



THE PICK 4 MATRIX

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2/28/2020

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

We are back at it this Friday with a three-day race week at the Great Race Place. The Late Pick 4 sequence didn't draw the biggest fields—though there are some interesting races—so we'll have to be very targeted in our approach today.

LEG 1 (R5):

We start things off with a Maiden Special Weight contested at 9-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 0-feet. Note: this race is for 3-year-olds and upward, so it's that time of year when the younger horses start taking on elders for the first time, so pay attention.

#1 SILENT MUSKETIER (30/1) has no speed and removes the hood—not usually a good thing. He also seems outclassed. GRADE: X.

#2 ON EASY STREET (6/1) was outfinished by Border Town last time, so he'll need to do better today—but if that foe falters, this guy could easily get the win, making the second start of his form cycle after a decent effort going a mile off the bench last time. GRADE: B.

#3 CAPITAL CALL (6/1), the first Drysdale entrant, should move forward today, getting Lasix and making the second start of his form cycle after grinding out a third-place finish last time—but he is a 3-year-old facing elders. GRADE: B.

#4 TROJAN MAGIC (3/1) has an abundance of early speed, so he'll have every chance to wire the field today, but he was edged last time against \$62.5K maiden-claimers going a mile, and I have to bet that someone will run him down again today—though I can't fault anyone for playing this lone-F. GRADE: C.

#5 MULHOLLAND HIGHWAY (IRE) (15/1), the second Drysdale runner, also adds Lasix, but he's making his third career start and going synth to turf after failing to get the job done up north. That said, he has run two okay races, and he can certainly move forward today. His morning-line seems a bit high. GRADE: C.

#6 COMMANDING CHIEF (5/2) has been a portrait of consistency, but that's not an admirable quality in the maiden ranks because that means this one usually runs well but hasn't been able to get the victory. He'll run his race and have every chance to win, but I feel like the value of this race is taking this guy on. GRADE: C.

#7 **BORDER TOWN (8/5)** is definitely the horse to beat after two very good races going a mile, where he closed strongly to just miss. The added ground shouldn't be an issue, and I like the addition of blinkers, since this guy idled last time when it mattered most. GRADE: A.



LEG 2 (R6):

Today's second leg is a \$30K maiden-claimer for fillies and mares going 6-furlongs on the main track. Non one is to be trusted.

#1 WINNING BELLS (5/2) dueled between last time through wicked early splits and finished second—but was no match for the winner. Still, it wasn't a bad effort, but she now draws inside while one of the gals she dueled with draws outside of her. GRADE: B.

#2 SWEET SASSAFRASSY (6/1) dueled inside last time and finished third, well behind Winning Bells. But now this one gets a more favorable post to push her rival. GRADE: A.

#3 CAUGHT IN A TRAPPE (6/1) debuts for Brinkerhoff, who can pop every now and again with a firster. The gate work on the 14th isn't half-bad, and she won't have to be much to beat these. GRADE: B.

#4 SWINGIN IT (5/1) was 3/1 in her debut, and she ran a good third despite a poor beginning. She lost support in her next start, but she never had a chance to show her best stuff, as she clipped heels and went down. I like that she can pass horses and is getting a 5-pound weight-break. I'm thinking she could mow them all down, if she can get out of the gate! GRADE: A.

#5 DORITA'S LEMON (4/1) debuts for Kruljac, who doesn't often have them fully cranked, but he does leg up his boy Rispoli, who has won with some prices for this trainer. This \$30K purchase fits nicely here, but I'm tempted to watch one. GRADE: C.

#6 IT'S A RIDDLE (9/5) has speed and is drawn outside, so she has the advantage—but there is other speed in here to ensure a quick pace, and it should be noted that this 3-year-old (who is facing elders for the first time) has had her chances. She's also no value. GRADE: B.

LEG 3 (R7):

Today's third leg is a \$50K claimer contested at 5.5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 30-feet.

#1 SNAZZY DRESSER (7/2) was a voided-claim for \$32K back in August out of a 9-furlong race; he hasn't been seen since, and now comes back in a sprint while being protected at a tougher level. He could win, but the 7/2 morning-line seems short on a horse that would appear to be prepping. GRADE: C.

#2 KAZAN (IRE) (5/2) was also a voided-claim back in August with the \$40K price tag refunded. This deep-closing router is now being offered for \$50K off a long layoff, and like the rail horse, I have to think he's going to need longer to show his best stuff. His 5/2 morning-line means there is value in this race. GRADE: C.

#3 REEDLEY (5/1) was very sharp beating \$25K/N2L foes last time, breaking alertly, making the lead through swift splits, and never looking back. He can be competitive right back, but this is a much tougher level and there is other speed he'll have to face today. GRADE: C.

#4 RESTLESS RAMBLER (2/1), the first Glatt entrant, is very fast early, so he'll get a great trip and should prove very tough to run down, competing at this \$50K level after finding N2X foes too tough last time. It's his race to lose. GRADE: A.

#5 TRUTH SEEKER (7/2), the second Glatt runner, should be included as well, simply because he sports my favorite angle of late: milers cutting back to this 5.5-furlong turf sprint. He'll be fit off his last race, and if his stablemate gets leg-weary late, this guy could be there to pick up the pieces. GRADE: A.

#6 MIDNIGHT SWAP (12/1) is also a miler cutting back, so I would use him as well, since he'll be fit off those N2X races, where he showed good tactical speed before weakening badly late. GRADE: B.



LEG 4 (R8):

We close things out with a wide-open Cal-bred \$50K maiden-claimer contested at 6.5-furlongs on the main track.

#1 TEJON (3/1) is the only older horse in the field, but he's a 5-year-old making his first career start—not a good thing. That said, I'm sure he'll be fully cranked for his unveiling. Unfortunately, the rail draw is no picnic, so Cedillo will have to get him in a good position early. GRADE: B.

#2 **WORLD O LUCK (6/1)** hasn't shown much in two starts against tougher going 5.5-furlongs on the turf. I like the drop and the switch to dirt, so this guy will have every chance to show what he can do today—but he will need to do better at the break. GRADE: A.

#3 GUINESSEY (30/1) debuted going long and really looked just out for a spin, being kept wide the whole time and never really asked for run. He can do much better today on the cutback, but others are expected to improve as well. GRADE: C.

#4 RISK CALCULATED (10/1) is a first-time starter for Jonathan Wong, and he can certainly get one ready to roll at first-asking. That said I prefer others. GRADE: C.

#5 SEIZETHEDAY REXY (2/1) had some traffic trouble last time when grinding out a second-place finish at this level and distance. Prat stays put, and this guy should run a good one today. GRADE: B.

#6 **PERFECT AFFECTION (5/2)** drops in for a tag after not doing much against tougher Cal-bred MSWs. He moves from turf to dirt and gets a 5-pound weight-break, so you can expect him to be running on through the wire. D'Amato won with a similar horse the other day. GRADE: A.

#7 VERY IRISH (5/1) removes the hood, drops in class, goes turf to dirt and route to sprint, and returns a new gelding: in other words, he's had everything but the kitchen sink thrown at him today. We'll see if he responds, but the other MSW droppers appeal more. GRADE: C.

SUGGESTED WAGERS

It's going to be tough to make money in this sequence, so I'm not sure spending **\$85** to cover the whole **MATRIX** makes much sense. That said, we do have some 6/1 shots as "A's," so we could catch something—and I'm definitely going to play my top line a few extra times. If you do want to spend less, **\$59** will get you all "A's" with two "B's," while **\$24** 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/>.

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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	7	2 3	4 5 6	1
6	2 4	1 3 6	5	
7	4 5	6	1 2 3	
8	2 6	1 5	3 4 7	

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	7	2,4	4,5	2,6	\$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	2,3	2,4	4,5	2,6	\$0.50	\$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	3	7	1,3,6	4,5	2,6	\$0.50	\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	4	7	2,4	6	2,6	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	5	7	2,4	4,5	1,5	\$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	2,3	1,3,6	4,5	2,6	\$0.50	\$12.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	7	2,3	2,4	6	2,6	\$0.50	\$4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	8	2,3	2,4	4,5	1,5	\$0.50	\$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	9	7	1,3,6	6	2,6	\$0.50	\$3.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	10	7	1,3,6	4,5	1,5	\$0.50	\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	11	7	2,4	6	1,5	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A's with One C	12	4,5,6	2,4	4,5	2,6	\$0.50	\$12.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	13	7	5	4,5	2,6	\$0.50	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	14	7	2,4	1,2,3	2,6	\$0.50	\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
	15	7	2,4	4,5	3,4,7	\$0.50	\$6.00	<input type="checkbox"/> x2 <input type="checkbox"/> x3 <input type="checkbox"/> x4
Total:						\$85.00	Select "BetNow" to place this bet!	