

BOB IKE'S SANTA ANITA SELECTIONS

OPENING DAY, DEC. 26

WEDNESDAY SELECTIONS, BETTING STRATEGY AND PICK 4 PLAY

Saturday Results: Hit 2 top choice winners; and 9th race exacta for \$64.80 when key horse Colonel John finished second.

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

1st race--

1. LUCKY MAMA (7) 2. SWEET AUGUST MOON (6) 3. MINI DO (1A)

2nd race--

1. BOB BLACK JACK (6) 2. DEE DEE'S LEGACY (2) 3. LIBERIAN FREIGHTER (9)

3rd race--

1. HOODS UP (10) 2. THAT'S GRAND (4) 3. LIBERTY WATCH (5) 4. NO LIEN HERE (2)

4th race--

1. EPIC POWER (7) 2. MACDUFF (6) 3. HEROI DO BAFRA (2) 4. TOASTED (4)

5th race--

1. ENTER ANON (3) 2. FOREST PHANTOM (9) 3. GRAY BLACK N WHITE (1)

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

1. BUCK (10) 2. BEYOND LOADED (9) 3. THEIR HE GOES (11) 4. FORESTRY'S FIRE (12)

The first leg of the late Pick 4 kicks off with a very difficult downhill sprint. I will give the edge to BUCK (6-1) because he has the most early speed and will be the one to catch in the lane. He ran huge here during the Oak Tree meet when nailed on the wire after a two-year layoff, then ran well again across town after dueling for the early lead. He switches to Gomez today so tab in wire-to-wire fashion. Make a **Win Bet on BUCK** and key him in the trifecta over five horses in the second and third spots: PROPAGANDA (8-1), TOUR DA BRONX (15-1), BEYOND LOADED (3-1), THEIR HE GOES (7-2) and FORESTRY'S FIRE (6-1). Also, play a second ticket using those five in the first and third spots, with BUCK in the two-hole.

Trifecta numbers: 10/1,6,9,11,12/1,6,9,11,12=\$20 and 1,6,9,11,12/10/1,6,9,11,12=\$20

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

1. JOHNNY EVES (5) 2. LES GRANDS TROIS (2) 3. DIVINE PARK (14) 4. SILVER STETSON MAN (11)

In a terrific edition of the Malibu Stakes, I will give the edge to sharp and speedy JOHNNY EVES (12-1). He comes off a track-record effort when winning at HP and also ran very well over this Cushion Track during the Oak Tree meet. He is clearly the speed of the field and might be dangerous as he steps up to meet obviously stronger competition going 7 furlongs. He's worth a gamble with a **Win Bet on 'EVES** and by keying him in the trifecta over five horses in the second and third spots: LES GRANDS TROIS (4-1), GREAT HUNTER (8-1), SILVER STETSON MAN (8-1), COBALT BLUE (8-1) and DIVINE PARK (5-1). Also, play a second ticket using those five in the first and third spots, with 'EVES in the middle.

Trifecta numbers: 5/2,9,11,12,14/2,9,11,12,14=\$20 and 2,9,11,12,14/5/2,9,11,12,14=\$20

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

**1. WHATSTHESCRIP (9) 2. TWILIGHT METEOR (13) 3. MR NAPPER TANDY (8)
4. RUTLEDGE CAT (4)**

In an exceptionally good gambling race, I will key around top choice WHATSTHESCRIP (7-2). The O'Neill-trained comebacker has fired in every turf race in this country, including a runner-up try when best at Churchill Downs in May. He's trained super for his return and can beat this field with the right trip/ride. Make a **Win Bet on 'SCRIPT at 3/1 or better**, and key him in the trifecta over RUTLEDGE CAT (15-1), MR NAPPER TANDY (12-1) and TWILIGHT METEOR (9-2) for second, then use ALL for third. Play a second ticket using those three on top, with 'SCRIPT for second, then ALL for third. Finally, I will box my top four selections in the exacta/trifecta.

Trifecta numbers: 9/4,8,13/ALL=\$36 and 4,8,13/9/ALL=\$36

Exacta/Trifecta Box: 4-8-9-13

9th race--

**1. DANNY TEMPLETON (4) 2. RISKY RUSS (7) 3. CUSTOM DESIGN (9) 4.
HENNESSY'S HOPE (13)**

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

**6th race--PROPAGANDA, TOUR DA BRONX, BEYOND LOADED, BUCK, THEIR HE
GOES, FORESTRY'S FIRE**

(Alternate: RATEAU)

7th race--LES GRANDS TROIS, JOHNNY EVES, DIVINE PARK

(Alternate: SILVER STETSON MAN)

8th race--WHATSTHESCRIP

9th race--DANNY TEMPLETON, RISKY RUSS, CUSTOM DESIGN, HENNESSY'S HOPE

(Alternate: FOREST EDGE)

Pick 4 numbers: 1,6,9,10,11,12/2,5,14/9/4,7,9,13=\$72

www.BobIkePicks.com features:

--Graded Handicap Selections

--Premium Plays (with full card selections, betting strategy and Pick 4 ticket)

--Free Pick of the Day

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