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AQHA RACING

BANK OF AMERICA RACING CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIPS WAGERING GUIDE

Saturday, November 9, 2013 –
Los Alamitos Racecourse



RACE-BY-RACE NOTES

ZOETIS STARTER: The blue-collar set gets a \$75k showcase as all of these runners have competed for a \$5,000 or less claiming tag to be eligible. **Gallant Mystic**, winner of the California regional at Los Alamitos for Cody Joiner, likely goes favored. But **Whos On First AJ** (a winner in 7 of his last 9) and **Win Rabbits Fly** (a winner in 4 of his last 5) bring hot hands to LA.

RED CELL DISTANCE: The night's only defending champion, **All About Larry**, could very well make the Distance event all about himself once again. He dominated this race last year in track record time at Prairie Meadows on a 1-mile oval, and if he transfers his talents to the smaller bullring at Los Alamitos, the 6-year-old could join Speedy Launch and Sign of Lanty as the only back-to-back winners in this race's history. **Emperor Valerian & Call Her Hero**, 3rd & 4th a year ago, are back for another crack. **Stray Cat** struts for Grammy Award-winning owner Lyle Lovett and could loom a threat with local experience and a national resume.

JOHN DEERE JUVENILE: No one has beaten **SS Paydirt** first to the wire in five starts to date, and only a DQ in the Bitterroot Futurity at Les Bois Park keeps the son of Carters Cartel from a perfect record. Supplemented to the All American Futurity trials at a steep cost of \$50k, he was a winner at Ruidoso but did not qualify for the sport's ultimate 2YO final. Trainer Blaine Hadley reworked the goals for the Juvenile Challenge and the pride of Idaho will face a strong local contingent at Los Alamitos. **Make A Wish For Me** and **Time For Jesse Lee** own Los Alamitos experience and a solid 1-2 finish in the local qualifier.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the past 3 Challenge events held at Los Alamitos, 11 of the 18 race winners were horses who prepped most recently at Los Alamitos.

MERIAL DISTAFF: Since this event debuted on the Challenge card in 2000, no one has had more Distaff success than Paul Jones' three wins. He can pad that fact with **Thisfeatureisspecial**. The 6-year-old comes into the Distaff fresh and consistently firing big numbers in the speed figure dept. She finished on the tail of **Shez Just Toxic** last out in the G1 Millie Vessels over this Los Al strip, and the two renew their rivalry while in similarly fresh

form cycles. Rising 3-year-old **Kuhl Wave** takes on elders in search of a fourth stakes final win this season.

ADEQUAN DERBY: With more money now in the game than ever for 3-year-olds, the sophomores are gaining stature in the AQHA racing world. The Derby purse has grown nearly 400% since the 1993 Racing Challenge inception. **Jr Dynasty Mountain** exits a track-record performance at Idaho's Les Bois Park and brings a flashy 6-for-9 career record into his showdown with fleet filly **SFR Stuck On You**, who has finished in the exacta in 8 of 10 starts at Los Alamitos.

BANK OF AMERICA RACING CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIP: Can 2011 AQHA World Champion **Cold Cash 123** stir up one of his top career performances and regain his perch atop the game? That's the choice facing horseplayers as the \$1.3M earner takes center stage in the 440-yard main event. More than \$1M of his bankroll has come at the tell-tale distance of 440 yards. Paul Jones' powerhouse stable counters with a pair of highly regarded charges, **Jess Featureme Quick** and veteran **Sparky E Boy**, 1-2 finishers in the California regional. Jones seeks a third straight victory in the Challenge Championship. This trio comprises the "big three" in the night's big one.



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Wagering guide handicapper Jerry Shottenkirk, one of Horse Player NOW's resident AQHA experts, is track morning line maker at Remington Park and a long-time public handicapper.

CHALLENGE PICKS

5th Race: \$75,000 Zoetis Starter Allowance Challenge Championship, 3 year olds and up, 350 yards.

There are payoffs for climbing the class ladder and this race, which has lured horses that have started for a claiming price of \$5,000 or less, is the biggest reward.

Knockout the Fire was winless in the first six races of his career but turned over a new leaf. He broke his maiden going 550 yards, and then followed by winning the Oklahoma regional qualifier as well as beating top company in an optional claiming race – all at Remington Park.

Gallant Mystic will get his fair share of support at the mutuel windows, and deservedly so. He qualified for this in August and then followed with a runner-up effort in the Schvaneveldt, each at Los Al.

Harvest the Wind was runner-up in the Los Al qualifier and is solid over the strip.

Selections: (#2) Knockout the Fire, (#4) Gallant Mystic, (#8) Harvest the Wind, (#1) Wins Rabbits Fly.

6th Race: \$100,000 Red Cell Distance Challenge Championship, 3 year olds and up, 870 yards.

It's all about **All About Larry**. The champ is back. He won last year's Red Cell Distance Challenge by better than five lengths and been off since an easy win in the Sunland Distance Challenge in March. He's won 7 of his last 10 and is master of the turn.

Call Her Hero was a 6-length winner of the qualifier at Prairie Meadows and should be taken very seriously. She's strong when she's on or very near the pace, and he'll have that opportunity again.

Frankie B is a stablemate of All About Larry (each from the John Stinebaugh barn) and qualified at Lone Star. He beat an accomplished group in there and is 3-for-4 going 870 yards.

Selections: (#1) All About Larry, (#4) Call Her Hero, (#7) Frankie B, (#8) Stray Cat.

7th Race: \$150,000 John Deere Juvenile Challenge Championship, 2 year olds, 350 yds.

Time for Jesse Lee has won 6 races and has been on the board in 9 of 10 and comes into this one in good shape. He ran on Oct. 27 and was beaten in a photo by All Guns Firing in the Wild West Futurity here at Los Alamitos.

Make a Wish for Me has won three of four – all at Los Alamitos. He qualified with a nose victory in the California Juvenile Challenge.

Leesa Gone Wild lost by a nose in the New Mexico Juvenile Challenge and has run very well in three of five career starts. Her two wins were at Remington and Ruidoso and she had a light work over the strip for this. She has a decent late move and can avoid traffic from her outside post.

Selections: (#5) Time for Jesse Lee, (#4) Make a Wish for Me, (#11) Leesa Gone Wild, (#10) SsPaydirt.

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8th Race: \$100,000 Meriel Distaff Challenge Championship, 3 year olds & up, fillies & mares, 400 yards.

Kuhl Wave is on a roll with two straight wins and success in three of her last four. Her latest – a neck victory in the Altoona Derby at Prairie Meadows – put a focus on her terrific ability to finish. She came from next-to-last early and won going away. It's hard to find one in better form.

Thisfeatureisspecial is in decent form and should benefit from several starts over this strip. She has run only three times this year and most recently was fourth in the Mildred Vessels.

Shez Jess Toxic has been involved in photos in her last three, winning one of those. She has given solid performances in several good races at Los Al.

Selections: (#9) Kuhl Wave, (#2) Thisfeatureisspecial, (#1) Shez Jess Toxic, (#6) Corona Mit Go.

9th Race: \$200,000 Adequan Derby Challenge Championship, 3 year olds, 400 yards.

The Adequan Derby just might be the most evenly matched event of the night. **If I Were Famous** doesn't have the experience of many of them, but he has been solid and comes off a win in the Ruidoso Derby Challenge. He came from well back in the pack and recently recorded a bullet work at Los Alamitos. **Sfr Stuck On You** won the Los Alamitos qualifier for this and has been tough over her home base.

Heroes Heart was defeated by the tough Kuhl Wave at Prairie Meadows in her latest, but leading up to that one, she was in good form. She should be in the hunt throughout. Tab how her past rival Kuhl Wave fares in the Distaff tonight for possible flattery to her form heading into the Derby.

Selections: (#4) If I Were Famous, (#10) Sfr Stuck On You, (#1) Heroes Heart, (#2) One Famous Episode.

10th Race: \$350,000 Bank of America Challenge Championship, 3 year olds and up, 440 yards.

It's hard to beat the overall accomplishments of **Cold Cash 123**, with his 13 of 24 record and earnings of \$1.3 million. He has not run well in his last two, but he was up against some of the best and had some traffic problems. With a return to his best form, this outstanding veteran will be right there.

Jess Featureme Quick is another that has been in with some of the best. He won the Los Al qualifier for this and drifted in his latest. He has the wheels to be a factor throughout this one.

Sparky E Boy is on his home track and seeks his first win since August 2012. He has been competitive and looms as a big player in evening's main event.

Selections: (#11) Cold Cash 123, (#6) Sparky E Boy, (#1) Jess Featureme Quick, (#9) Specials Gold.

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SATURDAY'S NATIONAL AQHA SIMULCAST PICKS

**Will Rogers Downs 8th Race: \$384,750
Black Gold Futurity Championship
(RG3), 2-year-olds, 400 yards**

By Denis Blake, Racing Aces

The marquee race of the three American Quarter Horse stakes at Will Rogers Downs on Nov. 9 is the rich Black Gold Futurity Championship (RG3), and it appears to be a wide-open affair that should be a great race to bet.



One Valiant Hero has been part of the exacta in his last five starts, including a win in the All American Juvenile Invitational at Ruidoso Downs for top trainer Eddie Willis and jockey Jimmy Brooks. Although he was beaten by **Regard Watah** in the Black Gold trials, those two were well clear of the field and **One Valiant Hero** has a big shot to find the winner's circle here.

Comal Blue is the least-experienced horse in the field but probably has the most upside. The gelding broke slow in the trials and finished fourth, but prior to that he beat many of the same horses he will face today.

BP Coronas Policy, the fastest qualifier, gets top rider G.R. Carter Jr. and already has two wins over the Will Rogers Downs surface.

WRD Selections: (#7) One Valiant Hero, (#3) Comal Blue, (#4) BP Coronas Policy, (#8) Regard Watah

**Lone Star Park 10th Race: \$394,306
Texas Classic Derby (G1), 3yos, 440 yds**

By Jen Perkins, Racing Aces

This Grade 1 event attracted 57 of the region's top 3 year olds; the 10 fastest from time trials two weeks ago return for the final tonight.

Jody Pops Zoomer turned in the most impressive performance on trial night. The gelding defeated rivals by nearly two lengths, set the fastest qualifying time, and broke the track record in the process.



Captain Strawfly brings recent class to the field after a strong win in the G2 Dash for Cash Derby last month. He is 4 for 5 at Lone Star, his only loss on a sloppy track.

Lota Pyc may be available at a price, despite his connections. Earlier this year **Lota Pyc** ran second to Matabari, the talented filly that won the Los Al Super Derby last week and will compete in the Champion of Champions.

Dashin Brown Streak finished 2nd in the G2 Heritage Place Derby earlier this year. On trial night, he overcame a bumped break to win by

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daylight and earned the highest speed figure in the field.

LS Selections: (#9) Jody Pops Zoomer, (#1a) Captain Strawfly, (#3) Lota Pyc, (#2) Dashin Brown Streak.

Lone Star Park 11th Race: \$1M Texas Classic Futurity (G1), 2yos, 400 yds

By Martha Claussen, Racing Aces

In its 21st running, the Texas Classic Futurity has a distinguished list of past champions, notably Mr Jess Perry, Azoom, Pyc Paint Your Wagon, Valiant Hero and Tempting Dash. The field for this year's final is deep and includes four entrants who competed in the \$2.4 million All American Futurity, the most prestigious 2-year-old race in the Quarter Horse industry.

Joe Mills' **Skuze Pleeze** won his trial in impressive fashion and could give trainer Tana Pace her first Grade 1 victory. Top jockey G. R. Carter qualified the top two finalists and opted for **Skuze Pleeze**. It could be a huge night for Broken Arrow, Oklahoma!



Coronado Cartel might be overlooked at 10-1, but this has been a huge year for the Oklahoma-bred colt owned by Reliance Ranches. His record stands at 5 wins from 6 starts, and to ignore anything saddled by Eddie Willis is foolish! Willis and rider Jimmy Dean Brooks won the \$2.8 million All American Derby with Feature Hero, a very proud accomplishment for Reliance Ranches and their "Racing Free" initiative.

Hes Relentless is overdue for a good final with disappointments in both the Heritage Place and All American Futurities. The son of One Famous Eagle has taken on extremely tough rivals in QH racing this year and looked solid in his trial win on October 19.

Especially Tres has been a wonderful filly for the Trey Wood barn, starting the year with a victory in the \$400,000 Sam Houston Futurity and running 4th in the AA Futurity. She is the high earner in this field and could give Wood his second Texas Classic trophy.

LS Selections: (#7) Skuze Pleeze, (#5) Coronado Cartel, (#3) Hes Relentless, (#6) Especially Tres

Evangeline Downs 8th Race: \$25,000 Evangeline Dash, 3yo & up, 220 yds.

By Jennifer Hancock, Racing Aces

The feature on tonight's Evangeline Downs card will allow the field to showcase what they were bred to do – sprint! The field in the 220-yard contest boasts some impressive earners that will be looking to add to their banks.

First Prize Doc is the second choice in the morning line odds, but the 4-year-old stallion defeated favorite **First Prize**

Jordan in the \$50,000 Gently at Fair Grounds Race Course on August 24 at a distance of 250 yards. **First Prize Doc** has two starts in 2013 – he won his last out and was second in his only other 2013 race. **First Prize Doc** is scheduled to go to stud at Herbert Quarter Horses near Welsh, Louisiana, during the 2014 season.

First Prize Jordan has earned more than \$200,000 and in five 2013 starts, the 4-year-old stallion has won two, finished second twice and run third once while adding \$97,453 to his bank. His two 2013 victories have come in stakes races at 350 yards in April and 250 yards in March, so he should definitely be in the mix in the Evangeline Dash.

Sizzlin Cartel spent the first part of 2013 in the breeding shed at Jumonville Farms in Ventress, Louisiana, and will make his seasonal debut in the



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Evangeline Dash. Trainer Kenny Roberts, who is always a force to reckon with at Louisiana tracks, should have the 4-year-old stallion in racing shape, and the shorter distance should fit the stallion, whose past performances speak of early speed in longer races. **Sizzlin Cartel** is the second-highest money earner in the field with a bank of \$233,446.

Game Patriots Delux is a 4-year-old mare that has raced in stakes company this year including finishing fourth in the Gentilly behind the Frank Elizondo trainees **First Prize Doc** and **First Prize Jordan**. **Game Patriots Delux** has won two races this year including setting a track record in the 250-yard Flying Breed Stakes at Delta Downs in July.

EVD Selections: (#3) First Prize Doc, (#4) First Prize Jordan, (#1) Sizzlin Cartel, (#9) Game Patriots Delux

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THIS WEEK'S CURRENT AQHA RACING / HORSEPLAYERNOW NATIONAL POLLS

NATIONAL RANKINGS, TWO-YEAR-OLDS

1. HANDSOME JACK FLASH (100)
2. TURBULENT TIMES (83)
3. FIVE BAR CARTEL (68)
4. ESPECIALY TRES (56)
5. MS FIRST PRIZE ROSE (54)
6. BIG BIZ PERRY (53)
7. REAGLE EAGLE (35)
8. WAGON TALES (23)
9. DYNASTYS FIRST CALL (22)
10. HES RELENTLESS (13)

Others receiving votes: Viva Mi Corazon (10), You N How Many More (8), WR Golden Eagle (8), Skuze Pleeze (6), Glitter In My Face (4), Big Dashing Perry (3), Houdini (2), Coronado Cartel (1)

NATIONAL RANKINGS, THREE-YEAR-OLDS & OLDER

1. OCHOA (93)
2. LAST TO FIRE (85)
3. FEATURE HERO (72)
4. MATABARI (62)
5. WICKED COURAGE (61)
6. PRICELESS FEATURE (60)
7. RYLEES BOY (38)
8. CHECK N FETCH (20)
9. PROSPECT TO THE TOP (16)
10. SCATMANDU (8)

Others receiving votes: Remembering Spence (7), Bon Accord (7), Hes Our Secret (6), Sparky E Boy (5), Otoole Hero (4), Far Niente (2)

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