

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



SAN FELIPE STAKES (G2)

Three Year Olds
1 1/16-Miles
PURSE \$400,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Bolt d'Oro	2-1
2	Lombo	8-1
3	Ayacara	8-1
4	McKinzie	8-5
5	Aquila	15-1
6	Calexman	30-1
7	Peace	15-1
8	Kanthaka	4-1

TOP PICKS	
4	McKinzie
8	Kanthaka
1	Bolt d'Oro
2	Lombo

WIN	
4	McKinzie

EXACTA	
4 over 1, 2, 8	

TRIFECTAS	
4 over 1, 2, 8 over 1, 2, 8	

powered by brisnet.com

Two of the "heavyweights" in the three-year-old male division return to the races on Saturday afternoon in the Grade 2 San Felipe. The mile and a sixteenth event over the main track is one of three races this weekend that awards a total of 85 points (50-20-10-5 scale) in the Championship Series on the Road to the Kentucky Derby.

#1 Bolt d'Oro was sent off the odds-on favorite in last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile, but a less than ideal start and a wide voyage kept the Ruis Racing colt from making it a perfect 4 for 4 to start his career. Due to a few hiccups in training, the son of Medaglia d'Oro has not raced since last November, but he makes his long awaited return on Saturday against a solid field of three-year-olds, including undefeated #4 McKinzie.

Bolt d'Oro is certainly talented enough to win his first start as a three-year-old, but at a likely short price he is worth taking a shot against in the San Felipe despite consecutive bullet drills at Santa Anita over the past couple of weeks.

I prefer McKinzie.

The son of Street Sense comes off a career best 98 BRIS Speed rating in the Grade 3 Sham in early January and has trained forwardly for his first start in over two months. Hall of Fame rider Mike Smith should be able to stalk a few lengths off of likely pacesetters #2 Lombo and #6 Calexman, get first run on the leaders and have plenty left in the tank to hang on for his third graded stakes win.

Bolt d'Oro certainly is the likeliest to follow McKinzie to the wire, but if he lacks fitness in his first try of 2018 he could finish outside of the top two.

#8 Kanthaka may be best suited for one turn, but he could still grind along for a minor share. The West Point Thoroughbreds colt may not get the setup he did in the Grade 2 San Vicente last month, but with the right trip under Flavian Prat he could pick up the pieces as the likely third choice. I will include both he and Lombo underneath in the exotics.