Handicapping Analysis
Sun December 28th, 2025

Emily's Analysis

Santa Anita Race 3

Post Time 2:01 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

The early pace projects honest (Sun/67 SpeedRate) a scenario to further assist the already upgraded #8 QUEEN SIENNA for this second stateside start. Their BTL/B- effort on 10/30 finishing in a BLANKET despite the 5th place outcome in part to TACTIC- finds a rider change and back under similar par/conditions.

The race shape also giving further consideration to #10 PERFECT WAVE one that projected to STRETCH off the debut last August and returned with a BTL sprint showing from the layoff return in October before picking up the route MSW win last month making a CLOSE into a Slow early/late race shape; #12 TAKE ANOTHER CARD one that showed ability with the B+ win on debut projecting to stretch out and upgraded with the subtle trip on 10/30 unable to compete with their best on the day.

Santa Anita Race 4

Post Time 2:33 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#3 MISS PRACTICAL showed ability in debut making a WIDE MOVE X_FLOW and putting in three races on short rest leading to the MSW win in April. She has been given time to reset and remaining at SA in what appears pointed to this meet, especially entered here on opening day.

Santa Anita Race 5

Post Time 3:05 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#7 MAAZ returns with a rider change following the TACTIC- impacting their ability to compete in the Hollywood Derby (G1) last month. They were compromised with the handling as well as the SLOG MOVE AND X_FLOW (Slow early/Very Slow late) while still putting in a solid GALLOP+ despite the 7th place outcome. Their class fits at this graded stakes level with the B OptixGRADE recorded in the Twilight Derby (G2) today's par is lower than the two recent stakes and in line with the allowance they won back in October.

Santa Anita Race 7

Post Time 4:10 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Outside of the more "obvious" and older types, 3yo #6 MESCALERO should be overlooked. They recorded a solid figure picking up the debut win over the SA turf course sprinting with the PERFECT trip while holding their form and figures wheeling back for the Let It Ride stakes at the route distance. They return to the TURF from similar conditioned allowance on 11/29 at DMR with the higher noted par and WIDE trip to further upgrade. Demuro takes over from Rispoli as they stick with #10 HOTROCKET one that all around fits as a consistent runner and recording a B OptixGRADE under similar conditions on 11/29 however one that can be pace and trip dependent.

Santa Anita Race 9

Post Time 5:16 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#2 MONDEGO projects to IMPROVE out of the Hollywood Turf Cup (G2) trip/TACTIC- last month with excessive ground loss (X_WIDE) in that 12f marathon event. While the trip might not come with the obvious "trouble" the ground loss was tough to miss along with the CLOSE into a Slow early/late pace impacting the outcome validated with a solid GALLOP+ out. Prat taking over should catch the eye and along with the recent trips and competitive efforts in graded stakes company could see shorter than the ML while all is paired with intent looking for that graded stakes win.

McCarthy also with a contender in #3 ENDLESSLY returning in this spot off the layoff and has run competitive off the bench historically - the B+ dominant MSW win as a juvenile going two turns on the DMR turf and El Camino Real win at GGF (rip) starting off their sophomore season and returning as a 4yo in graded stakes company, the American (G3) finishing a TROUBLE trip show in April.

#7 SUCHET held a massive class edge putting that on display with the dominant B+ win on the BC undercard and looking to translate back in graded stakes company - their lone graded stakes attempt, the DMR Mile (G2) trip with a noted legitimate EX/EXCUSE.

Santa Anita Race 11

Post Time 6:20 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Starting the analysis with ML favorite #10 ATSILA as they land here while some intent entered for the BC F&M Turf (G1) looking to find where they fit stateside and at the longer distances. #2 WILL THEN presents an underlay as the second choice showing some class/distance weakness. Her stablemate #4 AMBAYA at longer odds has some hurdles with the change in class though notable pairing up BTL efforts in the two recent starts including an EX on 11/24.

#3 CLIFFS will be given a stiff test stepping up to G1 company for first graded stakes try though in terms of form and figures she fits right in with this group.

#6 TAKE A BREAK recorded a B OptixGRADE in the DMR Oaks (G1) to suggest they can compete on class, that race was followed up with an EX TROUBLE+ on 9/28 and flow upgrade from the Autumn Miss (G3) - the stretch out, added ground is the unknown.