

Race #8 - Rating = 3

#10 **Get Funky** - Fair odds 2/1

#4 **Stoneside** - Fair odds 2/1

#3 **California Flag** - Fair odds 2/1

Exactas Options:

1) Box 3,4,6,10

2) 10 with 1,2,3,4,6,9 and 1,2,3,4,6,9 with 10 then also 4 with 1,2,3,6,10 and 1,2,3,6,10 with 4

3) 3 over 1,2,4,6,10

#1 is Cherokee Heaven, #2 is Perfect Officer, #6 is Desert Code and #9 is Bruce's Dream

Get Funky won this Morvich Handicap in 2007 and finished 2nd to **California Flag** in the 2008 edition. He won the Robert Kerlan Memorial Handicap, a turf sprint at Del Mar, in July of 2008 on the cut back from a turf route, and he's cutting back from a turf route today after a more than respectable effort at Del Mar 3 weeks ago in a classified allowance race in which he lead to just before the stretch, so was in front at the point today's race ends. He is unlikely to go to the front, however, because on the cut back in distance he should be found off the pace just as he was in his last two Morvich efforts and aided by the extra stamina having just run longer, and with the best post for this downhill turf sprint trip, Get Funky appears in line to win for the 3rd time in his career at this distance here at Santa Anita and for the 7th time in 21 career turf races, the surface on which he's earned over \$622,000.

Stoneside came back from a year on the shelf on 8/19 and finished a fine 4th in a 5 furlong turf sprint stakes at Del Mar, won by **California Flag**, beaten just a neck for 3rd and just over a length for the win. Likely to move up considerably in his 2nd start after that lengthy time off, Stoneside sees Pedroza riding back after being aboard for the comeback, not having ridden him in his last two start of 2008 but having been the jockey to guide him to his ONLY win in the U.S., which came in the identical San Simeon Handicap down this tricky hillside course in April of 2008. As such, with credentials to win on the square in a race of this kind, Stoneside must be respected.

California Flag appears to have no company on the front end, so he could easily notch career win #7 in his 12th lifetime turf race, including 2 wins in 5 tries down the hill, one of which was in last year's Morvich. Talamo has been up for five wins in his last 8 races, and we ignore the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint in which he went phenomenally fast, 20.6 for the first quarter mile, California Flag has won five turf sprints in a row including two grade 3 stakes like this one, so he rounds out our main trio of contenders.

That being said, I wouldn't argue with anyone who felt that Cherokee Heaven, Perfect Officer, Desert Code or Bruce's Dream could run well enough to win. However, I do feel that those four are a cut below the top three in terms of their probability to win this race.

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