NICk BORG'S April 6 Derby Prep Selects
Bluegrass, Wood, and Santa Anita

Keeneland Race 10 – Bluegrass

This edition of the Blue Grass is wide open contest and from a handicapping perspective I like this racing situation because the chances for a longshot to land in the Exacta are very good. With this in mind I have selected 3 horses in this race that I feel will run a much-improved performance today, coming off their recent efforts. **Signalman** comes in off a subpar effort that was his first off his winter break. He has a strong late kick and turned in 5 consecutive solid efforts as a 2-year-old prior to his last effort. Signal is bred to appreciate today's longer distance and has been working very well leading up to today's race. I think he will be flying late through the stretch! **Dream Maker** looked good in his first start back off his winter break as he was gathered up midstretch, winning very easily. He followed that race with a poor start in the Tampa Bay Derby, getting off last, being bumped at the start. Since, Dream has worked very well, and he too will appreciate the stretch-out in distance. Dream figures to come back and give a big effort in this spot! **Win Win Win** put in 4 consecutive big efforts as a 2-year-old and turned in a subpar effort in his come back effort off his winter break last time out. He might have not been worked hard enough to prep for that race and simply needed the effort to get him back on track which means he should fire a bigger effort today. Working very well headed in here and he also should like the longer race distance.

Selections
1-Signalman 3.60 to show
2-Deam Maker
3-Win Win Win 4.00 to place

My Play
*I am going to play an Exacta Box using all 3 selections

Aqueduct Race 10 – The Wood

Tax dew the rail which is an advantageous post in this race because the first turn comes up very quickly. He has good tactical speed to allow him to get a nice early running position and he comes in off a victory going this same race distance so I would expect him to give another big effort in this spot. Working very well since mid-February and he is bred to run a long way. He figures tough in this spot. **Tacitus** turned in a very impressive effort last time out as he made a strong rally up the inside to get to the front in the last few strides to take down the Tamp Bay Derby last time out. That being his 3rd career start leaves me wondering if he might regress off that big effort into today's race? He has had 4 weeks to recover which should be ample time. Well bred to go long and should not be overlooked! **Outshine** hasn't run a poor race yet and comes in off a big effort in the Tampa Bay Derby as he rallied to the lead in late stretch but got caught in the shadow of the wire by Tacitus. Today's wider post position might be a problem and he might need to expend more energy in the early going trying to establish a good running position. Tricky read here but if he can work out a trip, he is a top contender. **Haikal** has a great closing kick as he proved once again in his last race as he finished on fire to get up for the victory in the Gotham. He is also well bred to get the classic distances and is an obvious top contender in this race. The question with Haikal is whether he will still have that same strong closing kick over a longer distance of ground? His breeding says yes. I have my doubts.

Selections
1-Tax
2-Tacitus
3-Outshine
I am playing an Exacta Box using all 3 selections Exacta paid: $22.90 for $1

Santa Anita Race 8 - Santa Anita Derby

A small field of 6 will be in the starting gate to contest this event and the favorite will be **Game Winner**. He fell short last time out in the Rebel as that was his first effort off his winter break and he figures to be better today having this last effort under his belt. He has been working well and he figures to be able to stalk the early pace from his outside post and swoop down on the turn to take control of the race heading home. **Nolo Contesto** has a nice late kick when taken off the early engine and I think that will be his running style in this race. His rider, Joe Talamo will rate Nolo off the early pace and get into top stride on that final turn hoping he has enough in the tank to keep his best stride going to the finish. **Instagrand** is the main early speedster and since he fell short last time out at one mile, I can't see him being tougher to beat going longer here today. **Roadster** breaks from the rail and I feel he will be well positioned early to sit just off that early lead, biding his time to make his move come the far turn for home. Road has been working very well for this race and is bred to go long.

Selections:

1-Game Winner
2-Roadster
3-Nolo Contesto

My Plays

*I am playing an Exacta Box using all 3 selections $14.00 for $2

Tinman Plays

Wood: Haikal, Tacitus, Joevia

Bluegrass: Win Win Win, Signal Man, Vekoma .50 tri paid 18.90

Santa Anita: Nolo Contesto, Game Winner, Instagrand

Santa Anita Early Pick 5:
R1: Kodiak West, Pulpit Reader. Tell Me More (2nd)
R2: Sneaking Out WIN, Time for Kisses
R3: Bellafina WIN
R4: Italiano, Captivate, Cat's Blame
R5: Vasilika WIN, Ms Bad Behavior, Raven's Lady

ScatCat Plays

Aqueduct
Pick 3 races 8, 9, 10
R8: Off Topic, Always Shopping (WIN), Espresso Shot
R9: Vino Rosso
R10: Tax, Haikal, Outshine, Tacitus (WIN)

Race 10: Tri Box: Tax, Haikal, Outshine, Tacitus Tri paid $33.25 for .50

Keeneland
Pick 4 Races 7-10
R7: Bay Muzik, Latent Revenge, Imprimis (WIN), Disco Partner
R8: Amy's Challenge, Spiced Perfection (WIN), Shamrock Rose
R9: Jaywalk 3rd
R10: Somelikeithotbrown, Win Win Win, Vekoma (WIN), Aquadini

Race 10: tri box: Somelikeithotbrown 4th, Win Win Win 2nd, Vekoma WIN, Aquadini

Santa Anita:
Race 8: Exacta Box: Game Winner, Instagrand, Roadster exacta paid $14.00