



Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds
Santa Ynez Stakes (G-2)
7 furlongs miles, 3 YO Fillies
January 15, 2011



Zazu - Photo: Candice Chavez

The Santa Ynez Stakes (G-2) has been form-full in the careers of several top fillies, including Champions Serena's Song, Golden Ballet (dam of Belmont Stakes winner Drosselmeyer) and Indian Blessing. This year's renewal won't prove as strong. The only filly with open stakes experience is [ZAZU](#) (Tapit – Rhumb Line, by Mr. Greeley). She chased Turbulent Descent in the Moccasin and Hollywood Starlet, but never got close to the potential superstar. The pretty gray Zazu had her only out of the money finish in the Starlet, but shortens up and catches a softer field here.

The other filly with stakes experience is [CALIFORNIA NECTAR](#) (Stormy Atlantic – Absolute Nectar, by Carson City). She was victorious in the California Breeders' Champion Stakes and her only off the board finish came on the turf. California Nectar's dam was a stakes placed sprinter, but the rest of the immediate family is modest.

[WARREN'S FLYER](#) (Doc Gus – Perilous Flyer, by French Sassafras) was second by 1 ½ lengths to California Nectar in the Champion Stakes and a distant fifth in the Moccasin. She is the first to earn black-type status in her family within three generations. She breezed a strong five panels prepping for the Santa Ynez.

[STAR PRESENCE](#) (Forest Wildcat – Orate, by A.P. Indy) had a couple of tough losses earlier in her career, but got the job done when she switched to the Santa Anita dirt. She hails from the strong Claiborne Farm breeding program - her dam is a full sister to the top sire Pulpit and her second dam Preach won the Grade 1 Frizette. Star Presence is cutting back a furlong, but she is one of two entered from the hot Baffert barn.



Star Presence



Plum Pretty - Photo: Candice Chavez

The other Baffert trainee is [PLUM PRETTY](#) (Medaglia d'Oro - Liszy, by A.P. Indy). Her dam is a half sister to the grand-dam of last year's San Raphael hero Conveyance. Plum Pretty has a pedigree rife with stamina and should appreciate more distance. The offspring of her sire and damsire seldom do well over synthetic tracks and this promising filly should love the dirt. She gets rid of the hood (Blinkers off) and trainer Baffert has a good 26% win rate with that angle.

Two recent allowance runners, Alec's Moon and Teroda, will try a new surface and add distance. [ALEC'S MOON](#) (Malibu Moon - Bello Cielo, by Conquistador Cielo) bested Teroda by a length when they met. Alec's Moon is a half sister to stakes winner Ayla Bella and their dam was second in the Hollywood Oaks. This Hollendorfer trainee should improve over dirt and step up at longer distances.



Alec's Moon -Photo:Bbenoit

TERODA (Lime house - Liza, by Strawberry Road) tired slightly in her first start against winners. She has a speed over stamina pedigree and should find seven furlongs right up her alley. She has a modest but durable distaff family.

SELECTIONS:

How the track is playing: While speed appears to be holding at longer distances, surprisingly, horses running mid-pack have made the most headway with 38% wins. Stalkers and pace pressers take 23% of the races each, while those on the lead win just 15% of the time. The day should be sunny and the track fast.

ZAZU catches a soft group and her stakes experience should stand her in good stead here. **CALIFORNIA NECTAR'S BRIS** speed figure jumped when she switched to the dirt. She could be the main threat to the top one, but there are others in here I like better at longer odds. **ALEC'S MOON** won her maiden by five lengths in her only dirt try. She'll appreciate distance, has a versatile running style and could be dangerous. **PLUMB PRETTY** has the pedigree, works and hot trainer/jock combo to make her a winner. **STAR PRESENCE** has the best pedigree in the group, and has the talent to take a piece of the pie; however, her trainer is victorious with only 11% of his charges cutting back in distance. **WARREN'S FLYER'S** speed figures are going the right way. While she was fourth in her only try against open stakes company, she fits here; and could be a decent longshot.

ZAZU

PLUMB PRETTY

STAR PRESENCE

ALEC'S MOON - longshot