

BOB IKE'S SANTA ANITA SELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

WEDNESDAY SELECTIONS, BETTING STRATEGY AND PICK 4 PLAY

Monday Results: Hit 4 top choice winners but went 0-for-3 on my Best Plays.

Today's Best Plays: Races 5, 6, 8 and a \$72 Pick 4 ticket.

1st race--

1. SHAWKLIT SUNDAE (3) 2. BELLY BUTTON DAWN (4) 3. GOLD CHANT (2)

2nd race--

1. BOLD CLEO (4) 2. BEYLA (2) 3. IN MY LIFE (5) 4. O BEE NAKI (1)

3rd race--

1. BLAZEITGIRL (3) 2. SAMS BIRTHDAY (6) 3. SOARING LAUREN (8) 4. FIGURATIVELY (7)

4th race--

1. GOLD TRIM (4) 2. BEHIND THE SCREEN (2) 3. PRINCE OF GOLD (5) 4. GHOSTTRAPPER (3)

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

1. ABSOLUTE COURAGE (5) 2. STORMIN STORY (2) 3. NITRO ACTIVE (4) 4. HIGHER POINT (1)

In the first leg of the late Pick 4, I like the chances of ABSOLUTE COURAGE (5-1). The Spawr-trained gelding has been away since a solid maiden tally on Dec. 13, when he stretched out around two turns and added blinkers. The second- and third-place finishers came back to win their next starts, so this has already proven to be a live race. Make a **Win Bet on 'COURAGE** and key him on a pair of trifecta tickets with main contenders HIGHER POINT (8-1), STORMIN STORY (3-1) and NITRO ACTIVE (5-1). Also, play the **Daily Double from 'COURAGE to top choice STARZIG in the following race.**

Trifecta numbers: 5/1,2,4/ALL=\$18 and 1,2,4/5/ALL=\$18

Daily Double: 5-3

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

1. STARZIG (3) 2. CHANGE TACK (2) 3. COURTLY COUTURE (7)

Stretching out after one sprint for high-percentage trainer Shirreffs, the royally-bred STARZIG (6-1) figures to run well in this spot. She just ran around the track first time out but now stretches out and goes to turf after working well since her debut. This barn excels with second-time starters and horses off brief layoffs. **If not alive in the Daily Double, then make a Win Bet on**

STARZIG. In either case, key her on a pair of trifecta tickets with main threat CHANGE TACK (4-1), who showed some ability in two starts in England and should fit well in here. Finally, add COURTLY COUTURE (6-1) to a three-horse exacta/trifecta box.

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

Exacta/Trifecta Box: 2-3-7

7th race--

1. SASSOU (1) 2. BAYNGEN BARTOK (2) 3. WAAFI (3)

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

1. VAN BRIT (10) 2. AFTERNOON GOLD (7) 3. WARREN'S GOLD (2)

With the largest field size of the day, the finale looks like a decent gambling race. I will make a **Win Bet on top choice VAN BRIT (4-1)** and play the trifecta keying around my top three selections. 'BRIT takes a steep class drop and stretches out around two turns for Cerin, who is having a solid meet. In the trifecta, use WARREN'S GOLD (7-2), who ran a solid second at this level when last seen on Dec. 12; AFTERNOON GOLD (9-2), who exits the same race as my top choice and gets Gomez, who opted for her the previous horse; and VAN BRIT (4-1).

Trifecta numbers: 2,7,10/2,7,10/ALL=\$54 plus, trifecta box 2-7-10

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

5th race--HIGHER POINT, STORMIN STORY, NITRO ACTIVE, ABSOLUTE COURAGE

(Alternate: HUNTER CREEK)

6th race--CHANGE TACK, STARZIG

(Alternate: COURTLY COUTURE)

7th race--SASSOU, BAYNGEN BARTOK, WAAFI

(Alternate: KING OF THE CITY)

8th race--WARREN'S GOLD, AFTERNOON GOLD, VAN BRIT

(Alternate: LITTLE SINGER)

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

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