

# Globeform's Santa Anita Special

Opening Weekend Dec 26-27-28, 2024

## 6



### GLOBEFORM RANKING

#### LAFFIT PINCAY JR. ST. (G2) 8.5 fur dirt (ex-San Antonio S), Santa Anita Dec 26

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	GF	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	6	KATONAH	112	110 - 107 - 98 - 112	D O'Neill / Dettori
1p	3	J B STRIKES BACK	109p	109p - 104 - 98	D O'Neill / Fresu
(-3) 7	4	EXPRESS TRAIN <i>GF 115 in Apr 2022</i>	(115) 105	105 - 104+ // 106	Shirreffs / H Berrios
4	7	TARANTINO	108	108 - 108 - 104	Eurton / Maldonado
4	5	LAMMAS <i>GF 110 in July '24</i>	110	107 - 102 - 106	Badilla / J J Hernandez
5	8	GOLDENEYE	107	100 - 107 - 105	P Eurton / Prat
8	1	AMERICAN ADMIRAL	104	104 - 0 // 100	Yakteen / Kimura
12	2	ASHCROFT	100	100 - ?p - ?	Sadler / Rosario

#### Most recent winners of the San Antonio

2023	NEWGRANGE	GF 114	Phil D'Amato	Irado Ortiz Jr
2022	COUNTRY GRAMMER	GF 119+	Bob Baffert	Frankie Dettori
2021	EXPRESS TRAIN	GF 118	John Shirreffs	Victor Ezpinoza
2020	KISS TODAY GOODBYE	GF 111	Eric Kruljac	Mike Smith
2019	GIFT BOX	GF 120	John Sadler	Joel Rosario

Average winning Globeform 116.4

## GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

**KATONAH** is coming off a game fifth to Full Serrano in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Del Mar, where he went off at 39-1 and ran considerably better than the betting market had suggested he would. He is likely to go off favorite here and that would make a change; Katonah was 20-1 when second in the San Diego Handicap and he was 35-1 fourth in the California Crown. He is not a high profile runner but he is as game they come and - unless the BC Dirt Mile took too much out of him - he has a winning chance in the Pincay Stakes. He came from off the pace at the Breeders' Cup and passed the winning post 5 3/4 lengths behind Full Serrano. Would we consider the latter to be some six lengths better than those lining up here? Probably. Katonah is just as effective when ridden near the early pace, as we saw when he was beaten just a length by Dr. Venkman in the San Diego, with **EXPRESS TRAIN** 3 3/4 lengths behind him in third. Katonah raced prominently also in the 9-furlong California Crown Stakes and, despite finding the distance a bit too long, he stuck on to be a respectable fourth behind Subsador, National Treasure and Newgate. This distance, and this sort of company, suits him better. He gets blinkers for the first time. >>>

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**J B STRIKES BACK** is the fresh horse and a new name on the stakes stage; this 3yo has shown rapidly improved form in his three most recent races and the way he won last time out was quite impressive. He took a good mile allowance race at Del Mar with some ease, beating Speedy Grazy comfortably by 3 1/4 lengths, with Wendelsohn beaten 8 1/2 lengths in third place. Wendelsohn won a \$130,000 allowance race by over three lengths at Oaklawn Park on Saturday. J B Strikes Back pressed the early speed at Del Mar, he was pricking his ears as he took over going around the home turn and, quite remarkably, he continued doing so through the entire home straight. He was idling in front and clearly won with plenty up his sleeve. The son of top class miler Goldencents galloped out strongly after passing the winning post and he came back in full of energy. Wendelsohn's win on Saturday is a nice boost and J B Strikes Back's runner-up also franks the form; he was coming off four solid runs, including a last-out win over a rival that has won since. His last race is really working out and there is a lot to like about J B Strikes Back's profile going into this race.

**Morning line 6-1** is very tempting.

**Note** that if you picked up the early PPs for this day from *Daily Racing Form* there was an error; giving Frankie Dettori as the rider for J B Strikes Back with Antonio Fresu on Katonah. It is the other way around.

**EXPRESS TRAIN** was off from October 2022 until April this year, when he resurfaced in the 6.5-furlong Kona Gold Stakes at Santa Anita. That's much too short for him and he shaped well enough in third behind high class sprinters The Chosen Vron and Happy Jack. A three-month break followed, leading up to the 8.5-furlong San Diego Handicap at Del Mar in July. Express Train repeatedly produced high class form over 9 and 10 furlongs in 21/22 (including a win in this event) and each time he raced prominently; it was a bit surprising, therefore, to see him being deliberately held up at the back in this year's San Diego. He made a move going around the home turn, then flattened out coming down the lane to be a one-paced third behind Dr. Venkman and **KATONAH**. He probably wasn't quite fit that day and it's hard to know what to make of his role here. Once more coming off a long break, this 7yo may be ready for a good run or he may be using this race as a prep for future races. There's just no way of knowing.

**TARANTINO** is quite the opposite of Express Train. This 6yo has good recent form. With two fine races since his two-month break he is in with a chance once more. He won a good allowance race over 8.5 furlongs at Santa Anita in October, beating Malibu contender Imagination by a head, and he confirmed the form when running a game second, beaten a length by Skinner, in the 9-furlong Native Diver Stakes at Del Mar four weeks later. Tarantino races prominently, his early speed enabled him to do so also when he won a sprint at Del Mar back in August, and coming back to 8.5 furlongs will be to his liking. What his connections might not find so appealing, however, is the fact that there's quite a bit of speed signed on here.

**CONCLUSION:** Full Serrano was meant to run in this race, Skinner could have run in this race and a man called Baffert would have liked to have at least one horse ready for the Pincay, but he doesn't. As a consequence, this is not a strong Grade 2 event and it would come as no big surprise to see a young horse stepping up from allowance company to win. J B Strikes Back fits the bill.

## GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

<b>A</b>	<b>3 J B STRIKES BACK</b>
<b>B</b>	6 KATONAH
<b>C</b>	4 EXPRESS TRAIN, 7 TARANTINO

**San Diego Hcap:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lQX6FQwyVg&t=264s>  
2nd Katona, 3rd Express Train

**J B Strikes Back / Allowance race Del Mar:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBy7Xb\\_ulT4&t=191s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBy7Xb_ulT4&t=191s)