Handicapping Analysis
Fri September 26th, 2025

Emily's Analysis

Santa Anita Race 1

Post Time 3:00 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#1 DECAPO turned in a B/BTL in their sprint debut back in March and validated that effort while giving up recency and first route coming back off the 153-day layoff at DMR last month. Those efforts (numbers/GRADES) fit as a contender and perhaps lands as a second wagering choice.

#2 JOE'S CANDY has been off a long time, 671-days following their late 2023 debut as a juvenile. That initial race they showed run following the SLOG TROUBLE_S making a MOVE and GALLOP+ to suggest they can IMPROVE.

Santa Anita Race 2

Post Time 3:30 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#5 GIRLCANTHELPIT also cant help it from breaking SLOG/VSLOG though overall has recorded some of the higher and more consistent numbers on the main track and mile distance to compete on that front. She requires pace to chase though given the complexion of this field (Sun/High SpeedRate) should have and honest pace to chase.

#3 SAINT MIHIEL brings upside with the second start on this circuit and of their form cycle. She finds a change in class with the lower par and move to claiming company from the 8/24 OC event showing run after the TROUBLE_S to make a WIDE MOVE in a race with no real change in running order. Some intent appears in play with the timing, change in class and addition of blinkers while also holding ship-and-win eligibility.

Santa Anita Race 3

Post Time 4:01 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Assessing the works of the FTS group: #1 SURFIN' U.S.A. presents very turfy watching her work and has shown run. She did break SLOG from the gate on 9/17 something that could be tougher to overcome with the rail draw though also moving to the grass might have a better handle on her footing. #5 RAMAYANA also should handle the turf based on her physicality and comes in fit making a classy overall appearance and looks as race ready as ever. #8 ESSENTIAL LADY also has shown run in the morning and would not be surprised to see her live on debut. She is a longer bodied type this outside draw should be to her liking and perhaps the reason the connections have waited to debut as based on that physicality 5-5.5f too short and the other options stick her at two turns first out.

Santa Anita Race 4

Post Time 4:31 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Looking at OptixPLOT #4 WHATS THE BUZZ should hold a pace advantage (Q1) on the front end. They are the only true EP type in this field and for the 5.5f distance often over this main track early speed being key. #1 ROBARANDO showed early speed breaking their maiden on 8/3 and worked hard to stay on as the BOS that day perhaps playing a role coming back three weeks later along with the route distance and this timing allows for added rest and less ground.

Santa Anita Race 5

Post Time 5:01 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Despite #7 JUSTIVAR coming off the layoff and #1 CHURCH LADY with the gate/SLOG issues the two on the class drop fit this race as the horses to beat. Those issues can get them beat and #6 DOUBLE BAY with M. McCarthy sending out live as of late could look to take advantage with their early speed on the front end.

#5 EASTWICK should move up on the TURF though has shown some distance limitations. #2 MUSICAL SONG showed run in spots while SLOG WIDE and in hand/NO_PUSH in what appeared to be a PREP on debut last month at DMR.

Santa Anita Race 6

Post Time 5:31 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#7 NEWPORT DREAMZ shows up as a new face from the layoff and now racing as sophomore. The timing suggests she can progress off the juvenile numbers, numbers that already stack up with today's par and figure. She returns under conditions where she closed out 2024 competitive races in MCL company and the shorter 5.5f distance to further intent. The sample is small though solid for trainer T. Yakteen with maiden runners off long layoffs and with the three MCL runners 2 wins and 1 place near $2 ($1.97) ROI

Santa Anita Race 7

Post Time 6:00 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

In terms of projected favorite #9 LADY GREGORY she holds form and a win at this level to fit right back, however in this group lacks a major overall edge to justify a shorter number, while still capable. #8 PRESS YOUR LUCK brings in similar current form and figures and on an every other pattern to suggest upside coming back in this spot and change in distance with the return to SA as well as statebred company.

The two sophomores returning from the 8/21 common race present upside and a look in this event: #6 FREYA making her second start on the year holds upside from the juvenile starts progressive numbers in each race to date and following the SLOG in the layoff return last month put in a solid CLOSE and GALLOP+. #4 MAGICAL MISS was in her first start against winner after recording a strong figure in their 8/3 debut, a number that stack up as one of the higher in the field. That big effort first out could have some impact (regress) in the second start just 18-days later especially paired with a WIDE trip and has rested 36-days into this spot.

#2 BLUE WILDCAT is a legitimate longshot to win though on a positive form cycle pattern and something to see them along for a share at double digit odds.

Woodbine Race 1

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#4 SOUPER STRIDER holds a TURF projection from the debut last September and from the recent September start. They make this move to the turf with conditioning third off and a class change/drop to further intent.

#7 JUST JACOBO projected to move up on the DROP and did just that under today's conditions/surface/distance with the WIDE trip place finish on 8/1. They follow a similar pattern returning to the grass and two turn race from the TROUBLE_S RUSH on 9/5, a race won by the only 4yo in the field, Countryboysurvive. A similar upgrade to follow common rival #8 SOUPER EFFECT returning here with the recent pattern of B- OptixGRADES at this MOC level.