



THE PICK 4 MATRIX

By Frank R. Scatoni

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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

We are back to a three-day race week here at the Great Race Place, and we start it off with an eight-race card with a first post of 1:00 p.m. The Late Pick 4 begins in Race 5, and even though the fields aren't the deepest, there are some interesting races. Let's have at it!

LEG 1 (R5):

Today's sequence begins with a Maiden Special Weight contested at 8-furlongs on the main track.

#1 CARDIFF CAY (10/1) cost \$560K, started his career back East on turf, and then came out here to run a mixed bag of turf races. I liked him the last two times because I thought he got a bad ride in his SoCal debut, but this well-bred runner (full to Lochte) never really wowed. He now switches to dirt to try and shake things up. His lack of early speed is an issue, so he's going to need a favorable set-up if he's going to get a win on the dirt. GRADE: C.

#2 MURALIST (9/5) also goes turf to dirt, and he has the tactical speed to make him very dangerous, assuming he takes to the main track. He's also shown an ability to pass horses, so Rosario—who takes the call for the first time—has plenty of options. This guy is super-obvious, but the price is no picnic. GRADE: B.

#3 PAINT ME LUCKY (2/1) takes off the hood to start his 5-year-old campaign, and that is always a solid move for the white-haired wonder. He's coming off a November layoff, which was preceded by a 540-day layoff, so this guy isn't exactly the stoutest of animals—but he did fire fresh in June 2018 over this track, so I'm sure he'll be keen and ready today. Prat could either make the lead or sit right off Muralist, depending on what that foe does. GRADE: B.

#4 STRUGAR (8/1) is a first-time starter for C R K Stables, an outfit that has thrown some money around lately, including \$900K for this son of Hard Spun. I think this runner can develop into a nice animal, but the presence of bug-boy Velez suggests to me that this is going to be an educational run today—even though Eurton is one of the few trainers who can get them to win at first-asking while going long. GRADE: C.

#5 HUDSON RIVER PARK (4/1) looks to be sitting on a peak effort, making the second start of his form cycle after prepping in a mile turf race where he was off slowly from the inside and just ran around the track. If you look at his debut race, which came going 6-furlongs on dirt, you'll see an animal who should handle this trip on this surface. He also has some black type in his family tree, which means there is still plenty of upside here. GRADE: A.



#6 STRIKING A POSE (12/1) is a first-time starter for Mark Glatt, who typically races them into shape, so I have to think this is a conditioning race for next time—especially since Glatt rarely debuts them going long. Watch one? GRADE: X.

#7 MONGOLIAN LEGEND (7/2) has run some decent races, but he hasn't been able to get a win in seven tries, mostly against weaker company. In fact, four back, he lost to \$30K claimers at Los Al. He has picked up plenty of checks, but he'll need to show the eye of the tiger to get the win today, and 7/2 seems awfully short for a runner who has shown what he's capable of. He can win, but that would mean that none of the other contenders ran their best race. GRADE: C.

LEG 2 (R6):

Today's second leg moves to the lawn for a starter-allowance contested at 8-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 20-feet.

#1 GOOD BYE PUTIN (4/1) was 8/1 at this level last time, and after a slow start, he was only able to finish sixth after putting in a mild late bid. He's coming off an October freshening, and he'll have to work out a trip from the rail with a jockey who wants no part of being inside, so he will either be hustled hard out of the gate, or he will be strangled while the jock does everything he can to get this horse outside. Either way, he seems like he's in for a stressful trip. That said, he still has upside if you're a believer. GRADE: C.

#2 ORDER AND LAW (2/1) has a decent late kick, and he tries this starter level for the first time, making him a logical contender in here, especially with Rosario taking over the duties. We'll see if this guy's inability to win against tougher has translated into pack-animal tendencies, but he should have every chance to show his best stuff today against a pretty soft group. GRADE: B.

#3 SEA OF LIBERTY (7/2) just broke his maiden, so he's facing winners for the first time, but he's a lightly raced 4-year-old who still has some upside. I don't like that he's coming back so soon after his victory, but that must mean he's doing well. I like the way he finished in each of his last two turf races, and he offers a little value in here. GRADE: A.

#4 EAST RAND (8/1) has always had a nice late run and has picked up a lot of checks, but he's also had his chances at all different levels and hasn't been able to get the job done (including several defeats against these types). He's also coming off a July layoff, so fitness will be a concern as well. His best race certainly fits, but I'm leaning toward watching one. GRADE: C.

#5 SILKEN PRINCE (6/1) has been a closing sprinter who has failed three times before at this level. His last run in those races certainly suggests that he can excel going longer, but it seems odd that this will be his first try around two turns. Trainer Matt Chew is solid with the sprint-to-route move, but this guy will have to show he can handle a route of ground. GRADE: B.

#6 TAKEO (5/2) should be really fit, cutting back from an 8.5-furlong dirt race where he made the lead but was edged out late. He gets back on turf, which is just fine, and he seems to be the only real pace in the race, which makes him dangerous for a trainer who is having a terrific meet. GRADE: A.

LEG 3 (R7):

Today's third leg is another starter allowance, but this one is for fillies and mares going 6.5-furlongs on the main track.

#1 SAMANDAH (15/1) removes the hood and gets a 10-pound weight-break, but I'm not sure that's going to be enough for a runner who was 70/1 at this level last time, albeit while racing on turf. She cuts back today and will have to be hustled from the rail, making things tricky for her. GRADE: X.



#2 JACCAT (5/2) is a grinder who should appreciate today's distance, but she's definitely had her chances and hasn't been able to get the job done. Prat will have to be aggressive with her early, and then we'll see if this gal can finally clear this condition after five previous attempts. GRADE: B.

#3 TINSEL TOWN QUEEN (6/1) was 15/1 and 30/1 at this level two and three back. She outran her odds at Los Al when going 5.5-furlongs and grinding away to finish third, so it's not inconceivable that she can pick up a slice here, but she's going to need marked improvement. GRADE: C.

#4 TAMARAANDTHEBOYS (7/2) looks to be sitting on a peak race, making the second start of her form cycle after prepping last time in her first start for Glatt. She was a waiver-claim, coming off a July layoff, so clearly that was a conditioning race for this now protected spot. Look out. GRADE: A.

#5 MUCHO MACHO WOMAN (4/5) is your deserving odds-on favorite, since she has plenty of early speed to run these grinders off their heels—but she is facing winners after a big effort last time, which came off a 91-day layoff. She could easily bounce, and that little hint of doubt makes her bad value in this sequence. GRADE: B.

LEG 4 (R8):

We close things out with a \$75K maiden-claimer for 3-year-olds only going 8-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 20-feet.

#1 DUDE'S DREAM (15/1) was 34/1 against MSWs in his debut, where he just went along evenly in that 5.5-furlong turf sprint. Clearly, that was just a leg-stretcher for this spot, so he should improve today—but I think others will improve more. GRADE: C.

#2 DR. HOFFMAN (20/1) debuts for Mark Glatt, who—as we mentioned earlier—doesn't typically have them fully cranked for their unveilings, especially going two turns. I'll watch one. GRADE: X.

#3 BEST CHANCE (4/1) will have every chance to show his best stuff today: he has speed; he should be keen off the freshening; he was competitive at this level at Del Mar; and he attracts Rosario. GRADE: A.

#4 RAILSPLITTER (4/1) takes off the blinkers and returns a new gelding after an uncharacteristically poor race last time. If you ignore that race and focus on his one turf route, he becomes a contender in that light. GRADE: A.

#5 PALACE PRINCE (5/1) was just claimed by Spawr for \$50K, and we all know Spawr is lethal off the claim, especially when he shows confidence and moves them up in class. That said, this guy couldn't win for \$50K last time, so we'll see how he does against tougher while also trying turf for the first time. GRADE: C.

#6 MASTER RECOVERY (6/1) just missed at the \$50K level last time when going a mile on dirt. He rated kindly and produced a decent stretch run to lose by a neck. It was a good effort, but now he switches to turf and has to face better. There's also the chance he regresses off that good effort. GRADE: C.

#7 CHAMPERS (7/2) was the 2/1 favorite at this level last time and he ran an okay third (but was well-beaten). He fits right back against these, but he's kind of unexciting at the price he's likely to be. GRADE: B.

#8 GOLDEN SPARKLE (15/1) debuts for Cassidy, who typically races them into shape. There's also the fact that this guy cost only \$1K back in 2018, so I'm not sure what the expectations are here—but I'm going to watch one. GRADE: X.



#9 BROTHER REID (5/1) makes his first SoCal start for Cerin after running an okay fifth last time at Gulfstream Park, putting in a mild late bid in a 5-furlong turf sprint. Cerin does well with these types of runners, so I'm sure this guy will be competitive in here. GRADE: B.

#10 NEGOTIATOR (20/1) is a first-time starter burdened with a difficult post. I have to watch one. GRADE: X.

#11 CANADIAN PRIDE (10/1) (AE) looked out for a spin in his debut, where he was off slowly and rushed into the race while going 5.5-furlongs on the dirt. He'll gain experience for that, and that slight class-relief should help. I expect Maldonado to hustle this one out of the gate and hope for the best. GRADE: B.

#12 KENO'D (5/1) (AE) has run two blah races against MSWs, so he should appreciate a slight drop in class. He's making his third career start, so a peak effort is likely, but he will need to work out a trip if he gets in. GRADE: C.

SUGGESTED WAGERS

Today's **MATRIX** is an affordable **\$53**, and since we are really tight with our "A's," we can also play our top combos several times (given the short fields). If you want to spend less, **\$40** will get you all "A's" with two "B's," while **\$14** 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	5	2 3	1 4 7	6
6	3 6	2 5	1 4	
7	4	2 5	3	1
8	3 4	7 9	1 5 6	2 8 10 11 12

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	5	3,6	4	3,4	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with One B	2	2,3	3,6	4	3,4	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	3	5	2,5	4	3,4	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	4	5	3,6	2,5	3,4	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	5	5	3,6	4	7,9	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with Two ...	6	2,3	2,5	4	3,4	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	7	2,3	3,6	2,5	3,4	\$0.50	\$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	8	2,3	3,6	4	7,9	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	9	5	2,5	2,5	3,4	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	10	5	2,5	4	7,9	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	11	5	3,6	2,5	7,9	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with One C	12	1,4,7	3,6	4	3,4	\$0.50	\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	13	5	1,4	4	3,4	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	14	5	3,6	3	3,4	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	15	5	3,6	4	1,5,6	\$0.50	\$3.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
Total:							\$53.00	