

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



GOTHAM STAKES

G3 - 1 Mile
PURSE \$300,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Family Biz	30-1
2	Knicks Go	12-1
3	Mind Control	9-2
4	Much Better	10-1
5	Haikal	6-1
6	Instagrand	1-1
7	Not That Brady	5-1
8	Tikhivn Flew	12-1

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The \$300,000 Gotham Stakes (G3) will be run at Aqueduct on Saturday for three-year-olds going a one-turn mile. It is part of the Road to the Kentucky Derby (G1) and will award 50 points to the winner, 20 points to the second-place finisher, 10 points to the third-place finisher and 5 points to the fourth-place finisher. Only eight have entered and it shows why Jerry Hollendorfer is in the Hall of Fame.

Racing at Santa Anita has been canceled for an indeterminate amount of time due to the unsafe nature of its racing surface. The super important San Felipe Stakes (G2) will not be run on Saturday and beside race schedule interruptions, at the worst possible time, training regimens have been thrown into chaos.

Last year, #6 INSTAGRAND won both of his career starts by ten lengths and established himself as the divisional leader. Owner Larry Best decided to put him away for the rest of the year in a controversial move but he has been training super this year for his return to the races. Fortuitously, Hollendorfer decided to skip the San Felipe and announced that he would ship to New York for the Gotham Stakes. Plus, with training interrupted at Santa Anita before he finally decided to pull the plug, he was able to work him out on Tuesday. Unfortunately, Hollendorfer's barn was one of those that lost a horse last week at Santa Anita.

Now, he shows up here and the son of Into Mischief looks to have these at his mercy. He has been in serious training for almost three months and he should dominate the long run down the backstretch. Javier Castellano picks up the mount and from post six, he can relax him some coming out of the chute. In his win in the six-furlong Best Pal Stakes (G2) at

TOP PICKS	
6	Instagrand
8	Tikhivn Flew
7	Not That Brady
4	Much Better

\$50 EXACTA

6 with 8

\$20 EXACTA

6 with 7

Del Mar, his pace ratings were 90, 94 and 103 and he did it from post one. Races are not won on paper, as we saw in last Saturday's Davona Dale Stakes (G2) when Jaywalk was outsprinted early, but even at short odds, #6 INSTAGRAND looks too tough for these.

The Gotham will be a race for second and #8 TIKHVIN FLEW looks to be the best of the rest. The son of Street Sense broke his maiden first time out here going seven furlongs after pressing the pace four wide. Not an easy thing to do in a debut performance. He showed it was no fluke when he came back to run an even third in the Winkfield Stakes going the same distance. He draws the far outside for a clear stalking trip with Dylan Davis and his two strong BRIS speed ratings have attracted the ubiquitous Sol Kumin to buy a piece. He is bred to the nines to go longer being by Street Sense out of a dam by Deputy Minister and certainly has a sire's pedigree.

I like outside post positions in one-turn mile races and since I already like the #6 and #8, I'll complete the trio with #7 NOT THAT BRADY. Claimed for \$25,000 in his career debut at Saratoga by Rudy Rodriguez, it took him three more starts to break his maiden which he did here at course and distance by 11 lengths. An easy win in the New York-bred Damon Runyan Stakes followed then he just missed going gate to wire in the nine-furlong Withers Stakes (G3). He stays with open company, turns back to a mile and gets hot young rider Reyly Gutierrez back aboard. The horse for the course is by Big Brown out of a very fast stakes-winning dam. Bob Baffert ships in #4 MUCH BETTER but even with his strong record on the dirt, his speed ratings do not appear to be competitive with these.