The $900,000 Rebel Stakes (G2) at Oaklawn Park has produced three Kentucky Derby winners and proven to be an important prep race for the Triple Crown. Bob Baffert leads all trainers with six victories and the Hall of Famer will seek a seventh Saturday with likely favorite Solomini.

Unraced since being disqualified in the Los Alamitos Futurity (G1) in mid-December, Solomini missed some training time due to a virus and returned to the worktab in early February. The chestnut son of Curlin has been working fast, recording a trio of “bullet” drills from his last four moves, and displayed high speed from the start posting a runner-up finish in the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile (G1) last fall.

He switched tactics in the Los Alamitos Futurity, rallying from last of five runners on the backstretch, and the ability to adapt to any circumstances is a plus. Solomini easily ranks first in BRIS Prime Power (145.7) and with further improvement expected at age 3, he looks poised to strike in this spot. Flavien Prat, who has been up for all four career starts, will be in to ride and Solomini probably won’t be far back stalking the action before offering his bid.

Combatant was caught on the worst part of the track finishing second in a muddy Southwest (G3) last time and the Steve Asmussen pupil may continue to show more here. He’s made fine progress recording three consecutive runner-up efforts in qualifiers and if he can continue to increase his BRIS Speed Ratings, Combatant could prove to be an interesting late runner on Kentucky Derby Day. He’ll be looking to rally into the Rebel frame in the final furlongs.

Sporting Chance got up late for third in the Southwest in his first appearance since winning the Hopeful (G1) in early September. D. Wayne Lukas said the Tiznow colt would need the comebacker and Sporting Chance may have a tactical advantage this time around with far less early speed in the Rebel line-up. He’s eligible to be setting the pace beneath new rider John Velazquez and we won’t be surprised to see him run well on the front end.

Title Ready exits a sharp allowance score over the track and Zing Zang didn’t appear to like the footing when fifth in the Southwest. We’ll add both to any trifecta/superfecta wagers.