

**SANTA ANITA ANALYSIS**By **BRAD FREE****BEST BET: Welken (7th race)****First Race: 1.Pocatello Wild Kat 2.Mimi's Command 3.Lisa Lulu**

POCATELLO WILD KAT stretches to two turns against a weak group of maiden-claiming fillies; her third-place finish last out makes her the one to beat. Racing midpack, she rallied four-wide into the stretch, lugged in while flattening out, then took hold and actually finished with a small rally. It was a respectable performance, nothing more, but it marked an improved effort over her comeback and suggests she can stay two turns. MIMI'S COMMAND disappointed in her local debut, losing by 10 lengths at odds of 3-1. She pulled hard in that race before surrendering, but it was her first start in two months and first over a route of ground. She could be the speed of the field. LISA LULU did not do much running last time in the same race the top choice exits, but LULU switches riders. Trainer Barry Abrams and jockey Chantal Sutherland have combined to go 5-for-11 this meet, while producing a huge flat-bet profit (\$9.31 return for \$2 bet).

**Second Race: 1.Shesoprovocative 2.This Time Baby 3.Sea Empress**

The 0-for-5 SHESOPROVOCATIVE returns from a two-month freshening and drops into a maiden-claimer for the first time. Her career-best effort was her first start, so she obviously runs well fresh. Furthermore, she was competitive to deep stretch both starts on this track against special-weight Calbreeds. THIS TIME BABY has a recency edge over the top choice; this is her third start of the meet. She finished a good second two weeks ago when she missed by a half-length. The knock on that race is she was under a drive at the quarter pole. Blinkers are on, she is fit, and will be in the hunt throughout. SEA EMPRESS set a fast pace and hit a wall after a half-mile in her debut against tougher. Second time out, in for a tag, improvement is likely.

**Third Race: 1.Dani Reese 2.Unzip Me 3.Flashover**

DANI REESE had a compromising trip buried inside and behind runners in the G1 La Brea opening day. By the time she reached the head of the lane she was spent. Her jockey wrapped up, and she coasted to the wire in a throwout race. Now a month later, she drops into a N2X, has a versatile running style that allows her to make the lead or rally from behind. She overcame a poor takeoff one back to win a N1X impressively, and if she runs back to that effort she can handle this tougher gang. UNZIP ME looked good trouncing N1X foes on the Hollywood turf course. While she got a fairly soft trip alone on the lead, two fillies behind her returned to win their next start. UNZIP ME is lightly raced and improving for red-hot trainer Marty Jones. FLASHOVER is a two-time winner on this downhill course, and could rebound shortening up from a disappointing comeback three weeks ago at one mile. She was dead on the board (4-1 morning line, off at 9-1), and now shows up for a high tag (\$62.5k claiming). Not a good pattern.

**Fourth Race: 1.Global Inspiration 2.Catana Perez 3.Glow Girl Go**

GLOBAL INSPIRATION benefits from a softer pace scenario than she faced Jan. 2 and the result should be a gate-to-wire victory. Last out, she was the only front-runner to stick around after chasing a 21.66 and :44.67. The pacesetter weakened to last, while the filly chasing from third finished nowhere. However, GLOBAL INSPIRATION made the lead in midstretch, and missed by less than a length behind two closers. There is less speed in this field, GLOBAL INSPIRATION can fall into the lead, and race gate to wire. CATANA PEREZ returns from a six-week freshening, and figures for a good trip positioned second or third behind the pacesetter. If the top choice falters, CATANA PEREZ would be in the perfect spot to attack. GLOW GIRL GO raced evenly against much better while starting for the first time in nearly a year. She drops to rock bottom (\$12.5k claiming, non-winners of two) for her second start back, and can only improve.

**Fifth Race: 1.Top Feeling 2.Alive for Six 3.Teafatiller**

TOP FEELING ran well in his comeback three weeks ago, missing by a head in a downhill sprint while finishing almost four clear of third. The horse that beat him (Hot Damon) returned Saturday to finish a close fourth (with trouble) in an allowance race. TOP FEELING has run well previously around two turns, and his tactical speed will come in handy with the rails at 24 feet. ALIVE FOR SIX was compromised by the slow pace last time in his first try around two turns. He rallied from fifth to second, and with a two-turn race under his belt should continue his upward pattern. The knocks are his outside post in this mile turf race, and his shortage of tactical speed. He is a good maiden, but circumstances are against him. Second-time starter TEAFATILLER is a full brother to 4-for-23 stakes winner Brego. The In Excess colt has posted a series of sharp workouts for his comeback, and if he runs like he trains, he could be the one to catch.

**Sixth Race: 1.Rockin Rose 2.Red Alarm 3.Sunny Peace**

This six and one-half furlong sprint came up short on speed. That benefits last-out winner ROCKIN ROSE, who rallied from midpack to win a restricted claimer over race-4 selection Global Inspiration. Although she won from behind, ROCKIN ROSE has enough tactical zip to be within range of a soft pace. Six and one-half furlongs suits her style, and she has a history of maintaining good form. She can win right back. RED ALARM disappointed last time despite a track bias that favored her closing style. She looped four-wide, challenged for the lead into the lane, then completely lost her punch in midstretch. But that race was around two turns, and these days she might be as a closing sprinter. Wheeled back in 15 days and going route to sprint, she will be finishing. SUNNY PEACE is back in five days, after a disappointing effort as the 9-5 favorite. A series of class drops and declining pattern of speed figures does not inspire confidence, but she could make the lead in a race that came up way short on speed. If she gets loose, she could get brave. Even when she was in form, it seemed she best around two turns.

**Seventh Race: 1.Welken 2.Alpine Yodel 3.Warren's Appeal**

WELKEN confirmed her affinity for this turf course one month ago, winning a \$40k claimer going away to make her record two wins and two seconds from four grass starts at Santa Anita. The 7-for-23 veteran was claimed off the win by Mike Mitchell, bumps up one level, and should fire right back. ALPINE YODEL, freshened six weeks, shows up for a tag while catching a field otherwise void of pace. Unless one of the sprinters (PINK DIAMOND, HALFAPONDAROSA) goes for the front, ALPINE YODEL could make the lead. The 7-for-33 pro wins races, and fits perfect. WARREN'S APPEAL finished second by one length last time, beaten by the top choice. The in-from mare is an obvious contender.

**Eighth Race: 1.Good Night Gyrene 2.I Swear 3.Maeve**

GOOD NIGHT GYRENE chased the pace and tired in her comeback. She meets a bleak field of restricted \$12.5k filly-mare claimers, and should improve second start back. This race is a split of race 4, and this looks like the weaker split. I SWEAR lost her chance when she broke slow as the 5-2 favorite. She promises more than she delivers, but against this group she fits well. MAEVE has changed barns since raced, and is now trained by Jeff Mullins. She will be rolling late in a very soft finale.