

BOB IKE'S SANTA ANITA SELECTIONS

OPENING DAY, DEC. 26

TUESDAY SELECTIONS AND BETTING STRATEGY:

Today's Best Plays: Races 2, 7, 8 and a \$72 Pick 4 ticket.

NOTE: Santa Anita kicks off its 85-day meet with a terrific Opening Day card. Happy Holidays and good luck on a prosperous season.--Bob

1st race--

1. VIDCLIP (5) 2. SIDEPOCKET CAT (1) 3. HUITUSSI (8)

*****2nd race--**

1. RUSH RUSH (4) 2. STORM MATE (6) 3. TEN DOWNING STREET (9)

This might be the best gambling race on the card, especially if I can be right about top choice RUSH RUSH (12-1). The Machowsky-trained gelding didn't fire his best shot when making his second start but I loved his debut win down the hill back at Oak Tree. Make a Win Bet on 'RUSH and play two trifecta tickets keying him with main threat STORM MATE (6-1), who has a history of firing fresh and gets a big rider upgrade to Gomez.

Trifecta numbers: 4,6/4,6/ALL=\$20 and 4,6/ALL/4,6=\$20

3rd race--

1. TENFOLD (2) 2. AMAZIN BLUE (3) 3. CARMAN (5) 4. TIAGO (8)

4th race--

1. NUMBER JUAN (7) 2. CITY LIGHTS (10) 3. FANTASMIN (5)

5th race--

1. COCO BELLE (1) 2. INTO REALITY (11) 3. A P CHARLIE (12)

6th race--

1. PIRATES DEPUTY (3) 2. SUPER IMAGE (10) 3. STREET LIGHTS (1A)

*****7th race--**

1. PORTO SANTO (11) 2. IN SUMMATION (1) 3. CRESTED (2) 3. KIP DEVILLE (3)

Here's another outstanding betting race as a full field of 13 sophomores go on turf. I will go with late-running PORTO SANTO (5-1), who shortened up to the mile distance and won nicely last time at Hollypark. He has competed with top company and only needs a realistic pace and clean trip to handle these. Make a Win Bet on 'SANTO and key him in the trifecta over IN SUMMATION (7-2), CRESTED (8-1) and KIP DEVILLE (6-1) for second, then use ALL for third. Also, play a second ticket using those three on top, with 'SANTO for second, then ALL.

Trifecta numbers: 11/1,2,3/ALL=\$33 and 1,2,3/11/ALL=\$33

*****8th race--**

1. MIDNIGHT LUTE (7) 2. ARSON SQUAD (2) 3. LATENT HEAT (12)

This year's Malibu could go any number of ways but I like the chances of MIDNIGHT LUTE (4-1). The Baffert-trainee has won three of four lifetime starts, including a very impressive last-out win at Keeneland. He continues to train in superb style and should get a good trip behind the leaders. Make a Win Bet on 'LUTE and key him in the trifecta over ARSON SQUAD (9-2) and LATENT HEAT (6-1) for second, then use ALL for third. Play a second ticket using those two on top, with 'LUTE for second, then ALL for third.

Trifecta numbers: 7/2,12/ALL=\$22 and 2,12/7/ALL=\$22

9th race--

1. RED DIADEM (10) 2. DARKNESS NIGHT (5) 3. MOHAWK (12)

*****\$72 PICK 4 TICKET (races 6-9):**

6th race--PIRATES DEPUTY, SUPER IMAGE

7th race--IN SUMMATION, CRESTED, KIP DEVILLE, PORTO SANTO

8th race--ARSON SQUAD, MIDNIGHT LUTE, LATENT HEAT

9th race--DARKNESS NIGHT, RED DIADEM, MOHAWK

Pick 4 numbers: 3,10/1,2,3,11/2,7,12/5,10,12=\$72