



THE PICK 4 MATRIX

By Frank R. Scatoni

(follow on Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](#) and also visit [@OptixEQ](#))

2/9/2020

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

Today's eight-race Sunday card (first post 12:30 p.m.) has some star quality to it, as Baffert's much-ballyhooed sophomore Nadal returns to the races after his smashing maiden-breaker a few weeks ago. Today he squares off against Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Storm the Court in the San Vicente (G2), a 7-furlong prep race for 3-year-olds who have Derby aspirations. We'll find out a lot about this very talented colt, as the feature is Leg 3 (Race 7) in today's Late Pick 4 sequence.

LEG 1 (R5):

We kick things off with a \$40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 20-feet.

#1 ARCTIC ROLL (GB) (5/2) looked very good when beating \$35K/N3L conditioned-claimers last time, marking a career-best performance. As good as it looked, however, let's not forget that it came against career losers, and she was the lukewarm 3/1 favorite. She'll get a good inside trip while forwardly placed under Prat, but she'll have to prove her mettle against allowance runners today. GRADE: B.

#2 PINK SCATILLAC (8/1) broke her maiden three back on a sloppy/sealed Keeneland track going 8.5-furlongs. None of her races in SoCal—either on fast dirt or turf—have been nearly as good. You'd think this daughter of Scat Daddy would eventually thrive at this trip and on this surface, but she'll need to show more today. GRADE: X.

#3 DESERT OASIS (GB) (4/1) is coming off a 196-day layoff for a trainer who usually gives them one, but Rosario's presence is interesting, especially since this gal did show some ability in her two U.S. starts, including her maiden-breaker last time when she moved early to take over into the lane while comfortably holding sway. There's a chance she's going to need one, but 4/1 seems fair in this field. GRADE: A.

#4 KYNANCE (IRE) (15/1) has tactical route speed and adds blinkers today while switching to the turf after two poor races on the dirt. She's winless on turf, and her best form has come over synth, so I'm not sure these changes today are going to help her cause. GRADE: X.

#5 SAPPHIRE KID (5/1) looked sharp when beating Cal-bred N1X foes last time at 9-furlongs. She tracked a loose leader and took over turning for home to win easily. She's always hinted at ability, but this state-bred runner has had a few tries at the open level and hasn't been able to get it done. That said, she makes her second start for hot trainer Steve Knapp, so another step forward is possible—I just prefer others. GRADE: X.



#6 KOOKIE GAL (3/1) was 12/1 at this level last time in November when she was a 3-year-old. She's been freshened since that okay third-place finish, so she should be ready to run a good one today as a more mature 4-year-old. She's obvious. GRADE: B.

#7 KITTY BOOM BOOM (7/2) was 3/1 against age-restricted allowance foes back in November, but she faltered at 8.5-furlongs after stalking the pace. She'll appreciate getting back to a mile today, and her good early speed should allow Rispoli to angle over and get good position early. GRADE: A.

LEG 2 (R6):

Today's second leg is a \$50K starter-allowance for fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on the main track. I thought this was a fairly evenly matched field.

#1 HARPER'S GALLOP (4/1) has tactical speed and draws the rail, so she's going to have to use that speed to gain good position early—and that could soften her up late with other speed to her outside, especially since she showed she wasn't good enough to beat conditioned-claimers last time. This is a tougher field. GRADE: B.

#2 COLDWATER (7/2) has never raced on dirt, so we'll see if this Paddy Gallagher trainee can transfer her mediocre turf form to the main track. Smith stays put, which is nice, but it should be noted that this gal has tried the starter level twice before to no avail. I suppose she could win this, but 7/2 seems a little on the short side. GRADE: B.

#3 BUYBACK (9/2) just broke her maiden in facile fashion, stalking the pace and drawing off to win comfortably at 19/10. She faces winners today while stretching out for the first time, but she has tactical speed, so she'll get a good forwardly placed trip. The problem is: there is other speed to her inside and outside, so things might get uncomfortable for her. GRADE: B.

#4 ZUCCHERA (4/1), the first Baltas entrant, broke her maiden going a mile back in November, tracking from off the pace and rallying late to get up by a nose. She should get something to run at in here, as I expect a decent early clip—and Rosario is so good with these types of runners. GRADE: A.

#5 SYBIL'S KITTY (5/2), the second Baltas runner, has sprint speed, so she should help ensure a decent pace in here, especially if Buyback and Harper's Gallop go. I suppose there is a world in which this gal makes the lead and never looks back, but she will have to carry her speed from 5.5-furlongs to 8-furlongs, and that's not an easy thing to do with other pace signed on. She was 7/1 at this level last time and ran second after attending the pace in that 5.5-furlong event. GRADE: B.

#6 DIAMOND OF VALUE (4/1) has had a few tries at this level, with mixed results. She then tried conditioned-claimers twice and hasn't been able to get that elusive win number-two. She did run an improved race last time when switching to the turf, but she saved ground and still couldn't beat N2L foes. She should track the pace in here and hope for the best. GRADE: C.

LEG 3 (R7):

Today's third leg is also the feature race on this Sunday card: the \$200K San Vicente (G2), a 7-furlong main-track affair for 3-year-olds. It doesn't look like a race that will offer much value, but it should be an interesting showdown between Nadal and Storm the Court.

#1 FAST ENOUGH (12/1) is a very nice horse who is a perfect 2-for-2 against Cal-breds. He faces open foes today, but there is plenty of ability here. He came off a 232-day layoff last time and ran a gutsy race to win the Cal Cup Derby in his first try around two turns. He should continue to move forward off that performance, but he draws the rail today and has to face some tough customers. At least he'll be super-fit on the cutback today. GRADE: C.



#2 RA'AD (8/1), the first Baffert entrant, was 9/1 in his debut back in October, and he stalked the pace and weakened, losing to his much more flashy stablemate Thousand Words. Clearly that was an educational run because he came back in start number-two and easily beat MSWs at 7/10 at Los Al in December. He's been freshened for this and has a few nice works on display—but this \$500K purchase will need a big step forward in his 3-year-old debut to beat the top two in here. GRADE: C.

#3 PARTY TOWN (20/1) is a half to the very talented Restrainedvengeance, who is a versatile animal of stakes quality, so there is plenty of room for improvement here. That said, he'll have to figure out how to win around two turns, since his maiden victory came going 5-furlongs on turf, and his last two races versus winners saw him lose lengths in the lane. GRADE: X.

#4 NADAL (4/5) was awesome in his maiden-breaker when he easily beat six other foes, despite breaking a step slowly from the rail. This \$700K purchase now gets a better post and has one sharp work since his last start on January 19. It might be a quick turnaround, but Baffert needs to get this guy ready for the Derby, so he's not messing around by naming Rosario to ride. This is a colt with unlimited potential, but he offers us little value unfortunately. GRADE: A.

#5 STORM THE COURT (9/5) was game in victory in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), where he made the lead and held sway throughout. It was a nice effort, so we'll see how much he's matured since that race while making his first start as a 3-year-old. He's certainly good enough to win this, but there's also a world in which he's not fully cranked for this 7-furlong event, which traditionally acts as a prep race for the more lucrative two-turn events in the spring. Still, he's a nice horse. GRADE: A.

#6 GINOBILLI (5/1) has speed, so he can get a nice comfy stalking trip while racing in the clear and not getting any dirt in his face. That said, his dominant maiden victory came at 6-furlongs, and his subsequent try at 7-furlongs in an eventful Del Mar Futurity (G1) saw him lose lengths in the lane (albeit with some trouble). They then shortened him up to 5-furlongs on turf, where he finished fourth. I'm not sure what to make of him here, but it wouldn't shock me if he showed up with his very best today—but will it be good enough to beat classier foes? GRADE: C.

LEG 4 (R8):

We close things out with a neat Maiden Special Weight for 3-year-old fillies going 9-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 20-feet.

#1 NOBLE HEARTED (6/1) was 10/1 last time, and she saved ground and never really kicked on in that mile race. That said, she was bet down off a 20/1 morning-line, and she did finish an even third, suggesting that she could stay on today at 9-furlongs, saving all the ground yet again. She's making the third start of her form cycle and should put forth a decent effort. GRADE: B.

#2 NU PI LAMBDA (4/1) has sprint speed and will look to carry that speed 9-panels today after four much shorter races. Espinoza is very good on the front end, but I have to think someone is going to run this gal down. GRADE: C.

#3 UNDISTURBED (6/1) has tactical speed but removes the hood today in her second start off the bench. She hasn't shown much starch in the lane going a mile, so we'll see if this daughter of Lea can get an extra furlong today. GRADE: C.

#4 LADY TIMMY HO (IRE) (7/2), the first Baltas trainee, has been burdened with outside posts in each of her two U.S. starts, so today's draw is much better for her. She also looks to be sitting on a peak race, making her third stateside start and getting back on firm ground. In her debut, she ran on nicely late to finish third, so she has that good race to build on. GRADE: A.

#5 HONOR HOP (6/1) was 68/1 last time at this level, and she outran her odds, finishing second. She just kind of chased a hot pace and kept grinding to the wire, suggesting extra distance should suit



her. Gallagher adds blinkers today, so she should be a little bit closer—but others appeal more. GRADE: C.

#6 EGYPTIAN GODDESS (15/1) hasn't shown much up north, so this seems like a tough spot for her. I respect the trainer, and this gal does get a 5-pound weight-break to help her cause, but she will need to do a lot better today. That said, she is bred to run all day. GRADE: C.

#7 SWEET DEVIL (4/1) was off slowly in her debut going 5.5-furlongs, yet she kept to task and ended up running fifth, galloping out nicely in a race that should have her set up very well for this. McCarthy is excellent with his second-time starters, and Prat takes the call. GRADE: A.

#8 RED LARK (IRE) (8/1), the second Gallagher runner, made her first U.S. start up north, running a decent fourth as the lukewarm 3/1 favorite in a race where she got going too late. That prep should have her primed and ready for a good effort in here. GRADE: B.

#9 PROFITEROLE (FR) (12/1), the second Baltas charge, is a first-time starter who was bred in France yet makes her first career start here on these grand shores. The owners have a lot of nice runners, and Baltas has really gotten better with his debutantes the last few years, but this seems like a tough distance to debut at, no matter what the breeding. If she wins, you're looking at a stakes-quality animal. GRADE: C.

SUGGESTED WAGERS

Today's **MATRIX** costs **\$84**, but you're going to have to play your strongest combos a few extra times because of the San Vicente (G2), which looks like it's going to have a short-priced winner. If you want to spend even less, **\$64** will get you all "A's" with two "B's," while **\$28** will get you all "A's" with one "B." Remember: whatever you choose to do: only play what you're comfortable spending or create your own Ticketmaker play here: <https://ticketmaker.drf.com/>. For more info about **OptixEQ**, please visit and register at <https://www.optixeq.com/>.

[SCROLL DOWN FOR MATRIX!]



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!

Race #	A	B	C	X
5	3 7	1 6		2 4 5
6	4	1 2 3 5	6	
7	4 5		1 2 6	3
8	4 7	1 8	2 3 5 6 9	

Below are your tickets based on your horse and budget selections above.
 You can continue to add, remove, or re-categorize horses and your tickets below will automatically adjust.

Bet Type	Ticket	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	\$ per Bet	Cost of Ticket	Emphasize
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All A Entries	1	3,7	4	4,5	4,7	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with One B	2	1,6	4	4,5	4,7	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	3	3,7	1,2,3,5	4,5	4,7	\$0.50	\$16.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	4	3,7	4	4,5	1,8	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with Two ...	5	1,6	1,2,3,5	4,5	4,7	\$0.50	\$16.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	6	1,6	4	4,5	1,8	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	7	3,7	1,2,3,5	4,5	1,8	\$0.50	\$16.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with One C	8	3,7	6	4,5	4,7	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	9	3,7	4	1,2,6	4,7	\$0.50	\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	10	3,7	4	4,5	2,3,5,6,9	\$0.50	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
Total:							\$84.00	