

xb wager guide

SANTA ANITA DERBY

APRIL 4, 2015 • SANTA ANITA PARK



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Get to know the Horses

1. Dortmund (3/5)

Owner: Kaleem Shah, Inc.

Trainer: Bob Baffert

Jockey: Martin Garcia

The prohibitive favorite in this year's Santa Anita Derby, DORTMUND, enters this race undefeated, but certainly not untested. He had to endure a pair of grueling stretch battles earlier in his career, winning both the Grade 1 Los Alamitos Futurity and the Grade 3 Robert B. Lewis Stakes by small margins over Firing Line. That made DORTMUND'S comfortable 1 1/4-length win in last month's Grade 2 San Felipe Stakes feel like a blowout! Keep in mind that those wins over Firing Line were flattered when Firing Line won the Grade 3 Sunland Derby by 14-lengths in track record time last month, so it's clear as to why DORTMUND is the heavy favorite this time around. Plus, he beat both Prospect Park and Bolo, his chief rivals today, in the San Felipe Stakes, so his backers will certainly see no reason that DORTMUND can't push his record to 6-for-6 Saturday. Finally, trainer Bob Baffert is no stranger to the Santa Anita Derby winner's circle, as he's won this race a record six times.

2. One Lucky Dane (5/1)

Owner: Michael Lund Petersen

Trainer: Bob Baffert

Jockey: Rafael Bejarano

All of the hoopla in the Bob Baffert barn is in support of race-favorite, Dortmund, but stablemate, ONE LUCKY DANE, has quietly run some very nice races and can't be ignored in this spot. Baffert's Team has obviously always been high on this horse, as evidenced by their willingness to run him in last fall's Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (he finished 6th) just weeks after a smashing 9 1/2-length maiden win. The situation is similar this time around, as he wheels back just 16 days after a strong 9 3/4-length win over the track. One interesting nuance about ONE LUCKY DANE'S past performances is that he's a perfect 2-for-2 in races where he's made the early lead, while he's 0-for-3

when he doesn't. With that in mind, we expect Rafael Bejarano to ride ONE LUCKY DANE to the front early and to see how far the horse will take him. With an obvious affinity for Santa Anita, that could be pretty far.

3. Cross the Line (15/1)

Owners: Red Cap Thoroughbreds LLC, Sigband, Todaro, Hollendorfer et al

Trainer: Jerry Hollendorfer

Jockey: Juan J. Hernandez

Having raced exclusively at Golden Gate Fields in five previous starts, this is a big step up in class for CROSS THE LINE, who makes his first trip south for trainer, Jerry Hollendorfer. A winner in two of those starts, CROSS THE LINE was victorious in the California Derby in January before finishing a troubled second in the Grade 3 El Camino Real Derby in February. How he takes to the dirt is anyone's best guess, but we're not bullish on his chances. While he's raced competitively throughout his career, the horses he faces are much tougher this time around and even his best race might only be good enough for fourth or fifth. To his credit, trainer Jerry Hollendorfer is among the best in the world at his craft and there's no reason to believe CROSS THE LINE will be nothing less than fully cranked to run this afternoon. Whether he's good enough is another question entirely.

4. Bolo (4/1)

Owners: Golden Pegasus Racing, Inc.

Trainer: Carla Gaines

Jockey: Mike E. Smith

In our eyes, BOLO is the most likely upsetter in this year's Santa Anita Derby. He began his career racing on the turf, but proved dirt racing wasn't a problem with a close-up third place finish in last month's San Felipe Stakes. That race came after a ten-week layoff, and trainer Carla Gaines remarked that weather and injury forced BOLO to miss a few workouts going into the San Felipe, indicating



Get to know the Horses

he may be sharper this time around. Plus, jockey Mike Smith, who rode BOLO in each of his first three turf starts, will be back aboard this afternoon. Smith opted to ride another horse – Ocho Ocho Ocho – in the San Felipe, but chose to stay home and ride BOLO today, instead of flying to Keeneland to ride Ocho Ocho Ocho in the Blue Grass. BOLO has the perfect tactical speed to excel here, and if he moves forward from the San Felipe, he's the one that will prove most formidable to Dortmund.

5. Prospect Park (7/2)

Owners: Pam & Martin Wygod

Trainer: Clifford Sise Jr.

Jockey: Kent J. Desormeaux

An unknown on the Triple Crown Trail coming into this year, PROSPECT PARK burst onto the scene with a pair of powerful victories here in December and January, punctuated by a 5 1/4-length allowance victory on January 30. He made his stakes debut in last month's San Felipe Stakes and defeated all challengers but Dortmund that day, beaten a diminishing 1 1/4-lengths by that rival. The extra distance of today's race should be to PROSPECT PARK'S liking, and the real concern is whether he'll get enough pace to run at. We don't expect a scorching pace today, so that may force Kent Desormeaux, who won this race in 1997 with Free House, to move earlier than he'd like. PROSPECT PARK'S owners, Pam and Martin Wygod, are no strangers to success in California. They've campaigned many top horses, including Life Is Sweet, Sweet Catomine, After Market and Tranquility Lake. This would be their first Santa Anita Derby win.

6. Bad Read Sanchez (30/1)

Owner: Reddam Racing, LLC

Trainer: Doug O'Neill

Jockey: Mario Gutierrez

The biggest outsider in this year's Santa Anita Derby, BAD READ SANCHEZ has started just three times in his career and hasn't been to the track in the afternoon since finishing third in last year's Grade 2 Best Pal Stakes in early-August. That's a long time for a horse to be away from the races, and this is a very difficult spot to come back in. To his credit, he does have a smashing 10-length victory at Santa Anita on his resume, but that race was both ten months ago and at a distance a half-mile shorter than this one. He does have the right team in his corner, though. Trainer Doug O'Neill has won the Santa Anita Derby twice, most recently in 2013, and he teamed with Bad Read Sanchez's owner, Paul Reddam, and jockey, Mario Gutierrez, to take the 2012 edition of this race with I'll Have Another. Bottom line...this is a steep hike in class and he's been away from the races for too long to back him this time.



Wagering Strategies & Recommended Picks

Analysis:

In our eyes, this year's Santa Anita Derby comes down to two horses – DORTMUND and BOLO. While DORTMUND is the heavy favorite and may look like a 'lock' to many handicappers, we're very intrigued by BOLO. He has the perfect running style for this race and we expect him to move forward from his last start. Plus, he reunites with Mike Smith, who piloted him to three wins earlier in his career. You don't get rich playing heavy favorites, so we'll take a shot and pick BOLO here and make him and DORTMUND the 'stars' of our wagers.

Recommended Picks

1. Bolo
2. Dortmund
3. One Lucky Dane
4. Prospect Park

Main Contenders:

DORTMUND obviously stands out on paper. He's both undefeated and battle tested, which is a very formidable 1-2 combo when it comes to handicapping a race. As a bettor, it's comforting to know this is a horse that will fight for the win if he's eyeballed in the final sixteenth of a mile. You can't teach that trait, and the horses that have it generally reward their backers more often than not.

Value Plays:

The best value horses in this field are ONE LUCKY DANE and BOLO. At their morning line prices, each would pay at least \$10 and that's great value when there are only six horses in the starting gate. ONE LUCKY DANE is incredibly dangerous if his stablemate, DORTMUND, backs off and lets 'DANE lead early, while BOLO seems to be sitting on a huge performance.

\$100 Wagering Strategy:

- **\$30 Exacta Box** #1 Dortmund, #4 Bolo (\$60)
- **\$5 Trifecta** #1 Dortmund, #4 Bolo / #1 Dortmund, #4 Bolo / #2 One Lucky Dane, #5 Prospect Park (\$20)
- **\$20 Win** #4 Bolo (\$20)

\$750,000 Guaranteed Late Pick 4 Strategy:

- **Race 8** - We think DORTMUND and BOLO are the only horses you need to use to get out of the Santa Anita Derby.
- **Race 9** - This race is wide-open, so be generous with it on your ticket, but five we like are LUTINE BELLE, ENTRECHAT, SPANISH QUEEN, FROSTY FRIDAY and HAVANNA BELLE.
- **Race 10** - The inside horses, LONG HOT SUMMER and NIASSA, are good enough, but so are JENNA'S FAITH and EASTER FEVER.
- **Race 11** - This is a big drop in class for WINNING PRIZE and we like that Mike Smith picks MOULIN DE MOUGIN over some others. Consider using GANESH as well.



Form Usually Holds

In the last 24 years, the Santa Anita Derby favorite has finished in the Exacta (finished 1st or 2nd) 15 times. The overall record of favorites in that span is 24-9-6-3 (\$1.48 Win ROI).





Santa Anita Derby Facts & Figures



8 Santa Anita Derby winners went on to win the Eclipse Award for Champion Three-Year-Old Male or Female Horse. 5 of those also won Horse of the Year that same year. They are:

- › California Chrome (2014)
- › Point Given (2001)
- › A.P. Indy (1992)
- › Sunday Silence (1989)
- › Affirmed (1978)

Victor Espinoza won his second career Santa Anita Derby in 2014 with California Chrome. He has a long way to go to catch Gary Stevens, who has won this race a record 9 times. His Santa Anita Derby victories came aboard:

- › Buddy Gil (2003)
- › Point Given (2001)
- › General Challenge (1999)
- › Indian Charlie (1998)
- › Larry the Legend (1995)
- › Brocco (1994)
- › Personal Hope (1993)
- › Mister Frisky (1990)
- › Winning Colors (1988)

7 horses have paid more than \$60 when they won the Santa Anita Derby. They are:

- › Tiago (2007; \$60.60)
- › Buzzards Bay (2005; \$62.20)
- › Castledale (2004; \$62.00)
- › Mighty Adversary (1984; \$66.20)
- › Destroyer (1974; \$89.80)
- › Old Rockport (1949; \$68.10)
- › Sweepida (1940; \$68.60)

6 of the last 8 horses to start at less than even-money (1.00/1) in the Santa Anita Derby would go on to win. The last 8 horses to start at less than even-money are:

- › California Chrome (1st; 2014) – 0.70/1
- › Creative Cause (2nd; 2012) – 0.90/1
- › Lookin At Lucky (3rd; 2010) – 0.80/1
- › Pioneerof the Nile (1st; 2009) – 0.80/1
- › Brother Derek (1st; 2006) – 0.50/1
- › Point Given (1st; 2001) – 0.70/1
- › Brocco (1st; 1994) – 0.70/1
- › A.P. Indy (1st; 1992) – 0.90/1

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DID YOU KNOW



It's Generally Not a Blowout

In 2014, California Chrome won the Santa Anita Derby by 5 ¼ lengths, the largest margin of victory in the race since Point Given won the 2001 edition by 5 ½ lengths.

It Pays to Run in the San Felipe

Since 1991, the winner of the San Felipe Stakes has returned to win the Santa Anita Derby 6 times, and horses who prepped in the San Felipe won this race 11 times in that span.

From Arcadia to Louisville

Since 1986, horses that made their final prep in the Santa Anita Derby won the Kentucky Derby 8 times. Keeneland's Blue Grass Stakes is next with 6 Kentucky Derby winners.

In Bob We Trust

Bob Baffert has won the Santa Anita Derby 6 times, most recently in 2011 with Midnight Interlude. His overall record in the Santa Anita Derby is 24-6-7-5 (\$3.00 Win ROI).

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