



# FAIR GROUNDS BETTING GUIDE

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# AT A GLANCE

A look at the previous full Fair Grounds meet: November 18, 2017 through March 18, 2018

**AVG. WINNING ODDS:** 5.00 - 1

**FAVORITE WIN%:** 36% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 74%

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	82.58
Daily Double	84.48
Trifecta	574.49
Pick 3	574.03
Superfecta	3,322.34
Pick 4	5,453.29
Pick 5 Jackpot	36,543.51
Super High Five	4,536.01



## TRACK BIAS MEET (11/18 - 03/18)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.5fDirt	43	26%	E/P	Rail/Ins
6.0fDirt	211	29%	E	Rail/Ins
1 MileDirt	86	30%	E	Rail/Ins
1m 70yDirt	73	37%	E	Rail
Turf Sprint	83	25%	E/P	Inside
Turf Routes	145	16%	P	Rail

## TRACK BIAS WEEK (03/12 - 03/18)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.5fDirt	2	0%		Ins/Mid
6.0fDirt	11	45%		Rail/Ins
1 MileDirt	4	50%		Inside
1m 70yDirt	6	50%		Rail/Ins
Turf Sprint	7	29%		Rail/Ins
Turf Routes	8	0%		Outside

## WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'17-'18 Win %
Casse Mark E.	8	3	1	1	3.89	1	18%
Amoss Thomas M.	9	3	1	2	3.42	2	25%
Breaux Samuel	3	2	0	0	14.47	0	14%
Moquett Ron	4	2	0	0	22.45	0	13%
Robertson Hugh H.	5	2	1	1	10.06	0	17%
Rini Anthony F.	6	2	1	0	11.23	0	23%

HOT JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'17-'18 Win %
Geroux Florent	16	8	1	2	3.15	6	19%
Bravo Joe	9	4	2	0	5.54	3	18%

COLD JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'17-'18 Win %
Graham James	17	0	1	2	16.65	0	12%
Saez Gabriel	16	0	2	1	16.36	1	12%
Dominguez Joel	11	0	1	0	63.28	0	10%

# FAIR GROUNDS STAKES SCHEDULE

Date	Race	Grade	Purse	Restrictions	Surface	Distance
NOV 15	TOM BENSON OVERNIGHT STAKES		50,000	3YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 MILE
NOV 16	MR. SULU OVERNIGHT STAKES		50,000	3YO/UP	Turf	1 MILE
NOV 17	HEITAI OVERNIGHT STAKES		50,000	3YO/UP	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
NOV 18	HAPPY TICKET OVERNIGHT STAKES		50,000	3YO/UP F&M	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
NOV 22	THANKSGIVING HANDICAP		75,000	3YO/UP	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
DEC 1	RICHARD R. SCHERER MEMORIAL STAKES		75,000	3YO/UP F&M	Turf	5 1/2 FURLONGS
DEC 7	THE MAGIC CITY CLASSIC		40,000	3YO/UP	Dirt	ONE MILE
DEC 8	LA CHAMPIONS DAY QH JUVENILE STAKES	II	100,000	2YO	Dirt	350 YARDS
	LA CHAMPIONS DAY QH DERBY	III	100,000	3YO	Dirt	400 YARDS
	LA CHAMPIONS DAY QH CLASSIC	II	100,000	4YO/UP	Dirt	440 YARDS
	LA CHAMPIONS DAY LADIES TURF		100,000	3YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
	LA CHAMPIONS DAY JUVENILE		100,000	2YO	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
	LA CHAMPIONS DAY SPRINT		100,000	3YO/UP	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
	LA CHAMPIONS DAY LADIES SPRINT		100,000	3YO/UP F&M	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
	LA CHAMPIONS DAY LASSIE		100,000	2YO FILLIES	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
	LA CHAMPIONS DAY CLASSIC		150,000	3YO/UP	Dirt	1 1/8 MILES
	LA CHAMPIONS DAY TURF		100,000	3YO/UP	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
DEC 22	TENACIOUS STAKES		75,000	3YO/UP	Dirt	1 MILE 70 YARDS
	BONAPAW		75,000	3YO/UP	Turf	5 1/2 FURLONGS
	BLUSHING KD		75,000	3YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
	BUDDY DILIBERTO		75,000	3YO/UP	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
	LETELLIER MEMORIAL STAKES		75,000	2YO FILLIES	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
	SUGAR BOWL STAKES		75,000	2YO	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
DEC 26	TIFFANY LASS STAKES		75,000	3YO/UP F&M	Dirt	1 MILE 70 YARDS
DEC 29	WOODCHOPPER		75,000	3YO	Turf	1 MILE
	PAGO HOP		75,000	3YO FILLIES	Turf	1 MILE
	LA FUTURITY (BOYS) (LA)		100,000	2YO COLTS & GELDING	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
	LA FUTURITY (GIRLS) (LA)		100,000	2YO FILLIES	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
JAN 5	PAN ZARETA STAKES		75,000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	5 1/2 FURLONGS
JAN 19	LECOMTE STAKES	III	200000	3YO	Dirt	1 MILE 70 YARDS
	SILVERBULLETDAY - LISTED		150000	3YO FILLIES	Dirt	1 MILE 70 YARDS
	DUNCAN F. KENNER STAKES		75000	4YO/UP	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
	LOUISIANA STAKES - LISTED		75000	4YO/UP	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
	COL E.R. BRADLEY HANDICAP - LISTED		125000	4YO/UP	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
	MARIE G. KRANTZ MEMORIAL STAKES		75000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
FEB 2	NELSON J.MENARD MEMORIAL STAKES		75,000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	5 1/2 FURLONGS
FEB 16	MINESHAFT HANDICAP	III	150,000	4YO/UP	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
	RISEN STAR STAKES	II	400,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
	RACHEL ALEXANDRA STAKES	II	200,000	3YO FILLIES	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
	FAIR GROUNDS HANDICAP	III	150,000	4YO/UP	Turf	1 1/8 MILES
	COLONEL POWER STAKES		75,000	4YO/UP	Turf	5 1/2 FURLONGS
	ALBERT M. STALL MEMORIAL STAKES		75,000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
MAR 2	BLACK GOLD STAKES		75,000	3YO	Turf	1 MILE
	DIXIE POKER ACE (LA)		60,000	4YO/UP	Turf	1 MILE
MAR 5	MARDI GRAS STAKES		75,000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	5 1/2 FURLONGS
MAR 9	ALLEN LACOMBE STAKES		75,000	3YO FILLIES	Turf	1 MILE
MAR 16	RED CAMILIA (LA)		60,000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 MILE
MAR 23	NEW ORLEANS LADIES STAKES		75,000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
	COSTA RISING (LA)		60,000	4YO/UP	Turf	5 1/2 FURLONGS
	MUNIZ MEMORIAL HANDICAP	II	300,000	4YO/UP	Turf	1 1/8 MILES
	NEW ORLEANS HANDICAP	II	400,000	4YO/UP	Dirt	1 1/8 MILES
	FAIR GROUNDS OAKS	II	400,000	3YO FILLIES	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
	LOUISIANA DERBY	II	1,000,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/8 MILES
	CRESCENT CITY DERBY (LA)		75,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
	CRESCENT CITY OAKS (LA)		75,000	3YO FILLIES	Dirt	1 MILE 70 YARDS
MAR 24	STAR GUITAR (LA)		60,000	4YO/UP	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES

# LECOMTE STAKES DAY - JANUARY 19

Race	Grade	Purse	Restrictions	Surface	Distance
LECOMTE STAKES	III	200000	3YO	Dirt	1 MILE 70 YARDS
SILVERBULLETDAY - LISTED		150000	3YO FILLIES	Dirt	1 MILE 70 YARDS
DUNCAN F. KENNER STAKES		75000	4YO/UP	Dirt	6 FURLONGS
LOUISIANA STAKES - LISTED		75000	4YO/UP	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
COL E.R. BRADLEY HANDICAP - LISTED		125000	4YO/UP	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
MARIE G. KRANTZ MEMORIAL STAKES		75000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 1/16 MILES

## LECOMTE STAKES - PAST WINNERS

Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey
01/13/2018	Instilled Regard	Jerry Hollendorfer	Javier Castellano
01/21/2017	Guest Suite	Neil J. Howard	Robby Albarado
01/16/2016	Mo Tom	Thomas M. Amoss	Corey J. Lanerie
01/17/2015	International Star	Michael J. Maker	Miguel Mena
01/18/2014	Vicar's in Trouble	Michael J. Maker	Rosie Napravnik
01/19/2013	Oxbow	D. Wayne Lukas	Jon Kenton Court
01/21/2012	Mr. Bowling	J. Larry Jones	Robby Albarado
01/22/2011	Wilkinson	Neil J. Howard	Garrett K. Gomez
01/23/2010	Ron the Greek	Thomas M. Amoss	James Graham
01/10/2009	Friesan Fire	J. Larry Jones	Gabriel Saez
01/12/2008	Z Fortune	Steven M. Asmussen	Shaun Bridgmohan
01/13/2007	Hard Spun	J. Larry Jones	Mario G. Pino
01/15/2005	Storm Surge	Dallas Stewart	Robby Albarado
01/24/2004	Fire Slam	David M. Carroll	Shane J. Sellers
01/25/2003	Saintly Look	Dallas Stewart	Shane J. Sellers
01/26/2002	Easyfromthegitgo	Steven M. Asmussen	Donnie J. Meche
01/27/2001	Sam Lord's Castle	Josie Carroll	Robby Albarado
01/29/2000	Noble Ruler	Niall M. O'Callaghan	Larry Melancon
01/30/1999	Some Actor	Thomas M. Amoss	Eddie Martin, Jr.
01/31/1998	Western City	D. Wayne Lukas	Robby Albarado
02/01/1997	Cash Deposit	Daniel J. Vella	Ronald D. Ardoin
02/03/1996	Boomerang	James E. Baker	Eddie Martin, Jr.
02/04/1995	Moonlight Dancer	Michael H. Daggett	Larry Melancon
02/13/1994	Fly Cry	Thomas M. Amoss	Ronald D. Ardoin
02/14/1993	Dixieland Heat	Gerald J. Romero	Elvis Joseph Perrodin
02/15/1992	Line in the Sand	Neil J. Howard	Shane P. Romero
01/27/1991	Big Courage	William I. Fox, Sr.	Tammy Lee Fox
02/03/1990	Martha's Buck	William I. Fox, Sr.	Bobby J. Walker, Jr.
02/04/1989	Majesty's Imp	Sturges J. Ducoing	Steve Robert Rydowski
02/06/1988	Pastourelles	Carl Bowman	Bobby J. Walker, Jr.
02/07/1987	One Tough Cat	Edward J. Virgadamo	Kirk Paul LeBlanc
02/16/1986	Timely Albert	Louie J. Roussel, III	Phil Rubbicco
02/23/1985	Encolure	Tommie T. Morgan	Ronald D. Ardoin
02/18/1984	Silent King	Grover G. Delp	Charles Mueller
02/19/1983	Explosive Wagon	Gene C. Norman	Charles Mueller
02/20/1982	Linkage	Henry S. Clark, II	G. P. Smith
02/21/1981	Law Me	Ted McClain	James McKnight
02/17/1980	Withholding	Ronnie G. Warren	B. Fann
02/18/1979	Fuego Seguro	Billy S. Borders	Michael R. Morgan
02/19/1978	Dragon Tamer	William I. Fox, Sr.	Ray Sibille
02/19/1977	Clev Er Tell	Homer C. Pardue	Ray Broussard
02/21/1976	Tudor Tambourine	King Stauzy Allen Jr	D. Copling



# RISEN STAR STAKES DAY - FEBRUARY 16

Race	Grade	Purse	Restrictions	Surface	Distance
MINESHAFT HANDICAP	III	150,000	4YO/UP	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
RISEN STAR STAKES	II	400,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
RACHEL ALEXANDRA STAKES	II	200,000	3YO FILLIES	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
FAIR GROUNDS HANDICAP	III	150,000	4YO/UP	Turf	1 1/8 MILES
COLONEL POWER STAKES		75,000	4YO/UP	Turf	5 1/2 FURLONGS
ALBERT M. STALL MEMORIAL STAKES		75,000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 1/16 MILES

## RISEN STAR STAKES - PAST WINNERS

Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey
02/17/2018	Bravazo	D. Wayne Lukas	Miguel Mena
02/25/2017	Girvin	Joe Sharp	Brian Joseph Hernandez, Jr.
02/20/2016	Gun Runner	Steven M. Asmussen	Florent Geroux
02/21/2015	International Star	Michael J. Maker	Miguel Mena
02/22/2014	Intense Holiday	Todd A. Pletcher	Mike E. Smith
02/23/2013	Ive Struck a Nerve	J. Keith Desormeaux	James Graham
02/25/2012	El Padrino	Todd A. Pletcher	Javier Castellano
02/19/2011	Mucho Macho Man	Katherine Ritvo	Rajiv Maragh
02/20/2010	Discreetly Mine	Todd A. Pletcher	Javier Castellano
02/07/2009	Friesan Fire	J. Larry Jones	Gabriel Saez
02/09/2008	Pyro	Steven M. Asmussen	Shaun Bridgmohan
02/10/2007	Notional	Doug F. O'Neill	Robby Albarado
01/14/2006	Lawyer Ron	Robert E. Holthus	John McKee
02/12/2005	Scipion	Patrick L. Biancone	Gary L. Stevens
02/15/2004	Gradepoint	Neil J. Howard	Robby Albarado
02/16/2003	Badge of Silver	Ronny W. Werner	Robby Albarado
02/17/2002	Repent	Kenneth G. McPeck	Anthony J. D'Amico
02/18/2001	Dollar Bill	Dallas Stewart	Chris J. McCarron
02/20/2000	Exchange Rate	D. Wayne Lukas	Corey S. Nakatani
02/21/1999	Ecton Park	W. Elliott Walden	Shane J. Sellers
02/22/1998	Comic Strip	Neil J. Howard	Shane J. Sellers
02/23/1997	Open Forum	D. Wayne Lukas	Donna M. Barton
02/25/1996	Zarb's Magic	W. Bret Thomas	Elvis Joseph Perrodin
02/28/1995	Beavers Nose	Eldridge Hebert, Jr.	Kenneth Bourque
02/28/1995	Knockadon	Anthony L. Reinstedler	Willie Martinez
03/05/1994	Fly Cry	Thomas M. Amoss	Ronald D. Ardoin
03/06/1993	Dixieland Heat	Gerald J. Romero	Randy P. Romero
03/06/1993	Dry Bean	Thomas K. Bohannon	Aaron T. Gryder
03/07/1992	Line in the Sand	Neil J. Howard	Shane P. Romero
02/16/1991	Big Courage	William I. Fox, Sr.	Tammy Lee Fox
03/04/1990	Genuine Meaning	Ronnie G. Tenhundfeld	John Hirdes
02/26/1989	Dispersal	Grover G. Delp	Bobby J. Walker, Jr.
02/26/1989	Nooo Problema	Donald R. Winfree	Shane P. Romero
02/18/1984	Silent King	Grover G. Delp	Charles Mueller
02/19/1983	Explosive Wagon	Gene C. Norman	Charles Mueller
02/20/1982	Linkage	Henry S. Clark, II	G. P. Smith
02/21/1981	Law Me	Ted McClain	James McKnight
02/17/1980	Withholding	Ronnie G. Warren	B. Fann
02/18/1979	Fuego Seguro	Billy S. Borders	Michael R. Morgan
02/19/1978	Dragon Tamer	William I. Fox, Sr.	Ray Sibille
02/19/1977	Clev Er Tell	Homer C. Pardue	Ray Broussard
02/21/1976	Tudor Tambourine	King Stauzy Allen Jr	D. Copling

# LOUISIANA DERBY DAY - MARCH 23

Race	Grade	Purse	Restrictions	Surface	Distance
NEW ORLEANS LADIES STAKES		75,000	4YO/UP F&M	Turf	1 1/16 MILES
COSTA RISING (LA)		60,000	4YO/UP	Turf	5 1/2 FURLONGS
MUNIZ MEMORIAL HANDICAP	II	300,000	4YO/UP	Turf	1 1/8 MILES
NEW ORLEANS HANDICAP	II	400,000	4YO/UP	Dirt	1 1/8 MILES
FAIR GROUNDS OAKS	II	400,000	3YO FILLIES	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
LOUISIANA DERBY	II	1,000,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/8 MILES
CRESCENT CITY DERBY (LA)		75,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/16 MILES
CRESCENT CITY OAKS (LA)		75,000	3YO FILLIES	Dirt	1 MILE 70 YARDS

## LOUISIANA DERBY - PAST WINNERS

Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey
03/24/2018	Noble Indy	Todd A. Pletcher	John R. Velazquez
04/01/2017	Girvin	Joe Sharp	Brian Joseph Hernandez, Jr.
03/26/2016	Gun Runner	Steven M. Asmussen	Florent Geroux
03/28/2015	International Star	Michael J. Maker	Miguel Mena
03/29/2014	Vicar's in Trouble	Michael J. Maker	Rosie Napravnik
03/30/2013	Revolutionary	Todd A. Pletcher	Javier Castellano
04/01/2012	Hero of Order	Gennadi Dorochenko	Eddie Martin, Jr.
03/26/2011	Pants On Fire	Kelly J. Breen	Rosie Napravnik
03/27/2010	Mission Impazible	Todd A. Pletcher	Rajiv Maragh
03/14/2009	Friesan Fire	J. Larry Jones	Gabriel Saez
03/08/2008	Pyro	Steven M. Asmussen	Shaun Bridgmohan
03/10/2007	Circular Quay	Todd A. Pletcher	John R. Velazquez
03/12/2005	High Limit	Robert J. Frankel	Ramon A. Dominguez
03/07/2004	Wimbledon	Bob Baffert	Javier Santiago
03/09/2003	Peace Rules	Robert J. Frankel	Edgar S. Prado
03/10/2002	Repent	Kenneth G. McPeck	Jerry D. Bailey
03/11/2001	Fifty Stars	Steven M. Asmussen	Donnie J. Meche
03/12/2000	Mighty	Frank L. Brothers	Shane J. Sellers
03/14/1999	Kimberlite Pipe	Dallas Stewart	Robby Albarado
03/15/1998	Comic Strip	Neil J. Howard	Shane J. Sellers
03/16/1997	Crypto Star	Wayne M. Catalano	Pat Day
03/17/1996	Grindstone	D. Wayne Lukas	Jerry D. Bailey
03/19/1995	Petionville	Randy K. Bradshaw	Chris W. Antley
03/19/1994	Kandaly	Louie J. Roussel, III	Craig Perret
03/20/1993	Dixieland Heat	Gerald J. Romero	Randy P. Romero
03/21/1992	Line in the Sand	Neil J. Howard	Pat Day
03/03/1991	Richman	William I. Mott	Pat Day
03/18/1990	Heaven Again	Vincent A. Timphony	Corey S. Nakatani
03/12/1989	Dispersal	Grover G. Delp	Jose A. Santos
03/13/1988	Risen Star	Louie J. Roussel, III	Shane P. Romero
03/15/1987	J. T.'s Pet	Lynn S. Whiting	Pat Day
03/23/1986	Country Light	Steven C. Penrod	Pat Day
03/31/1985	Violado	William E. Burch	Jacinto Vasquez
03/25/1984	Taylor's Special	William I. Mott	Sam Maple
03/27/1983	Balboa Native	D. Wayne Lukas	Jorge Velasquez
03/28/1982	El Baba	Dewey Smith	Don Brumfield
03/29/1981	Woodchopper	Reinacher R J Jr	Jorge Velasquez
03/23/1980	Prince Valiant	John M. Gaver, Jr.	Miguel Angel Gonzalez
03/18/1979	Golden Act	Loren Rettele	Sandy Hawley
03/19/1978	Esops Foibles	Loren Rettele	Chris J. McCarron
03/20/1977	Clev Er Tell	Homer C. Pardue	Ray Broussard
03/20/1976	Johnny Appleseed	John M. Gaver, Jr.	Marco Castaneda

# FAIR GROUNDS AND THE KENTUCKY DERBY

by John Mucciolo

Fair Grounds Race Course kicked off on November 15 and will run through late March. The New Orleans, Louisiana, venue hosts a trio of graded races for three-year-olds on an annual basis for those hoping to progress on to the Kentucky Derby (G1).

The Lecomte (G3) on January 19 gets things underway and offers points to the top four finishers on a 10-4-2-1 basis. The \$200,000 Lecomte is not often spoken of as a Kentucky Derby prep, though it has had some impactful horses for the Triple Crown recently. Oxbow, the 2013 winner, used the Lecomte to kick start his three-year-old campaign and went on to capture the Preakness (G1).

Hard Spun, the 2017 hero, rolled through the three-race series on his way to running a brave second in the Kentucky Derby for conditioner Larry Jones.

The \$400,000 Risen Star (G2) is the middle leg of the series and the points are awarded in a 50-20-10-5 manner. The 1 1/16-mile test has showcased a bevy of standout sophomores over the years, and has really picked up steam in recent seasons.

2017 Horse of the Year Gun Runner commenced his 2016 season with a Risen Star triumph, which was followed by a Louisiana Derby (G2) score and a third in the Kentucky Derby. The Steve Asmussen pupil went on to become the best horse in training during his four-year-old campaign en route to a mind-boggling \$15,988,500 in lifetime earnings.

D. Wayne Lukas' Bravazo was best in the 2018 edition of the Risen Star and went on to compete in all three legs of the Triple Crown. A chestnut son of Awesome Again, he was second in both the Preakness and Haskell Invitational (G1), as well as checking in third in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1).

March 23 is the date of the \$1 million Louisiana Derby, which culminates the series. It gives out points on a 100-40-20-10 basis, with the winner all but guaranteed a Kentucky Derby berth.

The lucrative, 1 1/8-mile event has produced a pair of Kentucky Derby winners to date – Black Gold (1924) and Grindstone (1996). And it's also worth note that Risen Star, winner of the 1988 Louisiana Derby, went on to annex both the Preakness and Belmont Stakes (G1) in the same season.

Trainer Todd Pletcher is the winningest conditioner of the race having saddled the winner of the Louisiana Derby on four occasions in the past 12 runnings with Circular Quay (2007), Mission Impazible (2010), Revolutionary (2013) and Noble Indy (2018).

In the same 12-year span, a trio of owners has each won the race a pair of times. WinStar Farm, Ken and Sarah Ramsey, as well Winchell Thoroughbreds, have accomplished the feat.

The Louisiana Derby has not been a supremely important prep race for the Kentucky Derby in recent years. While impossible to pinpoint the exact reason, some consider the timing of the race to be among the chief factors. The March date leaves a six-week window prior to the Run for the Roses, and recent successful Kentucky Derby horses have used races closer to the first Saturday in May as their final prep event.

Below is a list of the past dozen winners and how they fared in the subsequent Kentucky Derby. The list is not aimed to diminish the quality of horses that winter in New Orleans, but it is a trend worth taking notice of.

**2018 Noble Indy – 17th**  
**2017 Girvin – 13th**  
**2016 Gun Runner – 3rd**  
**2015 International Star – N/A**  
**2014 Vicar's In Trouble – 19th**  
**2013 Revolutionary – 3rd**  
**2012 Hero of Order – N/A**  
**2011 Pants on Fire – 9th**  
**2010 Mission Impazible – 9th**  
**2009 Friesan Fire – 18th**  
**2008 Pyro – 8th**  
**2007 Circular Quay – 6th**

Could 2019 reverse recent history?





# WHAT TO WATCH FOR AT FAIR GROUNDS

by John Mucciolo

One of the premier winter meets, the 147th season at Fair Grounds got underway on November 15 and will run through Sunday, March 24. The 80-day race meet features 53 stakes races, with nine of the graded variety.

Louisiana Champions Day will be offered on December 8, with Cajun-bred runners competing for a total of \$750,000 in seven black-type events. Santa Super Saturday comes next on the stakes calendar. A six-pack of stakes action is on tap, including a pair of events for the juveniles, on the December 22 program.

Gun Runner, the 2017 Horse of the Year and Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner, is among the notables to compete on the Road to the Kentucky Derby at the New Orleans track, winning the Louisiana Derby (G2) and Risen Star in 2016. Three Kentucky Derby qualifiers will be offered beginning with the Lecomte (G3) on the January 19 Road to the Derby Kickoff Day.

The Risen Star (G2), offering a total of 85 points to the top four finishers (50-20-10-5 scale) toward a berth in a 20-horse Kentucky Derby field, highlights the February 16 Louisiana Derby Preview Day card.

The \$1 million Louisiana Derby on March 23, a final major prep race with 170 points up for grabs (100-40-20-10), leads a superb closing weekend.

Fair Grounds' impact upon the Road to the Kentucky Oaks has been significant, with Monomoy Girl, Untapable and Rachel Alexandra among the champions to compete in the Silverbulletday, Rachel Alexandra (G2) and Fair Grounds Oaks (G2) on the stakes-packed undercards that accompany the Lecomte, Risen Star and Louisiana Derby.

Other major events include the \$400,000 New Orleans Handicap (G2) (February 16) and the \$300,000 Muniz Memorial Handicap (G2) (March 23) for turf runners.

## 2017-2018

On the trainers' front, it starts with Steve Asmussen. His barn is always loaded and Asmussen has been the top conditioner at Fair Grounds 13 times previously.

Tom Amoss is also likely to make many trips to the winner's circle. The New Orleans native and 11-time leading trainer looks all set for another big season at Fair Grounds.

Brad Cox reached new heights in 2018, with his first Breeders' Cup race winner and (presumptive) champion in Monomoy Girl, and the rising star doesn't appear to be slowing down at all, winning the Clark H. (G1) recently with the improving

Leofric. A former Dallas Stewart assistant, Cox looks poised to carry his momentum to next year. He will aim to earn his third consecutive Fair Grounds' title and top 54 winners from last season.

The jockeys' race will likely be a close one once again. Last season, Shaun Bridgmohan (66) posted a narrow win over young wiz Adam Beschizza (65) and previous victor Florent Geroux (63).

## WHAT TO EXPECT 2018-2019

### Trainers

Each of the trio of aforementioned conditioners will have a major presence at Fair Grounds. In addition, trainer Mark Casse's operation stretches throughout the eastern half of the U.S. as well as north of the border. Casse was good for 18 winners from 90 starters (20 percent) during the 18-19 session and will be prominent once again.

Bret Calhoun, Joe Sharp and Al Stall, Jr. are others who might get off to a fast start at Fair Grounds.

### Jockeys

Another close race is expected with a trio from last campaign. In addition to that trio, three other jocks bear watching. Joe Bravo booted home 42 winners from just 155 starters (27 percent) and deserves attention when riding locally. Corey Lanerie and Miguel Mena remain excellent pilots and will be racking up winners, too.

### Wagers

Last season, the average winner went postward at a decent 5-1. Favorites were on par with many venues, hitting at a 36% clip and finishing in the money 74% of the time.

The 17-18 meeting was far from "chalky." Exactas returned and average \$82.58 (\$2). The Pick-4 offered perhaps the best value, yielding an average return of \$5,453.29 (\$2). Big field sizes and competitive races combined to have a positive impact on returns.

### Track Trends

All types of run style have historically endured success on the main oval. Route races were the best for early types, with 30% leading at every call going a mile and 37% going wire-to-wire in one-mile and 70-yard events.

The grass tends to play favorably to horses coming from off the pace, especially going long. From 145 route races on the green, just 16% won in wire-to-wire fashion. Giving preference to stalkers and closing types can be beneficial to handicapping.



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