



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

By Frank R. Scatoni

(follow on Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](https://twitter.com/ScatoniSureShot) and also visit [@OptixEQ](https://twitter.com/OptixEQ))

11/4/2022

NOTE: Because this analysis is posted in advance, always check my Twitter feed [@ScatoniSureShot](https://twitter.com/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 finally got back on the good foot last Saturday, as our A-B-A-A matrix combo connected for \$928, and we followed that up on Sunday with an A-A-B-B combo paying \$135.30—not bad, making more than a dime in two days. Let's see if we can keep the good momentum going on this excellent weekend of racing. If you've been living under a rock, here's a reminder: today and tomorrow at Keeneland is the Breeders' Cup! But first things first: a sweet 10-race card at Santa Anita and a nine-race card at Golden Gate highlight Friday's California action. The SA Late P4 is R7-R10, while the low-takeout \$1 Golden Hour P4 consists of the following races: SA9/GG8/SA10/GG9. Oh, and one more thing: special early first post of 12:30 p.m. today for Santa Anita and 1:15 p.m. for Golden Gate.

SA LATE P4 LEG 1 (SA R7):

We start the sequence with a Cal-bred Maiden Special Weight contested at 8-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 20-feet.

#1 TOUCH OF ZEN (3/1) stretched out for the first time last time, and he ran on through the lane to finish third at 12/1. His come-home time was solid, and he should move forward off that if he can get a clean beginning (since he's had trouble early in all three of his starts). GRADE: B.

#2 ORTH (7/2) has had his chances as a closing sprinter—to no avail—and he will now try to stretch out today for the first time. I prefer others. GRADE: X.

#3 STREET HUMOR (12/1) makes the third start of his form cycle, so he should be sitting on a peak effort, but he'll need to do much better than his one-mile try two back where he set the pace and wilted. GRADE: X.

#4 DARK MARCUS (4/1) was claimed for \$40K by Miller two back, and that trainer will now protect this horse for the second time in a row. Last time, he was sent off at 3/1, and he ran an even sixth after a slow beginning and a wide journey. He'll need to do better today. GRADE: B.

#5 EXCLAMATION (6/1) makes the third start of his form cycle and stretches out for the first time, so he should run a career best—but will it be good enough? He was 45/1 at this level last time, so he might need lesser to shine. GRADE: X.



#6 AGADOR SPARTACUS (8/1) has had his chances, but he should get a good trip today just stalking the pace. He's usable in your exotics, but it's tough to overlook that 0-for-12 start to his career. GRADE: C.

#7 **DONNER LAKE (5/2)** should be tough, coming off a second-place finish where he ran really well with a lot of trouble. He's also one of only two 4-year-olds in the field, so he has an age advantage and plenty of good races to run back to. GRADE: A.

SA LATE P4 LEG 2 (SA R8):

Today's second leg is a \$16K/N2L conditional-claimer for fillies and mares going 5.5-furlongs on the main track.

#1 BIG TREAT (6/1) has speed, drops in class, and gets a 10-pound weight-break: all good things. That said, there is other speed in here, so this gal is really going to have to fight every step of the way. GRADE: B.

#2 ROYAL BLEND (20/1) was 9/1 at this level last time, and she was no good while racing wide. Before that, she had the lead and coughed it up late at this level at Los Al. She'll need to do better. GRADE: C.

#3 GRANDIOSELY (4/1) just broke her maiden in wire fashion at Los Al at 3/1. It was a nice effort, but she's a 5-year-old maiden who was likely fully cranked for a drop to that low level. I'm sensing a little regression today. GRADE: C.

#4 CAL (10/1) only knows one way to go, and that's straight to the lead—but there is some sharp speed inside of her, so something has got to give. Two back, she was 8/1 at this level, and she made the lead and weakened to finish third. GRADE: C.

#5 SHE LOVES KARAOKE (15/1) removes the hood and knows how to pass horses, so that should work in her favor—but she was 17/1 at this level last time and could only manage fourth, losing to a few of these. Two back, she couldn't beat cheaper conditional-claimers at Los Al. GRADE: C.

#6 **ANNA VOLENTE (8/1)** was claimed for \$32K two back out of a turf race where she was no good. She improved a little in her next start, on dirt, running fourth with some trouble, also at the \$32K level. She now drops in half, and that class relief could make a world of difference today. GRADE: A.

#7 DRIZELLA (6/1) couldn't beat \$6,250 claimers two back at Los Al, so it's no surprise that she was ignored last time at this level at 30/1, yet she actually ran decently, finishing second, so perhaps she can move forward again today to contend for a piece. GRADE: B.

#8 NEVER SWAY (6/1), the first Lewis runner, is a one-paced plodder who will benefit from a very hot pace today—but will she grind away to get up in time? She was 5/2 at this level last time going a mile, and she just ran evenly. I'm skeptical for the win, but she's usable in your exotics. GRADE: C.

#9 **CAUSE SHE'S A LADY (7/2)** looks like the one to beat: she has tactical speed, is drawn well, and drops in class. GRADE: A.

#10 WARREN'S QUEEN BEE (20/1), the second Lewis entrant, looks a lot like her stablemate: a one-paced grinder who just plods along. She, however, will get the benefit of a 7-pound weight-break, so you can expect her on the scene late. GRADE: C.

#11 HOUSE OF TARGARYEN (20/1) couldn't beat cheaper claimers at Canterbury, and she's likely looking at a wide journey today. That said, she did just miss by a nose at this level back in 2021, so it's not like she's too far out of it class-wise. GRADE: C.

#12 SHEMAKESCENTS (15/1) was claimed for \$20K two back out of a win, but she couldn't replicate that performance in her first try versus winners, getting pasted against \$32K claimers. The drop



make sense, and she can certainly wake up today—but she’s looking at a very wide journey from all the way out here. GRADE: C.

SA LATE P4 LEG 3/GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 1 (SA R9):

Today’s third leg—a Cal-bred Maiden Special Weight for fillies and mares going 6.5-furlongs on turf with the rails at 20-feet—is also the first leg of the Golden Hour Pick 4, so it’s a key race in both sequences. I thought this was a pretty tough race to handicap.

#1 BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE (6/1) has been burdened with impossible posts the last two times, so she goes from outside to inside today, which is a big plus. She’s also a lightly raced 4-year-old who still has room to improve, as she’s coming off an April layoff. She’ll need a step forward, but it wouldn’t surprise me if she ran okay today. Will it be enough to win? Hmmm. GRADE: C.

#2 SHOCKING GREY (5/2) is going to be tough if she moves forward off her career debut, where she looked good while running second at 21/1. Mullins rarely has them fully cranked, so I’m sure that was just an educational run, so I’m expecting her to be ready to roll today. GRADE: A.

#3 CANDY ON TOP (3/1) has picked up some minor awards while mostly routing, but she is winless in seven starts, so she’ll need to show the eye of the tiger today. At least you know she’ll be fit on the cutback, but I prefer others for the top slot. GRADE: C.

#4 KAYLAS JOY (20/1) looks a bit on the slow side, but she should move forward today getting back on turf after a troubled trip on dirt last time. In her one turf try—which came two back going a mile—she had to break from the 11-hole and predictably tired. GRADE: X.

#5 FURSACE (4/1) gets wise-guy consideration here even though she doesn’t look like much on paper. She’s a 5-year-old mare who is coming off a 21-month layoff, so why am I interested? Well, her connections are smart and always put the horse first, so if this gal had nothing left to give, she wouldn’t be racing today, so I’m thinking she must be doing well—and it wouldn’t shock me if she was fully cranked here today. GRADE: A.

#6 MARGOT’S GIRL (12/1) cuts back after two mile races, so you know she’ll be fit. But does she fit? She couldn’t beat Cal-bred \$50K maidens last time, and that concerns me. GRADE: X.

#7 SAPADILLA (20/1) didn’t do anything on dirt when trained by Cecil; she now moves to the Papaprodromou barn and will try turf for the first time. She’s certainly bred to handle the lawn, but Cecil is a smart guy, so it makes me wonder why he didn’t try her on turf in any of her five previous starts. Also, she couldn’t beat \$20K claimers last time, and that’s worrisome. GRADE: X.

#8 DON’T JU FORGET (3/1) was 6/1 at this level last time, and she ran a creditable third, despite having to break from the 10-hole. She could move forward today for a hot trainer, but it should be noted that she did lose as the 2/1 favorite two back against Cal-bred \$50K foes. GRADE: B.

SA LATE P4 LEG 4/GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 3 (SA R10):

We end the Santa Anita card (and pick back up in the Golden Hour P4 with Leg 3 of that bet) with a competitive \$50K optional-claiming/N1X contested at 8-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 20-feet.

#1 ROYAL ACT (12/1) has been dealing with some issues, so it’s no surprise that he comes off a July layoff (which was preceded by a near-year layoff) while being offered for the \$50K tag. He’s also been gelded, so we’ll see if that helps along with the class-relief. His turf races from back in the day weren’t half-bad, but I’m tempted to watch one today. GRADE: C.

#2 AGATINO (IRE) (4/1) is a 3-year-old facing elders for the first time, but he’s making his first start for D’Amato, who promptly adds Lasix to this Irish invader. He’s an unknown commodity here, but D’Amato kills it with his imports. GRADE: A.



#3 MIDNIGHT JOSTAR (2/1), the second D'Amato, has been very unlucky, forced to break from the outside posts in his last six starts. He finally gets a favorable draw today, and I think that will make all the difference for a horse who has a decent closing kick—but can you trust him? GRADE: B.

#4 KINGMEISTER (12/1) attended a glacial pace last time and shocked the world at 61/1, beating eight other starter foes. I'd say he was very lucky to get such a favorable set-up, so let's see if he can repeat that performance against better animals. He switches barns today, so make of that what you will, but I'm tempted to take him on today. GRADE: X.

#5 BALLADEER (3/1) is a 3-year-old who was 11/1 against older foes last time at Kentucky Downs. He set the pace and was overtaken late to finish fourth—but he was only beaten a length, so it wasn't too bad. He'll be fit off that—but there is other speed in here, so he'll have to earn the W today. GRADE: C.

#6 SYDNEY STREET (GB) (8/1) was 21/1 against age-restricted N1X foes at Del Mar, and he ran a closing sixth. His lack of early speed is a concern, but he did come-home in pretty fast fashion in that race, so he can do better today as a 3-year-old who still has some upside (since they must have brought him over from Great Britain for a reason). GRADE: B.

#7 GO ON (3/1) looks solid in here, stretching out after prepping in a 6.5-furlong downhill event, where he ran second but smoked home in very quick time. They thought enough of him to try him in stakes races, so this 4-year-old still has license to improve. GRADE: A.

GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 2 (GG R8):

Let's move to the Gate for the second leg of the Golden Hour P4 (GG R8): a very tough 10-furlong main-track affair for \$25K optional-claiming/N1X competitors. I had a hard time with this race because no one has run this distance (though a few have run farther), so we'll have to figure out who is going to be good enough to excel at 10-furlongs today (a distance that isn't run that often outside of the classics).

#1 MUHAMMED ALI (PER)—program scratch.

#2 AMERICA GREAT (9/2) has speed and has done good work over this track. He ran second at 12-furlongs two back but against weaker \$12.5K starter foes. He faces allowance company today, but this 7-year-old is in for the optional tag, so make of that what you will. GRADE: C.

#3 CROSBY BEACH (7/2) gets the reluctant nod in here, even though he's a 3-year-old facing elders for the first time. So why am I picking him? Well, he gets in lighter than the others, but most importantly, Michael McCarthy is terrific at getting to the bottom of a horse from a stamina standpoint. This guy hasn't been this far before, nor has he raced on synth, but his turf come-home times suggest he can excel at today's longer distance. GRADE: A.

#4 BIG FLAME (6/1) was claimed for \$20K three back, and his two races since that claim against N1X foes were just even fourth-place efforts on the turf. His best work down South came sprinting, so distance remains a big question for this guy. GRADE: X.

#5 VANTAGE POINT (5/2) has tactical speed and should get a good stalking trip off America Great, who has actually gotten the measure of this guy a few times before (but going shorter). I think this guy can turn the tables on that foe going today's distance, since he's coming off a 12-furlong victory at this very same level when he was being offered for a tag. He's being protected today and should be fit off that last race. GRADE: B.

#6 BARHOPSKY (12/1) is 1-for-36 lifetime, with several of those losses coming against weaker foes. If he wins, I lose. GRADE: X.



#7 GOVENOR'S PARTY (10/1) has picked up some checks at this level, so he fits class-wise, especially when you consider he was only beaten a nose by Vantage Point several races ago, where he ran on late from off the pace. That kind of grinding style should come in handy today. GRADE: B.

#8 SACRED RIDER (9/2) should get a good stalking trip, and you have to admire his versatility, with wins on dirt, synth, and turf—so it's no surprise that he's been a popular claim-box item. But can he get today's distance, since he's been doing his best work going shorter? He's in for the tag today since he has a win at this level (last time when he wired four other horses at even-money going 8.5-furlongs). Note that Govenor's Party has finished ahead of him a few times before, but this guy is in the best form of his life right now. GRADE: B.

GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 4 (GG R9):

We close out the Golden Hour P4 with a difficult \$16K claimer for fillies and mares going 5.5-furlongs on the main synthetic track. Several of these have taken turns beating up on one another, making this a tough race to assess—but let's see if we can sniff out the winner.

#1 DANCING CRANE (9/2) was claimed for \$25K three back, where she ran second, so you can toss her last two races against tougher. She'll appreciate the class relief today, but she's going to have to gun hard from the rail, and there is speed directly outside of her, and that early pressure is likely to take its toll late. GRADE: C.

#2 DO YOU HEAR THAT (5/2) should be dueling early with the rail horse, and that could compromise both of their chances, though this one gets the slight edge since she can lean on her inside foe. She won a starter race at a similar level two back and followed that up with a respectable third against much better N1X foes last time. GRADE: B.

#3 YES PLEASE (12/1) is coming off a June layoff after running an even third in an allowance race at Arizona Downs. I'm not sure what to make of this gal's desert form, since she couldn't have been facing much, and it's hard to know if she'll be able to run her best race, since she's trying synth for the first time. I'm tempted to watch one, but do note she is getting a 7-pound weight-break to help her cause today. GRADE: C.

#4 CROWN KITTEN (8/1) makes the third start of her form cycle and drops back in for a tag after losing to Do You Hear That in a starter race last time. In fact, she's been beaten by a few of these, but she does have a win at this \$16K level (albeit on turf), so this is the right spot for her. She could win, but I'm feeling her more for underneath. GRADE: C.

#5 CHERISHED (12/1) was scratched out of a much tougher race in SoCal over the weekend to run in this easier spot, so that has to be considered. But you could also take that as a bad sign, since this gal was claimed for \$32K two back and then ran poorly in her first start for this trainer against \$20K foes. The class relief will help, but it's also possible that Amescua bit into a bad apple when he took the Diodoro claim bait. It's hard to know! GRADE: B.

#6 EMMA'S DANCE (10/1), the first Moger entrant, has tactical speed and should get a good stalking trip. She'll also appreciate some class relief and returning to synth, making her a legitimate contender. GRADE: A.

#7 SEN SEN (6/1) could be the sneaky play in here even though she's a 3-year-old facing elders for the first time. Before she hit the shelf in May, she was facing much better animals, even running in a few stakes races. She is being spotted very aggressively today, so I have to think she'll be fully cranked off the layoff. GRADE: A.

#8 DANIELA BELLA (15/1), the second Moger runner, is also a contender, like her stablemate, though this one will have to get the job done from off the pace and from a wide post—which is why I



prefer her friend a little more. You can toss her recent dirt form and focus on the good work she did over this track earlier in the year. GRADE: B.

#9 ROSE PRINCESS (15/1) gets a 10-pound weight-break, but will that be enough to help this runner, who will be coming from off the pace after exiting several route races? Maybe she can run them all down, but I think she's better suited to underneath. GRADE: X.

#10 PERSUASIVE LIPS (7/2) gets a bum post, but she gets class relief and should be flying home late. I do think there is a fair enough amount of pace in here to set things up for this one—but she will need a perfectly timed ride in this short field. GRADE: A.

SANTA ANITA LATE P4 MATRIX (SA7 through SA10)

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	1,4	6
Leg 2	6,9	1,7	2,3,4,5,8,10,11,12
Leg 3	2,5	8	1,3
Leg 4	2,7	3,6	1,5

GOLDEN HOUR P4 MATRIX (SA9; GG8; SA10; GG9)

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	2,5	8	1,3
Leg 2	3	5,7,8	2
Leg 3	2,7	3,6	1,5
Leg 4	6,7,10	2,5,8	1,3,4