

SANTA ANITA DERBY CONTENDERS

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1

HAPPY JACK



PRO: San Felipe (G2) try was better than his Robert B. Lewis (G3); blinkers might help.
CON: Stakes attempts suggest he's several cuts below these.



2

ARMAGNAC



PRO: Didn't show up at all in San Felipe; better likely on the way.
CON: Like most of these, probably running for a minor share.



3

FORBIDDEN KINGDOM



PRO: Scorched rivals in last two and might be too tough to catch if let go.
CON: Easily handled by Messier in last meeting; might be miler at heart.



4

MESSIER



PRO: Robert B. Lewis score was sublime; 104 Brisnet Speed rating best in field.
CON: Threw in a clunker two back at short odds; main rival better now.



5

WIN THE DAY



PRO: Cruised in dirt debut going a mile; plenty of stamina in pedigree.
CON: Needs all the top players to run below par, which is a lot to ask and hope for.



6

TAIBA



PRO: Gun Runner colt impressive in debut; ceiling remains high.
CON: Three-furlong stretch-out substantial facing seasoned opponents.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET

SANTA ANITA DERBY - G1



1 1/8 Mile • PURSE \$750,000

A compact, but especially talented, field of six sophomores will contest the \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby (G1) on Saturday. The 1 1/8-mile test will give out a total of 170 qualifying points (100-40-20-10) to the top four finishers in the 2022 Road to the Kentucky Derby challenge series event.

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POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Happy Jack	20-1
2	Armagnac	20-1
3	Forbidden Kingdom	6-5
4	Messier	1-1
5	Win the Day	20-1
6	Taiba	4-1

TOP PICKS	
#3	Forbidden Kingdom
#4	Messier
#6	Taiba
#2	Armagnac

WAGERS
\$30 superfecta 3-4-6-2 (\$30)
\$2 superfecta 3 with 4, 6 with 2, 4, 6 with all (\$24)

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#1 HAPPY JACK has been outrun in two graded stakes races at the meeting and adds blinkers for this engagement. The Oxbow colt gets a good draw inside to save early ground, but the three-year-old will need a major step forward to vie for the upset in this offering. Abel Cedillo retains the ride.

#2 ARMAGNAC was through early in the Robert B. Lewis S. (G2) last time out but fired a rapid six-furlong bullet in his latest morning work. The Tim Yakteen trainee is bred to run all day, and the Quality Road colt could garner a piece if one of the favorites fails to show up. Drayden Van Dyke will be in the silks.

#3 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM dominated the San Felipe S. (G2) last time out and rates as both the one to beat and catch on Saturday. The Richard Mandella-trained son of American Pharoah has blazing early foot and proved last time that he can carry it a route of ground, but he will face a stiffer assignment in this spot. Regular pilot Juan Hernandez will guide the fantastic chestnut.

#4 MESSIER had a fine two-year-old season, but he seems to have taken the next step following a 15-length tour-de-force in the Robert B. Lewis S. (G3) most recently. By Empire Maker, the well-bred colt has trained well in the interim over a surface where he has won his two lifetime races by a combined 21 1/4 lengths. The imposing bay has improved his Brisnet Speed figure in each career effort and is a must use under Johnnie V.

#5 WIN THE DAY impressed with a going-away win in his initial try on the dirt, but the gelded son of Midshipman will have to get a lot faster before being backed against these superb foes for Doug O'Neill.

#6 TAIBA cost \$1.7 million as a two-year-old in training and ran like a superstar in his debut, drawing off with ease while finishing fast in a maiden dash. The chestnut colt will make a near-impossible class hike from maidens to Grade 1 foes, while also stretching out from six furlongs to 1 1/8 miles, but the son of Gun Runner can still impact this race in my opinion. Mike Smith riding adds to the intrigue.