

# TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



## LOUISIANA DERBY

G2 - 1 1/8-Miles  
PURSE \$1,000,000

| POST | HORSE            | ML ODDS | TOP PICKS       |
|------|------------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1    | Roiland          | 12-1    | 10 Spinoff      |
| 2    | Lemniscate       | 15-1    | 8 Country House |
| 3    | Limonite         | 20-1    | 6 War of Will   |
| 4    | Sueno            | 8-1     | 4 Sueno         |
| 5    | By My Standards  | 12-1    |                 |
| 6    | War of Will      | 6-5     |                 |
| 7    | Mr. Money        | 20-1    |                 |
| 8    | Country House    | 9-2     |                 |
| 9    | Bankit           | 20-1    |                 |
| 10   | Spinoff          | 8-1     |                 |
| 11   | Hog Creek Hustle | 12-1    |                 |

  

| \$40 WIN |         |
|----------|---------|
| 10       | Spinoff |

  

| \$20 EXACTA |         |
|-------------|---------|
| 4, 6, 8     | with 10 |

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The \$1,000,000 Twinspires.com Louisiana Derby (G2) is the first of seven Kentucky Derby (G1) prep races that awards 100 points to the winner, 40 points to the second-place finisher, 20 points to the third-place finisher and 10 points to the fourth-place finisher. It will be run Saturday at the Fair Grounds going nine furlongs and it attracted a field of eleven.

Six starters raced in the prep for this four weeks ago, the Risen Star Stakes (G2), and it remains to be seen how their form will hold up. The race was average in time and the winner only earned a BRIS speed rating of 96. If some of the new shooters can jump up, the field looks ripe for an outsider.

#10 SPINOFF broke his maiden first time out at Gulfstream Park last June going five furlongs on a wet track. He went off as the lukewarm favorite so there were some expectations but he was not up in New York with the Todd Pletcher-trained first string or at Monmouth Park with the second string. Still, it was enough to earn a trip to Saratoga seven weeks later where he was third in the Saratoga Special (G2) going 6 1/2 furlongs behind Call Paul who won the Swale Stakes (G3) last time out. Off for six months, he returned on a Thursday at Tampa Bay Downs for his two-turn debut. Johnny Velazquez was up for the mount and after stalking the early leader through a very fast pace (+15, +8), drew off to an 11-length win. The son of Hard Spun showed high cruising speed and when Velazquez asked him for run, he responded through the lane. Yes, the question is who did he beat but it looks like Pletcher has prepared him perfectly with two spectacular five-furlong breezes at Palm Beach Downs for this and from post 10, Velazquez should be able to work out a stalking trip.

#8 COUNTRY HOUSE is another of the Bill Mott classic prospects who we used to automatically ignore but no longer can. He broke his maiden as the 3/5 favorite two starts back going two turns at Gulfstream Park then came back here and rallied wide to get second in the Risen Star. The son of Lookin at Lucky is completely one-dimensional but looks to be on the improve and Mott seems to be training this group forwardly instead of finding reasons not to get on the triple crown trail. Luis Saez – 4 for 10 riding for Mott lately – rides back and he will drop far back and save some ground on the first turn.

#6 WAR OF WILL has the usually reticent Mark Casse extremely upbeat about his chances. A good turf horse last year at the age of two, Casse tried dirt and he broke his maiden on a sloppy track at Churchill Downs. Spending the winter in New Orleans, he won the Lecomte Stakes (G3) easily in a wide trip then ran a similar race when he won the Risen Star (G2) last out from post 13. There is nothing not to like about him but his races are barely faster than some of the contenders in here and unless the ground loss is a bigger factor than I am giving it its due, he just doesn't appeal as a short-priced favorite. #4 SUENO skipped the Rebel Stakes (G2) after just missing in the Southwest Stakes (G3) at Oaklawn Park. He has improved in each of his last three starts and Keith Desormeaux runners improve with racing and he could be sitting on a big race.