



Santa Anita | Race 10 | Saturday, April 04, 2026 | Dirt 1 1/8 Miles | Fast
Purse \$500,000 | Grade 1 — Santa Anita Derby | 7-Horse Field | Post: 7:46 PM ET

SECTION 1 — PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

SO HAPPY (#5) — The model projects So Happy as the field's clear pace source by a full tier. His Q1 of 40.18 MPH — matching Reagan's Honor in the Blue Grass — is derived from his San Vicente G2 win where he was bumped at the start, settled, and still posted a 99 Beyer from a front-running position. His San Felipe effort saw him on the lead through :22.4 opening fractions before yielding — that pattern is the model's pace projection for this race. Glatt's 2Off45-180 angle (15%) is below his barn average; the more relevant stat is the route-specific J/T with Smith at SA (23 starts, 22%). VULNERABLE SSR (-14.9%) at 1 1/8 miles.

CHEROKEE NATION (#1) — Baffert's maiden winner projects as a co-pace horse off his 38.79 Q1. His maiden score at 1 mile posted a career-best Beyer of 102 — the highest figure in this field — but came at a shorter distance than today. His only 1 1/8-mile start was the Kentucky Juvenile Championship where he tired late. VULNERABLE SSR (-9.6%) at the target distance. Geroux takes over from regular pilot Hernandez who rides Robusta.

Stalkers / Pressers

INTREPIDO (#7) — The Closer Look's 'one to catch.' His American Pharoah G1 win at this distance and track is the most directly applicable form in the race. He projected with a 38.79 Q1 from a steadied-and-rallied 3rd-to-1st move — not a pace horse by nature, but a horse who can press from 2nd or 3rd. Mullins' 31-60 day angle (27%) and GrdStk (11 starts, 36%, \$2.83 ROI) are the strongest single-metric trainer stats in the race. STRONG SSR (-7.2%) at 1 1/8 miles.

POTENTE (#2) — Baffert's San Felipe G2 winner projects from a stalking position with 38.79 Q1. His San Felipe win came from 3 wide, digging in late to nose out Robusta — a sustained velocity performance the model rates as STRONG (-7.2%). The Closer Look identifies him as 'the pick.' Hernandez retains from the San Felipe; the Baffert J/T with Hernandez at SA (126 starts, 43%, \$2.16 ROI) is among the best trainer-jockey statistics in Southern California Grade 1 racing.

ROBUSTA (#4) — The San Felipe second went wide every step and still nearly won. His Q1 projection (38.79) and STRONG SSR (-7.2%) match Potente's exactly — the model rates these two horses as statistically equivalent in pace profile. The Closer Look describes him as 'one to beat' if he gets a cleaner trip. O'Neill/Jaramillo J/T at SA (71 starts, 30%, \$2.96 ROI) is excellent.

Closers

START THE RIDE (#6) — Won the California Cup Derby at SA at this distance, coming from off the pace to reel in the leader in the stretch. ELITE SSR (-2.3%) — the model's second-best closing projection in the field. Limited form (2 starts) but the Cal Cup performance was directly at this track and distance. Blacker's 2Off45-180 angle (28%) is legitimately strong. Ayuso retains.

VITRUVIAN MAN (#3) — O'Neill's lightly-raced horse projects from the deepest position with an ELITE SSR (-1.5%) and the field's best Q4 projection. His best form came in an Aqueduct-area circuit allowance and a Turfway OC route — limited form basis for a Grade 1, but his first SA start comes with a bullet work (5f :59.1Hg, 1/60 on Mar 29). The model flags him as an ELITE closing profile at a price that reflects appropriately limited expectations.





Pace Scenario Projection

The model projects a FAST to HONEST early pace. So Happy's 40.18 Q1 establishes a clear early lead; Cherokee Nation and Intrepido both project at 38.79 Q1 in the pressing tier. The projected half-mile is in the :46.0–:46.5 range — FAST by Grade 1 standard on fast Santa Anita dirt. In a 7-horse field, this pace scenario has direct structural implications: So Happy's VULNERABLE deceleration profile means the pace she sets will not be sustained by her through the final quarter mile, and the four horses projecting at 38.79 Q1 (Cherokee Nation, Potente, Robusta, Intrepido) will have four horses vying for position through the first turn. The structural beneficiaries are POTENTE, ROBUSTA, and INTREPIDO — all carrying STRONG SSR projections from confirmed 1 1/8-mile form — who can track the fast pace and sustain through the extended final run. VITRUVIAN MAN and START THE RIDE are the ELITE closing profiles who most benefit from a pace collapse in the final eighth mile.

SECTION 2 — WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Horse	ML	Model Win %	Model Top-3 %	Value Rating
Potente (#2)	2-1	28%	72%	FAIR
Intrepido (#7)	7-2	22%	65%	VALUE
Robusta (#4)	8-1	18%	60%	VALUE
So Happy (#5)	7-2	12%	45%	NEGATIVE
Cherokee Nation (#1)	5-2	10%	38%	NEGATIVE
Start the Ride (#6)	30-1	6%	25%	VALUE
Vitruvian Man (#3)	15-1	4%	20%	MARGINAL

SECTION 3 — CONTENDER ANALYSIS

#2 Potente ★★★★★

Strengths:

- San Felipe G2 win at this distance — 1 1/8 miles at Santa Anita — is the most directly applicable form in the field. He came from 3rd, dug in late, and won going away in a race the Closer Look describes as showing 'he did not find his best stride until deep stretch.' That closing pattern precisely matches the model's STRONG SSR projection.
- Baffert's WonLastStart angle (114 starts, 36%) and the Hernandez J/T at SA (126 starts, 43%, \$2.16 ROI) are the strongest single trainer-jockey combination in any of the three Saturday Grade 1 races on today's card. The model cannot undervalue a 43% J/T win rate at the race venue.
- Into Mischief x Sweet Sting (Awesome Again) — a pedigree built for the 1 1/8-mile Santa Anita distance. Awesome Again sire line historically produces horses who improve going from 1 mile to 1 1/8 miles.
- A \$2,400,000 yearling purchase who is only in his second career start — the model weights upward trajectory heavily for lightly-raced horses whose ceiling has not been established.

Concerns:





- Two career starts is an exceptionally thin sample for a Grade 1 contender. The San Felipe win came at 8-1 odds, suggesting connections and the market were both surprised — the model takes positive upside from this but acknowledges the sample limitation.
- At 2-1, the model's 28% projection against 33.3% implied is FAIR. The market has already priced the San Felipe win correctly; the overlay opportunity is not with Potente but with the horses behind him.

Race Shape Fit: Ideal. Potente's late-surgling San Felipe style requires exactly the fast early pace that So Happy projects to set. In a 7-horse field where the pace is expected to be FAST, a horse who found his best stride in deep stretch of his last 1 1/8-mile effort has every structural advantage.

Projection: Model's top selection at FAIR value. The Baffert/Hernandez combination at 43% at SA and confirmed 1 1/8-mile winning form make Potente the most structurally complete win candidate. At 2-1, the model does not see a significant overlay but recommends him as the A horse in multi-race sequences. A drift to 5-2 or better at the windows would create mild VALUE.

#7 Intrepido ★★★★★

Strengths:

- Won the American Pharoah G1 at this exact track and distance — Santa Anita 1 1/8 miles — with a steadied-and-rallied trip from 3rd to 1st. That is confirmed Grade 1 ability at the specific race conditions of today. The Closer Look correctly identifies him as 'the one to catch.'
- Mullins' 31-60 day angle (125 starts, 27%, \$2.04 ROI), GrdStk angle (11 starts, 36%, \$2.83 ROI), and Dirt (113 starts, 30%, \$2.22 ROI) are all elite trainer production stats. The model rates Mullins as the best trainer in this field on a per-start win percentage basis.
- STRONG SSR (-7.2%) from his most recent 1 1/8-mile effort — the American Pharoah win. His RB Lewis G3 second dueled gamely to the wire from the inside at 1 mile in his return start, showing readiness without the full Grade 1 effort.
- At 7-2, the model's 22% projection against 22.2% implied is a precise FAIR valuation — but the American Pharoah G1 win on this track puts him in VALUE territory on qualitative grounds. The model's win probability of 22% at 7-2 represents the rare combination of analytically justified pricing and proven Grade 1 course form.

Concerns:

- His BC Juvenile was a poor effort — off slow and empty. That performance against elite 2YO company showed a limitation the model acknowledges. His American Pharoah win came in October against a softer grade field; Potente in the San Felipe showed the level of the current 3YO class.
- Berrios retains at 14% win rate — the weakest jockey stat among primary contenders. In a Grade 1 with Hernandez (39%), Ayuso, and Smith all in the mix, the jockey quality gap for Intrepido is real.

Race Shape Fit: Excellent. Intrepido's American Pharoah trip pattern — steadied into the first turn, rallied from 3rd — is directly analogous to the trip the model projects in a FAST-pace 7-horse SA Derby. He has done this before, at this track, at this distance, at Grade 1 level.

Projection: Model's second choice. The VALUE overlay is narrow at 7-2 but the qualitative Grade 1 form at this specific venue and distance pushes the recommendation toward VALUE





territory. The Mullins trainer stats and confirmed course form make Intrepido the model's preferred multi-race partner with Potente.

#4 Robusta ★★★★★

Strengths:

- San Felipe second is the most physically demanding effort in this field — wide every step, engaged two favorites on the lead, blew past them, caught at the wire by Potente. The STRONG SSR (-7.2%) confirms what the eye test showed: Robusta is a legitimate sustainer who was beaten only by a superior closer from a cleaner trip.
- O'Neill/Jaramillo J/T at SA (71 starts, 30%, \$2.96 ROI) — the highest ROI among any trainer-jockey combination for a primary contender in this race.
- At 8-1, the model's 18% projection against 11.1% implied is the clearest VALUE overlay in the field. A horse who ran within a nose of winning the San Felipe at 67-1 is not an 8-1 horse in the subsequent Grade 1 — the market is properly correcting for the San Felipe odds but may be undervaluing the performance itself.

Concerns:

- The Closer Look notes he was 'wide every step' in the San Felipe — a trip that cost him significant ground. The model acknowledges that his figures are trip-inflated in the positive direction: he ran better than the result, but some of that extra effort may have been expended by the wide trip.
- His RB Lewis was a 6th-place fade from 4-3 wide in an earlier SA route try — the San Felipe was a significant bounce forward that the model projects as his baseline, not his ceiling, but the Lewis pattern flags distance/pace uncertainty prior to that performance.

Race Shape Fit: Very good with a clean trip. If Robusta gets a 3-4 path trip rather than the 6-7 path effort of the San Felipe, his STRONG SSR projects him finishing with more velocity in the stretch than his narrow second-place finish suggested. The model rates a ground-saving trip as a significant performance enhancer for this horse specifically.

Projection: Third choice and the model's primary VALUE overlay. At 8-1, the 11.1% implied is meaningfully below the model's 18% projection. The San Felipe performance — wide every step and still nearly winning the Grade 2 — at 8-1 is the defining value proposition in this race. The model recommends Robusta as the single-bet value investment at current morning line odds.

#5 So Happy ★★

Strengths:

- Career Beyer of 99 from the San Vicente G2 win — the highest figure in the field. His pace-forward tactical profile from the inside post (5) positions him for a natural front-running trip. Glatt's SA-specific J/T with Smith (23 starts, 22%) is consistent.

Concerns:

- VULNERABLE SSR (-14.9%) — the steepest deceleration projection in the field. His San Felipe effort showed him yielding from the lead through the final quarter mile of a 1 1/8-mile race after setting fast fractions. The model projects that pattern repeating today under the same fast-pace scenario.





- At 7-2, the implied 22.2% is significantly above the model's 12% projection — NEGATIVE value. The market is pricing his San Vicente Beyer and front-running tactical speed without adequately discounting the pace-fade pattern at the 1 1/8-mile distance.

Race Shape Fit: Poor. So Happy is the pace source this race needs — he generates the honest early fractions that set up the STRONG and ELITE closers. He is not the horse who benefits from his own pace contribution.

Projection: Fourth choice at NEGATIVE value. The model does not recommend So Happy as a win investment at 7-2. Use only as exotics coverage if the pace scenario fails to materialize as honest.

#1 Cherokee Nation ★★

Strengths:

- Career Beyer of 102 from the SA maiden win — the highest figure in this field. Baffert's barn stats (33% overall, 31% WonLastStart) are impressive. Geroux (15% win rate) is an upgrade over the broader field's lesser jockey assignments.

Concerns:

- VULNERABLE SSR (-9.6%) at 1 1/8 miles. His only 1 1/8-mile start was the Kentucky Juvenile Championship at Churchill — he tired late from 2nd position. The pattern of fading at this distance is real form data, not a trip excuse.
- At 5-2, the model's 10% projection against 28.6% implied is a stark NEGATIVE value rating. The market is pricing his 102 Beyer maiden performance as a direct indicator of Grade 1 competitiveness; the model prices his 1 1/8-mile form pattern and VULNERABLE SSR as the primary analytical inputs.

Race Shape Fit: Problematic. Cherokee Nation in the pace mix at FAST fractions from So Happy creates a contested early scenario for a horse whose only 1 1/8-mile start produced a tire. Post 1 provides rail access, but the pace pressure from So Happy is structural.

Projection: Fifth choice at NEGATIVE value. Despite the 102 Beyer maiden win, the model cannot project Grade 1 win probability commensurate with a 5-2 morning line based on his 1 1/8-mile form pattern. NEGATIVE value at 5-2 is the model's firmest recommendation against a bet in this race.

#6 Start the Ride ★★

Strengths:

- ELITE SSR (-2.3%) at the correct 1 1/8-mile distance, derived from his California Cup Derby win at this track. He reeled in the leader from behind in a race that directly mirrors the structure of the SA Derby. Blacker's 2Off45-180 angle (18 starts, 28%) is active. California-bred on his home track.

Concerns:

- Only 2 career starts; the San Felipe was a distant 6th fade from off the pace. The class jump from the California Cup Derby (a Cal-bred stakes) to the Grade 1 SA Derby is enormous. At 30-1 the price reflects appropriate uncertainty about whether his ELITE SSR at Cal-bred level translates to Grade 1 competition.

Race Shape Fit: Good structurally if his form translates. A fast early pace from So Happy and Cherokee Nation produces the exact scenario where Start the Ride's ELITE closing velocity can





materialize from a stalking position. The model includes him as a legitimate longshot on analytical merit.

Projection: Sixth choice and VALUE at 30-1. Model projects 6% against 3.2% implied — a meaningful positive overlay at a price that acknowledges the class uncertainty. Best deployed as a C or D horse in multi-race sequences where the 30-1 price justifies field coverage.

#3 Vitruvian Man — TOSS

Projection: The model TOSSES Vitruvian Man as a win investment. His ELITE SSR (-1.5%) — the best in this field — is derived from a Turfway allowance effort and a Keeneland maiden win on non-dirt surfaces. First Santa Anita start, first Grade 1 start, first 1 1/8-mile dirt effort, returning from a three-month layoff. The Closer Look explicitly states he 'figures to need one to see best.' The model agrees. At 15-1, the 6.3% implied is above the model's 4% projection — MARGINAL value. Use only in very wide exotics coverage; not a recommended win investment.

SECTION 4 — MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

Opening Velocity Projections (Q1 — First Quarter Mile)

Horse	Q1 Proj MPH	Role
So Happy (#5)	40.18	Pace — VULNERABLE
Cherokee Nation (#1)	38.79	Co-Pace — VULNERABLE
Potente (#2)	38.79	Presser — STRONG
Robusta (#4)	38.79	Presser — STRONG
Intrepido (#7)	38.79	Presser / Stalker — STRONG
Start the Ride (#6)	37.34	Stalker — ELITE
Vitruvian Man (#3)	37.04	Closer — ELITE

Closing Velocity Projections (Q4 — Final Quarter Mile)

Horse	Q4 Proj MPH	Decel %	Sustained Speed Rating
Vitruvian Man (#3)	36.49	-1.5%	ELITE
Start the Ride (#6)	36.49	-2.3%	ELITE
Potente (#2)	36.00	-7.2%	STRONG
Robusta (#4)	36.00	-7.2%	STRONG
Intrepido (#7)	36.00	-7.2%	STRONG
Cherokee Nation (#1)	35.06	-9.6%	VULNERABLE
So Happy (#5)	34.18	-14.9%	VULNERABLE

Critical MPH Insight

The most significant MPH finding in the Santa Anita Derby is the clean three-tier structure produced by the correct 1 1/8-mile calculation. Tier 1 (ELITE): Vitruvian Man and Start the Ride





project with accelerating closing velocity from deep positions — their Q4 MPH figures (36.49) exceed their mid-race velocity. Tier 2 (STRONG): Potente, Robusta, and Intrepido all project at identical Q4 figures (36.00 MPH, -7.2% deceleration) — the model rates these three horses as analytically indistinguishable in their pace sustainability profile. Tier 3 (VULNERABLE): Cherokee Nation and So Happy both project steep late deceleration, driven by their front-running pace profiles that deplete early energy reserves. The practical implication of this three-tier structure is that the race is analytically concentrated in the STRONG tier: among Potente, Robusta, and Intrepido, the distinguishing factors are class (Potente — won Grade 2), track-specific Grade 1 form (Intrepido — won American Pharoah here), and value (Robusta — 8-1 with identical STRONG profile). In a 7-horse Grade 1 where all three STRONG horses are legitimate contenders, the model's primary recommendation is the VALUE horse within that tier.

SECTION 5 — IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

POTENTE (#2) — The model projects forward movement from the San Felipe. His first 1 1/8-mile start produced a Grade 2 win by a nose in an effort the Closer Look describes as finding his best stride only 'in deep stretch.' A horse who was still accelerating at the wire of his first route start has not shown his ceiling. At Santa Anita — where he is 2-for-2 — the model projects his best career performance.

INTREPIDO (#7) — The model projects Intrepido improving from his RB Lewis return start. The Lewis was his first race since the American Pharoah in October — a 4-month layoff return that produced a game second in a mile race without the full Grade 1 effort. Mullins' 31-60 day angle (27%) confirms he is pointed for today. The model projects a figure comparable to or exceeding his American Pharoah win.

Bounce / Regression Risks

CHEROKEE NATION (#1) — The primary regression risk. His 102 Beyer maiden win is the highest figure in this field and the market's primary basis for his 5-2 morning line. The model projects a significant figure regression at 1 1/8 miles under fast pace conditions based on his KyJC route experience, where he tired from 2nd position. At 5-2, the market prices his maiden ceiling; the model prices his route floor.

SO HAPPY (#5) — The secondary regression risk. His San Vicente G2 figure of 99 is excellent, but at 7-2 the market is pricing a sprint figure into a 1 1/8-mile Grade 1. His San Felipe at the target distance showed VULNERABLE deceleration as the pace setter — today's faster projected fractions (So Happy's own Q1 is 40.18) will not produce a better result from the same position.

SECTION 6 — SUGGESTED BETS

Win Bet: #4 Robusta Confidence: 8/10

The model projects 18% win probability against 11.1% implied at 8-1 — the clearest VALUE overlay in the field. Robusta ran within a nose of winning the San Felipe from a 6-7 wide trip; today he gets the O'Neill/Jaramillo combination at 30% J/T ROI (\$2.96) and a STRONG SSR profile identical to Potente and Intrepido. The analytical case is straightforward: three horses share the same STRONG SSR and Q4 projection, one of them is priced at 8-1, and that horse was beaten only narrowly by the current favorite from a significantly disadvantaged trip. The model's highest-confidence single-bet recommendation on this card.





Value Play: #7 Intrepido Confidence: 7.5/10

The model projects 22% win probability against 22.2% implied at 7-2 — precisely FAIR, but the American Pharoah G1 win at this exact track and distance elevates the recommendation into VALUE on qualitative grounds. Intrepido is the only horse in this field who has won a Grade 1 at Santa Anita 1 1/8 miles. At 7-2, the market has priced his BC Juvenile failure and his RB Lewis return effort; the model prices his American Pharoah win as the most directly relevant performance. If Robusta is the primary win investment, Intrepido is the preferred multi-race partner.

Top 3 Multi-Race: A / B / C A — #2 Potente B — #4 Robusta C — #7 Intrepido Confidence: 7.5/10

Potente leads the multi-race sequence as the most probable winner on Baffert/Hernandez credentials and San Felipe form. Robusta fills the B slot as the primary VALUE play with identical analytical profile and a superior price. Intrepido rounds out as the Grade 1 course winner at track and distance. The model recommends including Start the Ride (#6) as a D horse in wider tickets — ELITE SSR from the California Cup Derby at 30-1 is a structurally sound longshot inclusion. The model advises against using So Happy or Cherokee Nation in top-position multi-race plays given their NEGATIVE value ratings and VULNERABLE SSR profiles under the projected FAST pace scenario.

SECTION 7 — CONFIDENCE RATING

Overall: 7.5 / 10 ★★★★★★

The model rates the Santa Anita Derby at 7.5/10 confidence — the highest of the three Saturday Grade 1 reports. The analytical picture is unusually clean: the three STRONG SSR horses (Potente, Robusta, Intrepido) share identical Q4 projections and are differentiable only by price and course-specific form credentials. The FAST pace projection from So Happy creates a structural scenario that directly benefits the STRONG tier and explicitly damages the VULNERABLE horses (So Happy, Cherokee Nation) at their current market prices. The primary confidence-limiting factor is the small field size (7 horses) — in a 7-horse Grade 1, a single trip incident can override all analytical projections. The model's defining recommendation is Robusta at 8-1 as the VALUE play: identical analytical profile to Potente and Intrepido, the most disadvantaged trip in the San Felipe (wide every step), and a market price that undervalues his performance relative to the favorite. In a three-horse STRONG SSR cluster, the model always recommends the VALUE horse within the cluster as the primary betting target.

Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1

Methodology: Proprietary fractional analysis, MPH speed metrics, sustained speed profiling. MPH figures in PTW-CHR Model 1 reports are proprietary index values derived from the model's internal distance-weighting methodology and are not expressions of real-world velocity. All horses are evaluated through the same calculation engine, making the figures valid for comparative ranking and deceleration analysis within the model's framework.

All projections represent model predictions based on historical performance data.

"Methodology is proprietary and confidential. Reproduction of this analysis without authorization is prohibited."





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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