

Emily Gullikson/@EmilyOptixEQ  
SANTA ANITA Race 6 – March 10, 2018

## G2 SAN FELIPE STAKES

Co-favorites #4 **MCKINZIE (8-5)** and #1 **BOLT D'ORO (2-1)** are logical types with current Stakes form and top speed figures. With a good chance of rain, #1 **BOLT D'ORO**'s trainer will likely scratch for the Rebel next week at Oaklawn. While he was a logical type in this spot, I was not sold this was the spot to play him at a short price off the layoff. #4 **MCKINZIE** has questions as well, but he should get the right forwardly placed stalking trip and that makes him dangerous. My reservation does not come from what he has already done but more, how much more he is capable of. If none of the horses are improving, he stands above them and, with that perfect trip should be the winner. However, I do believe others in the race are improving types, and he will need to come with his 'A' game. He has the "tail flash" quirk late in the race, which may be who he is and no big deal; but it remains to be seen if that becomes an issue should he find himself in a dog fight late. Should they both run, honestly no one would be surprised to see either win. I can't advocate against using on tickets to stay alive, however, for a bet and a pick, I am going elsewhere.

#7 **PEACE (15-1)** I thought he had a reasonable chance last time out in the RB Lewis Stakes, and I'm going back to him here. He ran well against the track profile that day. The outside was not the best place. Since that race they removed blinkers, and his workouts have been solid. They are also making a rider change to VanDyke; an interesting one seeing that he is **MCKINZIE**'s exercise rider. Seems fitting to quote Mandella (the other one) 'If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.'

#2 **LOMBO (8-1)** and #3 **AYACARA (8-1)** also come out of the RB Lewis Stakes. **LOMBO** controlled the pace and the inside, while **AYACARA** rode the inside to put in a late bid; both earned **B-** OptixGrades for their efforts. I don't give either a pace edge in this spot with **LOMBO** looking contested up front, and **AYACARA** at the mercy of the race shape with his late closing style. Both are consideration for underneath awards.

#8 **KANTHAKA (4-1)** is the fresh face coming in off a solid win in the G2 San Vicente. The win was visually impressive while given he had the right pace to run at. This guy has a solid build and seems to carry a lot of weight. He will be making his first start on short-ish rest, and simultaneously making his route debut. I have more questions than answers for this spot, and I'll take a pass letting the short price decide.

#5 **AQUILA (15-1)** and #6 **CALEXMAN (30-1)** look a bit behind the rest of the competition at this stage of their careers. They would need a step up both on OptixFIGs (speed) and class (grades) to warrant strong consideration. Both have similar run styles and project to be forwardly placed lacking the same amount of finish (circles) as their rivals, not giving either the needed pace edge. Of the pair, **AQUILA** does seem to be moving forward, and with his grinding run manner, distance has not been an issue. He is worth using as an underneath key.