effort, but it came at Los Al against a pretty weak field. Before that, she lost to the rail horse, and way before that, she lost to a few of the others. GRADE: C.

#7 SILVER LIGHTENING (3/1) gets the reluctant nod as the new face in the crowd, coming off an August layoff after running fourth at this level at Del Mar at 5/2. She had to break from the dreaded rail that day, so I'm willing to toss that effort (especially since she had a little bit of trouble). Before that, she looked good breaking her maiden with a professional stalk-and-pounce performance. A repeat of that would make her tough in here. GRADE: A.

#8 FUNKHOUSER (3/1), the second Miller, dropped into a maiden-claimer last time and dominated nine other $32K foes, winning wire to wire at Del Mar. She was claimed out of that race by Miller, who is terrific off the claim. This gal has sharp speed and is drawn outside, making her very dangerous today. She's not just for *Curb Your Enthusiasm* fans! GRADE: A.

SA LATE P4 LEG 2 (SA R7):

Today's second leg is a Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 6-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 30-feet. I had a hard time with this race, since no one in here stood out to me.

#1 TRUE PATRIOT (6/1), the first Gaines entrant, is a 3-year-old who just broke her maiden at Del Mar over the summer, tracking the pace inside before tipping out and powering home to win easily in a one-mile turf race against eight other maidens. It was a nice effort, but she now cuts back to 6-furlongs, and that might be too short for her (as evidenced by her debut and second start). GRADE: C.

#2 THE GREAT HAYNES (4/1) makes the third start of her form cycle, so she should be sitting on a peak effort, but she'll have to be, since her last two races were just *meh.* Two back, she was 8/1 at this level at Del Mar, and she was no good after a bit of a tough start—and that's when Mathis was winning everything at Del Mar. She also seems a bit camera-shy even when she runs her best races. GRADE: B.

#3 QUEEN MOLOTOV (2/1) was 22/1 at this level last time at Del Mar, and she ran an even third. She'll need to do better today, but at least Vazquez sticks around, so that has to count for something. GRADE: B.

#4 ENSLEYS DREAM (6/1) has been double-digits in each of her turf sprints at this level—and she ran to those long odds. That said, she does have sharp early speed and a good jock, so she should be in contention turning for home. Then we'll see what happens. GRADE: C.

#5 LILLY BABE (12/1) has gone the wrong way since coming off a long layoff three back and just missing at this level while racing on dirt. Her subsequent races weren't nearly as good, also on dirt. Mulhall will now look to shake things up by moving her to turf, and I'm not sure that's going to help all that much. GRADE: C.

#6 EXACTLY WENDY (8/1) is a 3-year-old who is coming off a brief freshening after getting pasted in a one-mile turf race at this level. She has one try at this distance, and that resulted in a closing third at 3/1 when she squared off against nine other maidens in her second career start. Maybe she can run on late for a slice today. GRADE: C.

#7 QUEEN OF POMPEII (6/1), the second Gaines runner, gets the reluctant nod in here, even though she's had quite a few tries at this level—though I'm going to choose to focus on just one of those tries: a second-place finish at today's distance three back, when she had trouble but still finished up

well. She took some money that day, so her connections must think she's a better turf-sprinter than a router, so I'm going to toss her two poor route races at Del Mar. GRADE: A.

#8 D'S LOVELY SOPHIA (6/1) is a good exotics horse, since she rarely runs a bad race, but she's tough to back with any confidence, since she's been trying to clear this level on turf for a very long time. On the plus side, she catches a fairly weak group for the level, so if she's ever going to win in a spot like this, then today would be the day. GRADE: B.

#9 LA DEUXIEME ETOILE (10/1) (AE) needed nine tries to break her maiden, which she finally did last time going a mile at Del Mar, wiring the field at 5/2. She should be fine on the cutback, but she's likely looking at a wide journey today, and that is going to pose a problem for this sophomore. GRADE: C.

#10 ESSENTIAL BUSINESS (8/1) (AE) is a 3-year-old who has been double-digit odds all three times at this level, which is odd considering her trainer wins a ton of these kinds of races. Two back, she faced males and wasn't disgraced, but last time down the hill, she finished behind a few of these (albeit with some trouble). GRADE: C.

#11 SUNSHINE BABE (10/1) (AE) has been stuck at this level for a while now, and that's mostly because she's a one-paced grinder who just kind of runs along with the pack. She'll need the right race shape, but maybe she can clunk up for third. GRADE: X.

#12 BIG BEAUTY (8/5) (AE) is the winner if she gets in, but how likely is that? She's versatile, and she's been knocking on the door at this level ever since Sadler took over training duties. GRADE: A.

SA LATE P4 LEG 3/GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 1 (SA R8):
Today's third leg—a $16K/N2L conditional-claimer contested at 8-furlongs on the main track—is also the first leg of the Golden Hour Pick 4, so it's a key race in both sequences. Unfortunately, we are dealing with some really unreliable beasts!

#1 STATE OF THE UNION (15/1) gets class relief and stretches back out in his second start for a new trainer, so he could easily perk up today—but is this sophomore fast enough to win this? He seems awfully slow on paper. GRADE: C.

#2 SIPPIN N KISSIN (8/1) took a while to break his maiden, which he finally did last time at Los Al, beating $20K foes with the benefit of a 10-pound weight-break. He keeps that advantage today, but I'm fine watching one in his first try versus winners. GRADE: C.

#3 GUEST CHECK (12/1) just broke his maiden at Canterbury for $7,500. This is a long way from Minnesota, so I'm fine letting this one beat me. GRADE: X.

#4 GRANADA FLAVOR (5/2) looks like the one to beat. He's in good form, and he's run second at this level twice before, just missing last time as the 2/1 favorite. He's a bit of a grinder, so Berrios will have to stay busy on him. GRADE: A.

#5 MAYNARD (3/1) got the job done last time against $20K maidens as the 2/1 favorite, grinding away after getting a favorable set-up. He'll be grinding away again today. GRADE: B.

#6 ECONOMICAL (4/1) ran third at this level last time, setting the pace and weakening late, getting overtaken by Granada Flavor. He'll need to do better today, but I think he can with a good stalking journey in a race that doesn't have much speed. GRADE: B.

#7 SOCAL RED (15/1) is a 3-year-old who drops to this level for the first time after finding starter foes too much for him. His race two back is fast enough to win this, but he lacks early speed, and he's going to need an aggressive ride to stay in the hunt today. Still, there are no world-beaters in here. GRADE: B.

#8 MONGOLIAN FORD (3/1) should get a good stalking trip while racing in the clear. He's also coming off a freshening and dropping to this low level for the first time after running a mixed bag of races against starter foes. His best is easily good enough. GRADE: A.

SA LATE P4 LEG 4/GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 3 (SA R9):

We end the Santa Anita card (and pick back up in the Golden Hour P4 with Leg 3 of that bet) with a $50K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 30-feet.

#1 ANNAGHLASA (IRE) (7/2), the first D'Amato entrant, ran good enough to almost clear this hurdle earlier in the year. She's been off since March, but if she's matured at all, she's going to be very tough—and you know D'Amato can bring them back ready to run. GRADE: A.

#2 EMERALD LAKE (4/1) was the 3/1 favorite at this level last time, and she was a total brat who got herself into trouble. She can do better today, but this 3-year-old is a Cal-bred who will need to run a career best to beat this group. GRADE: C.

#3 AGREETODISAGREE (12/1) is a pretty honest sort who usually runs her race—and that race was good enough to beat starter foes, but her two tries against N1X company were a bit lacking. They weren't terrible, however, so she's usable in your exotics, but she often finds trouble, since she likes to come from off the pace of late. GRADE :B.

#4 BUZZ OF NEW YORK (IRE) (3/1), the second D'Amato, is sure to take money, coming off a second-place finish at this level as the 5/2 favorite. She ran well enough, but she's a bit of a grinder who will need to do a little better today if she's going to beat her stablemate. GRADE: B.

#5 GILLIAN ELIZABETH (7/2), the first Gaines trainee, is in pretty good form, so she's a contender in here, stretching back out after running on late in a downhill event where she was sent off as the 2/1 favorite at this level. Her mile races are better, so she can easily step up today with more distance. GRADE: B.

#6 FORTUNATA TENSIO (15/1) is a 3-year-old who couldn't beat her own age group at Del Mar, and now she has to face older foes. I'm okay watching one. GRADE: X.

#7 GLENALL (IRE) (8/1) was a top pick for me two back at Del Mar, and she ran well to finish second at 9/1. That said, she was facing fellow sophomores, and she drew the cushy one post. The waters get deeper for her today, facing older foes and moving outside. GRADE: C.

#8 SPEED LANE (10/1) should run a big one, making the second start of her form cycle and stretching out for a hot trainer. Top turf jock Rispoli takes the call, adding to the appeal. GRADE: A.

#9 BARRISTER'S RIDE (15/1), the second Gaines runner, is a 3-year-old who ran really well in the Solana Beach at Del Mar, running on strongly late to finish third, but she couldn't back that up in her next race, where she was well-beaten at this level. Maybe she didn't like the 9-panels, so the cutback could help her cause today. She should be flying late, but I don't think it will be enough. GRADE: C.

#10 DENDERA (8/1) (AE) is a 3-year-old who has run a mixed bag of races at this N1X level, both against her own age group and open foes, so we'll see what kind of effort she puts forth today, especially since this Cal-bred is going to have to work out a trip from this outside post. GRADE: C.

#11 LADY JAE (6/1) (AE) was 7/2 at this level and distance last time, and she was no good, though she did have some trouble. I'm not sure why she took so much money in that race, since she is a Cal-bred whose best work had come against much weaker foes. She's also looking at a wide journey today. GRADE: X.

#12 SHARED FUTURE (20/1) (AE) will move to the turf after failing to get the job done at this level and against age-restricted claimers while racing on dirt. I'm not sure that's going to help her all that much, considering her one turf try was no good. GRADE: X.

GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 2 (GG R7):

Let's move to the Gate for the second leg of the Golden Hour P4 (GG R7): a very tough $25K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 9-furlongs on the main synthetic track. Let's play this fun game: spot the proper N1X allowance horse! (Admittedly, this is tougher than finding Waldo!)

#1 NAVY QUEEN (15/1) runs for the $25K tag today after failing multiple times running against protected N1X foes on the turf. She'll appreciate a move back to the synth, but her best work has come with forwardly placed trips against restricted claimers. She'll have to go from the rail, and that's likely to take its toll on her late. GRADE: X.

#2 DAMN THE TORPEDOES (6/1) runs for the $25K tag today, since she's already cleared this N1X hurdle, so she could be considered a proper allowance horse—but she has been racing almost exclusively around one turn, so is she going to be able to stay 9-furlongs today while exiting much shorter races? If she can, she's a contender, but that's a big *if.* GRADE: C.

#3 IMPERIAL CREED (2/1) looks like the one to beat. She just won easily going 9-furlongs against starter foes, while before that, she found a mile too short for her at this very same level. She's in for the $25K tag because she's won at this level before, and she projects to get a good stalking trip. GRADE: A.

#4 MISS MIA (5/1) just wired starter foes going a mile. It was a sharp effort, but she was allowed an easy lead through slow splits. The waters get deeper today for this sophomore. GRADE: X.

#5 VRONSKY FEINT (8/1) seems pretty honest: a grinder who runs along late to pick up some small checks, but she's going to need a big leap forward for the W, especially since her outside neighbor pretty much owns her. Unless you think she's going to excel with more ground (which she might), she's probably looking at another minor award. GRADE: X.

#6 VINCERO GRANDE (3/1) has owned her inside neighbor, and she's likely to do so yet again, though it should be noted that this gal is not running for the tag today, so she's carrying a high-weight of 125-pounds, and that's a heavy impost for a 3-year-old against older runners. Her best work has come on synth, so she'll appreciate a return to the main track, but I can see her launching a late rally and coming up just short under such a heavy weight. I'm going to try and take her on because of that. GRADE: C.

#7 SACRED BEAUTY (15/1) has a few wins at the starter level, but she tried N1X foes last time for the first time and was well-beaten at 8/1. Granted, it was on turf, and this gal much prefers the synth, so she can bounce back with a much better effort today—and it's nice to see top rider Terrero keep the faith. She'll have to show she belongs with N1X company, however, but I'm willing to pay to find out. GRADE: A.

#8 MAGICAL THOUGHT (4/1) somehow got in trouble last time despite racing in a 5-horse field, so it's no surprise that we see a jock change today as this gal will try to turn the tables on Imperial Creed, who won that race at 4/5 while this gal was 3/1. At least you know she can stay the distance, and she can sit a good stalking trip from this outside post. GRADE: B.

GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 4 (GG R8):

We close out the Golden Hour P4 with a tough low-level $8K maiden-claimer contested at 6-furlongs on the main synthetic track. I had a very hard time with this race, since there were so many droppers who look bad on paper but who should wake up on the drop. Which one will wake up the most though? Throw a dart!

#1 RESERVENOTMET (4/1) drops in class, goes turf to dirt, and route to sprint for a trainer who excels at all of those moves. GRADE: B.

#2 TIGER'S ARROW (15/1), the first Baker entrant, showed speed at this level last time when going a mile on the dirt, so you know he'll be fit today, cutting back and making the third start of his form cycle. He's also getting a 10-pound weight-break, so he seems like a good exotics horse. Can he get the W? Well, he was favored at this level last time, so someone thinks he can run. GRADE: B.

#3 AFRICAN PRINCE (15/1) was 13/1 last time at this level, and he was well-beaten in a one-mile race on the dirt at Fresno. Before that, he was double-digits at this level (and lower) while sprinting on the synth, and he failed to make an impact. Note he races with hind shoes off. GRADE: X.

#4 MACHO CHROME (5/1) was favored against much tougher maidens last time in a one-mile off-the-turf affair. He ran half a race. Before that, his sprint races on turf and dirt weren't half bad, including a third-place finish in his debut at this $8K level, where he showed speed and weakened. He'll get a good stalking trip, and he's a contender. GRADE: B.

#5 EYE CANDY RANDY (4/1) looks to be sitting on a peak effort, making the second start of his form cycle and dropping to the near-bottom after showing good early speed against much tougher MSWs last time in his first synth start. GRADE: A.

#6 INFERNAL TIGER (3/1) was 7/1 against $12.5K foes last time, and he stalked the pace before weakening and finishing fourth. The hood comes off, so maybe that will help his cause, but he's raced without blinkers before, to no avail. That said, Ayuso stays put, so it wouldn't shock me if this one showed up today. GRADE: B.

#7 BIG STUFF (6/1) was not happy at Del Mar when he debuted going long on the dirt for Mullins against $20K maidens. His breeding suggests a move to the synth should be what the good doctor ordered—and Mathis is deadly on the drop and with his new acquisitions. GRADE: A.

#8 TIGERINTHETANK (15/1) moves from a high-percentage barn to a below-average barn, so I'll take that as a negative, especially since this one was well-beaten last time in his debut at an even lower level. He does get a 10-pound weight-break, however, if you think that will help. GRADE: X.

#9 OMMANEY BAY (5/1), the second Baker runner, was 9/1 against lesser foes last time at Fresno, and he got a good trip but weakened to finish fourth. He'll need to do better today, especially since he's failed a few times at this level before. Back in March, he ran second as a waiver-claim at this level, but he was 35/1. GRADE: C.

SANTA ANITA LATE P4 MATRIX (SA6 through SA9)
Keep in mind: I don't add "Also Eligibles" to the Matrix, so if they draw in, be sure to include them on all of your tickets!

SAP4	A	B	C
Leg 1	7,8	5	1,2,3,6
Leg 2	7	2,3,8	1,4,5,6
Leg 3	4,8	5,6,7	1,2
Leg 4	1,8	3,4,5	2,7,9

GOLDEN HOUR P4 MATRIX (SA8; GG7; SA9; GG8)
Keep in mind: I don't add "Also Eligibles" to the Matrix, so if they draw in, be sure to include them on all of your tickets!

GHP4	A	B	C
Leg 1	4,8	5,6,7	1,2
Leg 2	3,7	8	2,6
Leg 3	1,8	3,4,5	2,7,9
Leg 4	5,7	1,2,4,6	9