

# TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



## JEROME STAKES

Jerome Stakes  
1 Mile  
PURSE \$150,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Direct Order	5-1
2	Family Biz	10-1
3	Mind Control	9-5
4	Our Braintrust	8-1
5	Gates of Dawn	6-1
6	Souper Jackpot	2-1

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TOP PICKS	
6	Souper Jackpot
1	Direct Order
3	Mind Control
\$20 WIN	
6	(\$20)
\$20 EXACTA	
6	with 1,3 (\$40)

A field of six three-year-olds will travel one-mile on the Aqueduct dirt in the \$150,000 Jerome Stakes on January 1. A talented group of prospects features a pair of stakes winners, including a Grade-1 star, though a few up-and-coming types are of great interest as well. The Jerome offers points on a 10-4-2-1 basis as part of the 'Road to the Kentucky Derby' series.

**SOUPER JACKPOT (#6) (2-1)** is one of only two horses in the field to have a route race under his belt. Sophomore son of Ghostzapper was a game second in the Smooth Air Stakes at Gulfstream Park last time and has shown big improvement following his poor debut offering. Mark Casse pupil is a half-brother to millionaire Awesome Slew and the outside post is a positive thing in a small field going a one-turn route. Junior Alvarado inherits the mount atop the selection.

**DIRECT ORDER (#1) (5-1)** owns two sprint wins in succession and could be a youngster that takes a leap forward going a route of ground. Jason Servis trainee has turned a corner in his last pair with a maiden score followed by a game allowance victory on this course most recently. The son of New Year's Day has earned hefty BRIS Late Pace figures in two straight and comes in with a bullet five-eighths to signal his readiness in his stakes debut. Jose Lezcano will ride the Kentucky-bred who will save ground while stalking early on.

The horse to likely catch and beat is Hopeful Stakes (G1) star **MIND CONTROL (#3) (9-5)**. Trained by Greg Sacco, the Stay Thirsty colt never fired in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) last time after missing the break. Speedy colt bounced out of his unplaced effort with six good morning drills leading up to today and reunites with pilot John Velazquez, who guided him home at Saratoga two prior. Bay will be on the lead early with a clean break from this post slot.