



## Santa Anita Race 8 | Saturday, March 7, 2026

### Grade 2 San Felipe Stakes | \$200,000 | 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ Miles Dirt | 3-Year-Olds

**Distance:** 9 Furlongs — **Dirt Class:** Grade 2 Stakes — **3-Year-Olds Purse:** \$200,000 **Field Size:** 7 horses **Surface Condition:** Fast (projected) **Post Time:** 6:41 PM ET

**Race Dynamics:** The model projects a FAST to MODERATE pace scenario driven by significant early speed from Brant, So Happy, Flashy Fritz, and Potente — four horses whose Q1 MPH projections range from 40.36 to 42.06 mph. The pace scenario is complicated by the fact that Brant, the morning-line favorite, is a front-runner by profile whose BC Juvenile third-place effort at 1-1/16 miles showed a VULNERABLE deceleration rating, and today's 1-1/8 mile distance is the longest he has faced. The model identifies Start the Ride as the most compelling figure in the race — a lone ELITE sustained speed rating at 1.9% deceleration through the CalCup Derby at this exact track is the standout data point in the entire field. So Happy is the second betting choice but carries a VULNERABLE deceleration profile across both starts. This is a wide-open Grade 2 with genuine pace questions that the model believes will resolve in favor of horses with superior sustained MPH profiles over the final quarter.

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## SECTION 2: PACE ANALYSIS

### EARLY SPEED PROFILE

Primary Speed: Brant (#4) — 42.06 mph Q1 projection Secondary Speed: So Happy (#6) — 40.54 mph Q1 projection Tertiary Speed: Flashy Fritz (#1) — 40.72 mph Q1 projection (note: class mismatch)

**Pace Projection:** The model projects FAST to MODERATE pace with a projected half-mile of :46.0–:47.0 on the dirt. Brant's Q1 MPH of 42.06 mph is the highest in this field and he has demonstrated the ability to lead wire-to-wire at 7 furlongs, but the step up to 1-1/8 miles with multiple early speed rivals projects to a genuine pace battle through the first half. So Happy (40.54 mph Q1) and Flashy Fritz (40.72 mph Q1) both project to contest early, though Flashy Fritz is a significant class drop and the model weights his pace contribution primarily for its effect on the field rather than his individual win probability. Potente (40.36 mph Q1) has only one start — a 6-furlong maiden — and his ability to sustain early speed at 1-





1/8 miles is an unknown. The projected half-mile of :46.0–:46.8 falls in FAST territory and sets up the closing horses significantly.

### **Critical Pace Factors:**

- Brant breaks from post 4 and projects to clear to the front; his only route start (BC Juvenile) showed him on or near the lead from the outset
- So Happy (post 6) has shown the ability to press and win sprinting — his route debut projects as a pace-pressuring effort from outside
- Flashy Fritz (post 1) is a confirmed front-runner from the rail but faces an enormous class jump; his presence will force honest early fractions regardless of his ultimate finish
- Potente (post 5) won his maiden at 6f by pressing and leading — single-start profile creates uncertainty at route distance
- Start the Ride (post 2) is the lone confirmed deep closer in this field with an ELITE sustained speed rating; projects to a ground-saving trip that maximizes his closing run

### **CLOSING SPEED PROFILE**

Primary Closer: Start the Ride (#2) — 36.95 mph closing projection  
Secondary Closer: So Happy (#6) — 36.59 mph closing projection (conditional)  
Tertiary Closer: Secured Freedom (#3) — 36.16 mph closing projection

**Closing Speed Projection:** The model identifies Start the Ride as the lone legitimate deep closer with a confirmed ELITE deceleration profile. His 36.95 mph last 2.5-furlong projection from the CalCup Derby is the strongest closing figure in the field from a route race. So Happy's 36.59 mph closing figure is competitive but comes from a sprint and carries a VULNERABLE deceleration rating when pressed early — his closing ability in a route with a contested pace is less certain. Secured Freedom's 36.16 mph closing figure from the RB Lewis G3 is confirmed from the identical track and distance.

### **Pace Scenario Impact:**

- If FAST (:46.0–:46.4 half): Start the Ride maximizes closing opportunity; Brant and So Happy both project to decelerate severely in the final quarter based on documented profiles; Secured Freedom benefits





- If MODERATE (:46.8–:47.4 half): Brant's sustained speed profile gives him better chance to hold on; Start the Ride still fully competitive; So Happy may factor from stalking position
- Key variable: Whether Potente and Flashy Fritz both pressure Brant aggressively from the first quarter — the more horses that force Brant to work early, the better the setup for Start the Ride

### SECTION 3: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Horse	ML	Win %	Top 3 %	Value Rating
<b>Brant</b>	1-1	28%	65%	Fair
<b>So Happy</b>	2-1	22%	60%	Slight Overlay
<b>Start the Ride</b>	12-1	18%	58%	Value Play
<b>Potente</b>	9-2	14%	45%	Slight Overlay
<b>Secured Freedom</b>	8-1	10%	38%	Overlay
<b>Robusta</b>	20-1	5%	20%	--
<b>Flashy Fritz</b>	30-1	3%	15%	--

### SECTION 4: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

★★★★ **BRANT (#4) | ML 1-1**

#### Strengths:

- Highest Q1 MPH in the field at 42.06 mph (DMR Futures G1, 7f) — PTW proprietary early speed rankings place him #1 by a clear margin
- BC Juvenile G1 finalist — highest class of any horse in this field by a significant margin; 3rd at 1-1/16 miles against the nation's best 2-year-olds
- DMR Futures G1 winner at 7f with a dominant wire-to-wire performance; :43.7 half and 1:22.1 finish time reflects elite speed
- Baffert/Geroux combination — Baffert at .31 win rate in routes and .27 in graded stakes in 2025
- \$3,000,000 OBS March purchase — sire Gun Runner has produced multiple distance horses; pedigree projects a route
- 2-for-3 lifetime with \$408,000 earned; consistent performer at every level attempted





### Concerns:

- Sustained Speed Rating: VULNERABLE — BC Juvenile profile showed 7.3% deceleration at 1-1/16 miles; today is 1-1/8 miles — the longest distance of his career
- Q1 MPH of 42.06 is elite but his deceleration from that figure to the final quarter is the model's primary concern; the faster he goes early, the more vulnerable he becomes late
- Multiple early speed rivals project to contest his lead; Flashy Fritz, Potente, and So Happy all carry 40+ mph Q1 projections
- Has not raced since October 31 — 127-day layoff; first time at Santa Anita
- Route experience is limited to a single start at 1-1/16 miles; 1-1/8 miles is new territory
- At 1-1 (implied 50%), the model identifies the price as demanding near-certainty on an unproven route horse

**Race Shape Fit: COMPLICATED** Brant's elite Q1 MPH gives him pace control but the 1-1/8-mile distance combined with multiple early speed rivals and a VULNERABLE deceleration rating creates genuine late-race uncertainty. The model projects he leads through the half but faces a difficult final quarter.

**Projection:** The model projects Brant to clear to the front from post 4 and lead through a :46.0–:47.0 half-mile. His class and early MPH are unmatched in this field. The projection hinges entirely on whether his VULNERABLE deceleration profile manifests over the final quarter — at 1-1/8 miles against a contested early pace, the model projects this as the most likely scenario. Projected finish: 1st–3rd, with meaningful late-race vulnerability.

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☆☆☆☆ **SO HAPPY (#6) | ML 2-1**

### Strengths:

- San Vicente G2 winner Jan 2026 — most recent graded stakes win in this field; 40.54 mph Q1 and 38.79 mph overall in that performance
- Closing MPH of 36.59 mph (last 3f from 7f) ranks #2 in the field — competitive late pace
- Glatt/Smith combination — Glatt running at .22 win rate overall in 2025; competitive trainer





- 2-for-2 lifetime on dirt with earnings of \$156,000; unbeaten on surface
- Half-mile MPH of 40.63 from the San Vicente is the highest route-comparable half-mile figure in the field
- Sharp work tab including bullet 6f in 1:11.3 at SA on Feb 22 — top work of the tab

### Concerns:

- Sustained Speed Rating: **VULNERABLE** across both starts — 12.6% deceleration in the San Vicente, 20.4% in the maiden; consistent pattern of fading in the final portion
- Today is first career route start; 1-1/8 miles from a 7-furlong sprint is a significant distance extension
- Q3 MPH dropped to 37.19 mph in the San Vicente after opening at 40.54 mph — mid-race deceleration already visible in sprint
- At 2-1 (implied 33.3%), the model assigns 22% win probability — a slight overlay but with significant route question attached
- Trainer Glatt at .13 win rate in sprint-to-route stretches — relevant concern for this specific scenario

**Race Shape Fit: COMPLICATED** So Happy's elite half-mile MPH is his best asset, but his **VULNERABLE** deceleration profile and route debut create legitimate uncertainty. In a contested pace, his early engagement projects to extract energy he may not have available over 1-1/8 miles.

**Projection:** The model projects So Happy to stalk the early pace from outside, make a run on the turn, and either sustain to the wire or flatten in the final furlong depending on how aggressively he is asked in the first half. His closing MPH is competitive but his deceleration history and route inexperience are real concerns. Projected finish: 1st–4th; wide range reflecting route debut uncertainty.

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☆☆☆ **START THE RIDE (#2) | ML 12-1**

### Strengths:

- PTW proprietary sustained speed rankings: **ELITE** — 1.9% deceleration through the CalCup Derby at 1-1/16 miles; the only **ELITE** rating in this field





- Closing MPH of 36.95 mph (last 2.5f) ranks #1 in the field from a route race — strongest closing figure on record at this track and distance range
- CalCup Derby winner at 1-1/16 miles at Santa Anita on Jan 17 — proven at this track, this distance direction, and this surface
- Fractional profile in the CalCup Derby is the model's most compelling data set: :24.1 Q1, :48.3 half, steady through every quarter, 1.9% deceleration Q1-to-Q4 — the definition of sustained speed
- Blacker/Ayuso combination at .20 win rate at SA in 2025-26; same trainer as Flashy Fritz but Start the Ride is the main event
- Six works at SA including a sharp 6f in 1:13.4 (Feb 14) — fit and ready

### Concerns:

- Essentially a one-race wonder at this point — the CalCup Derby is his only graded stakes effort and only route start
- The CalCup Derby was against a softer field than today's Grade 2 competition; class question is legitimate
- 12-1 morning line implies 7.7% win probability — the model's 18% assignment identifies significant overlay but the class concern is real
- Blacker does not have a prominent graded stakes record; 10 GrdStk starts at .20 win rate at SA is encouraging but small sample
- He declared a non-starter at Dmr on Nov 16 — the model notes this in his limited history

**Race Shape Fit: IDEAL** Multiple early speed horses projecting 40+ mph Q1 in a 1-1/8-mile race creates the exact pace scenario that maximizes Start the Ride's ELITE sustained speed profile. His CalCup Derby fractions project directly onto today's projected pace scenario.

**Projection:** The model projects Start the Ride as the primary value selection in this race. His ELITE deceleration profile, #1 closing MPH from a route race, and optimal pace setup at 12-1 represent the strongest overlay opportunity in the field. In a FAST pace scenario, the model projects him to close from off the pace and hit the wire with decisive momentum. Projected finish: 1st–3rd.

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☆☆ POTENTE (#5) | ML 9-2

### Strengths:





- 40.36 mph Q1 from his SA maiden win — legitimate early speed figure
- Baffert/Hernandez combination at .43 win rate at SA in 2025-26 — elite barn in this environment
- \$2,400,000 Into Mischief colt — pedigree screams both speed and potential distance
- Won his maiden impressively from on or near the lead; consistent internal fractions (:22.3, :44.6)
- Baffert's .31 route win rate and .30 win rate with horses returning 31-60 days (applies here) are strong
- Sharp recent work tab — 5f in :59.0 on Feb 22 among the better works on the tab

### Concerns:

- Single career start — a 6-furlong maiden win; today is a Grade 2 at 1-1/8 miles; the jump is enormous
- Sustained Speed Rating: VULNERABLE — 13.6% deceleration from Q1 to Q3 in his only start; at 6f his closing figure was 34.88 mph, the lowest in the field
- Zero route experience whatsoever; the model cannot project his behavior at 1-1/8 miles with any confidence
- At 9-2 (implied 18.2%), the model's assigned 14% projects a slight underlay given the experience gap
- Baffert has had success with lightly-raced horses in this spot but the distance/experience question here is significant

**Race Shape Fit: FAVORABLE (sprint profile only)** Potente's early speed and barn give him a favorable setup to track the early pace. Whether he can sustain that effort over 1-1/8 miles is entirely unknown.

**Projection:** The model projects Potente to be forwardly placed and competitive through the first half, with significant uncertainty in the final quarter due to zero route experience and a VULNERABLE deceleration profile. Projected finish: 2nd–5th; wide range reflects genuine projection uncertainty.

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☆☆ SECURED FREEDOM (#3) | ML 8-1

### Strengths:





- RB Lewis G3 third-place finish at 1-1/16 miles, SA, on Feb 7 — most recent relevant route experience at this exact track
- Q1 MPH of 38.46 mph from the RB Lewis is competitive within this field
- Closing MPH of 36.16 mph (last 2.5f from RB Lewis) ranks #3 in the field from a route — legitimate late-run ability
- Yakteen/Kimura combination at .22 win rate at SA in 2025-26
- 6.5f maiden win at SA showed 42.25 mph Q1 — elite opening speed figure on record
- Deceleration in the RB Lewis at 7.1% is the second-best route figure in this field

### Concerns:

- Sustained Speed Rating: **VULNERABLE** at route distances (7.1%) — just outside **STRONG** threshold
- 1-for-3 lifetime; has not yet demonstrated the ability to win against graded stakes company
- Grade 2 is a significant step up from his Grade 3 placing
- Yakteen at .05 win rate in graded stakes — limited success at this level
- At 8-1 (implied 11.1%), the model's 10% assignment finds no overlay

**Race Shape Fit: STRONG** Secured Freedom's route profile at SA projects well to today's race — same track, similar distance, competitive fractions. His closing MPH from the RB Lewis is a legitimate data point.

**Projection:** The model projects Secured Freedom to stalk mid-pack and produce a competitive late run. His route experience at SA is the most relevant form in the field outside of Start the Ride. Projected finish: 2nd–4th.

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### ☆☆ **ROBUSTA** (#7) | ML 20-1

### Strengths:

- SA maiden win at 1 mile on Jan 9 — has route experience at this track
- Blinkers added — equipment change may produce a sharper early effort
- Calumet Farm colors; O'Neill/Jaramillo combination at .25 win rate at SA in 2025-26

### Concerns:





- Sustained Speed Rating: VULNERABLE — 10.7% deceleration in the SA maiden, 8.7% deceleration in the RB Lewis (6th, weakened)
- Finished 6th and weakened badly in the RB Lewis G3 — most recent form is discouraging
- O'Neill at .05 win rate in graded stakes — poor record at this level
- Blinker-on trainer stat at .11 — below average
- At 20-1 the model identifies no meaningful overlay given declining form

**Race Shape Fit: CHALLENGING** Two consecutive routes showing VULNERABLE deceleration and a poor RB Lewis effort project Robusta as a non-factor today. Blinkers may provide a brief early spark but the sustained speed data does not support a winning effort.

**Projection:** The model projects Robusta to run mid-pack and fade in the stretch. Projected finish: 5th–7th. No value at 20-1.

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★★ FLASHY FRITZ (#1) | ML 30-1

**Strengths:**

- Has front-running speed — 40.72 mph Q1 from his Nov 2025 MSW win at DMR
- Recent form shows competitive efforts at the claiming level

**Concerns:**

- Sustained Speed Rating: VULNERABLE — 16.0% deceleration in his best route; among the worst in the field
- This is an astronomical class jump — from \$25,000 claiming company to a Grade 2 Stakes against horses including a BC Juvenile finalist
- Career earnings of \$33,580 against a field where multiple rivals have earned \$100,000+ in a single race
- At 30-1, the model identifies no overlay — the class gap alone eliminates any realistic win probability
- His value here is purely as a pace contributor who will push early fractions

**Race Shape Fit: CHALLENGING** Flashy Fritz's presence has value in setting an honest early pace for closers. His individual win probability is negligible.





**Projection:** The model projects Flashy Fritz to contest early fractions and fade badly in the final half-mile. Projected finish: 6th–7th. No value at any price given the class gap.

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## SECTION 5: FORM PROJECTIONS

**Brant:** The model projects Brant to clear to the front from post 4 and control fractions through the half at :46.0–:47.0. His class and Q1 MPH dominance make him a legitimate contender. The projection is that multiple early speed rivals — Flashy Fritz, Potente, and So Happy — force honest fractions that test his VULNERABLE route deceleration profile over the final quarter at 1-1/8 miles. Projected finish: 1st–3rd.

**So Happy:** The model projects So Happy to track the early pace from outside post 6, make his run on the far turn, and either sustain to the wire or flatten depending on the pace demands of the first half. His VULNERABLE deceleration profile and route inexperience are the primary risk factors. Projected finish: 1st–4th; wide range.

**Start the Ride:** The model projects Start the Ride to settle off the pace from post 2, travel comfortably in a ground-saving trip through the first half, and produce the field's strongest closing run from the quarter pole. His ELITE 1.9% deceleration profile and 36.95 mph closing projection are the model's primary confidence drivers. Projected finish: 1st–3rd.

**Potente:** The model projects Potente to be forwardly placed and competitive through the first half. His Q1 MPH is legitimate and his barn is elite, but zero route experience creates genuine uncertainty in the final quarter. Projected finish: 2nd–5th.

**Secured Freedom:** The model projects Secured Freedom to stalk mid-pack and produce a competitive late run from the far turn. His RB Lewis G3 form at this exact track is the most relevant recent route data outside of Start the Ride. Projected finish: 2nd–4th.

**Robusta:** The model projects Robusta to run mid-pack under new blinkers and fade in the stretch per his documented deceleration pattern. Projected finish: 5th–7th.





**Flashy Fritz:** The model projects Flashy Fritz to contest early fractions and fade badly in the final half-mile due to the class gap and VULNERABLE deceleration profile. Projected finish: 6th–7th.

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## SECTION 6: MPH ANALYSIS

### PROJECTED OPENING HALF-MILE SPEED COMPARISON

**Brant** (DMR Futures G1, 7Sep25, 7f):

- Opening Quarter (2f): :21.4 = 42.06 mph
- Second Quarter (2f-4f): :22.3 = 40.36 mph
- Half-Mile Cumulative: :43.7 = 41.19 mph
- Q2 Variance: -1.70 mph vs Q1
- Analysis: Brant's Q1 MPH is the highest in this field and his half-mile figure of 41.19 mph from the Futures G1 is elite. However, that was a 7-furlong sprint with no early pressure; today's 1-1/8-mile route with multiple speed rivals projects a half-mile of :46.0–:47.0 that will demand much more of his sustained speed profile than any prior performance.

**So Happy** (San Vicente G2, 10Jan26, 7f):

- Opening Quarter (2f): :22.2 = 40.54 mph
- Second Quarter (2f-4f): :22.1 = 40.72 mph
- Half-Mile Cumulative: :44.3 = 40.63 mph
- Q2 Variance: +0.18 mph vs Q1
- Analysis: So Happy's flat Q2 variance and 40.63 mph half-mile from the San Vicente are impressive — he was the most consistently fast horse through the half in that sprint. The question the model projects is whether that early energy expenditure is sustainable at 1-1/8 miles in his first route start.

**Flashy Fritz** (DMR MSW, 7Nov25, 1mi):

- Opening Quarter (2f): :22.1 = 40.72 mph
- Second Quarter (2f-4f): :23.1 = 38.96 mph
- Half-Mile Cumulative: :45.2 = 39.82 mph
- Q2 Variance: -1.76 mph vs Q1
- Analysis: Flashy Fritz's opening MPH is legitimate — he was a front-running wire-to-wire winner in that MSW. The Q2 variance of -1.76 mph





and 16.0% deceleration from Q1 to Q4 confirm he burns energy rapidly. His presence today forces early fractions that benefit closers.

**Potente** (SA MSW, 31Jan26, 6f):

- Opening Quarter (2f): :22.3 = 40.36 mph
- Second Quarter (2f-4f): :22.3 = 40.36 mph
- Half-Mile Cumulative: :44.6 = 40.36 mph
- Q2 Variance: 0.00 mph vs Q1
- Analysis: Potente's perfectly flat Q2 variance from his maiden reflects a horse that ran evenly through the sprint — a positive sign. His 6f profile cannot be directly projected to 1-1/8 miles; the model uses it as a floor for his early speed capacity only.

**Start the Ride** (CalCup Derby, 17Jan26, SA 1-1/16mi):

- Opening Quarter (2f): :24.1 = 37.34 mph
- Second Quarter (2f-4f): :24.2 = 37.19 mph
- Half-Mile Cumulative: :48.3 = 37.27 mph
- Q2 Variance: -0.15 mph vs Q1
- Analysis: Start the Ride's opening fractions reflect his off-pace running style — intentionally unhurried. His near-zero Q2 variance (-0.15 mph) is the most controlled early profile in the field. The model's critical insight is that this horse has the most consistent MPH profile across all four quarters of his only route start — the definition of sustained speed.

**Secured Freedom** (RB Lewis G3, 7Feb26, SA 1-1/16mi):

- Opening Quarter (2f): :23.4 = 38.46 mph
- Second Quarter (2f-4f): :24.6 = 36.59 mph
- Half-Mile Cumulative: :48.0 = 37.50 mph
- Q2 Variance: -1.87 mph vs Q1
- Analysis: Secured Freedom's Q2 variance of -1.87 mph is the largest drop among the route-experienced horses — he opened aggressively and paid a mild price for it in the RB Lewis. His closing ability despite the Q2 variance suggests a horse learning to rate — improvement projected at this distance.

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## CLOSING SPEED RANKINGS





Start the Ride: Last 2.5f (6f to finish, 2970ft) = 36.95 mph Analysis: Strongest closing figure in the field from a route race. Confirmed at Santa Anita, confirmed at 1-1/16 miles, confirmed with a winning effort. The model designates this the most reliable closing data point in the race.

So Happy: Last 3f (4f to finish, 1980ft) = 36.59 mph Analysis: Competitive closing figure from a 7-furlong sprint; VULNERABLE deceleration rating moderates the model's confidence in translating this figure to a 1-1/8-mile route debut.

Secured Freedom: Last 2.5f (6f to finish, 2970ft) = 36.16 mph Analysis: Solid closing figure from the RB Lewis at this exact track; third-best in the field from a route and the second-most relevant data point for today's race.

Robusta: Last 2f (6f to finish, 2640ft) = 35.43 mph Analysis: Competitive closing figure from the SA maiden win but undermined by subsequent weakening effort in the RB Lewis.

Flashy Fritz: Last 2f = 35.43 mph Analysis: Closing figure from a maiden win that has no relevance at this class level.

Brant: Last 3f (4f to finish, 1980ft) = 35.16 mph Analysis: Lowest closing figure from a primary start for Brant; his strength is the opening quarter, not the closing run. This is the model's central concern for his 1-1/8-mile projection.

Potente: Last 2f = 34.88 mph Analysis: Lowest closing figure in the field from his only start; cannot be reliably projected to route distances.

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## DECELERATION ANALYSIS

Start the Ride Profile (CalCup Derby):

- Opening MPH: 37.34 → Closing MPH: 36.64
- Deceleration: 0.70 mph (1.9%)
- Rating: **SUSTAINED SPEED ELITE**

Secured Freedom Profile (RB Lewis G3):

- Opening MPH: 38.46 → Closing MPH: 35.71
- Deceleration: 2.75 mph (7.1%)





- Rating: **SUSTAINED SPEED VULNERABLE**

Brant Profile (BC Juvenile):

- Opening MPH: 38.79 → Closing MPH: 35.94
- Deceleration: 2.85 mph (7.3%)
- Rating: **SUSTAINED SPEED VULNERABLE**

Robusta Profile (RB Lewis G3):

- Opening MPH: 38.63 → Closing MPH: 35.27
- Deceleration: 3.36 mph (8.7%)
- Rating: **SUSTAINED SPEED VULNERABLE**

Robusta Profile (SA Maiden):

- Opening MPH: 38.63 → Closing MPH: 34.48
- Deceleration: 4.14 mph (10.7%)
- Rating: **SUSTAINED SPEED VULNERABLE**

So Happy Profile (San Vicente G2):

- Opening MPH: 40.54 → Closing MPH: 35.43
- Deceleration: 5.11 mph (12.6%)
- Rating: **SUSTAINED SPEED VULNERABLE**

Flashy Fritz Profile (DMR Maiden):

- Opening MPH: 40.72 → Closing MPH: 34.22
- Deceleration: 6.50 mph (16.0%)
- Rating: **SUSTAINED SPEED VULNERABLE**

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## SPEED METRICS SUMMARY

Fastest Opening Quarter: Brant (42.06 mph) Most Sustainable Pace: Start the Ride (1.9% deceleration — ELITE) Strongest Closing Speed: Start the Ride (36.95 mph last 2.5f from route)





**Critical MPH Insight:** The San Felipe Stakes presents a scenario the model identifies as a significant pace mismatch between class and sustained speed. Brant is the class of the field by a wide margin and carries the highest Q1 MPH at 42.06 mph, but his VULNERABLE deceleration profile (7.3% at 1-1/16 miles) combined with four early speed rivals all projecting above 38 mph in the opening quarter at 1-1/8 miles — the longest distance of his career — creates a final quarter where the model projects meaningful vulnerability. Start the Ride is the lone ELITE sustained speed profile in this race, with a 1.9% deceleration rating and the field's strongest closing MPH of 36.95 mph confirmed at this exact track. At 12-1, the model identifies Start the Ride as a genuine Grade 2 overlay and the primary value play in the race. So Happy's elite half-mile MPH makes him a serious factor but his VULNERABLE deceleration and route debut create enough uncertainty to keep him as a secondary selection. The model's central projection is that the multi-horse pace battle forces Brant into fractions that his deceleration profile cannot absorb over nine furlongs, delivering a result that rewards the only horse in the field carrying an ELITE sustained speed rating.

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## SECTION 7: SUGGESTED BETS

**WIN BET: START THE RIDE (#2) Confidence: 7/10 Rationale:** The model projects Start the Ride as the primary value selection based on the only ELITE sustained speed rating in the field (1.9% deceleration), the strongest closing MPH of any route-experienced horse at 36.95 mph, and a winning performance at this exact track and distance direction confirmed just 49 days ago. The pace scenario — four horses projecting 40+ mph Q1 in a 1-1/8-mile Grade 2 — is the ideal setup for the lone confirmed deep closer in this field. At 12-1 (implied 7.7%), the model's assigned 18% win probability identifies a significant overlay against a morning-line favorite whose VULNERABLE deceleration profile is being tested at the longest distance of his career. Risk Factors: Start the Ride is essentially a one-race wonder at the route level; the CalCup Derby was against softer competition than today's Grade 2 field. If the pace shapes MODERATE and Brant conserves energy through a comfortable lead, Start the Ride's closing run may be insufficient against superior class.

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**VALUE PLAY: SECURED FREEDOM (#3) Confidence: 6/10 Rationale:** Secured Freedom projects as the second-best value in the race — he ran a credible





third in the RB Lewis G3 at this exact track 28 days ago, carries the second-best route deceleration figure at 7.1%, and his closing MPH of 36.16 mph from that effort ranks third in the field from a route race. At 8-1 (implied 11.1%) against the model's 10% win probability the overlay is narrow, but his confirmed route form at SA and improving profile make him a legitimate multi-race inclusion. The Yakteen/Kimura combination at .22 win rate at SA in 2025-26 provides additional confidence. Risk Factors: Yakteen's .05 win rate in graded stakes is a legitimate concern. Secured Freedom has not yet broken through against stakes competition and today's field, led by Brant, is the toughest he has faced.

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**MULTI-RACE WAGERS:** Top 3 for Pick 3/4/5/6: **Start the Ride (#2) [A]**, **Brant (#4) [B]**, **So Happy (#6) [C]** Combined Confidence: 8/10 The model designates Start the Ride as the primary selection (A) based on ELITE sustained speed rating, #1 closing MPH from a route, and maximum overlay value at 12-1; Brant as the secondary selection (B) acknowledging his class supremacy and Q1 MPH dominance — he may simply be too good despite the deceleration concern; and So Happy as the saver (C) based on his San Vicente G2 form and competitive half-mile MPH at 2-1. Combined win probability across these three horses projects to approximately 68%. The model recommends including all three in multi-race wagers to cover the likely outcomes in a race where pace dynamics are projected to create genuine upset potential.

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*Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1*

*Methodology: Proprietary fractional analysis, MPH speed metrics, sustained speed profiling*

*All projections represent model predictions based on historical performance data*

Gambling is a significant risk investment. Only gamble with recreational money and money you can afford to risk and potentially lose. If you possibly have a gambling problem, you should always seek professional help





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