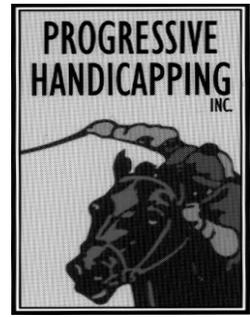


**Santa Anita
Breeders' Cup XXXX
November 4, 2023**



***Crushing Zone
PLUS 2023
Saturday Races
Epilog***

Dirt Mile (1 Mile around 2 turns)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
ALGIERS	SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING	<i>CHARGE IT</i>
Cody's Wish	STAGE RAIDER	National Treasure
	<i>Zozos</i>	Shirl's Bee
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .		

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	3	Cody's Wish (9-5)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	4	Zozos (6-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	6	Skippylongstocking (12-1)
	1	Stage Raider (15-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	
3	Cody's Wish (9-5)	1	Stage Raider (15-1)	5 8	
4	Zozos (6-1)	6	Skippylongstocking (12-1)		
		9	National Treasure (8-1)		

The Result:

Due to several defections, this race skinned down to just seven starters with defending champ **CODY'S WISH** the 3-5 favorite. The **CRUSHERS** expected **ZOZOS** to control the pace and maybe steal it. Nope. Instead Bob Baffert's **NATIONAL TREASURE** zoomed to the front and almost held on. The Preakness winner almost gave Baffert his first win in this race, but **CODY'S WISH** prevailed giving Bill Mott his 2nd BC victory in SoCal.

Great to see this oats-and-water Hall of Famer win twice. The BC suits wisely made this the first BC race and thus not in the Pick 6 sequence.

Filly & Mare Turf (1 1/4 Miles Turf)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
In Italian UE1	Didia	Fev Rover	Moira
Inspiral	Lumiere Rock	Lindy	State Occasion
Warm Heart	With the Moonlight	McKulick UE1	Win Marilyn
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	1	In Italian (4-1)
<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	2	Warm Heart (3-1)
<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	6	Inspiral (5-2)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	11	Lumiere Rock (12-1)
<i>BOMBER</i>	3	With The Moonlight (20-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
#	<i>Horse</i>	#	<i>Horse</i>	#	
1	In Italian (4-1)	7	Lindy (12-1)	4	5
2	Warm Heart (3-1)	8	Fev Rover (8-1)	10	12
3	With The Moonlight (20-1)	9	Didia (8-1)		
6	Inspiral (5-2)	11	Lumiere Rock (12-1)		

The Result:

Rarely do I select a trio of MOST LIKELY winners. But this race kicked off the ALL TURF PICK 4 and, for those playing that horizontal wager, I suggested using all three. IN ITALIAN had the toughest road to victory. She would have to wire a tough group and was sure to have some pressure on the front engine. Aidan O'Brien finally won this race last year and had Warm Heart running with solid credentials. The Crushers thought for sure that ace miler Euro Inspiral was headed to meet the boys in the Mile. But trainer John Gosden opted to keep her with her own kind while stretching her out. Who were we to second guess a hall of famer like Gosden? Crusher Mazur's hope for the crush was for something long like WITH THE MOONLIGHT (15-1) or LINDY (12-1) to either upset or run 2nd in the exacta. It didn't happen. IN ITALIAN set the pace as expected but was easily overtaken by the two MOST LIKELY Euros, as INSPIRAL got up by a neck to best WARM HEART for a \$15 exacta. Ughhhh.

Filly and Mare Sprint (7 furlongs)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Goodnight Olive	Eda	Clearly Unhinged	Desert Dawn
Society	Matareya	Elm Drive	Hoosier Philly
	Three Witches	Kirstenbosch	Meikei Yell
	Yuugiri		
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	1	Goodnight Olive (6-5)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	7	Society (5-2)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	5	Kirstenbosch (10-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	
1	Goodnight Olive (6-5)	4	Matareya (6-1)	2	3
7	Society (5-2)	5	Kirstenbosch (10-1)	6	9
		8	Three Witches (30-1)		

The Result:

GOODNIGHT OLIVE was attempting to defend her crown and couldn't have come up with a weaker bunch. But, just like an easy golf hole, you still have to put the ball in the cup. And the heavy fave had drawn the dreaded rail. **SOCIETY** looked to be lone speed and could get brave on an uncontested lead. But if another filly or mare went with her, she would probably retreat. Unfortunately for **SOCIETY**, **EDA** was adding blinkers and actually beat her to the lead. It was all for naught.

GOODNIGHT OLIVE hustled out of the gate and sat behind the two speedsters and then galloped away as the easiest of winners. Congrats to owner Dr. Steve Laymon, a longtime PH customer and friend on his 3rd BC victory with just 6 starters.

Mile (1 Mile Turf)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Casa Creed	ASTRONOMER	Lucky Score	Win Carnelian
Master of the Seas UE1	Du Jour	More Than Looks	Shirl's Speight
Mawj UE1	Gina Romantica		Masteroffoxhounds
Songline	Kelina		
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	3	Casa Creed (8-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYER 1</i>	11	Kelina (6-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYER 2</i>	10	Songline (5-2)
<i>BOMBER 1</i>	1	Shirl's Speight (30-1)
<i>BOMBER 2</i>	12	Exaulted (20-1) SCRATCHED

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	
3	Casa Creed (8-1)	1	Shirl's Speight (30-1)	5	6
4	MAWJ (4-1) UE1	2	Gina Romantica (12-1)	7	13
10	Songline (5-2)	8	Du Jour (15-1)		
11	Kelina (6-1)	9	ASTRONOMER (20-1)		
14	Master of the Seas (7-2) UE1				

The Result:

Crusher Mazur realized that MAWJ, one of the Appleby entrants, wasn't on the grid. So he put out a corrected one on Saturday morning. When one of Mazur's BOMBERS, EXAULTED, scratched, he had little to go on for the crush. Although they were solid CONTENDERS, the Crushers weren't sold on either of the Applebys especially when MASTER OF THE SEAS drew the 14 hole. It would be tough for even the Buick man to save ground. And MAWJ looked like he wanted to be on the front end...not the place to be in the Mile.

But the "other" Euro KELINA had drifted from her 6-1 ML to 13-1 and longshot ASTRONOMER was picking up Ryan Moore and was part owned by Michael Tabor of Coolmore fame. Repeater Angle candidate CASA CREED was 6-1 and would be part of the play. So there was the hope. But MAWJ rated this time around, and the Buick man found a cozy spot in the two path. He motored past his entymate for 1-2 Godolphin finish with CASA CREED a solid 3rd. 3-1 over 9-2 over 6-1. Chalk storm.

Distaff (1 1/8 Miles)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Adare Manor	A Mo Reay SCRATCHED	Clairiere
Idiomatic UE1	Pretty Mischievous SCRATCHED	Desert Dawn
Randomized UE2	Wet Paint UE1 UE3	Hoosier Philly
		Le Da Vida
		Search Results UE2
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS . DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .		

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	4	Idiomatic (5-2)
<i>VALUE PLAYER</i>	3	Pretty Mischievous (8-1) SCRATCHED
<i>BOMBER 1</i>	2	A Mo Reay (20-1) SCRATCHED
<i>BOMBER 2</i>	10	Desert Dawn (20-1)
<i>BOMBER 3</i>	11	Le Da Vida (20-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	
3	Pretty Mischievous (8-1) SCRATCHED	2	A Mo Reay (20-1) SCRATCHED	1	6
4	Idiomatic (5-2)	9	Clairiere (4-1)	7	10
5	Adare Manor (4-1)				
8	Randomized (6-1)				
11	Le Da Vida (20-1)				

The Result:

All the fun went out of this race when both **PRETTY MISCHIEVOUS** and **A MO REAY** were scratched off the program. Gone was Mazur's **VALUE PLAYER** and one of his **BOMBERS**. He was convinced that **CLAIRIERE** was over the top and thus settled on closer **LE DA VIDA** to run 2nd in the exacta behind the logical trio of **IDIOMATIC**, **ADARE MANOR** and **RANDOMIZED**. The conventional wisdom was that all three would go to the front and burn themselves out.

But it never really happens that way. In this case **ADARE MANOR** took back the other two ran around 1-2 the entire way with **LE DA VIDA** making a courageous rally but coming up a **NOSTRIL** short and costing Mazur around \$2,000 on his \$100 exacta part wheel. For Mazur, it was the 2nd consecutive nose loss in the Distaff, as his top play last year, **Blue Stripe**, just missed to **Malathaat**. It was that sort of day. But at least his **Pick 6** was alive.

Turf (1 1/2 Miles Turf)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Auguste Rodin UE1	Bolshoi Ballet UE1	Adhamo	Gold Phoenix
King of Steel	Up to the Mark	Balladeer	Onesto
	War Like Goddess	Broome UE1	Shahryar
	Mostahdaf	Get Smokin	
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	5	Auguste Rodin (3-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYER 1</i>	8	Up To The Mark (5-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYER 2</i>	11	King of Steel (4-1)
<i>BOMBER 1</i>	13	Warlike Goddess (12-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	
5	Auguste Rodin (3-1)	2	Onesto (8-1)	1	3 4
8	Up to the Mark (5-1)	9	Mostahdaf (5-2)	7	10 12
11	King of Steel (4-1)				
13	War Like Goddess (12-1)				

The Result:

The Euros looked strong in here, at least most of them. The Crushers had no use for the aged BROOME nor the overhyped MOSTAHDAF (0 for 4 at the distance). Late in the game, a stat came to light that in SA turf marathons at 1 1/2 miles, PP 1-4 were 0 for 32; PP 1-7 were 1 for 56. Crusher Mazur went back and analyzed all the past SA Turf winners. The stat was correct! Only Conduit had scored from an inside post. Most winners were in the 9 pp or wider.

With two scratches, that made AUGUSTE RODIN breaking from pp3; UP TO THE MARK from pp 6. CRUSHER MAZUR refused to toss them off the Pick 6 ticket. KING OF STEEL out of pp 11 was a CONTENDER but just 5-1. WAR LIKE GODDESS was only 9-1 and appeared to want softer ground. He decided to buck the stats and back a "buzz" runner, SHAHRYAR from the rail! Apparently, he had throat surgery and was sitting on a big effort. Mazur was simply hoping for pieces. Watch the replay. SHAHRYAR was on the hedge and had AUGUSTE RODIN behind him. If Demuro was patient, he could have pinned in the fave and gotten home. But he left the hedge and went around runners. The hedge opened like the Dead Sea for AUGUSTE RODIN and he outgamed UP TO THE MARK with SHAHRYAR 3rd. Another lost exacta!

Classic (1 1/4 Miles)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Arabian Knight	BRIGHT FUTURE UE1	Derma Sotogake	Missed the Cut
Saudi Crown	White Abarrio	Dreamlike UE1	Proxy
USHBA TESORO	ZANDON	Clapton	Senor Buscador
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	8	Ushba Tesoro (4-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYER 1</i>	3	White Abarrio (4-1)
<i>BOMBER 1</i>	6	Saudi Crown (12-1)
<i>BOMBER 2</i>	2	Zandon (12-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>
#	<i>Horse</i>	#	<i>Horse</i>	#
3	White Abarrio (4-1)	2	Zandon (12-1)	4 7 9 13
6	Saudi Crown (12-1)	5	Derma Sotogate (20-1)	
8	Ushba Tesoro (4-1)	10	Dreamlike (30-1)	
12	Arabian Knight (3-1)	11	Bright Future (10-1)	

The Result:

This was weak edition of the Classic. But, the owners of the entrants didn't care...they were competing for \$6 million. Crusher Mazur like sophomore ARCANGELO but that one was a program scratch. He liked ZANDON for pieces but that one was bet down to 9-1. Despite a track that hadn't been kind to dirt closers, Mazur went with USBA TESORO over several longshots including his Derby play, DERMA SOTOGATE.

He almost had it right. DERMA SOTOGATE ran a huge race considering he was laid off *SINCE THAT DERBY START!* He stalked and then gamely chased winner WHITE ABARRIO to produce an \$89 exacta.

The winning trainer, Richard Dutrow Jr., must've felt vindicated. He had won the BC Classic with more scrutiny on the entrants than ever before in BC history, and had come away with the whole enchilada. He had spent 10 years in exile. Four chalkers had started off the Pick 6. Yuck!

Turf Sprint (5 Furlongs Turf)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Live In The Dream	Big Invasion UE3	Arzak	Gear Jockey
Motorious UE2	Caravel	Aesop's Fables	Tony Ann UE2
Nobals UE1	Jaspar Krone	Bradsell	
	Roses For Debra UE3		
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	7	Nobals (6-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYER</i>	10	Motorious (5-1)
<i>BOMBER 1</i>	9	Roses for Debra (12-1)
<i>BOMBER 2</i>	11	Jasper Krone (12-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>
#	<i>Horse</i>	#	<i>Horse</i>	#
7	Nobals (6-1)	1	Big Invasion (15-1)	2 6 8 12
9	Roses for Debra (12-1)	3	Caravel (5-1)	
10	Motorious (5-1)	4	Tony Ann (15-1)	
11	Jaspar Krone (12-1)	5	Live In The Dream (9-2)	

The Result:

Time was running out to save the P6 will pays. The CRUSHERS knew this race was loaded with front end speedsters especially Euro LIVE IN THE DREAM and Japanese invader JASPER KRONE. The trouble was there wasn't a quality "late pace" runner besides BIG INVASION and MOTORIOUS. They noted that NOBALS, another with front-end speed, had "rated" in his last prep. But, at 6-1, he wasn't super value. But when Mazur's MOST LIKELY got the cold shoulder on the board, it was time to get on board. Off at 12-1, Mazur bet him to win and took him over the late pace runners and the two speedsters.

Bingo! Finally. The two speeds went out but each caved. NOBALS got a great ride and moved to the rail on the turn and squirted through and then had enough to hold off a furious rally by BIG INVASION.

Not only did this winner infuse some value in the Pick 6, it capped off an ALL TURF PICK 4 for \$1,200 and sparked a \$115 exacta which Mazur had 25 times. It only takes one race to make the CRUSH. Even so, although Mazur would have six live bullets going in the Pick 6, he would probably lose money on his investment.

Dirt Sprint (6 furlongs)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Dr. Schivel	Speed Boat Beach	American Theorem	Nakatomi
Elite Power	The Chosen Vron	Hoist the Gold	Three Technique
Gunite			
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	7	Speed Boat Beach (3-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYER</i>	9	Gunite (4-1)
<i>BOMBER 2</i>	4	Hoist the Gold (12-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
<u>#</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>#</u>	
4	Hoist the Flag (12-1)	2	Dr. Schivel (5-1)	1 3 5	
7	Speed Boat Beach (3-1)	6	The Chosen Vron (5-1)		
8	Elite Power (9-5) #9 Gunite (4-1)				

The Result:

With football forcing the Classic to be run as leg 4, the Sprint was the final leg of the Pick 6. Mazur had P6 will pays ranging from \$5,946 (ELITE POWER) to \$17,666 (DR. SCHIVEL) to \$82,443 (HOIST THE GOLD).

The Sprint is a race full of "no brainer" angles. It used to be, play the LONG LAYOFF. That angle hadn't hit but it made Mazur include Cal-bred win machine THE CHOSEN VRON. Baffert looked to have SPEED BOAT BEACH cranked up despite just one prep. DR. SCHIVEL was coming off a win and had never strung two victories together since going to the sidelines in '21. Defending champion ELITE POWER always showed but now was taking his game to the left coast. Ditto for GUNITE.

One of Mazur's stats was pretty strong: 23 of 26 recent Sprint winners posted a 100+ Beyer in their final prep. Only three in this field qualified: DR SCHIVEL, SPEED BOAT BEACH and HOIST THE GOLD, winner of the Phoenix (he posted a 100 in that race, his first 100 Beyer in 24 starts). Mazur knew that HOIST THE GOLD was a pure flyer, a lark. In the end, he settled for yet another fave, as ELITE POWER continued his dominance over arch rival GUNITE.

Yup. A chalk fest. Unusual for a BC with several full fields. But, once again, the historical analysis held up in most of the races. And that's all the Crushers can hope for. Hope you had fun and cashed some winners. All the best.

Jim Mazur and Peter Mallett