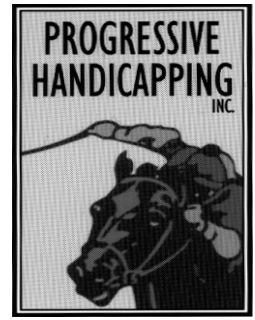




Santa Anita
Breeders' Cup XXXX
November 3, 2023



Crushing Zone
PLUS 2023
Friday Races
Epilog

Juvenile Turf Sprint (5 Furlongs Turf)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Amidst Waves UE1	Big Evs	Cherry Blossom	Starlust
Crimson Advocate UE1	Committee of One	Givemethebeatboys	Tiger Belle
No Nay Mets UE1	Slider	Shards	Valiant Force
		Hedwig AE1	Aesan AE2
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	1	Crimson Advocate (4-1)
	2	No Nay Mets (4-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	9	Amidst Waves (8-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	3	Tiger Belle (15-1)
	8	Cherry Blossom (12-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>			<i>"B" Team</i>			<i>"C" Team</i>	
#	<i>Horse</i>		#	<i>Horse</i>		#	
1	Crimson Advocate (4-1)		4	Big Evs (3-1)		5	6 10
2	No Nay Mets (4-1)		7	Shards (15-1)		AEs	13 14 15
3	Tiger Belle (15-1)		8	Cherry Blossom (12-1)			
9	Amidst Waves (8-1)		11	Slider (8-1)			
			12	Committee of One (8-1)			

The Result:

This race is still evolving. George Weaver came in like a Wesley Ward clone with three top contenders, two of which showed early speed. "B" Teamer BIG EVS was the super-hyped European and 2nd fave. The Crushers had doubts that a Euro could keep up with the domestic speedsters...they never see early fractions like those displayed in U.S. races at 5f. BIG EVS did keep up and then powered to the lead with just enough left to hold off two other Euro closers. The Euros were announcing that they were a force to be reckoned with.

Juvenile Fillies (1 1/16th Miles)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Candied UE1	ACCOMMODATE EVA	Alys Beach	Jody's Pride
Just FYI	Chatalas	Brightwork	Omaha Girl
Tamara	Life Talk UE1	Esprit Enchante	Where's My Ring
	Scalable UE1		
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	1	Candied (4-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	12	Just FYI (8-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	3 10 11	Scalable (20-1) Accommodate Eva (30-1) Life Talk (20-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>			<i>"B" Team</i>			<i>"C" Team</i>
#	<u>Horse</u>		#	<u>Horse</u>		#
1	Candied (4-1)		3	Scalable (20-1)		2 4 6
7	Tamara (4-5)		5	Omaha Girl (30-1)		8 9 13
11	Life Talk (20-1)		10	Accommodate Eva (30-1)		
12	Just FYI (8-1)					

The Result:

In the previous eight SA-hosted Juv Fillies, SoCal homers took 7 of those editions. And this year, the media hype was handing over an 8th victory with the highly-touted TAMARA. The Crushers listed her in the CRUSHING ZONE but were confident she would get beat. The East Coast invaders were led by Pletcher's CANDIED and Mott's JUST FYI. Both trainers had previously struggled at SA. Crusher Mazur was looking for a NOW-filly longshot. Maybe ACCOMMODATE EVA would zip to the lead and never look back. Or maybe SCALABLE would rally past the speed to become the first maiden winner of this race. In the end it was CRUSHING ZONER and "A" TEAMER JUST FYI narrowly besting longshot invader JODY'S PRIDE. JUST FYI fit the NOW FILLY criteria. We just had to have faith that Mott could get off the schneid in SA.

Juvenile Fillies Turf (1 Mile Turf)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Buchu	Content	Austere	Flattery
Hard to Justify	Gala Brand	Buttercream Babe	Laulne
She Feels Pretty	Life's An Audible	Carla's Way	Les Pavots
	Porta Fortuna	Dreamfrye	
		Go With Gusto AE1	Mo Fox Givin AE2
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	12	Hard to Justify (6-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	3 11	Buchu (6-1) She Feels Pretty (4-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	5	Content (15-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>			<i>"B" Team</i>			<i>"C" Team</i>
#	<i>Horse</i>		#	<i>Horse</i>		#
3	Buchu (6-1)		6	Porta Fortuna (5-1)		1 2 4
5	Content (15-1)		7	Gala Brand (12-1)		9 13 14
11	She Feels Pretty (4-1)		8	Life's An Audible (15-1)		
12	Hard to Justify (6-1)		10	Austere (12-1)		

The Result:

The history of this race is pretty straight forward: stick with the domestics coming out of the Ms. Grillo, Natalma and maybe the Jessamine. Chad Brown had won 4 of the last 8 editions. Although a Euro won last year, they usually don't make an impact. Yet, in this edition, Euros PORTA FORTUNA (7-2) and CARLA'S WAY (5-1) were being bet. Meanwhile Brown's HARD TO JUSTIFY was slipping away at 9-1. That was Crusher Mazur's MOST LIKELY.

And Mazur had scored before in this race by playing the *Twilight Zone* rerun of the Ms. Grillo in the exacta and trifecta. He needed LIFE'S AN AUDIBLE (29-1) and GALA BRAND (20-1) to hit the board for the CRUSH. Almost. HARD TO JUSTIFY won but had to fend off 2nd fave PORTA FORTUNA with favorite SHE FEELS PRETTY 3rd. Brown at 9-1! Ms. Grillo produces. SoCals are nowhere to be found.

Juvenile (1 1/16th Miles)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Locked UE2	General Partner	Cuban Thunder
Muth UE1	Prince of Monaco UE1	Ecoro Neo
The Wine Steward	Timberlake	Fierceness UE2
	Wine Me Up UE1	Noted UE2
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .		

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	6 10	Locked (7-2) Muth (4-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	4	Timberlake (4-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	11 3	Noted (20-1) Wine Me Up (15-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
#	<i>Horse</i>	#	<i>Horse</i>	#	
2	Prince of Monaco (4-1)	1	The Wine Steward (8-1)	5	7
4	Timberlake (4-1)	3	Wine Me Up (15-1)	8	9
6	Locked (7-2)	11	Noted (20-1)		
10	Muth (4-1)				

The Result:

Bob Baffet (3) and Todd Pletcher (3) saddled 6 of the 9 starters with Pletcher's **LOCKED** and Baffert's **MUTH** the top two faves. **CRUSHER MAZUR'S** Pick 6 was alive with those two and Champagne winner **TIMBER LAKE**. Another hopeful, **THE WINE STEWARD**, was a late scratch. In Mazur's Pick 5, he included all the Bafferts and Pletchers, the "no-brainer" approach.

It looked like Baffert's trio would try to control the pace. They didn't. Instead Champagne refugee **GENERAL PARTNER** took the early lead and Pletcher's longest shot—**FIERCENESS** (19-1)—stalked. **MUTH** made a solid move but **FIERCENESS** pulled away for an impressive upset. **FIERCENESS** made history by becoming the first Juvenile winner to show a major form reversal in his final prep (finished 7th, 20 lengths back in the Champagne).

Juvenile Turf (1 Mile Turf)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Agate Road	Can Group UE1	<i>AIR RECRUIT UE2</i>	Mountain Bear UE3
River Tiber SCRATCHED	CARSON'S RUN	<i>Endlessly</i>	My Boy Prince UE1
UNQUESTIONABLE UE3	Fulmineo UE2	Grand Mo the First	Tok Tok
	STAY HOT	Liam's Journey	
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS . DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	2	River Tiber (3-1) SCRATCHED
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	7	Agate Road (8-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	6 10	Stay Hot (20-1) Fulmineo (20-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>			<i>"B" Team</i>			<i>"C" Team</i>	
#	<i>Horse</i>		#	<i>Horse</i>		#	
2	River Tiber (3-1)		4	Can Group (12-1)		1 3 5	
7	Agate Road (8-1)		6	Stay Hot (20-1)		11 12	
8	Unquestionable (4-1)		9	Endlessly (5-1)			
10	Fulmineo (20-1)		14	Carson's Run (6-1)			

The Result:

Historically, this race runs the exact opposite of the fillies counterpart: the Euros dominate. Other profile points: (1) If not a Euro than maybe a domestic from the Pilgrim; (2) never been a wire winner; and (3) never been a SoCal-based winner.

The entire Euro contingent was a trio trained by Aidan O'Brien. RIVER TIBER looked best. QUESTIONABLE was, well, questionable and MOUNTAIN BEAR looked like a PRETENDER. AGATE ROAD and FULMINEO exited the Pilgrim. Domestic MY BOY PRINCE was lone speed coming out of the Summer (produced 1 winner in '10 and none since). He was bet down to 5-1. CAN GROUP and TOK TOK exited the Bourbon...that prep produced the first Juv Turf winner and none since. ENDLESSLY and STAY HOT were the SoCal reps, the latter bet down to 5-1.

RIVER TIBER was a late scratch. The punters pounded UNQUESTIONABLE down to 3-2. They got it right. He won impressively but the surprise was from MOUNTAIN BEAR (22-1) getting up for the place. Note the exacta paid just \$38 for a buck. Again, the race historical profiles produced and that allowed Crusher Mazur to cash out a Pick 5. Onward to Saturday.