

GLEN AND MARSHALL'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

(Scroll down to see their photos)

Glen and I were looking very forward to our week at Santa culminating with two days of Breeders' Cup (BC) racing. Expectations were high but we couldn't have asked for a better time. Santa Anita racetrack and the BC delivered big time. Here are some highlights from our trip.

- 1) We arrived late on Monday and the traffic was terrible so we missed the post-position draw unfortunately. However, we arrived at our hotel and registered for our media credentials. The BC staff was very friendly and the setup in the hotel was awesome. They provided us with information about the scheduled workouts and training times for all of the BC entrants for Tuesday morning and every morning thereafter.
- 2) We got up relatively early on Tuesday morning, grabbed quick bite and headed directly to the track around 7 AM. Needless to say, we were surprised by how many people were already there especially photographers. The grandstand sounded like a bunch of people were using typewriters with all of the camera shutters going at high speed. We could hear multiple languages being spoken as we walked towards Clocker's Corner, a popular hangout along the rail near where the horses enter the main track from the backstretch. This is where the owners, handicappers, trainers, exercise riders, media, etc. all congregate to watch the horse work and share stories. It's here where we ran into **Bob Baffert** on Wednesday morning. He was extremely busy but stopped to talk to us and let us provide him with an update on the American Pharaoh halter that he provided to ASD as a fundraiser for Alyssa Selman, several years back.
- 3) Our credentials granted us access to the entire backstretch area, which was a massive maze of barns and sheds. We walked around for a bit, but even with a map of the grounds, it was confusing. It might have been better if we had a tour guide of sorts but we were happy to take a quick look and then head back to the main track grandstand.
- 4) There was live racing on Thursday afternoon so of course we got there early to grab the scratches and get ourselves situated near the finish line in the Clubhouse outside table area. The weather was absolutely perfect the entire time we were there – sunny and 25 degrees Celsius every day. We were amazed at how big Santa Anita is and how many different areas there are to accommodate people. You can carve out a nice spot for yourself next to the paddock area, in the grandstand, or walk through to the infield. We never felt cramped including on Saturday when there were over 66,000 people at the track.
- 5) We took in a number of press conferences after many of the BC races including **Johh Sadler** for **Four Wheel Drive** and **Steve Asmussen** for **Mitole**. It was an interesting experience being able to hear what they had to say about training up to the race and how excited and happy they were to win.
- 6) After Friday's card, we made several adjustments to our handicapping for Saturday such as: recognizing that the east coast horses were mostly a play against unless they had a work over the new Santa dirt surface (such as **Mitole**) or had shipped West before and been successful (like **Vino Rosso**), and deep closers were up against it on the turf. These adjustments allowed us to hit the late pick 5 on Saturday capping a good day (see photo of winning ticket).
- 7) For all you die hard racing fans, we pulled the ultimate Daily Double, going from racing all day at Santa Anita on the Friday and Sunday (closing day) to driving an hour for night racing at Los Alamitos. We watched one of the richest races of the year for two year old quarter horses on Sunday night, a great race won by **Runforyourlife**, a horse with a big future and top final 1/8ths turn of foot, even though a better start by **Circle City** in that race and he would have won.

All in all, it was a dream trip. The Breeders' Cup really is the pinnacle of horse racing in North America. We would encourage every racing fan who hasn't gone to make a point of putting this experience on your bucket list.





Upcoming events at Los Alamitos

 October 26 Halloween Carnival 6-9 p.m.	 November 1-2 Daytime Simulcasts the Breeders' Cup	 November 9 Honoring our Veterans Night at the Races!
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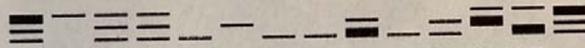
LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE







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The Great Race Place!



LATC SA3 31 14

02 NOV 2019 RACE 8
Santa Anita

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\$0.50 PICK 5 P/W

R 8: 3, 4

R 9: 6, 9, 11, 14

R10: 4, 9, 11

R11: 5, 9, 10, 11

R12: 8, 10

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192 BETS, TOTAL \$96

Ticket Expires 15-May-2020



