SUNLAND PARK RACETRACK & CASINO

SUNLAND DERBY (G3)
Three Year Olds
1 1/8-Miles
PURSE $800,000

POST | HORSE            | ML ODDS |
-----|------------------|---------|
1    | All Out Blitz    | 4-1     |
2    | Dark Vader       | 15-1    |
3    | New York Central | 9-2     |
4    | Hollywood Star   | 6-1     |
5    | Peace            | 12-1    |
6    | Shane Zain       | 15-1    |
7    | Prince Lucky     | 6-1     |
8    | Seven Trumpets   | 6-1     |
9    | Choo Choo        | 8-1     |
10   | Dream Baby Dream | 10-1    |
11   | Runaway Ghost    | 8-1     |
12   | Fortified Effort | 20-1    |

TOP PICKS
9   Choo Choo
1   All Out Blitz
5   Peace

$10 WIN
9 ($10)

$5 EXACTAs
1,9 with 1,3,5,9 ($30)

$1 TRIFECTA
1,9 with 1,3,5,7,9 with 1,3,5,7,9 ($24)

Perhaps not surprisingly from a geographic standpoint, six of the last eight winners of the Sunland Derby made their previous start on the West Coast. That's also a reflection of their relative class, and it appears the Californians have an edge again this year.

Choo Choo is an interesting longshot for Hall of Famer Jerry Hollendorfer and two-time Kentucky Derby-winning jockey Mario Gutierrez. He finished a distant fourth in his only try on dirt, which was a maiden sprint, and has since been on turf and synthetic with moderate success. Though by grass champ English Channel, he's a full brother to Blueskiesnourainsbows, a multiple Grade 2 winner on dirt, and from the same cross as Travers winner V. E. Day. He sheds blinkers after a modest run last time in the El Camino Real Derby and is one of several that could potentially benefit from a hot pace.

Nine furlongs might be testing All Out Blitz, but the colt might have a touch more early lick than the rest and could get brave on the front end from an inside draw. While his latest in the San Vicente was disappointing, he was a strong second to McKinzie in the Sham two back in his route debut.

Peace should appreciate the drop in class from the San Felipe and is the type that can pick up the pieces if the pace is hot and contested. Oaklawn allowance winner New York Central and Prince Lucky, who goes first time for Todd Pletcher, are others we'll use in the vertical exotics. We'll take a stand against the Dale Romans-trained Hollywood Star and Seven Trumpets, as well as the locally-based Runaway Ghost.