

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



SPRINGBOARD MILE STAKES

Springboard Mile Stakes
1 Mile - PURSE \$400,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Epic Dreamer	8-5
2	Kaziranga	15-1
3	Marquee Prince	10-1
4	Six Shooter	8-1
5	Long Range Toddy	12-1
6	Tone Broke	15-1
7	Dobbins G	30-1
8	Bankit	3-1
9	Tobacco Road	15-1
10	Dunph	10-1
11	D Toz	20-1

\$1 TRIFECTA PART WHEEL (\$72)
1 with 2 with all
\$.50 CENT TRIFECTA PART WHEEL (\$36)
2 with 1 with all

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The American Road to the Kentucky Derby (G1) goes through Oklahoma City Sunday night. The \$400,000 Springboard Mile Stakes will be conducted around two turns for two-year-olds on the dirt and will wrap up a successful 2018 season at Remington Park. Kentucky Derby eligibility points will be available on a 10-4-2-1 basis.

A field of 11 is entered and Steve Asmussen has five of them. Winner of 93 races already at the meet, three of them have already won at the meet which began on August 24. But, I am going to try to beat him.

There have been 97 two-turn mile races run on the dirt at the meet and speed has done well. The speed bias is 64% and 29% of the races were won gate to wire. The inside posts have done well also.

Asmussen trainees usually break well and get involved early so it's not as if someone in here can steal the race. But, I like #1 EPIC DREAMER for a number of reasons. In his career debut going six furlongs at Belmont Park, he was a very good second from post eight going six furlongs in very fast time. He sat in behind three speed horses then found a split at the top of the stretch. The winner, Vekoma, surged to the lead from the outside and then made his way over to the rail. Epic Dreamer tipped out and while he finished full of run, he was second best.

The time of his career debut was an outrageous 1:08.93 seconds and the winner came home in 11.78 seconds. Vekoma came back in his next start and won the Nashua Stakes (G3) going a mile while earning a BRIS speed rating of 101. Epic Dreamer came back at 1 1/16 miles at Belmont and went gate to wire from post one to win by over two lengths. The final time was average but it was a fast early/slow late race that is hard to quantify. His BRIS speed rating dropped from 93 in his debut to 85.

In the Springboard Mile, Javier Castellano is back to ride Epic Dreamer. Kelly Breen took him to Florida where he worked bullets at Palm Meadows then he shipped to Remington where he had a bullet half-mile breeze last Friday. From post one, Castellano should be able to work out a ground-saving trip while using his natural speed to avoid traffic in the bulky field going into the clubhouse turn. With the track profile going two-turn miles on the dirt in his favor, Epic Dreamer should be the one to beat.

I have always been a proponent of the importance of a race over a track; especially a dirt one. I lean to #2 KAZIRANGA as the best of those that have raced here. Trained by Asmussen, he did nothing in his career debut from post 11 going two turns on the turf at Ellis Park. He made his dirt debut at Churchill Downs next out going a one-turn mile but weakened after pressing the pace.

Off for about seven weeks, Asmussen shipped him here and he broke his maiden by three lengths in fast time as the 3/5 favorite. Last out, he handled first-level allowance foes rather easily as the 2/5 favorite and now he gets his chance against stakes foes. By Candy Ride, he is out of a stakes-winning dam by A.p. Indy that won two grade two stakes races. His dam has produced a stakes winner already and she is a half-sister to the red-hot sire, War Front. He'll run in the Black and Gold silks of Calumet Farm and picks up Iram Diego – 29% riding for Asmussen lately.

Once you get by those two, the rest seem to be evenly balanced. Remington Park allows \$.50 cent Trifectas so that is how I'll bet.