

FULL RACE PREVIEWS & WAGERING STRATEGIES FOR ALL STAKES RACES ON THE CARD

**RACING  
DUDES** **INSIDE  
TRACK**

TO THE 2018 MALIBU STAKES



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OF EACH RACE**

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# WELCOME



This *Inside Track* to *Malibu Stakes Day* at *Santa Anita* gives you an inside look at all five stakes races running on the card. *The Racing Dudes* have been at it for years, offering daily handicapping picks and analyses for every track across the country. For this year's *Malibu Stakes Day*, our lead handicappers have been scouring through the card at *Santa Anita* in search of winning tickets.

Wednesday's racing at *Santa Anita* is second to none with five stakes races in total. In addition to the *Grade 1 Malibu Stakes*, the card features the *Grade 1 La Brea Steaks*, *Grade 2 San Antonio Stakes*, *Grade 2 Mathis Brothers Mile*, and *The Lady of Shamrock Stakes*. The *Malibu Stakes* will go off as the feature race of the day while also serving as the last *Grade 1* event of 2018.

**For each of the stakes races on the card, you can find the following:**

**FULL RACE PREVIEWS FOR EACH RACE**, including:

- ▶ Overview of the race
- ▶ Race Shape and Pace Analysis
- ▶ Top Selections
- ▶ Major Threats
- ▶ Longshots to Use

**You will also find specific wagering under the "Picks and Plays" section, which includes:**

- ▶ Win Bet
- ▶ Place or Show Bet
- ▶ Longshot to Play Across the Board
- ▶ Exacta
- ▶ Trifecta
- ▶ Superfecta
- ▶ Horses to use in Multi-Race Wagers
- ▶ What to Play on a Small Budget
- ▶ What to Play on a Large Budget

Each Win, Place, Show, or Across the Board wager comes with a confidence rating so that you can see how strongly we feel about each pick.

Finally, always remember to wager responsibly and never wager more than you can afford.

**Good luck today!**



# RACE 9:

## 7 FURLONGS THREE YEAR OLDS ON DIRT

# THE GRADE 1 MALIBU STAKES

### OVERVIEW:

The Malibu Stakes is the final Grade 1 race of the 2018 season. This year, it has drawn one of the most competitive fields in the history of the event, with an eye-popping 16 horse entered. Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert leads the way with 4 coming out of his barn. We will see if he can cap off an already incredible year with one last Grade 1 victory.

### RACE SHAPE: THIS RACE LOOKS TO SET UP WELL FOR CLOSERS

**Pure Speed:** *Calexman, Copper Bullet, Nero, Greyvitos, Super Sol*

**Pressing Speed:** *Ax Man, McKinzie, Cool Bobby*

**Stalkers:** *Seven Trumpets, Bobby's Wicked One*

**Closers:** *Majestic Dunhill, Still Having Fun, Identity Politics, Axelrod, Kanthaka, Solomini*

Several speed horses are signed on to run here, while several more will look to press the leaders right from the start. Having horses such as Calexman, Copper Bullet, and Nero in the race assure that they will be moving swiftly up front. There is no doubt this race should set up well for closers like Still Having Fun, Axelrod, and Kanthaka, who have shown the ability to fly down the stretch when the pace is softened up.

### TOP CHOICE: #13 MCKINZIE

If you remember, this was my pick to win the Breeder's Cup Classic. That ended up being embarrassing as he never ran a step; however, I believe he deserves a second chance. This 7-furlong distance should suit him well, plus it is a good sign that Mike Smith stays on to ride. You have to play him with other horses this time around, there is no doubt he is NOT a single, but the simple fact is this is a big class drop for him.

### MAJOR THREATS: #6 AXELROD, #8 NERO, #9 AX MAN, #12 KANTHAKA

Axelrod and Kanthaka have to be taken seriously from a pace play standpoint. With this race loaded with speed, they will be flying down the lane late, while being tough to hold off in the stretch. Nero and Ax Man are two other Baffert's that must be respected, especially Ax Man, who at times can run races where he almost looks unbeatable.

### LONGSHOTS TO USE: #3 COPPER BULLET, #4 STILL HAVING FUN, #7 SEVEN TRUMPETS, #14 SOLOMINI

The most interesting horse out of this group has to be Copper Bullet, who returned off of a very long layoff to win an allowance race at Churchill Downs last time out. That win was impressive for a horse who won the Grade 2 Saratoga Special as a 2-year-old. This is going to be a major step up for him; however, his last start was a positive sign that he is back and ready to roll.

### OTHERS: #1 CALEXMAN, #2 MAJESTIC DUNHILL, #5 IDENTITY POLITICS, #10 BOBBY'S WICKED ONE, #11 GREYVITOS, #15 SUPER SOL, #16 COOL BOBBY

It's really tough to see anyone making an impact out of this group. That is not meant as an insult to any of these runners. The field for this race is one of the toughest we've seen in years, which will make it tough for a horse like what is in this group to jump up and win.

## PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #13 McKinzie – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #6 Axelrod – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #3 Copper Bullet – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 6,12,13 BOX

Trifecta: 3,6,12,13 BOX

Superfecta: 3,6,12,13 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 3,6,12,13

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta box 3,6,12,13 and \$10 to win on #13 McKinzie

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta box 3,6,12,13 and \$50 to win on #13 McKinzie



# RACE 8:

1 - 1/16TH MILES  
THREE YEAR OLDS  
& UPWARD ON DIRT

## THE GRADE 2 SAN ANTONIO STAKES

### OVERVIEW:

This is always a very popular race for the older males. Last year, 2018 Breeders' Cup Classic winner, Accelerate, finished second in this spot before going on to become famous after that loss with a monster season. This year, we may not have that caliber of horse in the race; however, we still have a competitive field. 2017 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile winner Battle of Midway headlines the field.

**RACE SHAPE:** THIS RACE LOOKS TO SET UP WELL FOR CLOSERS OR STALKERS

**Pure Speed:** *Dabster, Tatters to Riches, Gift Box, Air Strike*

**Pressing Speed:** *Pitino*

**Stalkers:** *Battle of Midway*

**Closers:** *Sonneteer, Yulong Warrior, Beach View*

This race has a lot of speed; however, it does not have as much speed as the Malibu Stakes in Race 9. Still, the race sets up pretty well for a stalker or a closer. With this inside post-position draw, it is likely to be Dabster going to lead. Expect favorite Battle of Midway to draft just inside the leaders, poised to pounce at the perfect time.

### TOP CHOICE: #2 BATTLE OF MIDWAY

This horse has quite a story. After winning the 2017 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile, he was retired to stud, before being dubbed infertile. He returned to racing after this news, while getting back into top form lately. He did struggle in his first couple of starts off the layoff but has back-to-back wins coming into this race.

**MAJOR THREATS:** #3 DABSTER, #6 TATTERS TO RICHES, #7 GIFT BOX

It's always tough to beat Bob Baffert, which is why you have to play Dabster in this spot. Dabster nearly defeated Battle of Midway last time out in the Grade 3 Native Diver Stakes

at Del Mar. Tatters to Riches is a horse with a tremendous amount of upside, while Gift Box will be making his debut for trainer John Sadler after running on the east coast with Chad Brown throughout his entire career.

**LONGSHOTS TO USE:** #4 SONNETEER, #8 AIR STRIKE

It's interesting to see Sonneteer back in this spot after a long layoff. The pace set up will be the key for him. We know he will come with his normal run. If the front runners get tired late in the race, this horse will have a shot to run them down. Air Strike gets a big class test today. His speed figures are somewhat competitive with this group, though.

**OTHERS:** #1 PITINO, #5 YULONG WARRIOR, #9 BEACH VIEW

Once again it will be tough for anyone in this group to make an impact in this very tough spot. We prefer others more.

## PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #2 Battle of Midway – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #3 Dabster – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #6 Tatters to Riches – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 2,3/2,3,6,7

Trifecta: 2,3/2,3,6,7/2,3,6,7

Superfecta: 2,3,6,7 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 2,3,6

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta 2,3/2,3,6,7/2,3,6,7 and \$1 exacta 2,3/2,3,6,7

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta 2,3/2,3,6,7/2,3,6,7 and \$4 exacta box 2,3,6



# RACE 7:

## THE GRADE 2 MATHIS BROTHERS MILE

1 MILE (TURF)  
3-YEAR-OLDS

### OVERVIEW:

The 3-year-old males on the turf get their last shot at a big win here before having to face the older division next season. A solid field of 11 will line up in this one, led by Grade 1 Hollywood Derby runner-up River Boyne. He'll have plenty of challengers, though, in what looks to be a very competitive race on paper.

### RACE SHAPE: THIS RACE LOOKS TO SET UP WELL FOR CLOSERS AND STALKERS

**Pure Speed:** *Gidu, Gemonteer, Snazzy Dresser*

**Pressing Speed:** *Choo Choo*

**Stalkers:** *Shivermetimbers*

**Closers:** *Sejo, Hardboot, River Boyne, Combatant, Desert Stone, Fight On*

Anytime Gidu is in the race, you know there will be a rapid pace. He is extremely fast, while showing he can set the pace in sprint races, as well as races going a mile. Today, he also must deal with Gemonteer up front, who is very fast as well. Snazzy Dresser has a shot to apply pressure, which leads to this race having a big possibility to set up for a closer.

### TOP CHOICE: #5 RIVER BOYNE

After nearly pulling off an upset last time out in the Grade 1 Hollywood Derby, this horse should be the favorite in this spot. He is two for three when running at a mile in his career, which only helps his chances in this race. The pace should set up for him to make one big run down the stretch.

### MAJOR THREATS: #1 SEJO, #7 DESERT STONE, #9 GEMONTEER

Sejo will make his United States debut for trainer John Sadler after winning two in a row overseas at Longchamp. Desert Stone is best at this mile distance, which makes him a viable option today. Gemonteer could be dangerous if left alone on

the front end; however, will likely be pressed the whole way by the speedy Gidu.

### LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 CHOO CHOO, #8 FIGHT ON, #10 SHIVERMETIMBERS

The interesting horse in this group is Shivermetimbers, who will be trying turf for the first time in this race. That could lead to big things for him, while it's also a good sign that Mike Smith stays on to ride the horse. He will be competitive if he takes to the surface.

### OTHERS: #3 GIDU, #4 HARDBOOT, #6 COMBATANT, #11 SNAZZY DRESSER

The horse that will stand out the most out of this category is Gidu, who has a lot of class. However, he has yet to prove he is as effective when going two-turns. He is better going a bit shorter, while also having to deal with another serious speed horse in Gemonteer today as well.

## PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #5 River Boyne – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #7 Desert Stone – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #1 Sejo – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Exacta: 5,7,9 BOX

Trifecta: 1,5,7,9 BOX

Superfecta: 1,5,7,9 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,5,7,9

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta box 1,5,7,9

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta box 1,5,7,9



# RACE 6:

7 FURLONGS  
3-YEAR-OLDFILLIES  
ON DIRT

## THE GRADE 1 LA BREA STAKES

### OVERVIEW:

There is no doubt who the headliner is in this race. The undefeated Dream Tree will make one last start this season, after having to scratch out of the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint, where she likely would have been the favorite. Today, she gets an easier spot, while also getting the perfect distance for her.

### RACE SHAPE: THIS RACE LOOKS TO HAVE NO FAVORITISM FROM A PACE STANDPOINT

**Pure Speed:** *Happy Like a Fool, Hot Autumn*

**Pressing Speed:** *Emboldened*

**Stalkers:** *Mo See Cal, Dream Tree, Heavenhasmynikki, Cathedral Reader*

**Closers:** *Kelly's Humor, Spiced Perfection*

Early speed is the name of the game today at Santa Anita; however, this race looks like it could have a slower pace. This gives Happy Like a Fool a chance to sneak away from the competition, especially since she has drawn the rail spot. Look for her to get out to an early lead, with Dream Tree making a big move on her late in the stretch.

### TOP CHOICE: #5 DREAM TREE

She's a perfect 5 for 5 coming into this race, which is something we don't see changing today. It's a shame she had to scratch out of the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint last time out, as she most likely would have won the race. Her last start was in September at Saratoga, where she dominated her rivals in the Grade 2 Prioress Stakes. If she shows up with that kind of effort again, it's lights out for everyone else.

### MAJOR THREATS: #1 HAPPY LIKE A FOOL, #7 HOT AUTUMN

Happy Like a Fool is definitely in with an upset chance in this spot. Her solid early speed makes her dangerous on a track that does tend to favor speed horses. She also draws the rail,

while also not having too much pace pressure in this spot. She could sneak away with this race. Hot Autumn comes into this one off of a nice allowance win over this track last time out.

### LONGSHOTS TO USE: #9 SPICED PERFECTION

She has won two out of her last three starts, including a California bred stakes event last time out at Del Mar going the same distance as today's race. With 7-furlongs being a specialist type of distance, that gives Spiced Perfection a bit of an advantage over some of her rivals.

### OTHERS: #2 MO SEE CAL, #3 KELLY'S HUMOR, #4 EMBOLDENED, #6 HEAVENHASMNIKKI, #7 CATHEDRAL READER

It's going to take an exceptional performance to beat the heavy favorite in this race. This group might not have that sort of talent.

## PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #5 Dream Tree – Confidence Level: 4.5 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #1 Happy Like a Fool – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #9 Spiced Perfection – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 1,5/1,5,7,9

Trifecta: 1,5/1,5,7,9/1,5,7,9

Superfecta: 1,5,7,9 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,5

Small Budget Wager: \$40 to win on #5 Dream Tree and \$1 exacta 1,7,9 BOX

Large Budget Wager: \$200 to win on #5 Dream Tree and \$2 exacta 1,7,9 BOX



# RACE 4:

1 MILE (TURF)  
3-YEAR-OLD FILLIES

## THE LADY OF SHAMROCK STAKES

### OVERVIEW:

The Lady of Shamrock Stakes will kick off today's stakes action. With only a \$75,000 purse, it's not as prestigious as the other 4 stakes races on the card, yet it is still a race that looks very competitive. This will be our first big money-making opportunity of the day, with the hope we can get off to a hot start.

### RACE SHAPE: THIS RACE LOOKS TO SET UP WELL FOR FRONT-RUNNERS

**Pure Speed:** *Ms Bad Behavior*

**Pressing Speed:** *Stradella Road, Streak of Luck*

**Stalkers:** *Animostiy, X S Gold*

**Closers:** *Amandine, West Palm Beach, Love and Peace*

This could be Ms Bad Behavior's race to lose if the pace plays out how it projects on paper. She should be able to get the easy lead, while the others are lacking with the ability to press her up front. If she can get away with soft fractions it will be tough for this caliber of field to get past her late in the stretch.

### TOP CHOICE: #3 MS BAD BEHAVIOR

The key to the race will be to let the speed horse roll. Ms Bad Behavior looks like she could be alone on the front end in this race, which will make her tough to catch. She has hit the board in three of her four starts this year, all of which have come against graded-stakes company. However, she is yet to win this year, which is obviously a concern. The pace set up could be perfect for her today, though, which could get her over the hump.

### MAJOR THREATS: #6 X S GOLD, #7 STREAK OF LUCK

Both of these horses excel at this distance. X S Gold will be looking for two straight wins after crushing California bred in a 1-mile allowance event at Del Mar last time out. Streak of Luck was third to Ms Bad Behavior in her last start, losing by only a half-length. Both of these horses have what it takes to be competitive in this spot.

### LONGSHOTS TO USE: #8 LOVE AND PEACE, #1 AMANDINE

Love and Peace will be making her United States debut after a career in France before coming over here. Her races have been average; however, you have to love her connections. The most interesting horse in this group is Amandine, who won her American debut against allowance foes last time out. She made a furious rally down the lane in that race, while blowing her competition away by over 3-lengths. This will be a tougher challenge today, while she also doesn't look to be getting any favors from a pace scenario.

### OTHERS: #2 ANIMOSTY, #4 STRADELLA ROAD, #5 WEST PALM BEACH

These three will need to show solid improvement to compete for top honors today. This race could be just a little too tough for them.

## PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #3 Ms. Bad Behavior – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #7 Streak of Luck – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #1 Amandine – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Exacta: 1,3,7 BOX

Trifecta: 1,3,6,7 BOX

Superfecta: 1,3,6,7 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,3,6,7

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta box 1,3,6,7

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta box 1,3,6,7