



THE PICK 4 MATRIX

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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

It's Presidents' Day, but I prefer to honor another great person in American history: the great Founding Father whose face graces the front of the hundred-dollar bill, Benjamin Franklin! Let's see if we can collect some Benjamins by closing out the week strongly and hitting this Late Pick 4.

LEG 1 (R5):

We start things off with an interesting \$32K claimer contested at 5.5-furlongs on the main track with the rails at 20-feet.

#1 BLACKOUT (FR) (3/1) has tactical speed, and he'll need to use it while breaking from the rail. Last time, he attended the pace and won fairly easily as the even-money favorite at this level—and he was claimed out of that race by Mullins, who lets win-rider Prat stay on board. This guy is obvious, but he will need some luck with the right trip and race flow in here. GRADE: B.

#2 TIGERBEACH (5/1) has done good work as a turf-sprinter, but he will have to turn the tables on Blackout (Fr), who beat him fairly easily last time. That runner will be compromised by a rail draw, however, so maybe this closer can best his rival today if he gets the right pace to close into. GRADE: B.

#3 **MORGAN S. (6/1)**, the second Mullins runner, is interesting to me because he loves to fire fresh, and he's coming off an August layoff. He won his debut, and he won a 5-furlong turf sprint after a 292-day layoff. He also has tactical speed, so he should get a good forwardly placed trip. GRADE: A.

#4 UNION RIDE (10/1) did good work against age-restricted claimers last year, but he's a closing sprinter who has never turf-sprinted before, so we'll see how he handles this new ballgame. He did try turf once, where he showed speed and weakened badly going a mile against starter foes last year. Watch one? GRADE: X.

#5 PORTANDO (8/1) was 8/1 at this level and distance last time, and after a slow beginning, he saved ground and passed tiring horses to finish third. It wasn't a bad effort, but he did lose to two of today's foes, so he'll need to turn the tables on them. GRADE: X.

#6 CONCUR (12/1) did fine on this circuit before he made his way to Arizona to capture some allowance races while routing. He now returns to SoCal, cutting back in distance and running for a tag for the first time since Oritz has trained him. Note that he was 10/1 at the \$32K level here back in October, where he showed speed and weakened going 6.5-furlongs on dirt. He'll like this trip better and gets a 5-pound weight-break, but something about him leaves me cold. GRADE: X.

#7 **CASTLE (5/2)** won the California Flag two back, so why is he running for \$32K today? That seems like a suspicious drop to me with so many Cal-bred stakes races he can run in. Maybe something went off last time when he ran fourth at the N2X level or maybe Glatt is perfectly fine losing this guy,



since he claimed him for \$40K three back and got a quick win out of him already? His best races easily win this, but the drop in class is concerning—but maybe there is a big race left in him before the wheels fall off, since he's very likely to get claimed today. GRADE: A.

#8 VIA EGNATIA (6/1) won an N1X four back when gifted the race, allowing to set glacial splits on a speed-favoring turf course and putting up a gaudy figure in the process. He's winless since, and he now shows up here for \$32K off a November layoff. His route speed should allow him to track the pace and pounce when he's ready, but he's never been this short on turf before. GRADE: C.

#9 LOUD MOUTH (20/1) curiously attracts Rosario, and you don't see him end up on too many 20/1 morning-line runners. Still, other than his presence, it's hard to make a case for this guy, since he went off form last summer and was well-beaten at this level when racing on dirt. I'm not sure a move to the lawn will help him all that much either. GRADE: X.

LEG 2 (R6):

Today's second leg is a \$40K claimer for 3-year-olds going 8-furlongs on the main track. It drew a short field of five horses, and the favorite looks legitimate, but no one is to be trusted in here.

#1 BIG HOOF DYNAMITE (5/2) switches barns after a maiden-breaking victory at the \$50K level, where he grinded out a head win at 4/5 against a weak field for that level. He's likely to run the same race again today, but he now faces better animals and will have to earn it. That said, Truman does good work, so he could get this one to continue to improve. GRADE: C.

#2 KNIFES EDGE (3/1) has tactical speed, so he will be in the vanguard early under Prat, who takes over for the first time. He also runs for a tag for the first time since his \$32K maiden-breaker three back. He seems logical in here. GRADE: B.

#3 GORKY PARK (5/1) was 8/1 last time in the \$40K starter ranks, and he ran a weakening fourth behind Knives Edge. His only win came on the engine, and he's not going to make the lead today, so he'll have to show he can pass horses. GRADE: X.

#4 ITSTHATTIME (7/2) will try all the way to the wire, a trait that helped him earn his \$30K maiden-breaking victory last time—but that came at 8.5-furlongs, so the added ground that day certainly helped his cause. He will be fit on the slight cutback, but note that he ran out of room in his previous mile races. GRADE: B.

#5 GOVENOR CINCH (9/5) is no cinch, but he is the most likely winner of this race, going turf to dirt and dropping in class. He's the only horse in the field with two wins, and his only bad race came against much tougher Cal-bred stakes foes. He should stalk the pace in a good, in-the-clear spot, and then take over turning for home. GRADE: A.

LEG 3 (R7):

Today's third leg is the featured Wishing Well Stakes, a \$70K 5.5-furlong turf-sprint affair for fillies and mares. The rails are at 20-feet. This too drew a short field, and I had a hard time separating the entrants.

#1 AN EDDIE SURPRISE (7/2) will get a great trip, saving ground and just sitting behind the two pacesetters. She's not flashy, but I think the race sets up well for her, and I like that Rosario hops on board for the first time. GRADE: A.

#2 APACHE PRINCESS (2/1) is the strongest closer in the field, but this is a five-horse field, and this gal has always looked like she is crying out for more ground when running in these abbreviated sprints—no surprise since her two best races came at 6.5-furlongs. She has talent, but she's at the mercy of race shape. GRADE: B.



#3 KENTAN ROAD (9/5) has an abundance of speed, so bug-boy Velez will just blast off and hope for the best. That said, I do think the outside horse should try to keep her honest. Still, she will be in front turning for home and will have every chance to hang on late, something she hasn't been able to do in her last few starts. Fortunately for her, she catches a short field. GRADE: A.

#4 TONAHUTU (IRE) (8/1) has a very nice late kick, but she will most likely get going too late in this short field. That said, she should move forward big-time today, making her second start after a year layoff—but I can't help but think she is still prepping for an eventual two-turn race. GRADE: C.

#5 MISS HOT LEGS (3/1) has speed, and Cedillo will have to use it to keep Kentan Road honest. If that foe throws down the gauntlet, this one could get tired just chasing her around the track—and there is also the fact that this gal has had her chances at 5.5-furlongs but hasn't been able to get the job done. She's obvious, but she will need to pick things up today while chasing a really fast foe. GRADE: B.

LEG 4 (R8):

Today's nightcap is a competitive \$16.5K/N3L conditioned-claimer for fillies and mares going 8.5-furlongs on the main track.

#1 CIMARRON (12/1) has an upsetter's chance in here, since she should appreciate getting back around two turns after two sprints. She did good work around two turns back in Kentucky, and her two two-turn starts in SoCal weren't bad against tougher company. GRADE: A.

#2 RUBY BRADLEY (4/1) ran above condition last time when racing at this N3L level despite having only one win—and she rewarded her believers with a nice victory in that mile race. She was 9/5, however, so it was a weak rendition—this field is tougher. Still, she should trip out, and the added ground won't be an issue. GRADE: B.

#3 WHOA NESSIE (12/1) set the pace and weakened last time at this level when going a mile. She was claimed out of that race by Hanson, who is a very good, underrated trainer. He smartly re-adds blinkers and legs up bug-boy Velez to see if they can wire the field. Unfortunately, I expect a decent early pace, so I'm thinking this one will get overtaken late—but she's usable underneath at a number. GRADE: X.

#4 ATINA (ARG) (7/2) beat morning-line favorite Meso last summer, tracking the pace and running on nicely late. She was claimed out of that race by Andy Mathis, who took her up north. Tamayo claimed her off Mathis three back for \$12.5K, and after two mixed starts, he brings her back to SoCal to run in this spot. I don't like that Mathis dropped her so low three back, and she couldn't win—so it's possible this 6-year-old is heading the wrong way. That said, her best races are good enough. GRADE: B.

#5 ZONING (20/1) has never routed before, and this seems like a tricky spot for a gal who hasn't been able to beat lesser up north. I respect McCanna when he ships down here, but others appeal more. GRADE: X.

#6 TIZ WONDERFULLY (4/1) wasn't too far off Ruby Bradley last time, but she couldn't quite fend off that foe—though she did try all the way to the wire. She'll get a good forwardly placed trip, but it seems like Espinoza's M.O. these days is to just send everything hard and hope for the best. Because of that, I fear she might get run down late. GRADE: C.

#7 MESO (3/1), as mentioned, lost to Atina (Arg) last summer, but she looks poised for a big effort today, attracting Rosario, dropping in class, and making the second start off a freshening. GRADE: A.

#8 DISCREET DIVA (6/1) was inching toward the winner last time at this level, so today's added distance should help her cause. She'll also be more fit, making the second start of her form cycle. She'll just have to avoid a wide journey from this post. GRADE: B.



#9 REDS SACRED APPEAL (10/1) just beat \$12.5K/N2L runners, so we'll see if she can move up and be competitive against slightly better. The post is no picnic, but it is interesting to see Prat take the call for a low-profile barn. Still, this one will need a career best in here. GRADE: X.

SUGGESTED WAGERS

Today's **MATRIX** costs a reasonable **\$80**, but we will need the right combo of prices to come in because the two short fields in the middle of the sequence will suck the value out of the logical combinations. If you want to spend less, **\$70** will get you all "A's" with two "B's," while **\$26** 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 2	8	4 5 6 9
6	5	2 4	1	3
7	1 3	2 5	4	
8	1 7	2 4 8	6	3 5 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	5	1,3	1,7	\$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	1,2	5	1,3	1,7	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	3	3,7	2,4	1,3	1,7	\$0.50	\$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	4	3,7	5	2,5	1,7	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	5	3,7	5	1,3	2,4,8	\$0.50	\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with Two ...	6	1,2	2,4	1,3	1,7	\$0.50	\$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	7	1,2	5	2,5	1,7	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	8	1,2	5	1,3	2,4,8	\$0.50	\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	9	3,7	2,4	2,5	1,7	\$0.50	\$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	10	3,7	2,4	1,3	2,4,8	\$0.50	\$12.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	11	3,7	5	2,5	2,4,8	\$0.50	\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with One C	12	8	5	1,3	1,7	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	13	3,7	1	1,3	1,7	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	14	3,7	5	4	1,7	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	15	3,7	5	1,3	6	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
Total:						\$80.00		