

# TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



## SHAM STAKES

Sham Stakes (G3)  
1 Mile  
PURSE \$100,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Sueno	20-1
2	Gray Magician	4-1
3	Savagery	10-1
4	Easy Shot	30-1
5	Coliseum	1-1
6	Gunmetal Gray	5-2
7	Much Better	6-1

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TOP PICKS	
5	Coliseum
7	Much Better
2	Gray Magician
\$30 WIN	
5	(\$30)
\$20 EXACTA	
5	with 2,7 (\$40)
\$4 SUPERFACTA KEY	
5	with 2,6,7 (\$24)

A field of seven newly turned sophomores will vie in Saturday's \$100,000 Sham Stakes (G3) at Santa Anita. Conditioner Bob Baffert is well-represented in the field with a pair of nice prospects, and it is one of those that will receive top billing in the "Road to the Kentucky Derby" points contest. The top-four finishers will be awarded points on a 10-4-2-1 platform for their efforts in the feature.

COLISEUM could not have looked much better in his sterling debut score at Del Mar. Son of Tapit led throughout in a powerful display when backed at 1-2 odds at first asking and shows four bullet morning drills from six works in the interim. Gray colt, who is out of Grade-1 queen Game Face, will likely appreciate the one-mile trip in his route debut while securing the services of Joe Talamo once again. Top pick has some speed to his inside and could enjoy a dream trip pressing the pace before easing clear in the lane. Godolphin homebred has the appearance of a top three-year-old prospect.

Baffert will also saddle MUCH BETTER in hopes of completing the Sham exacta. A winner on debut on the dirt at Del Mar, Much Better finished a subsequent second in the grassy Zuma Beach Stakes, though he didn't prosper on a yielding lawn at Churchill Downs in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1). \$600,000 son of Pioneerof the Nile returns to the main surface today and looks like he is gearing up for this test in fine fashion with some solid morning activity. Dark bay draws well while drawing outside of his six foes and he figures to be forwardly placed from the outset under the guidance of Drayden Van Dyke.

GRAY MAGICIAN is an interesting recent maiden graduate for conditioner Peter Miller. Gray son of Graydar elevated his game off the layoff and barn change most recently when coming home a dominant, 9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-length winner going this distance at Del Mar. Kentucky-bred has hit the board in each of his four lifetime performances to date, and the three-year-old is proven capable of running from behind horses with success. In a field loaded with early foot, Flavien Prat may take Gray Magician back early and make one-run in the stretch atop the exotics contender.