

BOB IKE'S DEL MAR SELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15

WEDNESDAY SELECTIONS, BETTING STRATEGY AND PICK 4 PLAY

Monday Results: Hit 5 top choice winners; 6th race exacta for \$14.60 on a three-horse box (after scratch); and broke even in Pick 4 when hitting for \$64.

Today's Best Plays: Races 6, 7, 8 and a \$72 Pick 4 ticket.

1st race--

1. MELLOW CAMMIE (1) 2. ARROYO TRABUCO (5) 3. LENDELL (3)

2nd race--

1. TEACHER'S RULE (1) 2. LOWER THE RATE (9) 3. HARLAN'S SONG (7)

3rd race--

1. CELTIC WAY (2) 2. ALL THEE B (6) 3. NETTY'S KNOCKOUT (7)

4th race--

1. FREEDOM SUMMIT (2) 2. POWEROFVOODOO (9) 3. POKOMOKE (6)

5th race--

1. COYOTE FAST (11) 2. SIX PACK ABS (8) 3. DENNYBUCK (4) 4. POLITICAL HIGH (5)

*****6th race--**

1. RUSH WITH THUNDER (1) 2. EARNEDNEVERGIVEN (5) 3. GENTLE ROMEO (9)

In a very good betting race, I will stick with red-hot RUSH WITH THUNDER (7-2). Coming back in six days after winning his second straight over Polytrack, the Avila-trained gelding stretches back out in distance as he faces older for the first time. He was so impressive in victory last time (25-1), I'm going to take him right back. Make a **Win Bet on 'THUNDER** and play the trifecta keying my top three choices in the first and second spots, then use ALL for third. In post position order, use RUSH WITH THUNDER (7-2); EARNEDNEVERGIVEN (3-1), who was scratched out a stakes last week but came back to work well and shows an improving pattern as he stretches out for the initial time; and GENTLE ROMEO (5-1), who was impressive breaking his maiden at first asking.

Trifecta numbers: 1,5,9/1,5,9/ALL=\$48 plus, trifecta box 1-5-9

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

1. SCOTTSBLUFF (3) 2. BONFANTE (7) 3. BARBER (2)

In this 5-furlong turf stakes, I will key around second choice SCOTTSBLUFF (2-1). The Mullins-trainee gamely re-rallied to beat Bonfante in their last meeting and again looks like the one to beat if he handles the Del Mar course. He figures to be forwardly placed throughout, which has been the place to be in these abbreviated turf sprints. Play the trifecta keying SCOTTSBLUFF with BARBER (6-1), who got sharp up north and blew out in :35 over this course; and BONFANTE (9-5), who put a head in front of the top one but couldn't hold at the wire. He didn't run well here last summer but is going in very sharp form right now.

Trifecta numbers: 3/2,7/ALL=\$12 and 3/ALL/2,7=\$12 and 2,7/3/ALL=\$12

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

1. WARREN'S RULER (11) 2. MILLER'S TURBO (2) 3. MAHLIQUE GOLD (4) 4. COMIC MONARCH (12)

The day ends with a full field of maiden claimers going postward. I like the chances of WARREN'S RULER (4-1), who showed improvement over Polytrack last time, pressing the pace before finishing fourth in what is proving to be a very productive heat. He switches to Nakatani, is drawn well outside and came back with two good works since raced. Make a **Win Bet on 'RULER** and key him in the trifecta over MILLER'S TURBO (3-1), MAHLIQUE GOLD (5-1) and COMIC MONARCH (15-1) for second, then use ALL for third. Also, play exactas with those three over 'RULER.

Trifecta numbers: 1/2,4,12/ALL=\$30

Exacta numbers: 2,4,12/11

*****\$72 PICK 4 TICKET (races 5-8):**

5th race--FIVE STAR CHARM, RECUERDO PIA, DENNYBUCK, POLITICAL HIGH, SIX PACK ABS, HOT GUY, COYOTE FAST, TRANQUILO (Alternate: BAND OF THUNDER)

6th race--RUSH WITH THUNDER, EARNEDNEVERGIVEN, GENTLE ROMEO (Alternate: BARILOCHE)

7th race--BARBER, SCOTTSBLUFF, BONFANTE (Alternate: QUEEN'S IMAGE)

8th race--WARREN'S RULER

Pick 4 numbers: 1,3,4,5,8,9,11,12/1,5,9/2,3,7/11=\$72

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