



[Video Race Replay](#)

SANTA ANITA PARK - April 17, 2026 - Race 8

WAIVER CLAIMING - Thoroughbred

FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD. Three Year Olds, 119 lbs.; Older, 126 lbs. Non-winners Of A Race At A Mile Or Over Since February 17 Allowed 2 lbs. Claiming Price \$8,000 (Maiden And Claiming Races For \$8,000 Or Less Not Considered In Allowances). **Claiming Price:** \$8,000

Distance: One Mile On The Dirt **Current Track Record:** (Ruhmann - 1:33.40 - March 5, 1989)

Purse: \$18,000

Plus: \$640 Other Sources

Available Money: \$18,640

Value of Race: \$18,640 1st \$10,800, 2nd \$3,600, 3rd \$2,160, 4th \$1,080, 5th \$500, 6th \$500

Weather: Clear, 79° **Track:** Fast

Off at: 4:34 **Start:** Good for all **Timing Method:** Electronic

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt	M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	3/4	Str	Fin	Odds	Comments
3Apr26 ⁸ SA ²	3	Mighty Kai (Kimura, Kazushi)	126	L hf	3	5	4 ^{1/2}	3 ^{Head}	2 ^{1/2}	1 ^{Head}	1 ³ 1/2	1.20*	2wd,ins-2wd,going away
3Apr26 ⁸ SA ⁵	2	Leyas Candy (Maldonado, Edwin)	124	L	2	4	2 ¹	1 ^{Head}	1 ¹	2 ⁶ 1/2	2 ⁹ 1/2	1.60	inside,clear1/4,yield
15Mar26 ⁴ SA ²	6	Mother's Prayer (Pereira, Tiago)	124	L f	5	2	3 ^{1/2}	4 ^{Head}	4 ⁶	5 ³	3 ³ 3/4	6.80	3wd,mild bid3deep7/16
21Feb26 ⁴ HOU ³	7	Love Candy (Ayuso, Armando)	124	L	6	3	5 ⁵	5 ⁷	3 ^{Head}	4 ^{Head}	4 ² 1/2	24.40	wide trip, weakened
3Apr26 ⁸ SA ⁸	5	So I'm Told (Payeras, Edgar)	124	L b	4	1	1 ^{1/2}	2 ¹	5 ⁵	3 ^{Head}	5 ⁶	7.40	sent,led,duel outs,wkn
19Oct25 ⁶ SA ⁵	1	Upstart Yankee (Jaramillo, Emisael)	124	L	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	12.70	3wde,4-5wide,no factor

Fractional Times: 23.76 47.47 1:12.04 1:25.33 **Final Time:** 1:38.10 **Time from Gate:** 1:43.09

Split Times: (23:71) (24:57) (13:29) (12:77)

Run-Up: 180 feet

Winner: Mighty Kai, Bay Gelding, by [Twirling Candy](#) out of My Happy Place, by Tapit. Foaled Mar 14, 2021 in Kentucky.

TWIRLING CANDY Winner's sire standing at Lane's End

Breeder: Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings, Inc

Owner: Steve P. Rusich

Trainer: Valdez, Jose

1 Claimed Horse(s): **Mighty Kai** New Trainer: Doug F. O'Neill New Owner: Run Fast Racing

Claiming Prices: 3 - Mighty Kai: \$8,000; 2 - Leyas Candy: \$8,000; 6 - Mother's Prayer: \$8,000; 7 - Love Candy: \$8,000; 5 - So I'm Told: \$8,000;

Scratched Horse(s): Contrary Chieftain (Stewards)

Total WPS Pool: \$141,593

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
3	Mighty Kai	4.40	2.40	2.10	\$1.00 Exacta	3-2	4.80	65,745
2	Leyas Candy		2.40	2.10	\$1.00 Trifecta	3-2-6	13.20	39,559
6	Mother's Prayer			2.80	\$0.10 Superfecta	3-2-6-7	4.89	27,014
					\$2.00 Daily Double	2-3	34.00	24,083
					\$1.00 Pick 3	2-2-3 (3 correct)	662.70	18,447

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	3/4	Str	Fin
3	Mighty Kai	5	4 ²	3 ¹	2 ¹	1 ^{Head}	1 ³ 1/2
2	Leyas Candy	4	2 ^{1/2}	1 ^{Head}	1 ¹	2 ^{Head}	2 ³ 1/2
6	Mother's Prayer	2	3 ¹ 1/2	4 ¹ 1/4	4 ¹ 1/2	5 ⁶ 3/4	3 ¹³
7	Love Candy	3	5 ² 1/2	5 ¹ 1/4	3 ¹ 1/2	4 ⁶ 3/4	4 ¹⁶ 3/4
5	So I'm Told	1	1 ^{1/2}	2 ^{Head}	5 ⁷ 1/2	3 ⁶ 1/2	5 ¹⁹ 1/4
1	Upstart Yankee	6	6 ⁷ 1/2	6 ⁸ 1/4	6 ¹² 1/2	6 ⁹ 3/4	6 ²⁵ 1/4

Trainers: 3 - Valdez, Jose; 2 - Harris, Andrew; 6 - Knapp, Steve; 7 - Lopez, George; 5 - Valenzuela, Jr., Martin; 1 - McLean, Bill

Owners: 3 - Steve P. Rusich; 2 - Killa 1 Racing Stable and Balthazar, Darwin; 6 - Steve R. Knapp; 7 - Hay Day Racing; 5 - Carlos, Felipe and Quinonez, Emilio; 1 - Kazarian, Nick Carl and Kazarian, Nicolas Z.;

Footnotes | [View Glossary Of Terms](#)

MIGHTY KAI settled in range in the two path, coaxed along behind the leader on the rail around the far turn then took aim two wide leaving the bend, put a head in front at the eighth pole and won going away. LEYAS CANDY stalked from inside then went up to press the pace around the clubhouse turn, headed outer rival on the backstretch, inched ahead at the five-sixteenths pole, cleared with a quarter mile remaining, collared by MIGHTY KAI in upper stretch, yielded to that rival past the eighth pole and kept on for a clear second. MOTHER'S PRAYER forwardly placed in the three path early on, put in a mild bid three deep exiting the backstretch, could not sustain the challenge around the far turn, churned on down the lane and bested the others. LOVE CANDY stalked four wide around the first turn, three deep on the backstretch, raced up close four deep into the far turn, chased the leadrs to the stretch and weakened. SO I'M TOLD hustled to the front, led in the two path then took pressure around the clubhouse turn, headed on the backstretch, dueled around the far turn, yielded to inner rival outside the quarter pole and weakened. UPSTART YANKEE trailed three wide early, lagged behind in the middle stages, rounded the far turn four to five wide and was never a factor.