

BOB IKE'S SANTA ANITA SELECTIONS

THURSDAY, JAN. 25

THURSDAY SELECTIONS, BETTING STRATEGY AND PICK 4 TICKET

Wednesday Results: Hit 1 top choice winner but went 0-for-3 on my Best Plays.

Today's Best Plays: Races 3, 5, 7 and a \$60 Pick 4 ticket.

1st race--

1. JUST A TWITT (3) 2. SEXY OPERATOR (2) 3. STRIP IN WAGER (1)

2nd race--

1. SARACINA (2) 2. SEASIDE AFFAIR (3) 3. SWISS CURRENT (4)

*****3rd race--**

1. WITNESS THIS (2) 2. AMERICAN ALL STAR (9) 3. HEMET THOUGHT (3)

I will play the trifecta keying my top three choices in the first and second spots, then using ALL for third. In post position order, use WITNESS THIS (3-1), who steps up a level after getting a perfect-trip win down the hill; HEMET THOUGHT (5-1), who drops into a softer spot, likes this layout and reunites with Gomez; and AMERICAN ALL STAR (2-1), who didn't seem too keen on going through inside last time but certainly is good enough when he fires his best shot.

Trifecta numbers: 2,3,9/2,3,9/ALL=\$42 plus, trifecta box 2-3-9

4th race--

1. EXCESSIVELY CRISP (8) 2. U. S. SOLDIER (7) 3. STEAMY STORY (4)

*****5th race--**

1. LERICI (3) 2. FABULOUS SUN (10) 3. GOUT DE TERROIR (9)

In the first leg of the Pick 4, I will make a Win Bet on top choice LERICI (4-1) and play the trifecta keying around my top three selections. LERICI disappointed despite getting Lasix in her second start but gets one more chance with the brief freshening and rider switch to Gomez. In the trifecta, use LERICI (4-1); GOUT DE TERROIR (5-1), who has been freshened since Oak Tree and gets one more chance in this spot; and FABULOUS SUN (3-1), who ran second to similar and gives Mandella two chances to break out of his meet-long slump.

Trifecta numbers: 3,9,10/3,9,10/ALL=\$54 plus, trifecta box 3-9-10

6th race--

1. GOTTA GO GAL (5) 2. ADANCE (2) 3. COTORRA (4)

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

1. BEDLAM BERTIE (6) 2. WORCHESTER (5) 3. CAT AND A HALF (7) 4. I'LL PREY FOR YOU (1)

In my opinion this is the best gambling race on the card. I like the chances of BEDLAM BERTIE (6-1), who shortens up to a sprint after pressing the pace and tiring in the very live Sir Beaufort (a race which has produced three next-out winners). He won sprinting up north, reunites with Bay Area rider Alvarado and should be coming up to his best. Make a Win Bet on 'BERTIE and key him in the trifecta over I'LL PREY FOR YOU (5-1), WORCHESTER (4-1) and CAT AND A HALF (3-1) for second, then use ALL for third. Play a second ticket using those three on top, with 'BERTIE for second, then ALL for third.

Trifecta numbers: 6/1,5,7/ALL=\$18 and 1,5,7/6/ALL=\$18

8th race--

1. EM'S LUCKY DOLLAR (2) 2. WAILEA GIRL (9) 3. GLITTERING STARLET (3) 4. LADY BEAN (10)

*****\$60 PICK 4 TICKET (races 5-8):**

5th race--LERICI, GOUT DE TERROIR, FABULOUS SUN

6th race--GOTTA GO GAL

7th race--I'LL PREY FOR YOU, WORCHESTER, BEDLAM BERTIE, CAT AND A HALF

8th race--EM'S LUCKY DOLLAR, GLITTERING STARLET, HOTITUDE, WAILEA GIRL, LADY BEAN

Pick 4 numbers: 3,9,10/5/1,5,6,7/2,3,8,9,10=\$60

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--Graded Handicap Selections

--Premium Plays (identical to this sheet)

--Free Pick of the Day

--"Notes on a Program" Blog, with daily wrap up, observations and commentary

--Extensive Santa Anita data on "Racing Info" page

--Useful Resources at "Links" page