



Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds
Santa Anita, Race 6
Robert B. Lewis Stakes, Grade 2
1 1/8 Miles 3 YO
February 12, 2011



The Robert B. Lewis Stakes has been through a few name changes over the years since its origin in 1935 as the Santa Catalina Handicap. Renamed in honor of one of California's greatest horse owners, the race has showcased aspiring colts and fillies looking to take their next step on the Triple Crown Journey. The Robert B. Lewis Stakes honor roll includes the names of Sham, Ferdinand, Artax, and General Challenge. Not all of them made their presence felt in the Triple Crown races, but they became good horses in their own right.

This year's renewal of the Robert B. Lewis Stakes includes the overwhelming favorite, [TAPIZAR](#) (Tapit – Winning Call, by Deputy Minister), who couldn't have won the Sham Stakes (G-3) any easier, Tapizar has a pedigree to enjoy longer distances and his female family has produced the likes of precocious Cuvee, Louisiana Derby winner Pyro and last year's turf sensation Paddy O'Prado. Tapizar has a live work pattern and appears ready to improve in his second start off of the layoff.

On paper, there doesn't seem to be much in the way of challenges to Tapizar, but if he stubs a hoof during the race or isn't in the mood to run, a couple of others in her could step up.

[ANTHONY'S CROSS](#) (Indian Charlie – Screening, by Unbridled) was no threat to Tapizar in the Sham Stakes (G-2) last month, but he has been training brilliantly in the mornings, gets blinkers and should show speed in his second start off of the layoff. Anthony's Cross has a speed over stamina pedigree. He's a half-brother to the Grade 3 turf winner Fugitive Angel and his unraced dam is a half-sister to the turf stakes winners Deal Making and Smart Bid. Additionally, his second and third dams were graded stakes winners over the lawn. Anthony's Cross Joel Rosario is a strong front-running rider and don't be surprised to see this colt closer to the pace. Anthony's Cross has the pedigree to get 1 1/8 miles. If he falters here, maybe he'd make a better turf horse.

Another interesting colt is [WEGNER](#) (Dynaformer – Fabulous, by Seeking The Gold), who found his calling when switching to dirt. Wegner has the pedigree to run all day. His international sire, who gave us Barbaro, is a known stamina influence. Wegner's damsire won the Super Derby at 1 ¼ miles and his second damsire Slew O Gold twice won the Jockey Club Gold Cup when it was held at 1 ½ miles. Wegner is a half-brother to a stakes placed runner and another half-sister produced the recent Moccasin winner Turbulent Decent. Adding more glitter to the pedigree, Wegner's dam is a half-sister to the dam of Ruffian Stakes (G-1) heroine Swift Temper. Wegner flashed some speed in his last race and should relish the longer distance. His jock Bejarano is the best so far this meet with front-running types.

It wouldn't be a stakes race for three year olds without [RIVETING REASON](#) (Fusaichi Pegasus – Love and Marry, by Known Fact). His claim to fame is that he always tries hard, but is the best of the rest in most instances. Today he takes the blinkers off. Riveting Reason has the pedigree to win at 1 1/8 miles. His sire won the Kentucky Derby and gave us Bandini, Roman Ruler, etc. Known Fact was a sprinter/miler in Europe, but as a broodmare sire, has produced winners up to 1 ¼ miles. Riveting Reason's dam was in the money in six out of ten turf races while going unplaced in her sole dirt attempt. She's a half-sister to the Grade 2 turf winner Diadella. This is Riveting Reason's first start off of a layoff and his last two works were average.

A live longshot could be [THIRTYFIRSTSTREET](#) (Good Journey – Avian, by Sky Classic). He jumps into graded stakes action after two victories against state-bred competition over Cushion Track and dirt. His sire is a Grade 1 winning turf miler and has only one graded stakes winner at 1 1/8 miles, which was over the lawn. His damsire was a multiple grade 1 turf router. Additionally, both of his sires are by Northern Dancer's two best turf sons, Nureyev and Nijinsky. Thirtyfirststreet has inbreeding to the blue hen Rough Shod through the full sisters Thong and Moccasin. He's the first stakes winner for his distaff family in two generations. Bejarano jumps off to ride Wegner, but picks up an aggressive Pat Valenzuela. Thirtyfirststreet has improving BRIS speed figures and average works.

[TEN DEVILS](#) (Rock Hard Ten – Golden Diablo, by Diablo) switches to dirt after a ½ length second place finish to Ronin Dax in an optional claimer over the turf. He has a stamina over speed pedigree. His sire was a stakes winning router over dirt, but most of his offspring prefer the lawn. Ten Devils' damsire was a grade 2 winning sprinter, while his dam Golden Diablo is a stakes winner and a half-sister to a stakes winner. Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Gilded Time is part of this distaff family. Like most trainers, Richard Mandella wants to see what Ten Devils can do on the Triple Crown trail. The colt's works are average, but his pedigree and performance says turf.

Another colt looking to see where he belongs is [QUAIL HILL](#) (Candy Ride – Midwife, by Family Calling). He recently won his maiden going a mile over the lawn after previous tries over Cushion Track and dirt. Quail Hill has strong turf influences in his pedigree. His sire's offspring are proving to be better with age over all surfaces. Quail Hill's damsire, a son of Mr. Prospector, won a minor stakes race, and the second damsire is the international sire Dynaformer. Quail Hill's dam is a stakes winning turf miler. Both of Quail Hill's post-race breezes over the Santa Anita dirt have been slow.

SELECTIONS:

How the track is playing: Post position #2 gets the majority of winners (24%), One run closers are at an extreme disadvantage, and pace setter/pressers are taking 54% of the races.

All entrants are either pace setters or pressers, so either the jocks will think they're on quarter horses and gun it or everyone will treat the race like the Belmont Stakes and take back. **TAPIZAR** flashed fast fractions in the Sham Stakes without being asked for his best, so there's no telling how fast he can go. He's bred for the distance and working well. The addition of blinkers and a bullet work indicates that **ANTHONY'S CROSS** should be on his toes and ready to make a big move. **RIVETING REASON** always tries hard and has been in the money six of eight starts. Unless he has a bad day or there's a talented newcomer, the colt can generally be counted on to clunk up into third. **WEGNER** figured it out last time and represents the hot trainer/jock combo of Baffert/ Bejarano, he's the wise-guy pick to upset the appplecart. **THIRTYFIRSTSTREET** is bred for distance and has improving speed figures, but he's adding three furlongs. He could be a decent longshot play, but we can't pick them all. **TEN DEVILS** and **QUAIL HILL** try a new surface and distance, plus are jumping into graded stakes company off of average performances against lesser.

#4 TAPIZAR

#2 ANTHONY'S CROSS

#6 RIVETING REASON

#1 WEGNER – longshot pick