

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



LECOMTE STAKES - G3

1 Mile 70 Yards
PURSE \$200,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Wicked Indeed	12-1
2	Malpais	12-1
3	Tackett	6-1
4	Mr. Money	5-1
5	Night Ops	30-1
6	Hog Creek Hustle	12-1
7	Roiland	12-1
8	War of Will	6-1
9	Mo Speed	20-1
10	Chase the Ghost	12-1
11	Tight Ten	8-1
12	Plus Que Parfait	9-2
13	Manny Wah	10-1
14	Admire	20-1
15	West Texas	20-1

TOP PICKS	
4	Mr. Money
8	War of Will
10	Chase the Ghost
3	Tackett
\$40 WIN	
4 Mr. Money (\$40)	
\$10 EXACTA	
8, 10, 3 with 4 (\$30)	
\$1 TRIFECTA BOX	
3, 4, 8, 10 (\$24)	

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The LeComte Stakes (G1) will be run Saturday at Fair Grounds Race Course on the dirt going 1 mile and 70 yards. The LeComte drew a field of 14 with one also-eligible and is part of the Road to the Kentucky Derby (G1) with 10-4-2-1 points awarded to the top four. It will be followed four weeks later by the Risen Star (G2) and then the Louisiana Derby (G2) five weeks after that for those that choose to go through New Orleans on their way to Louisville.

This year's LeComte will have a full gate of starters with a short run into the first turn. With traffic and trips guaranteed for many, the ability to pass horses is critical. I don't see anyone going gate to wire but if you are stalking the pace, you will probably have lots of company.

#4 MR. MONEY fits much of the criteria that I am looking for in here. He was a good second going five furlongs in his well-bet career debut at Ellis Park then he came back there and had a nightmare trip going seven furlongs with trouble right from the start. Bret Calhoun shipped him to Churchill Downs and he promptly broke his maiden by almost four lengths in his two-turn debut. The win was good enough to try the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) next time out and he didn't run bad. After hopping at the start, he chased the pace in a wide trip and finished a respectable fourth. Behind him were Gunmetal Gray, winner of the Sham Stakes (G3) a few weeks ago and Mind Control, winner of the Jerome Stakes on New Year's Day.

Since the Breeders' Cup, Mr. Money has been training up a storm at the Fair Grounds. He comes into the Lecomte off four serious breezes, one on a sloppy track, and draws well with regular rider Gabriel Saez.

#8 WAR OF WILL is an interesting horse from Mark Casse. The son of War Front began his career on the turf and despite still being a maiden, he ran well in graded stakes company going similar distances. A son of War Front out of a dam by Sadler's Wells certainly merits a chance on turf but after failing four times, Casse put him on the dirt at Churchill Downs on November 24 where he romped by five lengths. He has trained well on the dirt here and Tyler Gaffalione is in from Florida for the ride back.

#10 CHASE THE GOAT began his career with four dirt sprints and had rough trips in his last two. Stretched out to two turns for the first time here last out, he broke his maiden in good time and it is not unusual for trainer Dallas Stewart to race his horses into shape. #3 TACKETT draws inside and has strong early speed. He has two wins over the track here, both going two turns, and his sire was second over this oval in the New Orleans Handicap (G2) going nine furlongs in fast time. #9 MO SPEED ran well in his first two career starts on the turf for Mark Casse then won an off-the-turf event here last out in relatively slow time that is hard to gauge.