



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

Just a reminder that I'll be today's pre-race seminar guest on "The Corner" with Tom Quigley. You can tune in on the Santa Anita website, XBTV, or on your ADW track feed. I'm really looking forward to spending some time with the man, the myth, the legend! As for today's Late Pick 4—it's a pretty good sequence with a fine mix of races, so let's see if we can close out the week on a high note.

LEG 1 (R5):

We start things off with a tricky \$50K Cal-bred maiden-claimer for 3-year-old fillies going 6.5-furlongs on the main track. It wouldn't shock me if something wacky happened in here, but there is a gal whom I like, so I'm going to put a lot of my eggs in her basket. That said, if she doesn't win, it's anyone's game.

#1 STATEFOREST (20/1), the first Leonard Powell entrant, adds blinkers and Lasix today after a slow beginning in her debut last time at this level when she was sent off at 8/1. Her running line doesn't look pretty, but she did at least try throughout the race, suggesting she can improve here. That said, the rail draw is no picnic at this distance. GRADE: X.

#2 REDS TRIBAL HEART (50/1) was 13/1 in her debut at this level, and she was beaten a city block after a slow start. She can certainly show more today, but I doubt it will be nearly good enough against these. GRADE: X.

#3 POLAR ROUTE (12/1) broke slowly from the rail in her debut at this level and then just kind of ran evenly around the track at 5/1. She now adds Lasix for start number-two, and trainer Matt Chew is solid with his second-time starters. It wouldn't shock me if this one ran a good one today, but I prefer others more. GRADE: C.

#4 SARA CREWE (3/1), the second Powell runner, drops to this \$50K level for the first time after facing both open and Cal-bred MSWs on all manner of surfaces. Last time, she came off a November layoff, hopped at the start, chased the pace while wide and weakened while racing on turf. This is a logical spot for her, and Rosario's presence cannot be ignored. GRADE: B.

#5 DABZILLA (8/1) was 21/1 against Cal-bred MSWs last time when making her debut. She broke last after an eventful start, and then never had a chance to show her best stuff. The drop makes sense for this homebred, and a cleaner break today could make her competitive against the likes of these, but I still prefer others. GRADE: C.

#6 RICKIE NINE TOE'S (5/2) has taken good money in her last three starts, and she's given up the ghost late after setting some pretty quick splits while going shorter. Seemingly, today's 6.5-furlongs is going to be tough for her, but there is also a world in which she won't have to go as fast early. She's



obvious based on her consistent form, but she's also the kind of gal you have to take on at 5/2. GRADE: B.

#7 TRAFFIC STOPPER (4/1) is reunited with the Koriner barn, which saddled this gal to a decent second-place finish in her debut last summer at Los Al against Cal-bred MSWs. Her races since then are a mixed bag, so it's really hard to know what to make of this gal, who is now returning to SoCal after failing to do the business up north on synth. The hood comes off, and Prat's presence can't be overlooked. GRADE: B.

#8 LUCKY LONG LEGS (6/1) drops in class, gets a 5-pound weight-break, and makes her second start for D'Amato—all positives. She should track the pace from a good in-the-clear position, and that apprentice break should kick in as others start to falter late. GRADE: B.

#9 ON THE VERGE (6/1) will be my war horse today. She was bet down to 3/1 in her debut off an 8/1 morning line, and she showed a nice late run to just miss by a neck, finishing second in that 6-furlong affair. She should move forward leaps and bounds today, and I do think she'll get a decent clip to close into. GRADE: A.

#10 SMART GIRL (20/1) has shown speed in each of her two starts, but she has weakened badly each time. She should break alertly again and chase Rickie Nine Toe's, helping to ensure a swift early pace, but I think that early energy expenditure will catch up with her late. On the plus side, she is making her third career start, so a peak effort is likely. GRADE: X.

LEG 2 (R6):

Today's second leg is another statebred race, this one for Cal-bred Maiden Special Weights of the filly and mare variety going 5.5-furlongs on the turf.

#1 BELLA CHICA (2/1) has finished second twice, in races that came 373-days apart, so it's nice to see her string two races together. She's obvious based on her form, but she will have to work out a trip from this inside post, and if you noticed last time, she wasn't the quickest out of the gate, so she will need to break alertly today. GRADE: A.

#2 SECRET OF WAR (12/1), the first Headley entrant, is a first-time starter who has some winners in her pedigree, but I find it interesting that Headley debuts her on turf, since her sire, Cyclotron, isn't a super-strong turf influence. Maldonado's presence means one thing: go as fast as you can for as far as you can! GRADE: C.

#3 CIVIL SUIT (4/1) was 21/1 at this level last time when she debuted having to break from the rail. She was off a little slowly, yet she tried all the way to the wire. Blacker is much better with his second-time starters, so I expect this gal to improve a ton today, especially with the addition of blinkers. GRADE: A.

#4 VA VA VOOM (5/2) showed good speed against open MSWs last time, so not only does she get some class relief today, but she also races with Lasix for the first time. That said, her trainer is 0-for-44 this year, and this gal is the 5/2 second choice on the morning-line. Despite her solid last race, she's one I feel like we have to take on. GRADE: C.

#5 CASSIE BELLE (20/1) is likely using this protected race as a prep for her next start, which should be against maiden-claimers, since she's coming off a 457-day layoff after showing okay form back in 2018 against lesser company. GRADE: X.

#6 RAINWINEANDHEREIAM (5/1) is a first-time starter for Mark Glatt, who rarely has them fully cranked for their debuts. But he burned me on Friday when he unleashed a first-time starter to win going a mile on the main track, an ultra-rarity that knocked me out of the Pick 4, despite having the next three "A" winners in a row (none of whom were favorites!). Can you tell I'm still stinging from that?



Anyway...Glatt does well in turf sprints, and Prat's presence must mean this one should be ready to run. GRADE: B.

#7 THE LAST RULER (20/1) is coming off a September layoff and making her first start for a new barn. Her one try on turf was an eighth-place finish, but she did have to break from the 10-hole, so you can be forgiving. I expect her to be part of the early pace with bug-boy Flores up, but she'll need to show a lot more today. GRADE: X.

#8 SPRECKELS (10/1) debuts for Steve Knapp, another trainer who doesn't often have them fully cranked, but this barn has been sending out live runners all meet long, and Cedillo shows up to ride, so this gal must have shown something in the mornings. GRADE: B.

#9 ELEMENTAL (12/1), the second Headley runner, has Street Boss influence on the bottom, and that's always a good thing when dealing with turf races. It's interesting that she worked four days apart in preparation for this race, making her look to me like the more live version of the Headley duo—but it's really just a guessing game. GRADE: C.

LEG 3 (R7):

Today's third leg is a \$62.5K optional-claiming/N2X contested at 8-furlongs on the dirt.

#1 **KERSHAW (7/2)** has sharp early speed if he wants to use it, which is why I'm perfectly fine tossing his ill-fated Kentucky campaign, where he had horrendous luck in all three of his races (hung wide, hit rail into first turn, bothered at start). His one-mile SoCal form is plenty good for him to win this, and I expect Cedillo to be very aggressive from the rail. The only question is if he'll be fit and ready off a June layoff. GRADE: A.

#2 BOLD ENDEAVOR (5/2) also has early speed, so Rosario will have options being drawn outside of Kershaw. Two back, this guy easily wired N1X foes going 8.5-furlongs over this track. A repeat of that effort makes him a strong contender, but 5/2 seems a little short to me. GRADE: B.

#3 PEPE TONO (8/1) has been on too many of my past tickets to count, and he always runs on late to pick up a minor award—never really showing that eye of the tiger to get the win at this level (in fact, he's 0-for-7 at this level). That said, he should be sitting on a peak effort, having just prepped in a 6.5-furlong race that was clearly just a leg-stretcher for this, since his best work has always been around two turns. He should also be a little closer to the pace today than usual, making him not in without a shot. GRADE: B.

#4 CALIFORNIA STREET (2/1) will need a little luck pace-wise, since he likes to lag early before making his stretch run, which has been good enough to pick up some slices, including a nice second-place finish last time at this level and distance. He's an obvious contender, but he'll need a perfect ride from Prat. GRADE: B.

#5 PLATINUM EQUITY (6/1) is a win-machine, but the best he could do at this level when racing this distance on dirt was fourth two back when he checked in behind California Street. There's no denying the fact that this blue-collar runner is a professional racehorse, but he does seem a cut below the best in here. That said, we mentioned earlier how the Knapp barn is on fire. GRADE: C.

#6 ACKER (4/1) has always been a very honest racehorse, but let's face it: his best work has come on turf, so we'll see if he can replicate his turf form on fast-dirt, a surface upon which he's winless. He's making the third start of his form cycle, so he should be fit and ready for a best effort, but it really becomes a question of surface for him, which gives me pause. GRADE: C.



LEG 4 (R8):

We close things out with a really cool \$40K optional-claiming/N1X contested at 10-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 20-feet. It drew an oversubscribed field of 14 horses, but only 10 will greet the starter due to the rail setting, but it's still a really interesting race (since we don't see too many of these turf routes these days!).

#1 DESMOND DOSS (6/1), the first D'Amato entrant, is a lightly raced 4-year-old who still has some upside. That said, this Cal-bred is facing open company for the first time while having to run this far for the first time. He certainly acts like a horse who can stay on, but I give the edge to others. GRADE: B.

#2 SOUTHERN KING (7/2) got the worst trip in racing: the stalking-wide journey on the turf. He still ran a very good second, even with that trip and having some trouble. He now makes his second SoCal start while getting some extra ground to play with. Back East, this dude was regularly coming home way above the par for this level, which will make him extremely dangerous today. GRADE: A.

#3 PROUD PEDRO (FR) (3/1) just missed at this level last time when going a mile, running out of room. He's never been this far, but he has a sharp win at 9-furlongs, and he certainly acts like a horse who should be able to get the distance. GRADE: B.

#4 FARQUHAR (5/1) wasn't too far off Southern King last time, but that rival had a wide journey and trouble, while this guy got a good trip yet was still outkicked, despite having a 5-pound weight-break, which he retains today. Maybe the added ground will help this ploddy type, but I prefer others. GRADE: C.

#5 RED KING (5/1), the second D'Amato runner, actually won at this level when he ran for the optional claiming tag last April, but funnily enough, he hasn't been able to get a win since then, despite running some good races against similar types. He's proven going beyond this distance, so he'll be perfectly fine today, and you can expect him to be motoring home late—but what you see is what you get. GRADE: B.

#6 TURN THE SWITCH (20/1) has tactical speed, and it would be wise for Maldonado to use it, looking to steal the race—since this guy seems up against it, having just broken his maiden for \$62.5K with a perfect trip going a mile. GRADE: X.

#7 CRYSTAL TRIBE (IRE) (12/1), the first Mullins charge, is a horse I've been chasing, so I'm not going to get off him today, since his best U.S. race has come at today's distance, even though he ran like a short horse that day. His starts since then have been eventful, so I do think he's capable of better, though I don't like that his two previous top jocks have bailed. GRADE: B.

#8 STORM THE BASTILLE (FR) (12/1) was 12/1 at this level last time, and he put in a mild late bid to finish sixth, losing to a few of these. He'll need to do much better today, but in his defense, he did have some traffic issues last time and still ran a pretty good race. I prefer others, but he should show more today. GRADE: C.

#9 M TOWN GEM (8/1) has run a few decent races at this level, but he's had his chances and hasn't really shown the eye of the tiger. He just finished behind several of these at 10/1, though in his defense, he had a really wide journey from the 10-hole. He can do better, but will it be good enough? GRADE: C.

#10 MOUNTAIN SPIRIT (15/1), the second Mullins trainee, stretched out for the first time last time and ran a closing sixth, finishing behind Proud Pedro (Fr). It wasn't a bad effort for his first try around two turns, but I didn't really see much to make me think he could do better against that foe while also having to negotiate more ground. GRADE: C.



#11 GO DADDY GO (8/1) (AE) has speed, and he'll need to use it from out here—but that's not a bad thing, since there isn't much pace in this race. That said, this guy just broke his maiden, so he faces some tougher foes today. Still, his come-home times aren't too bad for a lightly raced runner, so I think we can look for him to make some noise next time if he draws in with a better post. GRADE: B.

#12 KAZAN (IRE) (7/2) (AE) is coming off an August layoff, and O'Neill typically gives them a start before they fire big. That said, this guy has races that are good enough to win this—and he has been competitive at this level plenty of times before. He'll come on with his late run, but I'm tempted to watch one if he's anywhere near his short 7/2 morning-line. GRADE: C.

#13 ORIGINAL INTENT (30/1) (AE) has okay dirt form against much cheaper, but this is a tough spot for a one-paced runner who is 0-for-4 on turf. GRADE: X.

#14 POTANTICO (20/1) (AE) has dirt speed, so he will use it from this outside post, hoping for the best under 5-pound bug-boy Velez. Note that he's cleared this hurdle before (on dirt), so he's in for the \$40K tag today. His one turf try was a debacle, however, so this seems like a tough spot for this runner. GRADE: X.

SUGGESTED WAGERS

I feel really good about my "A's" today, and I think I will play a tight ticket a few times, but the whole **MATRIX** here costs **\$73.50**—and that gives you a lot of back-up coverage. If you want to spend less, **\$64** will get you all "A's" with two "B's," while **\$13** 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	9	4 6 7 8	3 5	1 2 10
6	1 3	6 8	2 4 9	5 7
7	1	2 3 4	5 6	
8	2	1 3 5 7	4 8 9 10	6 11 12 13 14

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	9	1,3	1	2	\$0.50	\$1.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with One B	2	4,6,7,8	1,3	1	2	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	3	9	6,8	1	2	\$0.50	\$1.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	4	9	1,3	2,3,4	2	\$0.50	\$3.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	5	9	1,3	1	1,3,5,7	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with Two ...	6	4,6,7,8	6,8	1	2	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	7	4,6,7,8	1,3	2,3,4	2	\$0.50	\$12.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	8	4,6,7,8	1,3	1	1,3,5,7	\$0.50	\$16.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	9	9	6,8	2,3,4	2	\$0.50	\$3.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	10	9	6,8	1	1,3,5,7	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	11	9	1,3	2,3,4	1,3,5,7	\$0.50	\$12.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with One C	12	3,5	1,3	1	2	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	13	9	2,4,9	1	2	\$0.50	\$1.50	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	14	9	1,3	5,6	2	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	15	9	1,3	1	4,8,9,10	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
Total:						\$73.50		