

KENTUCKY DERBY BETTING GUIDE

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KENTUCKY DERBY BETTING GUIDE



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HOW TO READ A PAST PERFORMANCE

TWINSPIRES CUSTOMERS GET FREE BRISNET PPs FOR TRACKS THEY WAGER ON

The Brisnet.com Ultimate PPs are the most detailed past performance product on the market and include speed ratings, pace figures, exclusive Prime Power and Class ratings, detailed jockey and trainer statistics, and pedigree information. Start using Ultimate PPs and discover why Brisnet.com is the handicapper's edge.

		1 € € € € € € € € € € € € € € € € € € €	E1 E2 / Late SPD 92 99 / 90 99
Cathryn Sophia (E/P 5) (B) Own: Cash Is King Lic Green, Multi-colored Crown, Green Shamrocks On White CASTELLANO JAVIER (0 0-0-0 0%)	B. f. 3 FTMSEP 2014 \$30k Sire: Street Boss (Street Cry (IRE)) \$12,500 Dam: Sheave (Mineshaft) Brdr: Robert 7 Manfuso (MD) Trnr: Servis John C (0 0-0-0 0%)	2016 3 2 0 1 \$295,520 99 Off (109) 0 0 - 3 2 2 0 0 \$90,000 102 Dis (108) 0 0 - CD 0 0 0 0 0 S0 0 Trf (110) 0 0	
2 +2016	2016 69 33% 57% +0.92 Graded Stakes 28 7% 36% -1.84 Btn favorite 74 30% 54% +0.13 Routes 482 18% 43% -0.05	Sire Stats: AWD 6.7 Dam'sSire: AWD 7.3 Dam'sStats: Unraced SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014 Sire Stats: AWD 6.7 15%Mud 241MudSts 820MudSts 100%2yo 1str \$30.0k (27/47) SireAvg: \$53.3k	1.57spi 2.23spi 1w 1sw 18.02dpi StudFee: \$15,000
★ Finished 3rd in last race ★ Best Dirt Speed is fastest among today's s ★ Hot Jockey in last 7 days (13 4-5-1)	ters • Failed	as favorite in last race ● Poor 'Graded Stakes' trainer record: 7% wins 28 sts	
27Feb16GP ⁵ 1m ft :24 :47 1:114 1:363 117 DvonaDi 30Jan16GP ³ 7f ft :223 :4521:094 1:22 116 FrwdGa	1 118 92 106/ 80 +7 +13	11 1 15 RosarioJ120 Lf *0.10 Cthýn/Sph5\lslndSni4\frac{3}{2}BaltDiva3 12 18 116 RosadoRJ119 Lf *0.10 CthrynSph16Prgnss5\lslndrngSk1\frac{3}{2}	Comment Bold bid 4w; hung 5 essed3w;bid1/4;handy 6 Off step slow;in hand 6 On left lead; handily 6 Sharp; handy fashion 9
●23Apr Kee 5f ft :59³ B 1/36	nm 6f ft 1:13 B <i>1/1</i> 13Mar Pmm 4f ft :482 B 2 Dec'15 Pmm 4f ft :48 B <i>1/76</i> ●20Dec'15 Pmm 4	/42	93 B 1/13
Land Over Sea (S 1) Own: Reddam Racing Llc 5/1 White, Purple Belt, White Band On Purple Sleeves, Purple GUTIERREZ MARIO (0 0-0-0 0%)	Ch. f. 3 OBSAPR 2015 \$130k Sire : Bellamy Road (Concerto) \$7,500 Dam: Belle Watting (Pulpit) Brdr: Jack Swain III (KY) Trnr: O'Neill Doug F (0 0-0-0 0%)	Power: 139.7 (4th) Life: 8 2 - 4 - 1 \$472,000 97 Fst (107) 7 1 - 4	0-0 \$0 0-0 \$0 0-0 \$42,000 82

- BRIS Pace and Speed Pars
- 2 Jockey Stats
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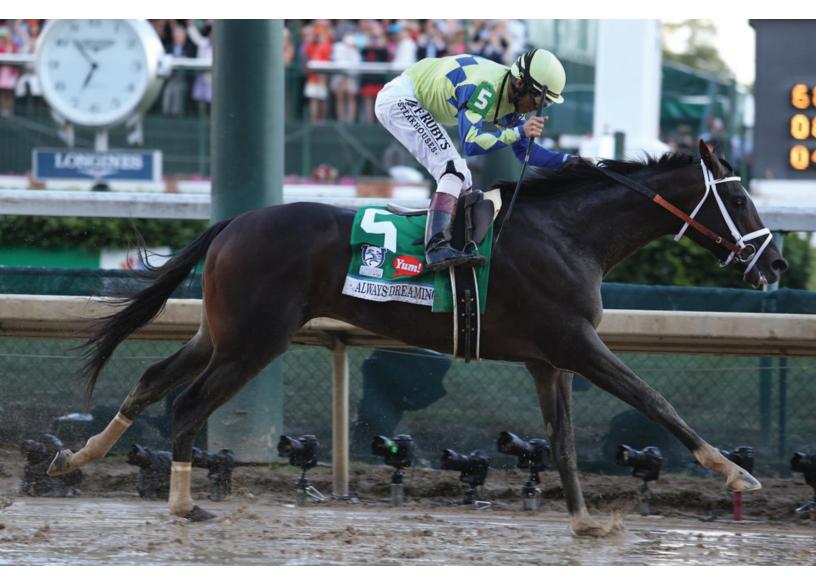
KENTUCKY OAKS DAY STAKES RACES

Race	Grade	Purse	Restrictions	Surface	Distance
The Edgewood	Ш	\$200,000	F3YO	Turf	1 1/16 Miles
The Eight Belles	Ш	\$200,000	F3YO	Dirt	7 Furlongs
The Alysheba	II	\$400,000	4&UP	Dirt	1 1/16 Miles
The La Troienne	I	\$350,000	FM4&UP	Dirt	1 1/16 Miles
The TwinSpires Turf Sprint	Ш	\$200,000	3&UP	Turf	5 Furlongs
The Kentucky Oaks	T	\$1,000,000	F3YO	Dirt	1 1/8 Miles



KENTUCKY DERBY DAY STAKES RACES

Race	Grade	Purse	Restrictions	Surface	Distance
The Pat Day Mile	III	\$300,000	3YO	Dirt	1 Mile
The American Turf	II	\$300,000	3YO	Turf	1 1/16 Miles
The Churchill Downs	II	\$500,000	4&UP	Dirt	7 Furlongs
The Churchill Distaff Turf Mile	II	\$300,000	FM4&UP	Turf	1 Mile
The Humana Distaff	I	\$300,000	FM4&UP	Dirt	7 Furlongs
Old Forester Turf Classic	1	\$500,000	F3YO	Turf	1 1/8 Miles
The Kentucky Derby	I	\$2,000,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/4 Miles





BETTING GUIDE OVERVIEW

by Vance Hanson

There has been and will continue to be a lot of talk regarding curses in the days leading up to the Kentucky Derby, when in fact the quality and depth of this renewal of America's premier race is proving to be nothing short of a blessing.

The dreaded "Apollo curse," which has derailed late bloomers and future champions for 136 years in the Derby, could be facing its own mortality square in the eye as Santa Anita Derby winner Justify, the likely favorite, and Arkansas Derby winner Magnum Moon offer perhaps the most powerful one-two punch to this most durable of "Derby rules."

Their respective trainers, Bob Baffert and Todd Pletcher, are obviously no strangers to the Derby winner's circle. Nor have they been reluctant to challenge the Apollo curse before, with Baffert coming closest of anyone when post-time favorite Bodemeister outran all save I'll Have Another in 2012.

If he runs back to his Santa Anita Derby performance, in which he registered a 114 BRIS Speed and 117 Late Pace rating, Justify will be tough to topple, but others have posted strong figures as well. Audible, among a quartet of Pletcher challengers, earned Speed ratings of 105-107 winning the Holy Bull and Florida Derby, and has the juvenile underpinning many will find attractive.

The two leading juveniles from last season, Good Magic and Bolt d'Oro, have both made it despite uneven prep campaigns. Champion Good Magic bounced back from a relatively dull performance in the Fountain of Youth to take the Blue Grass without having to furnish his absolute best to do so.

Bolt d'Oro, meanwhile, was controversially elevated to the top of the San Felipe, then was left floundering in Justify's wake in the Santa Anita Derby. Derby newcomer Mick Ruis has played musical jockeys since the Breeders' Cup, but has secured a good one in three-time Derby winner Victor Espinoza.

A curse of sorts has hung over nearly every foreign-based challenger in the Derby's long history, in particular those from Europe and Dubai. That could end with another virtuoso performance from Mendelssohn, who won the UAE Derby by 18 lengths and, as a half-brother to four-time champion mare Beholder, could be any kind.

You can't talk Derby without thinking longshots. Vino Rosso and Hofburg are colts on the rise, Flameaway is as game as they come, and My Boy Jack could show a tremendous turn of foot on the far turn, where many Derbies are won and lost.

However you play it, this Derby is worth savoring.



EXPERT PICKS FOR KENTUCKY **DERBY WEEKEND**

We've assembled an expert team of handicappers to give their top picks for each graded stakes race for both Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby days.

FRIDAY, MAY 4 Churchill Downs













Abel Tasman

Backyard Heaven

Good Samaritan

Always Dreaming

Streamline

1 Salty

LA	TROI	ENN	E (G1	١
	11101	-iaia	_ (0 :	•

ALYSHEBA (G2)

3 Abel Tasman Martini Glass

8 Awesome Slew

14 Monomoy Girl

13 Eskimo Kisses

11 My Miss Lilly

Good Samaritan

Backyard Heaven

- Salty
- 3 Ahal Tasman Martini Glass Salty
- 4 Backyard Heaven Good Samaritan
- 3 Always Dreaming

13 Eskimo Kisses

10 Midnight Bisou

14 Monomoy Girl

7 Hawaakom

1 Salty

3 Always Dreaming

3 Abel Tasman

- 4 Backyard Heaven
- 10 Midnight Bisou 14 Monomoy Girl
- 2 Coach Rocks

- 8 Martini Glass
- 3 Abel Tasman
- 1 Salty

7 Rayya

- 8 Awesome Slew
- 3 Always Dreaming
- 1 Good Samaritan
- 10 Midnight Bisou 13 Eskimo Kisses
- 13 Eskimo Kisses 10 Midnight Bisou
 - 5 Wonder Gadot

SATURDAY, MAY 5 Churchill Downs



LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS (G1)











1 Finley'sluckycharm





Lewis Bay

11 La Coronel

9 On Leave

Res Ipsa

Finley'sluckycharm

HUMANA DISTAFF (G1)

MILE (G2)

(G1)

PAT DAY MILE (G3)

CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF	

Skye Diamonds 9 On Leave

11 La Coronel

8 Madame Stripes

1 National Flag

Mississippi

New York Central

Torrent Ivy Bell

- Finley'sluckycharm
- Lewis Bay

4 Instant Erma

11 La Coronel

9 On Leave

5 Mississippi

7 Synchrony

10 Reach Patrol

11 Sporting Chance

8 Mask

8 American Gal

- 8 American Gal
- 7 Torrent
- 9 On Leave
- 3 Dream Awhile
- 7 Res Ipsa

- 14 Greyvitos
- 1 National Flag 7 Madison's Luna

- 8 American Gal
- 2 Salty
- 4 Skye Diamonds
- 6 Proctor's Ledge
- 3 Dream Awhile
- 11 La Coronel
- 8 Mask
- 14 Greyvitos 11 Sporting Chance
- 8 Mask
 - National Flag 11 Sporting Chance

OLD FORESTER TURF CLASSIC

KENTUCKY DERBY (G1)

- Synchrony
- Editore 6 Arklow

5 Audible

8 Good Magic

14 Mendelssohn

- 3 Kurilov

 - 7 Justify 5 Audible 11 Bolt d'Oro
- 7 Synchrony
- 10 Beach Patrol
- 9 Yoshida
- 11 Bolt d'Oro 6 Good Magic 2 Free Drop Billy
- Yoshida

10 Beach Patrol

- 7 Synchrony
- 7 Justify
- 6 Good Magic 11 Bolt d'Oro
- 14 Mendelssohn

10 Beach Patrol

5 Audible **7** Justify

6 Arklow

1 Deauville

- **twinspires**



KENTUCKY OAKS LEADERBOARD

Updated: Wednesday, April 25, 2018

HOW TO GET INTO THE KENTUCKY OAKS STARTING GATE

The Road to the Kentucky Oaks Presented by TwinSpires.com is a 30-race series that awards points to the Top 4 finishers in each race. The Top 20 point earners will earn a spot in the starting gate for the 144th running of the \$1 million Kentucky Oaks Presented by Longines (Grade I) on Friday, May 4, 2018.

2 Monomoy Girl 154 Dubb, Michael and Monomoy Stables, LLC Brad H. Cox \$506,150 3 Sassy Sienna 115 Zayat Stables, LLC Brad H. Cox \$318,000 4 My Miss Lilly 112 Courtlandt Farms Mark A. Hennig \$219,400 5 Chocolate Martini 100 Double Doors Racing, LLC Thomas M. Amoss \$240,000 6 Coach Rocks 100 Valente, Roddy J., RAP Racing and West Point Thoroughbreds Dale L. Romans 145,700 8 Wonder Gadot 84 Gary Barber Mark E. Casse \$440,002 9 Eskimo Kisses 80 Magdalena Racing (Sherri McPeek), Gainesway Stable Kenneth G. McPeek \$180,000 10 Take Charge Paula 70 Peter Deutsch Kiaran P. McLaughlin \$372,720 11 Cosmic Burst 62 Stockseth, Norma Lee and Dunn, Todd Donnie K. Von Hemel \$212,500 12 Blamed 50 Cleber J. Massey Joel H. Marr \$208,000 13 Amy's Challenge 40 Novogratz Racing Stables Inc. McLean Robertson \$200,000 14 Patrona Margarita 35 Craig D. Upham W. Bret Calhoun \$174,320 15 Classy Act 30 Carl R. Moore Management LLC W. Bret Calhoun \$56,000 16 Princess Warrior 24 Trommer, Evan, Trommer, Matthew and Trommer, Andrew Kenneth G. McPeek \$128,350 17 Virginia Key 20 Blue Heaven Farm Todd A. Pletcher \$30,000 18 Red Ruby 15 Sexton, Sandra and Nicholson, Brandi Kellyn Gorder \$85,000 19 Heavenhasmynikki 11 Loooch Racing Stables, Inc. Anthony T. Quartarolo \$29,100	RANK	HORSE	POINTS	OWNER(s)	TRAINER	Non-Restricted Stakes Earnings
3 Sassy Sienna 115 Zayat Stables, LLC Brad H. Cox \$318,000 4 My Miss Lilly 112 Courtlandt Farms Mark A. Hennig \$219,400 5 Chocolate Martini 100 Double Doors Racing, LLC Thomas M. Amoss \$240,000 6 Coach Rocks 100 Valente, Roddy J., RAP Racing and West Point Thoroughbreds Dale L. Romans \$145,700 7 Rayya 90 Sh Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi D. Watson \$600,000 8 Wonder Gadot 84 Gary Barber Mark E. Casse \$440,002 9 Eskimo Kisses 80 Magdalena Racing (Sherri McPeek), Gainesway Stable Kenneth G. McPeek \$180,000 10 Take Charge Paula 70 Peter Deutsch Kiaran P. McLaughlin \$372,720 11 Cosmic Burst 62 Stockseth, Norma Lee and Dunn, Todd Donnie K. Von Hemel \$212,500 12 Blamed 50 Cleber J. Massey Joel H. Marr \$208,000 13 Amy's Challenge 40 Novogratz Racing Stables Inc.<	1	Midnight Bisou	160	Allen Racing LLC and Bloom Racing Stable LLC	William Spawr	\$440,000
4 My Miss Lilly 112 Courtlandt Farms Mark A. Hennig \$219,400 5 Chocolate Martini 100 Double Doors Racing, LLC Thomas M. Amoss \$240,000 6 Coach Rocks 100 Valente, Roddy J., RAP Racing and West Point Thoroughbreds 7 Rayya 90 Sh Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi D. Watson \$600,000 8 Wonder Gadot 84 Gary Barber Mark E. Casse \$440,002 9 Eskimo Kisses 80 Magdalena Racing (Sherri McPeek), Gainesway Stable and Lerner, Harold 10 Take Charge Paula 70 Peter Deutsch Kiaran P. McLaughlin \$372,720 11 Cosmic Burst 62 Stockseth, Norma Lee and Dunn, Todd Donnie K. Von Hemel \$212,500 12 Blamed 50 Cleber J. Massey Joel H. Marr \$208,000 13 Amy's Challenge 40 Novogratz Racing Stables Inc. McLean Robertson \$200,000 14 Patrona Margarita 35 Craig D. Upham W. Bret Calhoun \$174,320 15 Classy Act 30 Carl R. Moore Management LLC W. Bret Calhoun \$56,000 16 Princess Warrior 24 Trommer, Evan, Trommer, Matthew and Trommer, Andrew Kenneth G. McPeek \$128,350 17 Virginia Key 20 Blue Heaven Farm Todd A. Pletcher \$30,000 18 Red Ruby 15 Sexton, Sandra and Nicholson, Brandi Kellyn Gorder \$85,000 19 Heavenhasmynikki 11 Loooch Racing Stables, Inc. Anthony T. Quartarolo \$29,100 20 Stronger Than Ever 10 Fern Circle Stables	2	Monomoy Girl	154	Dubb, Michael and Monomoy Stables, LLC	Brad H. Cox	\$506,150
5 Chocolate Martini 100 Double Doors Racing, LLC Thomas M. Amoss \$240,000 6 Coach Rocks 100 Valente, Roddy J., RAP Racing and West Point Thoroughbreds 7 Rayya 90 Sh Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi D. Watson \$600,000 8 Wonder Gadot 84 Gary Barber Mark E. Casse \$440,002 9 Eskimo Kisses 80 Magdalena Racing (Sherri McPeek), Gainesway Stable Kenneth G. McPeek \$180,000 10 Take Charge Paula 70 Peter Deutsch Kiaran P. McLaughlin \$372,720 11 Cosmic Burst 62 Stockseth, Norma Lee and Dunn, Todd Donnie K. Von Hemel \$212,500 12 Blamed 50 Cleber J. Massey Joel H. Marr \$208,000 13 Amy's Challenge 40 Novogratz Racing Stables Inc. McLean Robertson \$200,000 14 Patrona Margarita 35 Craig D. Upham W. Bret Calhoun \$174,320 15 Classy Act 30 Carl R. Moore Management LLC W. Bret Calhoun \$56,000 16 Princess Warrior 24 Trommer, Evan, Trommer, Matthew and Trommer, Andrew Kenneth G. McPeek \$128,350 17 Virginia Key 20 Blue Heaven Farm Todd A. Pletcher \$30,000 18 Red Ruby 15 Sexton, Sandra and Nicholson, Brandi Kellyn Gorder \$85,000 19 Heavenhasmynikki 11 Loooch Racing Stables, Inc. Anthony T. Quartarolo \$29,100 20 Stronger Than Ever 10 Fern Circle Stables	3	Sassy Sienna	115	Zayat Stables, LLC	Brad H. Cox	\$318,000
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19 Heavenhasmynikki 11 Loooch Racing Stables, Inc. Anthony T. Quartarolo \$29,100 20 Stronger Than Ever 10 Fern Circle Stables Kenneth G. McPeek \$105,000	17	Virginia Key	20	Blue Heaven Farm	Todd A. Pletcher	\$30,000
20 Stronger Than Ever 10 Fern Circle Stables Kenneth G. McPeek \$105,000	18	Red Ruby	15	Sexton, Sandra and Nicholson, Brandi	Kellyn Gorder	\$85,000
-	19	Heavenhasmynikki	11	Loooch Racing Stables, Inc.	Anthony T. Quartarolo	\$29,100
21 C. S. Incharge 10 Pacella, William, Jones, Jr., Frank L. and Shoop, Frank Dale L. Romans \$60,000	20	Stronger Than Ever	10	Fern Circle Stables	Kenneth G. McPeek	\$105,000
	21	C. S. Incharge	10	Pacella, William, Jones, Jr., Frank L. and Shoop, Frank	Dale L. Romans	\$60,000



KENTUCKY OAKS TOP HORSES





MONOMOY GIRL

Owner: Dubb, Michael and Monomoy Stables, LLC Trainer: Brad H. Cox Jockey: Florent Geroux

This Tapizar filly established her credentials for Kentucky Oaks (G1) glory even before opening her sophomore campaign. Kicking off her career with a pair of wins on turf, the Brad Cox pupil wired her dirt debut in the Rags to Riches Stakes by more than six lengths under the Twin Spires at Churchill Downs. Monomoy Girl suffered her only loss to date next out when a neck second in the Golden Rod Stakes (G2) following a race-long duel with the winner, but still earned a 99 BRIS Speed rating for the effort. The chestnut lass has stamped herself as the one to beat with a pair of easy wins this year in Fair Grounds' Rachel Alexandra Stakes (G2) and the Ashland Stakes (G1) at Keeneland.





MIDNIGHT BISOU

Owner: Allen Racing LLC and Bloom Racing Stable LLC

Trainer: William Spawr Jockey: Mike Smith

The dark bay filly appears to be peaking at just the right time for trainer Bill Spawr. Following a pair of nose seconds sprinting at Santa Anita Park and Del Mar last year, Midnight Bisou broke her maiden taking the Santa Ynez Stakes (G2) by 4 1/2 lengths on January 7. The Kentucky-bred miss rallied from four wide in that seven-furlong affair to easily draw off in the Santa Anita lane. She next stretched out to 1 1/16 miles in the Santa Ysabel Stakes (G3) over a wet-fast, sealed surface on March 3 and secured a 2 1/4-length victory to earn a 109 BRIS Late Pace figure. However, the filly truly proved her talent in the Santa Anita Oaks (G1) on April 7, rallying from well off the pace after running in the center of the track throughout to score by 3 1/2 lengths and garner a career-best 96 BRIS Speed rating. Midnight Bisou had only one rival beat for much of the Santa Anita Oaks and her ability to rate just off the pace as well as rally from the rear could be the deciding factor on the Kentucky Oaks (G1) wire.





RAYYA

Owner: Sheikh Rashid bin Humald Al Nuaiml Trainer: Bob Baffert Jockey: Drayden Van Dyke

The chestnut daughter of Tiz Wonderful makes both her U.S. and trainer debut in the Kentucky Oaks (G1). She began her career under the tutelage of trainer Doug Watson, for whom she captured the U.A.E. Oaks (UAE-G3) by 3 3/4 lengths on March 1. The Kentucky-bred miss sandwiched that score between seconds in the U.A.E. One Thousand Guineas and U.A.E. Derby (UAE-G2), the latter against the boys. Rayya was sent to the United States and transferred to trainer Bob Baffert after the U.A.E. Derby, and immediately posted a bullet move for her new conditioner when going six furlongs in 1:12.80 from the gate at Santa Anita Park on April 21. She has the talent and is already proven beyond the 1 1/8-mile distance of the Kentucky Oaks, thanks to her efforts in the U.A.E. Oaks and U.A.E. Derby, which are run at 1 3/16 miles.





ESKIMO KISSES

Owner: Magdalena Racing, Gainesway Stable and Harold Lerner

Trainer: Kenny McPeek Jockey: Corey Lanerie

This Kenny McPeek trainee is something of a wise-guy horse. It took the chestnut daughter of To Honor and Serve four tries to break her maiden, but she returned three weeks later to draw off for an 11-length score against winners over a sloppy, sealed track at Oaklawn Park. Based on that performance, Eskimo Kisses was expected to strut her stuff in the Fair Grounds Oaks (G2), and easily beat the two favorites while finishing second to 13-1 upsetter Chocolate Martini. The three-year-old filly ran in last throughout that 1 1/16-mile feature, more than 10 lengths behind the pacesetter on the backstretch, before suddenly coming with a furious rally down the center of the track to just miss by a head on the wire. She did something similar in the Ashland Stakes (G1) last out on August 7, easily defeating all but the winner, Monomoy Girl, in that contest by 7 1/2 lengths. Though her BRIS Speed figures aren't quite on par with others in the Kentucky Oaks (G1) field, Eskimo Kisses' late turn of hoof is just too good to ignore in this spot.





MY MISS LILLY

Owner: Courtlandt Farms

Trainer: Mark A. Hennig Jockey: Joe Bravo

The gray daughter of Tapit has the chance to follow in 2013 Kentucky Oaks (G1) upsetter Princess of Sylmar's hoofsteps by taking the Aqueduct route to the first Friday in May. My Miss Lilly began her career at that New York venue on December 23, breaking her maiden by 2 1/2 lengths, before shipping south to Florida for a third-place effort in the Forward Gal Stakes (G3) at Gulfstream Park. Trainer Mark Hennig brought his lightly raced charge back to New York, where My Miss Lilly ran third in the Busher Stakes and captured the Gazelle Stakes (G2) to earn a spot in the Oaks starting gate. It should be noted that the Gazelle is not only over the same 1 1/8-mile distance as the Kentucky Oaks, it also awarded My Miss Lilly a 99 BRIS Speed figure. In this field, only Monomoy Girl has also managed to earn that BRIS Speed rating.



TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



144TH RUNNING OF THE KENTUCKY OAKS

The Kentucky Oaks (Gr 1) 1 1/8-Miles PURSE \$1,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Sassy Sienna	15-1
2	Coach Rocks	12-1
3	Classy Act	15-1
4	Chocolate Martini	12-1
5	Wonder Gadot	20-1
6	Kelly's Humor	30-1
7	Rayya	15-1
8	Heavenhasmynikki	30-1
9	Take Charge Paula	15-1
10	Midnight Bisou	5-2
11	My Miss Lilly	10-1
12	Patrona Margarita	30-1
13	Eskimo Kisses	15-1
14	Monomoy Girl	2-1

TOP PICKS					
13	Eskimo Kisses				
10	Midnight Bisou				
14	Monomoy Girl				
WIN	(\$15)				
13 (\$15)					
\$10 EXACTAS					
10, 13 over 10, 13, 14 (\$40)					
\$1 TRIFECTA WHEEL					
10, 13 over 10, 13, 14 over 2, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14 (\$20)					

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Despite having a full field, many will consider this top-heavy renewal of the Kentucky Oaks a two-horse affair between Monomoy Girl and Midnight Bisou. It could certainly play out that way, though the likelihood of rain and thus a wet track is eligible to throw some curves.

Eskimo Kisses, an overlaid 15-1 on the morning line, has hit her best stride this spring for trainer Kenny McPeek. She coasted to a maiden win over a sloppy track at Oaklawn, just missed in the Fair Grounds Oaks, and was a clear second to a loose-on-the-lead Monomoy Girl in the Ashland. The extra distance and a more contested pace is sure to help.

Midnight Bisou is far and away the best California has to offer and has looked terrific proving as much under Mike Smith, who rode Abel Tasman to victory in this a year ago. She's hard to fault.

Monomoy Girl is a versatile sort who can run hard and fast up front or come from behind, which is crucial as she will have to overcome post 14. Often the beneficiary of ideal trips, we'll take a stand against a three-peat.

Rayya, a distant second to Mendelssohn in the UAE Derby, is a wild card. Her Middle East form is solid, but whether that translates to America is unknown.

My Miss Lilly is a true distance specialist, but her tendency to wait on horses after making the front is a concern with several talented closers. Coach Rocks and Chocolate Martini look like fillies for the lower rungs of the exotics.





KENTUCKY DERBY LEADERBOARD

Updated: Wednesday, April 25, 2018

HOW TO GET INTO THE KENTUCKY DERBY STARTING GATE

The Road to the Kentucky Derby Presented by TwinSpires.com is a 35-race series that awards points to the Top 4 finishers in each race. The Top 20 point earners will earn a spot in the starting gate for the 144th running of the \$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) on Saturday, May 5, 2018. The Kentucky Derby field has been limited to 20 starters since 1975. At least 20 horses have entered the 1 ¼-mile race for 3-year-olds every year since 2004, and 15 of the last 17 years.

RANK	HORSE	POINTS	OWNER(s)	TRAINER	Non-Restricted Stakes Earnings
1	Magnum Moon	150	Low, Lawana L. and Robert E.	Todd Pletcher	\$1,140,000
2	Good Magic	134	e Five Racing Thoroughbreds and Stonestreet Stables	Chad C. Brown	\$1,838,400
3	Audible	110	China Horse Club International Ltd., Head of Plains Partners LLC, Starlight Racing & WinStar Farm LLC	Todd Pletcher	\$803,520
4	Noble Indy	110	WinStar Fam LLC and Repole Stable	Todd Pletcher	\$640,000
5	Vino Rosso	107	Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable	Todd Pletcher	\$572,500
6	Bolt d'Oro	104	Ruis Racing LLC	Mick Ruis	\$980,000
7	Enticed	103	Godolphin Racing LLC	Kiaran P. McLaughlin	\$545,880
8	Mendelssohn	100	Derrick Smith, Mrs John Magnier & Michael Tabor	A P O'Brien	\$1,947,299
9	Justify	100	China Horse Club, Head of Plains Partners LLC, Starlight Racing, WinStar Farm	Bob Baffert	\$600,000
10	Flameaway	70	John C. Oxley	Mark E. Casse	\$672,260
11	Solomini	54	Zayat Stables, LLC	Bob Baffert	\$716,000
12	Bravazo	54	Calumet Farm	D. Wayne Lukas	\$349,913
13	My Boy Jack	52	Don't Tell My Wife Stables and Monomoy Stables, LLC	J. Keith Desormeaux	\$622,000
14	Promises Fulfilled	52	Robert J. Baron	Dale L. Romans	\$256,480
15	Free Drop Billy	44	Billy Albaugh Family Stables LLC	Dale L. Romans	\$497,200
16	Lone Sailor	42	Tom Benson	Thomas M Amoss	\$273,347
17	Hofburg	40	Juddmonte Farms, Inc.	William I. Mott	\$192,000
18	Firenze Fire	39	Mr. Amore Stable	Jason Servis	\$647,500
19	Combatant	32	Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC & Willis Horton Racing LLC	Steven M. Asmussen	\$350,000
20	Instilled Regard	29	OXO Equine LLC	Jerry Hollendorfer	\$246,000
21	Snapper Sinclair	22	Bloom Racing Stable LLC (Jeffrey Bloom)	Steven M. Asmussen	\$301,810
22	Blended Citizen	22	Hall, Greg and Sayjay Racing, LLC	Doug F. O'Neill	\$159,633
23	Reride	20	Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC	Steven M. Asmussen	\$298,000
24	Dream Baby Dream	20	Dream Baby Dream Racing Stable	Steven M. Asmussen	\$176,000
25	Restoring hope	20	West, Gary and Mary	Bob Baffert	\$100,000
26	Sporting Chance	12	Baker, Robert C. and Mack, William L.	D. Wayne Lukas	\$337,000
27	Giveaminute	12	Valene Farms	Dallas Stewart	\$196,000
28	Pony Up	12	Calumet Farm	Todd A. Pletcher	\$101,580



KENTUCKY DERBY TOP HORSES





AUDIBLE

Owner: China Horse Club International Ltd., Head of Plains Partners LLC, Starlight Racing

& WinStar Farm LLC

Trainer: Todd Pletcher Jockey: Javier Castellano

A New York-bred son of Into Mischief, Audible emerged as a leading contender with decisive wins in the Holy Bull (G2) and Florida Derby (G1) at Gulfstream Park, registering excellent BRIS Speed ratings of 105 and 107. Triple-digit BRIS Late Pace numbers add to his appeal and Audible has the tactical speed to settle in midpack before offering his best. Four-time Eclipse Award-winning jockey Javier Castellano, who is hungry for his first Kentucky Derby victory, opts for the improving bay colt and two-time Kentucky Derby scorer Todd Pletcher, who won last year with Always Dreaming, provides an edge.





BOLT D'ORO

Owner: Ruis Racing

Trainer: Mick Ruis Jockey: Victor Espinosa

Two-year-old star eligible to put it all together at Churchill Downs. A disastrous start in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) cost him championship honors and Bolt d'Oro has returned this year in a pair of races with no pace, finishing a head back in the San Felipe (G2) (elevated to first via DQ) and a non-threatening second in the Santa Anita Derby (G1). Those efforts did provide valuable fitness and the multiple Grade 1-winning son of Medaglia d'Oro should receive a much better set-up for his finishing kick in the Kentucky Derby. Bolt d'Oro registered a career-best 110 BRIS Speed rating last time and Mick Ruis-trained colt picks up the services of three-time Kentucky Derby-winning jockey in Victor Espinoza.





GOOD MAGIC

Owner: e Five Racing Thoroughbreds and Stonestreet Stables

Trainer: Chad Brown Jockey: Jose Ortiz

If the pattern holds, third start off the layoff could prove rosy for Good Magic. After dropping his first two outings last year, the Curlin colt improved dynamically when breaking his maiden in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) at Del Mar, generating a 105 BRIS Speed rating for the 4 ¼-length decision. Two-year-old champion appears to be building toward another peak performance in the Kentucky Derby. The chestnut opened 2018 with a disappointing third in Fountain of Youth (G2) and while he rebounded in the Blue Grass (G2), Good Magic was far from flashy winning by 1 ½ lengths. That's fine for supporters who envision the Chad Brown pupil taking a big step forward in the Run for the Roses.





JUSTIFY

Owner: China Horse Club International, Head of Plans Partners LLC, Starlight Racing,

WinStar Farm LLC

Trainer: Bob Baffert Jockey: Mike Smith

Big, fast and powerful. Since opening his clear on February 18, Justify has proven special winning all three career starts with ease and netted a whopping 114 BRIS Speed rating for a three-length romp in the Santa Anita Derby (G1), the highest number in a qualifier since the points system originated in 2013. No unraced 2-year-old has won the Kentucky Derby in 136 years and Justify's inexperience (didn't make debut until mid-February) rates as the main concern, but the son of Scat Daddy clearly has the goods in terms of talent and four-time Kentucky Derby winner Bob Baffert knows how to get horses ready for their best. The bright chestnut colt will likely be prominent from the start with Mike "Big Money" Smith.



KENTUCKY DERBY TOP HORSES





MAGNUM MOON

Owner: Low, Lawana L. and Robert E.
Trainer: Todd Pletcher Jockey: Luis Saez

A superb winner in all four starts, Magnum Moon looks ready to put the "Curse of Apollo" (Apollo last unraced juvenile to win Kentucky Derby in 1882) to the test. The Todd Pletcher trainee debuted in mid-January and has raced at three different venues so far, including a pair of stakes wins at Oaklawn Park in which he displayed dazzling acceleration into the stretch and finished powerfully under the wire. By Malibu Moon, sire of 2013 Kentucky Derby winner Orb, Magnum Moon possesses a high cruising speed and still appears to have plenty of upside.





MENDELSSOHN

Owner: Derrick Smith, Mrs John Magnier & Michael Tabor Trainer: A P O'Brien Jockey: Ryan Moore

field. The Coolmore-owned colt seeks to become the first European-trained Kentucky Derby winner.

Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1) winner displayed fine class before switching to dirt with a tour-de-force performance in the U.A.E Derby (G2), winning by a remarkable 18-length margin while appearing to have more in reserve. It's no surprise the son of War Front appeared better on the main track, with Mendelssohn being a half-brother to superstar Beholder, and it's a good sign to see Ryan Moore, who could've ridden the favorite in the first leg of the English Triple Crown, the 2,000 Guineas (G1), choose Mendelssohn instead. Aidan O'Brien is one of the world's leading conditioners and Mendelssohn has displayed fine tactical speed, which should allow him to avoid traffic congestion in a 20-horse





VINO ROSSO

Owner: Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable

Trainer: Todd A. Pletcher Jockey: John R. Velazquez

He's always been well-regarded but Vino Rosso needed a couple of stakes attempts before finally realizing his talent in the Wood Memorial (G2), rallying to win going away by a three-length margin. And he could be poised to keep showing more in a speed-filled Kentucky Derby field. The up-and-coming Curlin colt brings promising BRIS numbers to the equation, registering triple-digit BRIS Speed and Late Pace ratings on multiple occasions, and he has the same trainer/jockey combination (Todd Pletcher/John Velazquez) as 2017 Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming. Vino Rosso could be finishing fastest of all in the latter stages.



TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



144TH RUNNING OF THE KENTUCKY DERBY

The Kentucky Derby (Gr 1) 1-1/4 Miles - PURSE \$2,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Firenze Fire	50-1
2	Free Drop Billy	30-1
3	Promises Fulfilled	30-1
4	Flameaway	30-1
5	Audible	8-1
6	Good Magic	12-1
7	Justify	3-1
8	Lone Sailor	50-1
9	Hofburg	20-1
10	My Boy Jack	30-1
11	Bolt d'Oro	8-1
12	Enticed	30-1
13	Bravazo	50-1
14	Mendelssohn	5-1
15	Instilled Regard	50-1
16	Magnum Moon	6-1
17	Solomini	30-1
18	Vino Rosso	12-1
19	Noble Indy	30-1
20	Combatant	50-1

TOP I	PICKS				
14	Mendelssohn				
5	Audible				
7	Justify				
4	Flameaway				
\$20 V	VIN & PLACE				
14 (\$	520)				
\$10 E	XACTAS				
14 o	ver 4,5,7 (\$30)				
\$5 EXACTAS					
4,5,7 over 14 (\$15)					
\$2 EXACTA BOX					
4-5-7 (\$12)					
\$1 TRIFECTA PART-WHEEL					
14 over 4,5,7 over 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,16, 18, 20 (\$30)					
\$1 TRIFECTA PART-WHEEL					
4,5,7 with 4,5,7 with 4,5,7,14 (\$12)					

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A dynamite field will contest the 144th Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve at Churchill Downs. The first leg of the American Triple Crown features more quality and depth than recent years, with seven legitimate win contenders among the 20 runners, and a keen sense of anticipation surrounds the 1 ¼-mile Run for the Roses.

#14 Mendelssohn rates top billing. The battle-tested sophomore has won four straight and possesses tactical speed, leading wire-to-wire in an outstanding 18-length romp in the U.A.E. Derby (G2), and he's well-drawn in post 14 to avoid kickback. A half-brother to Beholder, the massive son of Scat Daddy showed fine class on turf winning a salty edition of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1) and Mendelssohn really took to the main track when making his dirt debut last time. Trainer Aidan O'Brien has been targeting the Kentucky Derby since last fall and the Irish-based colt is one of the more experienced members of the field with seven starts. Mendelssohn appears eligible to receive the right trip to the outside of his main rival and we'll look for him to strike leaving the far turn.

#5 Audible exits a pair of convincing wins in the Holy Bull (G2) and Florida Derby (G1), registering stellar BRIS Speed rating of 105 and 107, and his Late Pace numbers are easy to appreciate (112-104). The Into Mischief colt brings a strong turn of foot to the equation and likes to race midpack before rallying into contention. The Todd Pletcher-trained son of Into Mischief has looked sharp in his morning preparations under the Twin Spires and Audible should be rolling late with Javier Castellano.

#7 Justify has proved to be supremely talented, registering a field-best 114 BRIS Speed rating posting a three-length decision in the Santa Anita Derby (G1), and he's in good hands with four-time Kentucky Derby winner Bob Baffert. If he receives the right trip on the front end, the Scat Daddy colt may prove impossible to run down. But he remains inexperienced colt, squeezing all four career starts into a 76-day window, and has had everything his own way and never raced outside of Santa Anita. We're leery of taking a short price but respect the favorite.

#4 Flameaway has recorded a pair of wins and a pair of seconds from four starts this year, making his last three outings in Kentucky Derby qualifiers, and he's always put himself in position to challenge in the latter stages. His gameness is easy to appreciate and the son of Scat Daddy has made a favorable impression in his training sessions over the track. Flameaway may be in position to hold for a minor award at long odds in upper stretch.



AT A GLANCE

A look at the previous full Churchill Downs meet: April 29, 2017 through June 30, 2017

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 4.94 - 1

FAVORITE WIN%: 36% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 69%

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	77.15
Daily Double	80.12
Trifecta	581.10
Pick 3	658.37
Superfecta	5,129.20
Pick 4	5,315.61
Pick 5	30,503.79
Pick 6 Jackpot	79,737.40
Future Wager	185.00
Super High Five	72,135.64



TRACK BIAS MEET (04/29 - 06/30)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	77	35%	E	Rail/Ins
7.0fDirt	48	38%	E	Rail/Ins
1 MileDirt	47	28%	E	Rail
1 1/16mDirt	56	29%	Е	Rail/Ins
Turf Sprint	13	38%	Е	Middle
Turf Routes	72	19%	E/P	Rail/Ins

TRACK BIAS WEEK (06/29 - 06/30)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	13	38%	Р	Ins/Mid
7.0fDirt	6	50%	E	Rail
1 MileDirt	9	44%	E	Inside
1 1/16mDirt	6	33%	E/P	Mid/Out
Turf Sprint	1	0%	Р	Middle
Turf Routes	10	40%	Е	Rail/Ins

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
McPeek Kenneth G.	19	7	1	2	8.13	3	15%
Colebrook Ben	8	3	2	2	14.55	1	12%
Connelly William R.	3	2	0	0	5.97	0	14%

COLD JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Saez Gabriel	25	0	2	5	18.87	1	13%
Gazader Rayan	13	0	1	0	25.59	0	7%
Gilligan Jack	13	0	2	0	22.95	0	11%



AT A GLANCE

A look at the previous full Churchill Downs meet: September 15, 2017 through November 26, 2017

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 5.60 - 1

FAVORITE WIN%: 29% FAVORITE ITM%: 66%

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	98.02
Daily Double	95.07
Trifecta	784.82
Pick 3	755.26
Superfecta	5,973.67
Pick 4	6,091.11
Pick 5	30,533.57
Pick 6 Jackpot	228,416.79
Super High Five	12,227.28



TRACK BIAS MEET (09/15 - 11/26)

# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
79	35%	E	Rail/Ins
42	21%	E/P	Outside
52	17%	Е	Middle
61	18%	E/P	Rail/Ins
5	40%	Е	Middle
42	10%	S	Inside
	79 42 52 61 5	79 35% 42 21% 52 17% 61 18% 5 40%	79 35% E 42 21% E/P 52 17% E 61 18% E/P 5 40% E

TRACK BIAS WEEK (11/20 - 11/26)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	12	25%	E/P	Outside
7.0fDirt	6	0%	E/P	Mid/Out
1 MileDirt	11	18%	E/P	Inside
1 1/16mDirt	8	0%	Р	Middle
Turf Sprint	2	50%	Р	Middle
Turf Routes	11	9%	S	Middle

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Casse Mark E.	13	5	1	1	6.60	1	18%
Blair Jordan	5	2	0	0	15.96	1	16%
Margolis Steve	6	2	1	1	16.83	0	15%

COLD TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Lukas D. Wayne	17	0	3	1	22.85	2	10%

COLD JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Borel Calvin H.	25	0	1	0	25.32	0	7%
Gazader Rayan	18	0	1	1	29.06	0	7%
Camacho, Jr. Samuel	10	0	0	1	27.94	0	5%



KENTUCKY DERBY HANDICAPPING FACTORS

by Vance Hanson

We're three weeks from the centerpiece of Thoroughbred racing in the U.S., but for many the process of handicapping and analyzing the Kentucky Derby to form betting strategies has been ongoing for months. With the final Road to the Kentucky Derby preps almost completed and the field nearly formed, the focus soon turns to not only sniffing out the winner but also crafting mutuel tickets around that opinion in the hopes of a significant payday.

What goes into making that final selection and deciding how to bet the Kentucky Derby?

Opinions on wagering obviously vary, and a survey of prominent handicappers and industry insiders revealed just that when asked about their views ahead of what some are already describing as one of the most contentious and fascinating Derby renewals in years.

With post-time favorites currently on a five-year winning streak in the Kentucky Derby, answering the question of "Who is the best horse?" remains to some the most important handicapping factor and a jump-off point to any analysis of the race.

"Like many, I used to handicap the Derby a lot differently than I would the sixth at Turfway on a Thursday, worrying about breeding, Dosage Index, how many preps the horse might have had, seasoning, etc.," said long-time reporter and handicapper **Bill Finley**. "The way horses are prepared for the Derby has changed so much in recent years that I think a lot of those factors have been negated. When it comes to handicapping, I now treat it like any other race."

"Pace scenarios are still vital in the Derby," Finley added. "Though we have not seen it in a few years, the race can turn into a meltdown where all the front runners fall apart and some bad horses can stumble into third or fourth just by passing exhausted horses. Conversely, you have to be aware of a pace scenario that will favor the front runners."

Peter Rotundo, Breeders' Cup's Vice President of Media and Entertainment, is firmly in the camp that pace makes any race, especially the Kentucky Derby.

"I think you have to treat it like any other race and find the horse who will have the best pace setup," Rotundo said. "It's hard to figure out who will [have the best] trip with 20 horses in the race so really you have to keep it as simple as possible and try to not overthink it."

Scott Shapiro, handicapper and analyst for Brisnet.com, TwinSpires.com, and BetAmerica.com, feels recent changes in how horses qualify for the Derby have made an impact on conventional pace analysis.

"The factor I think has the most significant impact now is running style," Shapiro said. "With less speed horses that are clearly distance-challenged entered it has become almost imperative to have some sort of tactical speed. I am no longer willing to endorse a closer like I did several times in past renditions of the event."

For others, how a horse looks and has looked leading up to the first Saturday in May is most crucial.

"I am a very visual handicapper, so how a horse looks and travels is the number one factor for me," said **Joe Kristufek**, whose many hats worn include his current position as Churchill Downs' on-track analyst. "That being said, the strength of the races they're exiting, race shape, 10-furlong pedigree, and how they train once arriving at Churchill are all key elements."

Jill Byrne, Breeders' Cup's Senior Director, Industry Relations, and a former television and simulcast analyst says appearance is one of the most important factors for her. "How the horse looks and trains in the week leading up to the Derby is critical for me," she said.

Donna Barton Brothers, a former jockey and now a reporter/analyst for NBC Sports' Triple Crown coverage, concurs.

"As we get closer [to the Kentucky Derby] the number of people and activity increases on the backside. How are the horses handling it? Do they appear to thrive on the attention or shirk from it? I will toss any horse that is not handling the Derby week crowd during morning training hours and/or in their paddock schooling sessions in the afternoon," she said.

Shapiro, however, thinks evaluating the appearance of a horse is the most overrated factor in the lead-up to the First Saturday in May.

"If a horse looks bad I care. The fact is most look great or they wouldn't be in the race," he said. "I have seen too many overbet horses go down the drain that look like they can't lose."

Noted handicapper/reporter **John Pricci**, currently the executive editor at horseraceinsider.com, took a nuanced view saying: "The experience factor can be, at once, overrated and underrated."

That point is especially relevant this year as Justify, who did not race at two and will have only three starts heading into the Kentucky Derby, might wind up the low-odd favorite. His unconventional preparation may not deter someone like Joe Kristufek from potentially backing him, though.



Over rated betting factors for the Kentucky Derby

The post-position draw was described by several respondents as the most overrated Derby handicapping factor.

"Most overrated [factor]? History. Apollo curse. Strength of preps, etc. Every horse and road to the Kentucky Derby is different," he said. "I don't believe in 'a horse can't do that' based on history. I look at every horse, race and situation individually."

The most underrated handicapping factor in Kristufek's estimation is overlooking what a horse has shown capable of doing on their best day. "If their final prep wasn't great, but the one before was, and they have an excuse..."

For Shapiro, the trainer angle is the most underrated factor to an important degree.

"I know it gets plenty of attention, but this race more than any other I know of requires near perfection from start to finish," he said. "It is hard enough to win if you are Baffert or Pletcher. If you are not experienced it is a huge knock to me. Like Bolt d'Oro (trained by Mick Ruis) this year."

When asked about the enduring importance of pedigree, a common refrain was that it's still a leading factor but perhaps not as much as it once was. Several respondents noted that too little attention is paid to one side of a horse's family compared to the other.

"The dam is much more influential than many people believe," Donna Barton Brothers said. "So much significance is given to the sire and his ability to get the distance but, in reality, affinity for turf vs. dirt, sprinting vs. routing, typically comes from the female family."

Byrne agreed, adding: "One thing to look for in a pedigree is turf breeding on the dam side. Those horses tend to excel on the dirt course at Churchill." Said Kristufek: "I definitely tilt towards the dam's side. What did they do and their siblings do on the track and what have they produced?"

Rather than a deep pedigree analysis, many players perhaps opt for Scott Shapiro's approach.

"I use it as a separator for the most part," Shapiro said. "Like everyone I remember caring about Dosage. When that was out the window I started trusting my eye and gut on stretch outs a lot more."

What all the work and time invested in solving the Kentucky Derby wagering puzzle ultimately comes down to is walking away with more cash than you had before the gates sprung open.

"With 20 horses in the race, it's the best betting race of the year," Kristufek said. "I honestly spend six months handicapping it. I should be confident enough in my opinions to make a significant investment."

Into which pools our respondents generally dive into on the Derby varied.

Jill Byrne called the Trifecta box her "favorite" Derby wager. John Pricci called the Win, Exacta, and Trifecta "a must," but noted he tended to scale back play on the Superfecta due to the absence of fractional wagers. That, however, doesn't stop others from seeking an epic payout.

"From a wagering perspective, I focus on Trifectas and Superfectas," Peter Rotundo said. "You rarely have chances at a lifetime score so this the race to take the shot at glory!"

"If I pool money, I'm certainly going to swing at the Superfecta...it pays SO much better than the Trifecta," Joe Kristufek said. "If I really like a horse, I will pound the Win-Place-Show pools regardless. Exactas are also a point of focus. Trying to hit them multiple times based on my confidence level."

As Bill Finley noted, even taking short prices among a field of 20 can potentially pay dividends.

"There is actually great value on the favorites in the Derby. That's because of what I call the 'Mine That Bird factor,'" he said. "The people who bet one race a year are now hunting for longshots and horses that should be 200-1 are going off at 38-1. If you love a longshot, don't bet him to win, but use him in Trifectas and Superfectas where the novice players don't affect the pools."

"The Superfecta is enticing because if you get it right you really can hit a \$90,000 bomb. But, again, I'll treat [the Derby] like any other race, looking for the best value. Nothing wrong with betting a 6-1 shot to win if you feel the horse should be 5-2."

Rather than committing himself to playing certain wagers, Scott Shapiro takes a broad overview of the landscape before deciding whether to invest in specific pools.

"I approach every Derby different, but for the most part it is based on how I feel about the favorite and if I have a key horse," he said. "Some years I will just take shots with only price horses and limit my bankroll. Other years if I like a horse I will bet to Win, key in Trifectas and single in horizontals."

Opinions abound not only on the horses that will eventually line up in next month's Run for the Roses, but also on the final analyzing process and the best way to capitalize on the opinions thus formed. Pace analysis, physical appearance and works, and a deeper exploration of pedigree were among the emphasized factors respondents would encourage bettors to take more into account as they approach their study of the Kentucky Derby. From a wagering perspective, respondents most commonly mentioned Win and Trifecta betting as their favored way of investing on the Derby.

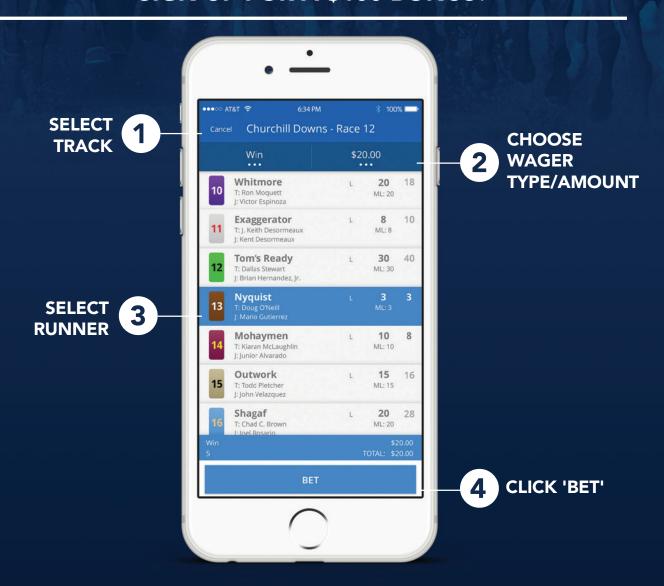
These topics can be further researched through a variety of products and articles found at Brisnet.com and TwinSpires.com.





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