



# Los Alamitos Handicap

by ED BURGART

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## For Friday, January 11, 2019 First Post 10 P.M. Eastern

*Pick Four Selections: \$1 wager is \$16. \$1 wager is \$24. 1st Race (1,2,3,4); 2nd Race (3,4,5); 3rd Race (2); 4th Race (2,5). \$1 wager is \$96. 1st Race (1,2,3,4); 2nd Race (3,4,5); 3rd Race (2,6); 4th Race (2,3,5,6).*

1ST RACE: Purse \$9,500, thoroughbreds, maiden claiming, 3 year olds and up, 4 ½ furlongs.

ACHIEVED (Vergara Jr) showed solid early speed in last Del Mar outing seven weeks ago and meets much softer here at a shorter route. CALIE VIEW (Rojas) has shown improvement in last two third-place tries and faced class-dropping winner in last out at this level. RED POTATOES (Payeras) found best stride past the wire in last fourth-place try and takes on older foes while retaining solid rider.

2ND RACE: Purse \$12,000, allowance, 3 year olds and up, 870 yards.

CHOCOLATE MESS (Allen) lost neck photo in last solid try at this distance vs. recent 879-yard \$12,500 winner Go Cash Stevie B and looked sharp in prior two wins. BILLY THE HOTT (Payeras) scored two easy 870-yard wins before forcing the pace in last fifth-place try over the daytime one-mile oval vs. tougher company. LORETO (Gomez) has quick December work tab while preparing for first start since August and won twice at this distance earlier last year.

3RD RACE: Purse \$14,000, thoroughbreds, claiming, 3 year olds and up, 4 ½ furlongs.

OLDER BROTHER (Payeras) drops for sharp conditioner after last third-place Santa Anita outing two weeks ago and adds blinkers. JOHANN'S COMMAND (Hernandez) drops to his lowest class level and trained locally through 2018. LION COMMAND (Rojas) broke very slow before rallying for second vs. easier in last when claimed by solid connections.

4TH RACE: Purse \$7,050, maiden claiming, 3 year olds, 300 yards.

LEDECKY (Ayala) displayed nice stride when lugging in steadily throughout while recording good 12.2 solo gate drill for first start since July. KATES BOWTIE (Huerta) was well drawn in last nose setback from an outside post and broke poorly in prior two starts. MOON WALKER (Andrade) was improved second at lower level in last vs. recent \$10,000 runnerup JB Gray Dawn and is nicely drawn.

*Pick Four Selections: \$1 wager is \$32. 5th Race (2,3,4,6); 6th Race (1,2,3,6); 7th Race (4); 8th Race (2,6). \$1 wager is \$80. 5th Race (2,3,4,6); 6th Race (1,2,3,6); 7th Race (4); 8th Race (1,2,3,4,6).*

5TH RACE: Purse \$8,000, maidens, fillies, 3 year olds, 330 yards.

YNOT DASH (Roman) finished big under hand ride after breaking very slow in 12.7 drill for return and adds the flipping halter. ALWAYS DREAMING (Ayala) has faced winners in four of last five outs and lands leading rider. MISS MONTIELITA (Sanchez) was under restraint throughout when outworked by a head in 12.8 gate drill for debut and has a high-profile rider up.

6TH RACE: Purse \$10,070, claiming, 3 year olds, 300 yards.

UNRESTRAINED (Ayala) leveled nicely past the 1/16-pole in last solid win at this level and is one of two multiple winners in this field. IMPROVISE (Lozano) is the other multiple winner who has captured two of her last three outs and has winning connections. LOAN SHARKY (E Nicasio) was bumped steadily from both sides early in last well-beaten trial outing and looked solid in maiden victory three outs ago.

7TH RACE: Purse \$11,525, allowance, 3 year olds and up, 330 yards.

RESOLUTELY (Gomez) broke sharp and was under restraint late in solid 12.2 solo gate drill for comeback. JESSA LADY CEE (J Nicasio) has been no worse than third in last four outs and scored maiden win from the rail post three outs back. EAGLES POLICY (Gasca) runs strong races at times, was second two outs back vs. repeat allowance winner Jess Bet Me and makes first start as a gelding here.

8TH RACE: Purse \$11,825, allowance, 3 year olds and up, 330 yards.

RITE QUICK (Zepeda) has looked much improved in last two victories and draws comfortable post. CM A POLLITICAL STAR (J Nicasio) galloped out strong from the rail post in last fifth-place try and looked solid in prior two victories. ON THE LOOKOUT (Huerta) was sharp third at this level when making third start since April and broke slow vs. stronger two outs ago.

**BEST BET: OLDER BROTHER (3RD RACE)**