THE PICK 4 MATRIX
featuring the Santa Anita Late P4
&
the Golden Hour P4

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
It was nice to close out last weekend with the MATRIX combos connecting in both the Santa Anita Late P4 and the Golden Hour Double. Let's see if we can keep the good times rolling today. We've got an abbreviated two-day racing week for the next two weekends at Santa Anita Park—and this weekend, it will be all dirt racing to give the turf course a bit of a breather. Nine-race cards are on tap at both SA and the Gate, so the Late Pick 4 beings in Race 6, while the low-takeout Golden Hour P4 consists of the following: SA8/GG8/SA9/GG9.

SA LATE P4 LEG 1 (SA R6):
We start the all-dirt sequence with an interesting $40K optional-claiming/N1X contested at 7-furlongs on the main track.

    #1 EXAULTED (6/5) is a 4-year-old in the ascendancy, so there is still plenty of upside here, coming off a third-place finish in the tough San Carlos (G2), where he rallied late to pick up a slice. Before that, he broke his maiden at today's distance and level, so he should be very tough in here. That said, he has to break from the rail with Mike Smith doing the steering—so everything will need to fall just right. But you can expect him to be flying home. GRADE: A.

    #2 WRECKING CREW (8/1), the first Miller entrant, is a 4-year-old who is looking to recapture his juvenile form, where he was competitive against some very good animals. He hasn't really trained on, but I suppose he should be considered today, making the second start of his form cycle, taking off the blinkers, and with Prat bothering to ride. We'll get a good sense today of where this former stakes-placed horse belongs. GRADE: B.

    #3 HOWBEIT (5/1) was the 2/1 favorite at this level last time, but he could only manage fourth after tracking a slow pace and grinding away to the wire in that 6-furlong affair. Note that his come-home time in that race was pretty good, suggesting he should move forward today getting 7-furlongs. A few of these have beaten him before, but he's in good hands with Glatt—who took him for $32K two back—so it wouldn't shock me if he ran a corker today. GRADE: B.

    #4 COLT FICTION (3/1) ran some really good races last year at Del Mar when beating up on lesser foes, so he has that form to run back to, especially since he's making the third start of his form

cycle after a decent third at this level last time. He edged out Howbeit in that 6-furlong affair, and he too came home smartly, suggesting he can move forward again today. He's yet another contender in a very challenging race. GRADE: B.

#5 TIZHOTNDUSTY (6/1) sports the turnback angle after two races going longer, including a 9-furlong turf race last time where he stalked the pace and weakened. You can toss that performance and perhaps focus on the fact that he beat Howbeit last October. He also gets a 7-pound weight-break to help his cause today. He's facing a class hike, but he's not impossible. Still, I prefer others. GRADE: C.

#6 CALIFORNIA STREET (8/1) runs for the $40K tag because this closing sprinter has already won at this level—albeit, a very long time ago. Since he cleared this condition, he's run some decent races against some better horses, but his lack of early speed has been his undoing. I'd say he'd have a big chance if there was a hot pace in here, but I'm not seeing that—and I really don't like that this 7-year-old hasn't been able to string together a campaign after hitting the shelf last February. His two comeback races since then weren't anything special. Maybe look for him next time? GRADE: C.

#7 GOLDEN STAR ROCK (15/1), the second Miller runner, makes the third start of his form cycle after two blah races here on the SoCal turf. Before he switched to this circuit, his claim to fame was breaking his maiden on a sealed muddy Mountaineer track while going a mile, so it's no surprise that form hasn't held up on turf. Can he move forward today while switching back to the main track? He did cost $400K at one point, and he's not being offered for a tag yet, so perhaps he'll put forth a peak effort today with the blinkers on and the hot-riding Hernandez taking the call. Still, he'll really need to move forward. GRADE: C.

SA LATE P4 LEG 2 (SA R7):
Today's second leg is a competitive $20K claimer contested at 8-furlongs on the main track.

#1 CONTAGION (4/1) stepped up with the race of his life last time when dusting $10K claimers going a mile. He sat off a quick pace and powered home to win convincingly—but he was a voided-claim. Smart trainer Lerner now double-jumps him, so we'll see if he can replicate that effort against tougher animals; plus, he'll need some help in the pace department. GRADE: B.

#2 CONQUEST COBRA (3/1) is also jumping up in class off a very good effort after beating $12.5K foes going 8.5-furlongs last time as the 4/5 favorite. I'm shocked no one claimed this old warrior, and now Belvoir moves him up the ladder, where he's run perfectly fine before. Prat stays put, and this guy's versatility should ensure a good trip. GRADE: A.

#3 SWAMP SOUFFLE (12/1) was doing good work against some tough cookies while going longer on the turf, but he seemed to go off form last year and hasn't really been able to regain it. That said, Saldana though enough to claim this one for $16K last time and now shows confidence by moving him up a smidge. He definitely has races that are fast enough and good enough to win this, but can he run back to those? GRADE: C.

#4 CAUSEIDIDITMYWAY (7/2) has shown good tactical speed against restricted claimers, but now he has to face open foes today and not just runners with one or two wins. Note that Conquest Cobra beat him on the square four back at Los Al, where this guy set the pace and yielded. He'll be a pace factor again today, but I'm not sure if he'll be able to fend off some hard-knocking claimers. GRADE: C.

#5 TRUTH SEEKER (5/2) is coming off a brief freshening and seems to be spotted really well by Miyadi, who saddled this guy to a nice win against $20K/N3L foes four back. His few races after that against better animals weren't bad at all, so this guy will have every chance to get the win today while tracking the pace. GRADE: A.

#6 COLOSI (3/1) has done good work for Glatt, who took him for $12.5K five back. Since then, he has one win and two minor placings in his three dirt races since the claim. That said, he's been facing lesser animals, and he seems to be a better sprinter than a router at this point in his career. GRADE: C.

SA LATE P4 LEG 3/GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 1 (SA R8):

Today's third leg—a $62.5K optional-claiming/N2X contested at a mile on the main track—is also the first leg of the Golden Hour Pick 4, so it's an important race for us. Admittedly, I had a really hard time with this race, but I do know this: there looks to be a lot of speed on paper. Cross our fingers and say a prayer we get out of this alive! (Note: I've given two letter grades in this race because we can afford to spread in the fifty-cent Santa Anita Late Pick 4, but we don't have that luxury in the $1 Golden Hour Pick 4; so, the first letter-grade is for the Santa Anita P4, while the second one is for the Golden Hour, but you can mix and match however you see fit.)

#1 TAISHAN (4/1) has run some big races in his past, but he hasn't won since he dominated an age-restricted group of N1X foes last March at Oaklawn Park. His recent form has been on turf, but both of his wins have come on the main track, so the surface switch should be just fine. It's just a matter of whether he can get back to his best races. He is making the second start of his form cycle, and note that he was 2/1 at this level last time. GRADE: B/B.

#2 LAMBEAU (5/1) has sharp early speed and has some talent and grit—but he is coming off a July layoff and will need to be fit and ready to run a big one with other speed drawn outside of him. He's certainly good enough to win this, but I'm tempted to watch one. GRADE: C/X.

#3 CHARLITO (4/1) looked good beating N1X foes going a mile under a 7-pound weight-break, which he keeps today. But both of his wins have come in wire fashion, and there is other speed in here who are faster than this guy. Maybe he'll luck into a good stalking trip, but then he'll have to show an ability to want to pass horses when it matters most. GRADE: B/C.

#4 EKKLESIA (6/1), the first Eurton entrant, has tactical speed but doesn't need the lead—and he returns a new gelding, so maybe he'll just relax and get a nice stalking trip off a quick pace. Note that his two tries at this level earlier in the year weren't anything special, but he was racing beyond a mile, while his two wins have come at today's distance. Plus, note he was the 8/5 favorite last time when Bold Endeavor beat him. I think he can do better today. GRADE: A/A.

#5 SASH (GB) (5/1) should be sitting on a peak race, making the second start of his form cycle and stretching out after a turf-sprint prep race. His dirt form is pretty good, and the blinkers-on means he's going to use his sharp speed to make sure Lambeau doesn't wire him again, like that foe did back in an N1X last year. Still, I think he's going to be part of a quick pace, and I don't like that Cedillo chooses another. GRADE: C/X.

#6 COUNTRY GRAMMAR—program scratch.

#7 BOLD ENDEAVOR (5/2) was the 5/2 favorite at this level last time, and he ran a good race but was edged out by a classier horse. He cuts back a smidge today and has already won at this level, so he'll have every chance to get the win today with Prat taking the call. He can also stalk the pace and pass horses. GRADE: B/B.

#8 ROYAL ACT (10/1), the second Eurton runner, is a bit of a grinder who should benefit from a quick pace, but note that this guy was no match for a few of these at this level when going 9-furlongs back in February (though he did stumble at the start). He's been freshened since then, and he is a lightly raced 4-year-old who cost $500K, so there is still some upside here—but I like others just a little bit more. GRADE: C/X.

#9 HEYWOODS BEACH (20/1) has done decent work on the turf, but he hasn't been able to clear this condition while racing against some decent grass runners. Can he transfer that form to the main track? Tough to say, since his only main-track race was a blah effort on a sealed/good Los Al track back in 2019. Sadler is no dummy, and I think it's interesting he is running this guy back right after a March 27 race, but I'm tempted to watch one. GRADE: C/X.

SA LATE P4 LEG 4/GOLDEN HOUR P4 LEG 3 (SA R9):
We end the Santa Anita card (and pick back up in the Golden Hour P4 with Leg 3 of that bet) with a low-level $30K maiden-claimer for 3-year-old fillies going 6-furlongs on the main track.

#1 BIG AL'S PRINCESS (5/1), the first Garcia entrant, was 5/2 at this level and distance last time, and she ran a good second after setting the pace. She had a 7-pound weight-break that day, and she keeps it again today. She'll go hard from the rail, then we'll see if that takes its toll late. GRADE: B.

#2 LIFE'S EMOTIONS (15/1) is a first-time starter from a trainer who has done most of his best work the last few years at Los Al but who is having a decent meet here so far. The last two works are really solid, and this home-bred seems to be spotted well, but I'm still tempted to watch one. GRADE: X.

#3 BEST OF SHOW (8/1) was the 19/10 favorite at this level and distance last time, but a troubled break compromised her chances, and she ran a dull fourth. She's eligible to do better today, but it's not like her previous races were anything special either. That said, she gets a 7-pound weight-break to help her cause today. GRADE: A.

#4 LULU D'ORO (6/1), the second Garcia runner, was 5/1 at this level and distance last time, and she ran third, just a half-length to her stablemate. She attended the pace but couldn't summon the necessary oomph to get the job done. She should do better today, but will it be enough? GRADE: C.

#5 ENSLEYS DREAM (5/1) has speed and adds blinkers while also dropping in price after facing more expensive Cal-bred runners last time, where she weakened as the 8/5 favorite. Maldonado's presence means one thing: go hard and hope for the best. GRADE: B.

#6 EVENING ANCHOR (15/1), the first Sean McCarthy charge, makes her SoCal debut after failing to menace against Remington Park MSWs back in December. The works aren't anything special, but that could also be by design. Still, I'm tempted to watch one. GRADE: X.

#7 MEDUSA'S GAZE (4/1) was 2/1 against Cal-bred $50K maidens last time, and she stalked the pace to finish second. It was similar to a few of her previous races, where she got a good trip but lacked the necessary oomph in the lane to seal the deal. That said, she only needs to move forward slightly today, and I think that's possible with the cutback from 7-furlongs to today's 6-panels. GRADE: A.

#8 MOLOKINI (20/1) was 17/1 at this level last December at Los Al, and she was no factor. Let's watch one today, even with the 7-pound weight-break. GRADE: X.

#9 KIND BUT SHE LIES (7/2) ran a decent fourth last time against Cal-bred $50K maidens when going a mile on turf while being sent off at 6/1. The cutback and switch to dirt should be just fine, and you can expect this one to be running on late in a race that should have a decent early clip. GRADE: B.

#10 PHILLIPS LANE (15/1), the second Sean McCarthy trainee, looks like a lesser version of her stablemate, since this one is an Oklahoma-bred who couldn't beat her own kind last October at Remington Park. That said, Cedillo is enticed to ride, so that's somewhat interesting—but is that enough to get involved? GRADE: X.

#11 BRIO IS AWESOME (30/1) was 11/1 at this level and distance last time, and she attended the pace while wide before weakening. She looks like she's in for a similar trip today. GRADE: X.

#12 SEASON TO REMEMBER (20/1) debuts for Lewis, who can pop every now and again with a firster, but he's typically on the patient side. The works are pretty slow, but Hernandez's presence is interesting. Still, I think I'll watch one. GRADE: X.

Let's move to the Gate for the second leg of the Golden Hour P4 (GG R8): an entry-level allowance for fillies and mares going 5.5-furlongs on the main synthetic track.

#1 MARILYN'S SMILE (9/2) is in excellent form, having won two in a row in solid fashion, where she sat off the pace and powered home to win convincingly. That's the good news. The bad news is: she's been beating up on claimers, and today she has to break from the rail. That said, this isn't the toughest allowance group, so this one doesn't look too overmatched in here—but note that win-rider Frey sides with another. GRADE: X.

#2 PROMOTE (IRE) (10/1) was 2/1 at this level back in August 2020, but she attended the pace and weakened to finish sixth. She was then dropped into the claiming ranks to close out her 4-year-old campaign, and she failed to win there either. She's been off since September, and I think it makes sense to watch one. Note: she races with hind shoes off today. GRADE: X.

#3 SHE OWNS THE PAYNT (20/1) broke her maiden on a muddy Emerald Downs track back in September and then hit the shelf. She has tactical speed, but will she be fit off the layoff? That plus her synth form not being anything special makes me want to look elsewhere. GRADE: X.

#4 OVER ATTRACTED (5/2) has run some decent races against allowance foes down south while racing on turf, so we'll see how she does up here while racing on Tapeta. She does have a synth win from 2020 when she won at Chantilly in France going 6.5-furlongs. She doesn't have the best early speed, but the one time she tried 5.5-furlongs, she flew home to just miss in an N1X on the turf at Santa Anita. GRADE: B.

#5 AWAY FROM THE SUN (7/5) has done nothing wrong in two starts against weaker foes, so we'll see how she does today against better allowance company. I think she can stand the raise, since she's looked very good in each of her two starts. She also projects a really good stalking trip. GRADE: A.

#6 SMILING SPIRIT (20/1) was 77/1 at this level last time, and she ran to those long odds after a slow break and showing no early speed. This 6-year-old mare will need a form reversal today. GRADE: X.

#7 MY LEGAL BET (4/1) was 15/1 in her debut, but she rewarded her backers with a very nice victory in a 6-furlong MSW. She broke from the rail, tracked from off the pace, and finished up willingly to get the nod against 10 other foes. That's a really good race to build on, and she's lucky that she doesn't catch the toughest allowance field in her first try versus winners. GRADE: B.

We close out the Golden Hour P4 with a starter-allowance for 3-year-olds only going 6-furlongs on the main synthetic track.

#1 EVENEREVENWORSE (10/1) was 6/5 against $8K maiden-claimers last time, and he made the lead and never looked back in that 5-furlong affair. He now faces tougher, breaks form the rail, has to go farther, and will face more heat. He'll have to earn it. GRADE: X.

#2 CRISTIANO'S DREAM (4/1) was sharp in his debut when he rallied strongly from off the pace to win easily going 5.5-furlongs against Cal-bred MSWs. He hasn't been able to replicate that effort against N1X foes, so Lenzini gives him some class-relief today against softer starter foes. He is eligible to rebound, especially since he'll be fit cutting back from a route to a sprint. GRADE: A.

#3 PHANTOM DROP (5/1) was 19/1 at this level two back when he stalked the pace and finished willingly to get the win, rewarding his backers. He couldn't repeat last time as the 17/10 favorite, but he was shortening up, and he still did manage to finish second. He seems like a logical contender, but two back was the time you really wanted him at such a big number. GRADE: B.

#4 SOUL PRODIGY (20/1) was 11/1 at this level last time, and he was well-beaten after attending the pace. His one win came loose on the lead, and I'm not sure he's going to get that luxury today. GRADE: X.

#5 PAPPY BOYINGTON (7/2) was 2/1 against $12.5K claimers last time, and he just missed while getting a 5-pound weight-break. It was a good effort, but this is a tougher group he faces today. That said, he was competitive against starter foes when racing on turf down south, so he should be able to show his best stuff today. GRADE: B.

#6 JAZZ HANDS (6/5) was 7/1 against N1X types last time while coming off an August 2020 layoff. He set a quick pace but was reeled in while finishing second. Still, it was a fast race, and this guy did show promise as a juvenile, so there is still some upside here. The only concern is that he might bounce, but he's had two decent works since that race. GRADE: A.

#7 FOREFATHERS FURY (10/1) was 4/5 against $12.5K maidens last time, and he delivered the goods, attending the pace and drawing off to win easily. That speed will come in handy, and he'll be able to sit a good, in-the-clear trip. We'll see how he fares first time against winners while facing tougher animals though. I'm tempted to watch one. GRADE: X.

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SANTA ANITA LATE P4 MATRIX (SA6 through SA9)

Even though there are some good-looking short prices in the mix, I'm not sure I trust them, making this a tough sequence, because it's also very hard to separate the other contenders. That said, we can get pretty good **MATRIX** coverage (and with a 6/1 and an 8/1 as "A's" in two of the legs) for **$79.50**.

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!

Ticket Structure	$ per Bet ⓘ	Ticket Cost
☑ All A's		
1 1 / 2,5 / 4 / 3,7	0.50	2.00
☐ All A's / All B's		
2 1,2,3,4 / 1,2,5 / 1,3,4,7 / 1,3,5,7,9	0	0
☑ A's with One B		
3 2,3,4 / 2,5 / 4 / 3,7	0.50	6.00
4 1 / 1 / 4 / 3,7	0.50	1.00
5 1 / 2,5 / 1,3,7 / 3,7	0.50	6.00
6 1 / 2,5 / 4 / 1,5,9	0.50	3.00
☑ A's with Two B		
7 2,3,4 / 1 / 4 / 3,7	0.50	3.00
8 2,3,4 / 2,5 / 1,3,7 / 3,7	0.50	18.00
9 2,3,4 / 2,5 / 4 / 1,5,9	0.50	9.00
10 1 / 1 / 1,3,7 / 3,7	0.50	3.00
11 1 / 1 / 4 / 1,5,9	0.50	1.50
12 1 / 2,5 / 1,3,7 / 1,5,9	0.50	9.00
☑ A's with One C		
13 5,6,7 / 2,5 / 4 / 3,7	0.50	6.00
14 1 / 3,4,6 / 4 / 3,7	0.50	3.00
15 1 / 2,5 / 2,5,8,9 / 3,7	0.50	8.00
16 1 / 2,5 / 4 / 4	0.50	1.00

By using TicketMaker, you have saved **$928.5** compared to the "caveman" ticket
By using TicketMaker, you have bet your "A" opinions 4 times

Total Wager
$79.5

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GOLDEN HOUR P4 MATRIX (SA8; GG8; SA9; GG9)

This sequence plays out very similar to the Santa Anita Late P4, with some short prices who look good but aren't necessarily to be trusted, but we do have those same 6/1 and 8/1 "A's" in the **MATRIX** mix, so we could possibly turn this **$98** into something good if things fall the right way. If you want to spend less, **$92** will get you all "A's" with two "B's," while **$30** will get you all "A's" with one "B." Of course, if you want to spend more, I'd suggest spreading deep in Leg 1, which is such a tough race.

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!

Ticket Structure	$ per Bet ⓘ	Ticket Cost
☑ **All A's**		
1 4 / 5 / 3,7 / 2,6	1.00	4.00
☐ **All A's / All B's**		
2 1,4,7 / 4,5,7 / 1,3,5,7,9 / 2,3,5,6	0	0
☑ **A's with One B**		
3 1,7 / 5 / 3,7 / 2,6	1.00	8.00
4 4 / 4,7 / 3,7 / 2,6	1.00	8.00
5 4 / 5 / 1,5,9 / 2,6	1.00	6.00
6 4 / 5 / 3,7 / 3,5	1.00	4.00
☑ **A's with Two B**		
7 1,7 / 4,7 / 3,7 / 2,6	1.00	16.00
8 1,7 / 5 / 1,5,9 / 2,6	1.00	12.00
9 1,7 / 5 / 3,7 / 3,5	1.00	8.00
10 4 / 4,7 / 1,5,9 / 2,6	1.00	12.00
11 4 / 4,7 / 3,7 / 3,5	1.00	8.00
12 4 / 5 / 1,5,9 / 3,5	1.00	6.00
☑ **A's with One C**		
13 3 / 5 / 3,7 / 2,6	1.00	4.00
14 4 / 5 / 4 / 2,6	1.00	2.00
By using TicketMaker, you have saved **$190** compared to the "caveman" ticket. By using TicketMaker, you have bet your "A" opinions 4 times	**Total Wager**	**$98**