

**Date:** January 4th, 2020

**Track:** Santa Anita

**By Steve Andersen**

## **Race 9**

### **Soldier Boy**

This is a tricky draw for this colt, an expensive purchase at a 2-year-olds in-training sale in 2018. He may not be quick enough to set the pace from the inside and could be better served from a stalking position. On a more encouraging note, he has worked well since a troubled sixth at Del Mar on Nov. 29 when he had a bad start.

### **Heartfullofstars**

Edwin Alvarez began training this gelding following the recent passing of trainer Gary Sherlock. This 5-year-old was winless in seven starts last year. If Tiger Dad or Truck Salesman set a quick pace, he will benefit. Otherwise, it is difficult to see him finishing in the first three on recent form.

### **Hot Sean**

He starts for his lowest claiming price in his first race since a good second at a mile at Del Mar in July. He has won twice at this distance here, in a maiden race in 2016 and an optional claimer here last May, which was his first start in nearly 15 months. That win showed he can be successful after a lengthy rest.

### **Truck Salesman**

He is quick enough to set the pace, and should not have any difficulty with a longer sprint, even though this is the first time he has started at the distance in 16 months. But sustained pressure from a rival such as Tiger Dad to his outside could prove costly. If the pace is softer, he may prove tough to catch.

### **Tiger Dad**

He would be a strong favorite if the race was run on turf. This gelding is winless in four starts on dirt, with his best finish on the surface a third in his debut at Del Mar in August 2018. Of late, he has been very quick in his turf races, indicating his best chance here is to set an early pace.

### **Sigalert**

This expensive colt will race for the first time in more than 15 months here after an erratic training pattern. He was working steadily at this time last year, but was given a rest in the winter and spring, resuming workouts in September. There has been a steady schedule of workouts since then. John Sadler does well with horses returning from lengthy layoffs. Still, this may be a needed prep.

### **Italiano**

He won three races from 12 starts and was claimed five times in 2019 for prices ranging from \$25,000 to \$40,000. The three wins were for different trainers, including Vann Belvoir who took the 5-year-old for \$25,000 here in October. This horse won a starter allowance at Los Al on Dec. 6 from off the pace under jockey Flavien Prat, who has the mount here. A similar race scenario is likely, if a quick pace develops.

### **Order and Law**

The winner of the Laurel Futurity at six furlongs on turf in September 2018, he is winless in six starts on dirt. He was a fair second in an optional claimer at 1 1-16 miles on dirt last time, and could be better served with this drop in distance. Threefiveindia, who beat this 4-year-old on Nov. 1, has since won twice, including the Dave s Friend Stakes at Laurel on Dec. 28.