



John Doyle/@OptixEQ
AQUEDUCT Race 10 – April 7, 2018

G2 WOOD MEMORIAL

Overall, this G2 race comes up soft. There are only two graded stakes winners in the entire field. Three of the entrants are facing winners for the first time. The favorite **#5 ENTICED** looks vulnerable and the outside horses **#7 KING ZACHARY**, **#8 RESTORING HOPE** and **#9 VINO RUSSO** have the best chance to upset the favorite.

#1 HEARTFULLOFSTARS (20/1 - EX) ships in from Santa Anita where he just broke his maiden in the slop. He has a sharp young trainer and his recent OptixFIG (**90**) is within today's range. He's shown more speed since the addition of blinkers, so we expect him to be a bit more forwardly placed than the PLOT suggests. He's now facing winners for the first time, so this is a significant class test. We are limiting to the bottom rungs of trifectas and supers.

#2 FIRENZE FIRE (6/1 - NO_VALUE) is the only G1 winner in the field. However that win was going one-turn as a 2 year old. He hasn't shown much progression OptixFIG-wise as a 3year old. He encountered **TRAFFIC** in the Gotham, and he could work out a better trip today, maybe closer to the pace. The concern is the 9F. Based on OptixNOTES keywords, I see him more as a **ONE_TURN** type. He's an ok price at his morning line, but we are expecting him to be lower.

#3 EVALUATOR (20/1 - BELOW) is a steady performer, but just looks too slow on OptixFIGs. His best Optix-FIGs are well below today's OFR (OptixFigsRange). The late pace shape in his last three races has been **very slow**, **slow** and **very slow** indicating he has been benefiting from pace melt downs v. cheaper. Based on the PLOT, there is some pace today; I'm just not expecting a meltdown. The bottom of supers are the best possible outcomes.

#4 OLD TIME REVIVAL (6/1 - NO_VALUE) has run fast enough to compete. All his previous races have been one-turn. Based on the PLOT he should be on the lead or pressing **#1 HEARTFULLOFSTARS** if he is sent from the rail. However, based on OptixNOTES projection **SHORTER?** and keyword **NO_LINE** two back, the 9f at this level seems like a stretch.

#5 ENTICED (6/5 - SOFT) had almost a **PERFECT** trip last time. He might get another one today. He PLOTS well, however he will need to try a longer distance, and he has run basically the same OptixFIG in his last three races. Has he peaked? Is he worth the short price? We think he's a vulnerable favorite.

#6 CATCH TWENTY TWO (50/1 - TOSS) broke maiden in claimer with a slow OptixFIG; afterward he was shipped out of the Chad Brown barn. Terrible PLOT.

#7 KING ZACHARY (20/1 - VALUE) ran very well in his maiden breaker at GP with a OptixFIG (**99**). The effort was a **PERFECT** trip and he's wheeled right back in 20 days into a G2 stakes. However, this race, as mentioned previously, came up real soft. Roman's 3 year olds typically improve with racing. So despite class jump, he's worth a shot considering he has the best last out OptixFIG (**99**) by far.

#8 RESTORING HOPE (4/1 - CONTENDER) ships in for Hall of Fame trainer and top So. Cal rider. He has only raced three times so there is room for upside. Here is the OptixWORKS extended comment prior to his first at LRC "arguably the most impressive youngster in the mornings we have seen from the Baffert barn". He's just below on OptixFIGs and has not yet been tested for class (i.e first time v. winners). He could get a good stalking trip and have the first run on some of the other closers in here.

#9 VINO RUSSO (9/2 - CONTENDER) has run OK in G2,G3 stakes races at TAMPA. He has top NY connections. He will need to work out a trip and avoid getting caught wide both turns. Based on the PLOT, it looks like he and **#7 KING ZACHARY** have the best finishing ability (square size) relative to the rest of the field.