Handicapping Analysis
Sat May 27th, 2023

Stakes Spotlight

Santa Anita Race 8

Post Time 6:44 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

7 C Z Rocket - 3/1 **5** Howbeit - 5/1 **6** Spirit of Makena - 8/5

This seven furlong Grade 2 has a very talented group as well as a very evenly matched bunch. The pace does look to be honest in here as I'll give the nod to the 9-year-old warrior 7-C Z ROCKET. With over $2 million in career earnings, his starts were spaced out in 2022, making only five starts but in those starts was a win at Del Mar, a second in the Santa Anita Sprint Championship and a massive race to run second in the Breeders' Cup Sprint. The distance suits, he still has the class, and he may sneak off at a decent price. The horse that defeated C Z Rocket at Santa Anita last year was 5-HOWBEIT. Three quarters may be a better suited distance for him, but the connections thought enough to claim him for $100k last out. He will be dismissed in here by the bettors but has potential to run a big race. 6-SPIRIT OF MAKENA has won three of four lifetime starts. He has speed but may need to rate as there are two to his inside that will likely be sent hard for the front.