OAKLAWN

OAKLAWN RACE MEET
BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires**™

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OAKLAWN RACE MEET
BETTING GUIDE

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AT A GLANCE

A look at the previous full Oaklawn meet: January 12, 2018 through April 14, 2018

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 6.08 - 1

FAVORITE WIN%: 34% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 70%

EXOTICS	$2 PAYOFF
Exacta	102.73
Daily Double	124.50
Trifecta	802.21
Pick 3	831.84
Superfecta	5,759.17
Pick 4	7,568.80
Pick 5	27,563.99

TRACK BIAS MEET (01/12 - 04/14)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.5fDirt	13	38%	E	Inside
6.0fDirt	298	30%	E	Rail
1 MileDirt	78	23%	E	Middle
1 1/16mDirt	106	28%	E	Rail/Ins

TOP JOCKEYS BY WINS AT OAKLAWN 2018 MEET

Rank	Jockey	Wins
1	Ricardo Santana, Jr.	69
2	David Cabrera	43
3	David Cohen	37
4	Ramon A. Vazquez	34
5	Jon Kenton Court	27
6	Gary L. Stevens	26
7	Alex L. Canchari	25
8	Fernando De La Cruz	22
9	Richard E. Eramia	21
10	C.J. McMahon	19

TOP JOCKEYS BY EARNINGS AT OAKLAWN 2018 MEET

Rank	Trainer	Earnings
1	Ricardo Santana, Jr.	$4,240,304
2	David Cabrera	$1,974,917
3	Gary L. Stevens	$1,743,563
4	David Cohen	$1,662,335
5	Luis Saez	$1,459,536
6	Ramon A. Vazquez	$1,361,655
7	Alex L. Canchari	$1,334,619
8	Jon Kenton Court	$1,107,593
9	C.J. McMahon	$1,106,882
10	Fernando De La Cruz	$1,073,301

TOP TRAINERS BY WINS AT OAKLAWN 2018 MEET

Rank	Jockey	Wins
1	Steven M. Asmussen	44
2	Robertino Diodoro	32
3	Ron Moquett	28
4	Brad H. Cox	27
5	Federico Villafranco	20
6	Chris A. Hartman	18
7	Norman McKnight	16
8	Ingrid Mason	16
9	Karl Broberg	14
10	McLean Robertson	12

TOP TRAINERS BY EARNINGS AT OAKLAWN 2018 MEET

Rank	Trainer	Earnings
1	Steven M. Asmussen	$2,977,921
2	Brad H. Cox	$1,770,454
3	Todd A. Pletcher	$1,760,900
4	Ron Moquett	$1,729,774
5	Robertino Diodoro	$1,028,594
6	McLean Robertson	$903,554
7	Chris A. Hartman	$873,375
8	D. Wayne Lukas	$676,272
9	Norman McKnight	$568,745
10	Federico Villafranco	$564,858

OAKLAWN STAKES SCHEDULE

Date	Race	Grade	Purse	Restrictions	Surface	Distance
Friday, Jan 25	Smarty Jones		$150,000	3YO	Dirt	1 Mile
Saturday, Jan 26	American Beauty		$100,000	F&M 4&UP	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, Feb 02	Martha Washington		$125,000	F 3YO	Dirt	1 Mile
Saturday, Feb 09	King Cotton		$100,000	4&UP	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, Feb 16	Dixie Belle		$100,000	F 3YO	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Monday, Feb 18	Bayakoa	III	$200,000	F&M 4&UP	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles
Monday, Feb 18	Razorback Handicap	III	$500,000	4&UP	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles
Monday, Feb 18	Southwest	III	$500,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles
Saturday, Feb 23	Downthedustyroad Breeders'		$100,000	F&M 3&UP	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, March 02	Spring Fever		$100,000	F&M 4&UP	Dirt	5 1/2 Furlongs
Saturday, March 09	Hot Springs		$150,000	4&UP	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, March 09	Honeybee	III	$200,000	F 3YO	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles
Saturday, March 16	Essex Handicap		$300,000	4&UP	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles
Saturday, March 16	Azeri	II	$350,000	F&M 4&UP	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles
Saturday, March 16	Rebel	II	$1,000,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles
Saturday, March 23	Nodouble Breeders'		$100,000	3&UP	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, March 23	Gazebo		$125,000	3YO	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, March 30	Purple Martin		$150,000	F 3YO	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, April 06	Carousel		$150,000	F&M 4&UP	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Friday, April 12	Fantasy	III	$500,000	F 3YO	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles
Saturday, April 13	Count Fleet Sprint Handicap	III	$400,000	4&UP	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, April 13	Oaklawn Handicap	II	$750,000	4&UP	Dirt	1 1/8-Miles
Saturday, April 13	Arkansas Derby	I	$1,000,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/8-Miles
Sunday, April 14	Apple Blossom Handicap	I	$700,000	F&M 4&UP	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles
Saturday, April 20	Rainbow		$100,000	3YO	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, April 20	Rainbow Miss		$100,000	F 3YO	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Saturday, April 27	Bachelor		$150,000	3YO	Dirt	6 Furlongs
Friday, May 03	The Oaklawn Mile		$200,000	4&UP	Dirt	1 Mile
Saturday, May 04	The Oaklawn Invitational		$250,000	3YO	Dirt	1 1/8-Miles
Saturday, May 04	Arkansas Breeders' Championship		$200,000	3&UP	Dirt	1 1/16-Miles

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OAKLAWN PARK STAKES SCHEDULE GUIDE
by John Mucciolo

The much-anticipated racing season in Hot Springs, Arkansas will get underway January 25 at Oaklawn Park. The meet continues to grow both in popularity and attendance, and a huge 2019 stanza is expected.

Oaklawn Park will host 30 stakes races during the run which concludes on May 4. Twelve of the black-type races are of the graded variety with total stakes purses at $8.85 million.

The three-year-old racing scene continues to grow for both the boys and the fillies in Hot Springs. Four "Road to the Kentucky Derby" Series events are on tap, and the action commences on opening day. The $150,000 Smarty Jones Stakes for sophomores offers qualifying points on a 10-4-2-1 basis for Derby hopefuls.

The $500,000 Southwest Stakes (G3) leads a trio of graded races on Monday, February 18, which is also a 10-4-2-1 qualifier. The lucrative, $1 million Rebel Stakes (G2) on March 16 offers a 50-20-10-5 reward for the top four finishers. The four-race series is capped on April 13 with the $1 million Arkansas Derby (G1), where qualifiers earn points on a 100-40-20-10 structure.

Popularity of the three-year-old racing at Oaklawn began its rapid ascension in 2004 with dual-Classic winner Smarty Jones. Since then, the Hot Springs venue has welcomed Triple Crown star American Pharoah, two-time Classic victor Afleet Alex, the legendary Curlin, Champion Classic Empire, Belmont Stakes winner Creator et al's. And it has also drawn some of the top human contributors to our sport.

Horses conditioned by Bob Baffert, Steve Asmussen or Todd Pletcher have accounted for six of the last seven Arkansas Derby winners. It is also worth note that five of the past 11 winners of the race imported from California, proving the versatility of the event.

Kentucky Oaks (G1) hopefuls have their own series of races leading up to the First Friday in May. February 2 will play host to the Martha Washington Stakes at one-mile. The $200,000 Honeybee Stakes (G3) is set for March 9 and is followed by the $500,000 Fantasy Stakes (G3) on April 12.

Since 2005, the Fantasy has produced some of the better fillies we have seen in recent times. Previous Fantasy heroines include the likes of Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra, Kentucky Derby runner-up Eight Belles, Champion Blind Luck, Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) queen Round Pond et al's.

Distaffers also have something of their own series of races at Oaklawn Park, culminating with the $700,000 Apple Blossom Handicap (G1) on April 14. Despite being run early on the racing calendar the Apple Blossom has often been a steppingstone to an Eclipse Award. Since 2002, the winner of the important affair has been named Champion Older Dirt Female on seven occasions.

The pair of events leading up to the Apple Blossom is the $200,000 Bayakoa (G3) on February 18; and the $350,000 Azeri Stakes (G2) on March 16.

Older runners will have a trio of lucrative events to take part in, as well. The Razorback Handicap (G3) on February 18, $300,000 Essex Handicap on March 16; as well as the April 13, $750,000 Oaklawn Handicap (G2), give the boys big prizes to shoot for.

Oaklawn Park is not only a sought after venue for hundreds of thousands of fans, it's also a desired destination for some of the best horses across the country.

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KENTUCKY DERBY PREP RACES AT OAKLAWN

by James Scully

Oaklawn Park plays a pivotal role in the 35-race Road to the Kentucky Derby series. The Hot Springs, Arkansas track features four races worth a combined $2.65 million this year and prominent contenders from all regions of the country will be competing.

Since the Road to the Kentucky Derby series originated in 2013, 23 qualifying races have been held at Oaklawn. And to illustrate the importance, Bob Baffert (six wins) and Todd Pletcher (six wins) have accounted for more than half of them. The powerhouse conditioners orchestrate major stables on the West and East Coast, respectively, and have combined to win three of the last six runnings of the Kentucky Derby. And they target Oaklawn Park's prep races every year.

Triple Crown winner American Pharoah, whom Baffert sent to capture the Rebel Stakes and Arkansas Derby in 2015, rates as the most notable alumni of recent years. Curlin and Rachel Alexandra also used Oaklawn as a stepping-stone to Triple Crown race wins and Horse of the Year honors.

Three-year-old champions Afleet Alex, Lookin at Lucky, Smarty Jones and Will Take Charge competed in Oaklawn's preps and other distinguished participants include Bayern (Breeders' Cup Classic winner), Creator (Belmont Stakes winner), Grindstone (Kentucky Derby winner), Lil E. Tee (Kentucky Derby winner), Oxbow (Preakness winner), Sunny's Halo (Kentucky Derby winner), Super Saver (Kentucky Derby winner) and Victory Gallop (Belmont Stakes winner).

The January 25 opening-day program features the $150,000 Smarty Jones, the first of the quartet of qualifiers. The series continues with the $500,000 Southwest (G3) on February 18, $1 million Rebel (G2) on March 16 and $1 million Arkansas Derby (G1) on April 13.
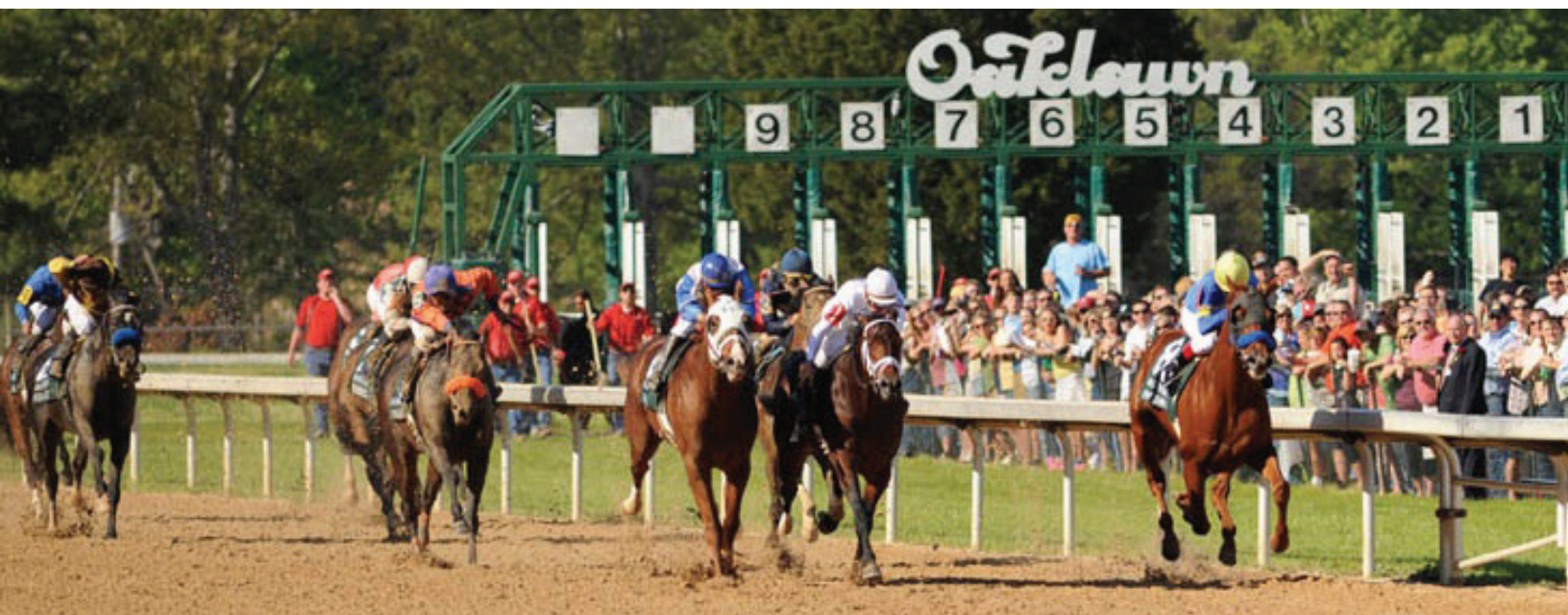
One of seven major final preps, the Arkansas Derby awards points on a 100-40-20-10 scale to the top four finishers and the 1 1/8-mile race has produced six Kentucky Derby winners over the last 35 years.

Baffert ranks second all-time with five Kentucky Derby tallies and owns a record 15 Triple Crown race wins. Oaklawn Park has been his favorite spot to prep outside of Southern California and could be the destination for either presumptive two-year-old champion Game Winner or Los Alamitos Futurity (G1) scorer Improbable. They rate his leading Kentucky Derby contenders entering the New Year but Triple Crown hero Justify hadn't even started at this point on the calendar in 2018.

Other trainers to watch for include Hall of Famers Steve Asmussen and D. Wayne Lukas. Both are two-time winners of qualifying races at Oaklawn but Asmussen is still seeking an elusive Kentucky Derby victory after capturing previous editions of the Preakness, Belmont Stakes and Breeders' Cup Classic. Asmussen has a large contingent of Kentucky Derby hopefuls this year. The fire still burns bright for four-time Kentucky Derby victor Lukas, who finished second in last year's Preakness with the Oaklawn-based Bravazo.

Brad Cox will also have a locally-based stable and hopes to make a serious impact upon the Kentucky Derby scene after training his first champion and Breeders' Cup winner last year (Monomoy Girl). Mark Casse, Keith Desormeaux, Kenny McPeek and John Sadler are other well-known trainers who have utilized Arkansas' path to the Kentucky Derby.

It should be another exciting year of Kentucky Derby prep races at Oaklawn!

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KENTUCKY OAKS GOLD CAN BE FOUND AT OAKLAWN PARK

by Jennifer Caldwell

Oaklawn Park's four-race series for sophomore fillies is a gold mine in regards to the Kentucky Oaks (G1).

Comprised of the Dixie Belle, Martha Washington, Honeybee (G3) and Fantasy (G3) stakes, the series has produced multiple winners of the "Run for the Lilies," several top three finishers and numerous starters.

The Dixie Bell and Martha Washington both kicked off in 1979, with the former run at 5 1/2 furlongs until 1999 and the latter taking place at six furlongs from the inaugural edition through 2003. Now scheduled for three-quarters of a mile and eight furlongs, respectively, the pair are not as vital to the Kentucky Oaks as they are for the last two races of the series.

They have had some bearing on the Churchill Downs affair, though, most notably in 2009.

That year a highly regarded filly named Rachel Alexandra kicked off her sophomore campaign with a romping win in the Martha Washington in stakes-record time. She followed up with a dominating score in the Fantasy and would go on to establish a record-setting 20 1/4-length victory in the Kentucky Oaks. Transferred to perennial Oaklawn leading trainer Steve Asmussen, a win over Kentucky Derby (G1) victor Mine That Bird in the Preakness Stakes (G1) and Horse of the Year honors awaited the talented lass by year's end.

The Honeybee, run at 1 1/16 miles, immediately provided a Kentucky Oaks competitor when Lost Kitty captured the first edition in 1988 and went on to finish fifth in the filly classic.

One year later, Imaginary Lady produced a runner-up effort in the 1989 Kentucky Oaks two races after taking the Honeybee.

The Fantasy is the jewel in Oaklawn's three-year-old filly crown. The 8 1/2-furlong race reads like a who's who list of champion fillies and boasts nine winners of the Kentucky Oaks.

The Fantasy first took place in 1973, but those first four runnings didn't see any of the top three finishers show up under the Twin Spires for the Oaks. However, in 1977 Sweet Alliance just missed by a neck to eventual champion three-year-old filly Our Mims in the Fantasy before going on to defeat that rival by 2 1/2 lengths on the first Friday in May.

Among its roster of scorers are Davona Dale, Bold 'n Determined and Heavenly Cause, who delivered a hat trick of carrying Fantasy triumphs into the Kentucky Oaks winner's circle from 1979-81. Other notable scorers of both contests include champions Tiffany Lass and Blind Luck as well as aforementioned Hall of Famer Rachel Alexandra.

Since its inaugural edition, the Fantasy's top three has produced 29 top three finishers of the Kentucky Oaks, most recently in the form of Canadian champion Wonder Gadot who missed by only a nose in the Fantasy prior to a half-length second in the Oaks. In addition, 72 of the top three runners in the Fantasy have gone on to compete in the Kentucky Oaks.

This all adds up to Oaklawn Park's three-year-old filly series leaving its mark on the "Run for the Lilies."

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BRISNET.COM PPs OAKLAWN ANGLES
by Ed DeRosa

When it comes to finding a track with competitive racing, look no further than Oaklawn Park, which in 2018 ranked 1st by both average field size (9.5) and average win payoff ($14.13) among the 48 North American tracks that conducted at least 350 races.

As you can see from the at a glance page, the big fields and payoffs lead to big prices in other pools as well, including an extremely robust average Pick 5 payout.

That is not to say that form is unreliable in Hot Springs, Arkansas, where favorites won at a 33.8% clip and no doubt helped key some big payouts. Here are some angles to mine via your Brisnet.com Ultimate Past Performances when handicapping Oaklawn:

• In non-maiden sprints last year, top-ranked horses with a Prime Power gap of at least 8 points over the second-ranked horse won 7 of 13 races and posted a flat-bet profit.

• In maiden routes, in-form horses performed best. Give heavy preference to horses ranked on or near the top in last-out Speed Rating and Prime Power. Discount debut runners in routes.

• Off-track sprints are all about early speed. If it's wet and one turn then look for early speed

• Don't be afraid to back horses with a poor last-out race returning to Oaklawn. Superlative back Speed numbers fare very well at Oaklawn—especially in non-maiden sprints.

Ron Moquett is a chalk player's best friend, going 40-for-89 (44.9%) with the public choice for a +11% ROI. Steve Asmussen is a better bet when not saddling the favorite, as the Racing Hall of Fame trainer is 65-for-219 (29.6%) when the public choice for a -28.9% ROI while a not-as-bad -19.1% ROI from his 14.3% non-chalk winners. Incidentally, that 14.3% win percentage ranks #1 among the 10 trainers with at least 250 non-favorite starts since 2016.

Chris Hartman is the trainer to watch in maiden special weight races, going 5-for-39 (12.8%) with a +19.7% ROI the past 3 years. Ken McPeek is similarly targeted at 8-for-35 (22.8%) and a +32% ROI. Allen Milligan is 0-for-his-last-18, and Steve Hobby is just 1-for-37.

Tammy Hornsby is interesting. She is winless in her last 16 tries in maiden special weight company, but 6-for-67 (8.9%) with a +34.3% ROI in the maiden claiming ranks. Not so good at this level is Thomas Swearingen with no wins from 38 maiden claiming starts since 2016.

On the jockey front, some names maybe not as familiar to some have some big numbers at Oaklawn, including Alex Canchari (106/791 13.4%, +4.1% ROI), Jon Court (83/599 13.8%, +4.1% ROI), and Channing Hill (65/406 16%, +16.4% ROI), and Geovanni Frano (61/389 15.6% +26.1% ROI).

When it comes to riding the rail, give Ramon Vazquez a look from the paint. He's 19-for-89 (21.3%) with a +18.9% ROI.

In big fields, no surprise to see the track's leading rider Ricard Santana Jr. outperform his rivals. He is one of 65 jockeys to ride in at least 11 races with at least 10 starters since 2016, and his win percentage (20.1%) in that category is easily better than 2nd-ranked Canchari (15.%). Interestingly, though, Santana's ROI is still a -5.4% in big fields while Canchari, and Court are ranked 2nd and 4th, respectively, in this category and all have positive ROIs.

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TRAINER ANGLES TO WAGER
by John Scheinman

I called up my buddy Andy Beyer in the fall of 2017, and we made a dinner date for our favorite sushi restaurant in Northwest Washington, D.C. There, over yellowtail jaw, gyoza and an array of glistening sashimi, I worked on him.

"You've got to play Oaklawn Park with me this winter," I implored in a perfect modulation of pleading and persuasion. "They've got the largest field sizes in the country, there's no Todd [Pletcher] or Chad [Brown training], and they don't have turf racing."

No turf was my primary angle. Beyer had been a committed Gulfstream Park player as long as I'd known him and had wintered in Florida since the French owned it. He also hates turf racing, and if you ever read any of his columns on Zenyatta, you know what he thinks of synthetic surfaces.

Beyer likes dirt racing, and so do I. Neither of us had ever applied a steady focus on Oaklawn, but along with great hospitality, the two things the Saratoga of the South has in spades is dirt racing and horses. Lots and lots of horses. In 2017, the track had the largest field sizes in the country, without a grass course, averaging close to 10 runners per race, and THEN went and built three new barns.

Last year, there were 1,560 horses on the grounds.

I pushed on him the entire meal.

"I'll think about it," Beyer said noncommittally, but by week's end he was in.

We had 1 ½ months to prepare and did our homework. I contributed trip notes, impressions of BRIS pace figures, stats from Progressive Handicapping's "Oaklawn Park Handicapper," gut intuition and my specialty – last-minute parade picks. Beyer, king of the fig makers, poured over trips, too, and compiled terrific notes on speed biases that we guarded like the treasure of the Sierra Madre.

We played at a fever pitch and mostly got demolished. The ranks of outstanding horsemen at Oaklawn runs so deep, and many of the little outfits are so crafty, we failed to grasp their nuances.

I come back this year and amazingly Oaklawn asked me to write this column about "sneaky angles" at Oaklawn, and even more amazingly I actually feel up to it. Never mind that I lost piles of money across way too many wagers and hit on only 17.84 percent of my total bets with a -0.30 return on investment.

I am now armed with experience and better strategy and focus. So, here, along with making way fewer wagers, are four sneaky angles I'll be employing at Oaklawn Park I feel confident are going to deliver this year:

1. Steve Asmussen wins the most races, but Robertino Diodoro pays the bettors: This scourge is getting much better known as his star rises, yet his brutal efficiency still offers value. In the past three years at Oaklawn, Diodoro has won 53 of 214 sprint races (24.7 pct.) and 32 of 129 route races (24.8 percent). Yet, his sprint ROI is +7 pct. while his route ROI is +76 pct.! If you

bet $2 on all 127 distance runners he sent out last year, you'd have an ROI of $204.60. Bet him in routes! With longshots, his horses at odds of 8-1 or higher have won 13 of 65 times (20 pct.) with a +17 pct. ROI. Fine, until you look at him off layoffs (13 for 58, 22 pct., +42 pct. ROI) and off the claim (a deadly 26 for 85, 31 pct., +59 pct. ROI). Much better! In 2018, that layoff return dipped to -2 pct., but the off-the-claim numbers (14 of 52, 27 pct. +29 pct. ROI) remained robust.

2. Go big or go home: Using the Detailed Account History offered by TwinSpires, I was able to dissect what worked for me and what didn't. My biggest takeaway? Oaklawn instituted a Pick 5 for the first time in 2017, and I'm going to play it this winter as often as possible. The payoffs compared to the Pick 4 last year at Oaklawn were jaw-dropping. Just a few examples from the beginning of last year's meet in the sequences that end with the final race on the card:

50¢ WAGERS
Jan. 12, Pick 4: $7,396; Pick 5: $42,948
Jan. 20, Pick 4: $888; Pick 5: $6,383
Jan. 25, Pick 4: $583; Pick 5: $11,831
Jan. 26, Pick 4: $913; Pick 5: $23,682

Notice anything? It went on like that all winter. I hit 19.66 pct. of the Pick 4 tickets I played last year with a -0.24 ROI. I hit exactly one Pick 5 all meet but had the same -0.24 ROI. Over the past three Oaklawn meets, I hit my Pick 4s at 23.96 pct. for a -0.25 ROI. I hit just 3.95 pct. of my Pick 5s across two years and came away with a +0.12 ROI.

The same goes for playing trifectas and exactas. Last year, I hit 16.63 percent of my exactas with a -0.41 ROI. I hit 16.48 percent of my trifectas with a +0.13 ROI.

Along with win wagers, it's a no-brainer to me which bets to play.

3. Stormin' Norm McKnight: This Canadian-based trainer is something else. He went down to Oaklawn last year for the first time with a bunch of horses and an aw-shucks attitude and moved in like an invasive species chewing up the local flora and fauna, going 16 for 80 (20 pct.) with 44 pct. ITM and a -4 pct. ROI. Keep in mind, he was far better with claimers than allowance horses, going 11 for 45 (24 pct.) with the former and 3 for 28 (11 pct.) with the latter. At Woodbine this past year he caused an uproar, vacuuming up 128 wins in 406 starts (32 pct.) with 67 pct. ITM. Assuming he comes back, I expect him to be even better.

4. Avoid the money pits: When field sizes are routinely 9 to 12 horses, the races can be inscrutable. Particularly in multi-race sequences, you are at times better off just hitting the "All" button if you have strong opinions in the other legs. Yet, there are certain trainers whose futility at Oaklawn makes their horses near instant tosses. Going into this meet, these trainers couldn't buy a win at Oaklawn: Norman Ashauer (0 for 73), Ray Cannon (0 for 44), Tim Dixon (0 for 58), Murray Duncan (0 for 37) and James H. Cook (0 for 32). With perhaps the most contentious trainer colony in the country, even in the cheapest races make these folks beat you.

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OPTIXPLOT OAKLAWN PARK ANALYSIS
by John Doyle

Track Profile Analysis determines which OptixPLOT run styles are being favored and points to the potential uniqueness of the Oaklawn Park racing surface. This is one part of analyzing pace.

Pace Dynamic, another part of analysis, is unique for each track and each race. It should be interpreted in context of the track profile.

For more information on OptixPLOT and other OptixEQ products, go to: https://optixeq.com/trip-pace-handicapping/

OP SPRINTS (6f) Analysis

QuadSTAT Win% - STANDARD			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
19.0%	15.8%	13.3%	8.3%
11.5%	6.5%	4.4%	2.8%

QuadSTAT Win% - SURFDIST			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
20.1%	15.7%	11.7%	8.4%
11.0%	6.1%	5.4%	3.9%

OP SPRINTS (8f) Analysis

QuadSTAT Win% - STANDARD			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
17.5%	17.4%	9.1%	10.6%
14.4%	7.8%	6.1%	3.6%

QuadSTAT Win% - SURFDIST			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
15.2%	17.7%	9.6%	9.4%
14.0%	8.7%	3.9%	5.3%

OP SPRINTS (8.5f) Analysis

QuadSTAT Win% - STANDARD			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
18.0%	14.0%	14.6%	10.6%
12.5%	10.1%	5.9%	4.0%

QuadSTAT Win% - SURFDIST			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
19.8%	16.2%	11.2%	10.3%
11.9%	10.8%	3.4%	5.2%

Oakland Park primarily runs 3 distances on dirt - 6f, 8f and 8.5f.

OBSERVATIONS

SQUARES win 1.58 times more than CIRCLES overall.

CIRCLES are most effective in Q1

Q3, Q4 CIRCLES have a low win rate in both Sprints and Routes.

Oaklawn Distance/PLOT Analysis (EX%, ITM%)

QuadSTAT EXACTA% - STANDARD - OAKLAWN PARK (2015-2018)								
	Q1 ■	Q1 ●	Q2 ■	Q2 ●	Q3 ■	Q3 ●	Q4 ■	Q4 ●
6F	34.6%	23.0%	31.4%	16.1%	23.9%	11.2%	18.7%	7.7%
8F	36.9%	23.0%	28.7%	14.8%	30.2%	12.6%	20.6%	8.0%
8.5F	33.2%	21.5%	27.5%	19.1%	27.4%	14.9%	22.0%	8.7%

QuadSTAT IN THE MONEY (ITM)% - STANDARD - OAKLAWN PARK (2015-2018)								
	Q1 ■	Q1 ●	Q2 ■	Q2 ●	Q3 ■	Q3 ●	Q4 ■	Q4 ●
6F	46.9%	34.3%	43.5%	23.9%	34.3%	17.9%	31.3%	13.9%
8F	47.4%	34.6%	41.1%	30.2%	32.9%	20.1%	33.5%	13.2%
8.5F	47.9%	30.7%	41.0%	27.4%	36.9%	21.5%	34.9%	16.7%

■ A square plot represents horses who close.
● A circle plot represents horses who do best running in early part of race.

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Oaklawn Park 2018 TOP-10 JOCKEYS WIN % BY QUADRANT (STANDARD)

JOCKEY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
RICARDO SANTANA, JR.	25%	32%	33%	22%
DAVID CABRERA	20%	27%	14%	10%
DAVID COHEN	20%	19%	12%	12%
RAMON A VAZQUEZ	18%	10%	9%	9%
JON COURT	11%	4%	14%	14%
ALEX CANCHARI	10%	31%	0%	9%
FERNANDO DE LA CRUZ	16%	20%	3%	0%
RICHARD ERAMIA	10%	15%	15%	6%
C.J. MCMAHON	9%	14%	0%	7%

Oaklawn Park 2018 TOP-10 JOCKEYS WIN % BY QUADRANT (SURFDIST)

JOCKEY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
RICARDO SANTANA, JR.	23%	24%	23%	19%
DAVID CABRERA	18%	16%	27%	10%
DAVID COHEN	18%	26%	10%	8%
RAMON A VAZQUEZ	17%	8%	14%	13%
JON COURT	16%	19%	6%	10%
ALEX CANCHARI	12%	26%	0%	8%
FERNANDO DE LA CRUZ	15%	27%	0%	2%
RICHARD ERAMIA	7%	12%	7%	15%
C.J. MCMAHON	8%	12%	8%	8%

OBSERVATIONS

1. RICARDO SANTANA, JR. dominated 2018 showing no weakness across all Quadrants.

2. DE LA CRUZ was ineffective with Q3, Q4 mounts.

3. CANCHARI was shut out last year w/ Q3 runners .

4. ERAMIA was sneaky good with off-the-pace type runners.

Oaklawn Park 2018 OVERALL RUNSTYLE WIN % BY QUADRANT (STANDARD)

RUNSTYLE	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
E	17%	0%	9%	3%
EP	14%	14%	9%	7%
P	13%	13%	13%	7%
PC	17%	15%	9%	8%
C	21%	13%	19%	9%

Oaklawn Park 2018 OVERALL RUNSTYLE TOTAL WINS BY QUADRANT/SHAPE

RUNSTYLE	TOTAL	Q1-S	Q1-C	Q2-S	Q2-C	Q3-S	Q3-C	Q4-S	Q4-C
E	41	15	21	0	0	4	1	0	0
EP	111	29	49	9	4	9	4	7	0
P	70	22	13	5	7	12	3	6	2
PC	129	27	11	32	4	15	0	36	4
C	61	8	4	10	2	2	3	29	3

OBSERVATIONS

1. Q2, Q4 E types are basically tosses.

2. ALL Cs (Closers) located in Q1 are strong win contenders.

3. E, EPs can be effective as CIRCLEs in Q1.

4. PCs, Cs need to be SQUAREs to be effective.

Q1 and Q2 represent early speed.
Q3 and Q4 represent late speed.

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CELEBRATING OAKLAWN'S HISTORY

by Vance Hanson

Opened for the first time in 1905, Oaklawn Park is one of the oldest tracks in the U.S., but it wasn't until the Great Depression years of the mid-1930s that the track began conducting continuous winter meets.

Its growth into a major winter venue, slowed in part by its location in lightly-populated central Arkansas, finally took off in the mid-1970s when track president Charles Cella, whose family has owned Oaklawn since the beginning, inaugurated the "Racing Festival of the South." Elevating some overnight events into stakes and infusing races like the Arkansas Derby and Oaklawn Handicap with six-figure purses, Oaklawn was transformed into a regular stop for many of the best horses in the country.

Once contested over a span of a week, the major highlights of the Racing Festival of the South have now been condensed into three days in April. The centerpiece is the Arkansas Derby, Oaklawn's co-richest race that has showcased future classic winners Temperence Hill, Sunny's Halo, Tank's Prospect, Victory Gallop, Smarty Jones, Afleet Alex, Curlin, and Triple Crown winner American Pharoah.

Oaklawn's other Grade 1 event is the Apple Blossom Handicap, a key early-season test for fillies and mares. Hall of Fame members Susan's Girl, Bold 'n Determined, Bayakoa, Paseana, Azeri, and Zenyatta have all tasted victory in the race, as have champions Track Robbery, North Sider, Heavenly Prize, Escena, Banshee Breeze, Gourmet Girl, Havre de Grace, Close Hatches, Untapable, and Forever Unbridled.

Star older horses such as Wild Again, Turkoman, Snow Chief, Lost Code, Best Pal, The Wicked North, and Cigar prevailed in the Oaklawn Handicap, but like other races for older horses its popularity has waned a bit since the introduction of the Dubai World Cup. However, the 2018 edition was one of its most significant in years when City of Light edged Accelerate after a prolonged stretch duel. City of Light later won the Breeders' Cup Dirt while eventual champion older male Accelerate claimed the Breeders' Cup Classic.

The Fantasy Stakes for three-year-old fillies evolved into a Grade 1 event with early winners like Our Mims, Davona Dale, Tiffany Lass, Very Subtle, and Lite Light. Although downgraded since, the race enjoyed a renaissance in the late aughts when Eight Belles, Rachel Alexandra, and Blind Luck won in consecutive years.

With the benefit of record purses fueled by alternative gaming, the appeal of Oaklawn's overnight and stakes schedule now encompasses the entire meet rather than a couple of days here or a week there. The lead-up to the Arkansas Derby, especially, has been significantly enhanced to where the Rebel Stakes and Southwest Stakes are now among the most lucrative Kentucky Derby preps in the country.

Oaklawn will enter a new era in 2019 when the meet will run an additional three weeks beyond Arkansas Derby Day, with closing day scheduled for Saturday, May 4, the date of the Kentucky Derby. Oaklawn last ran beyond the month of April in 1945, when a World War II delayed meet was held in November and December.

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NEW FACES TO WATCH AT OAKLAWN PARK
by Ed DeRosa

From a name recognition standpoint, there is nothing "new" about the jockeys and trainers making Oaklawn Park their home this winter-spring, but a commitment to racing in Hot Springs for the whole meeting is new.

The biggest brand name addition is Racing Hall of Fame trainer Nick Zito, who has more than 2,000 victories—including two in the Kentucky Derby—but none at Oaklawn Park from just five tries. Zito joins Steve Asmussen and D. Wayne Lukas as Oaklawn's Hall of Fame conditioners.

"OK, so I'm 0-for-5; that's OK," Zito said. "I just love Oaklawn. I just love watching it. I love all those fans you can see in the grandstand; most tracks today don't have that. I love the game; I'm a fan of the game. Seems to me that Oaklawn has just maintained that tradition of fans, so we're going to give it a shot and see what happens."

Zito, 70, saddled at least 300 starters 1993-2013 but has managed a smaller stable since with 200-273 starters/year in each of the past 5 years with just a 7.8% strike rate and a -45.6% flat-bet ROI compared to 14.4% wins and a -35.5% ROI 2009-2013. So, overall, I'm taking a wait-and-see approach with his short-priced horses even with the change in venue.

The other big names among new Oaklawn regulars are Mark Casse, Larry Jones, Joe Sharp, and Dallas Stewart. Jones has the most Oaklawn experience with 131 wins from 730 starts

(17.9%) and a very respectable -15.8% flat-bet ROI over such a significant sample. That latter figure is especially improved in maiden special weight contests where the win percentage is "only" 15.6%, but the ROI beats the takeout at -7.2%.

In the jockey colony, two Kentucky Derby-winning jockeys are returning to Hot Springs in Calvin Borel and Stewart Elliott. The former has won America's most prestigious race 3 times, but rode none of those horses at Oaklawn (2010 Derby winner Super Saver had a different rider when 2nd to Line of David in the Arkansas Derby). Borel was the regular rider on eventual Horse of the Year and Preakenss Stakes winner Rachel Alexandra, who won 2 races in 2009 at Oaklawn—the same year he won the Kentucky Derby with another pick-up mount in Mine That Bird.

Elliott did win the Arkansas Derby aboard Smarty Jones who went on to win the Derby and Preakness before losing the Belmont to Birdstone… trained by the aforementioned Zito!

Another big new name is Joe Bravo, and while "Jersey" Joe has no Kentucky Derby wins to his credit, he did win the 2014 Arkansas Derby aboard longshot Danza, which is one of 4 wins for him from 22 starts in Arkansas. He could get some live mounts from trainer Sharp, as the duo has paired on occasion.

OAKLAWN PARK PREVIEW
by Dick Powell

Oaklawn Park will open their 57-day meeting on January 25 and for the first time, will run past the Arkansas Derby (G1) right up to May 4. The late opening will mitigate some of the winter weather that can affect the early part of the training and racing season. In a first for American horse racing, they will host two $1 million Kentucky Derby (G1) prep races – the Rebel Stakes (G2) on Saturday, March 15 and then the Arkansas Derby (G1) four weeks later on April 13. If those two races aren't attractive enough, the Southwest Stakes (G3) will be run on February 18 with a purse of $500,000

The Oaklawn Park road to the Kentucky Derby has proven quite popular over the years and a safe dirt racing surface and easy shipping makes it attractive to horsemen from both coasts. Todd Pletcher has won it five times including last year's winner; Magnum Moon. Bob Baffert has won the Rebel six times.

What makes Oaklawn Park a handicapper's delight is what it doesn't have. Turf racing! Racing all their races on dirt builds a large sample size very quickly and the longest one-turn sprints are six furlongs. Speed does well and aggressive riders take advantage of it despite a long homestretch.

Because all the races are run on dirt and only dirt horses are there, you don't have to worry about off-the-turf races run on the dirt with phony form. If you are a turf horse, you are at the Fair Grounds, Gulfstream Park or Tampa Bay Downs this winter. With the purse structure, the racing at Oaklawn gets better and better. And, you would think they had turf racing with their large field sizes.

Last year, records were broken as purse money was added to the pot so that by the end of the meet, maiden special weight races were going for $82,000. This year, they are starting out at $77,000 but that is expected to grow as the meet progresses, including a $10,000 bump on premier race days. A huge development project is about to commence so eventually you could see $100,000 maiden races easily by 2020 or 2021.

The races are drawn extremely early so you have plenty of time to download your BRIS Ultimate Past Performances and gets busy. Opening Day will be drawn a full seven days ahead of time. After that, it will usually be between four and six days out.

In 2018, the speed bias for six-furlong sprints was 65 %. 30% of them were won going gate to wire and the average distance the winner was behind at the first call was 2.2 lengths. Going a two-turn mile, with the short run into the first turn, the speed bias was 56%. 23% of them were won going gate to wire and the average distance the winner was behind at the first call was 3.1 lengths. When the races stretch out to 1 1/16 miles, the speed bias goes up to 61% and 31% of them were won going gate to wire. The average distance the winner was behind at

the first call was only 1.6 lengths. It is little wonder that Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen dominates the meet with his horses' ability to get away from the gate.

In six-furlong sprints, post position success was spread out evenly between inside, middle and outside. However, going 1 1/16 miles, the rail won 16% and horses that drew from post eight and out only won 5% of the time.

The Racing Festival of the South, which used to be run over a week's time, is now reduced to Friday through Sunday, April 12 through 14. But unlike previous years, there will be three more weeks of racing into the first week of May. We will wait and see how strong the racing holds up as many regulars go to Kentucky in April.

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