



PREAKNESS

# BETTING GUIDE

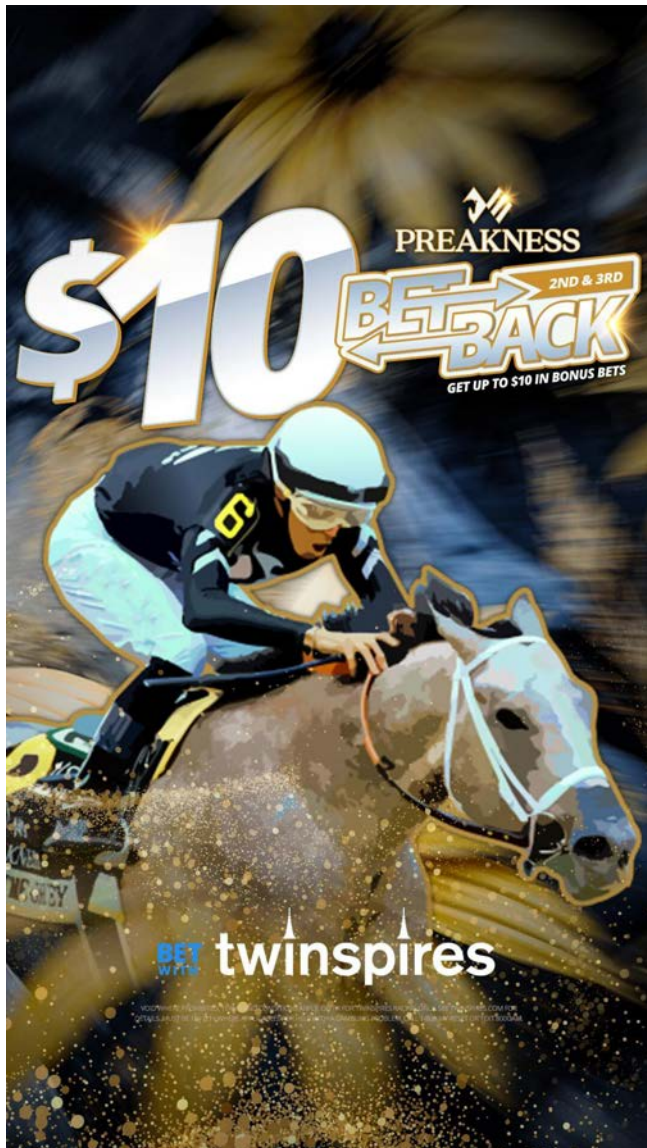
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## PREAKNESS 151

# BETTING GUIDE



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# AT A GLANCE

## Laurel Park At A Glance May 11, 2026

**AVG. WINNING ODDS:** 4.41 - 1

**FAVORITE WIN%:** 40% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 76%

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	64.68
Daily Double	83.08
Trifecta	373.13
Pick 3	485.38
Superfecta	2,938.69
Pick 4	3,213.28
Pick 5	13,103.37
Pick 6 Jackpot	13,760.62
Super High Five	4,481.11



### TRACK BIAS MEET (09/05 - 05/10)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.5f Dirt	89	43%	E	Rail
7.0f Dirt	78	31%	P	Mid/Out
1 Mile Dirt	129	26%	E/P	Outside
1 1/16m Dirt	102	25%	E	Inside
Turf Sprint	117	19%	P	Outside
Turf Routes	129	21%	E	Middle

### TRACK BIAS WEEK (05/04 - 05/10)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.5f Dirt	4	50%	E	Rail/Ins
7.0f Dirt	2	0%	P	Rail/Ins
1 Mile Dirt	4	25%	P	Middle
1 1/16m Dirt	1	0%	E/P	Middle
Turf Sprint	7	0%	E/P	Middle
Turf Routes	8	25%	E	Outside

### WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	WINNING FAVORITES	'25-'26 WIN %
Allen III A. Ferris	12	5	1	0	15.42	2	8%
Nixon Justin J.	4	3	0	0	4.53	1	16%
Salzman, Jr. John E.	7	3	1	2	2.46	2	27%
Bailes W. Robert	3	2	0	0	8.63	2	20%
Capuano Gary	3	2	1	0	1.67	2	32%

HOT JOCKEYS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	BEATEN FAVORITES	'25-'26 WIN %
Ruiz Jorge	13	4	3	1	4.38	2	15%

# EXPERT PICKS FOR PREAKNESS WEEKEND

We've assembled an expert team of handicappers to give their top picks for select graded stakes race for both Black-Eyed Susan Day and Preakness day.

## FRIDAY, MAY 15 Laurel Park



### BLACK-EYED SUSAN (G2)

7 Jumping the Gun  
10 My Miss Mo  
5 Braken Poppa

3 Holly's Holiday  
10 My Miss Mo  
5 Braken Poppa

3 Holly's Holiday  
10 My Miss Mo  
5 Braken Poppa

8 Majestic Lucia  
3 Holly's Holiday  
2 Ivy Girl

10 My Miss Mo  
5 Braken Poppa  
8 Majestic Lucia

## SATURDAY, MAY 16 Laurel Park



### MARYLAND SPRINT S. (G3)

8 Slam Notion  
5 Floodlites  
2 Faster Gator

2 Faster Gator  
6 Celtic Contender  
8 Slam Notion

2 Faster Gator  
6 Celtic Contender  
5 Floodlites

6 Celtic Contender  
1 Bring the Smoke  
7 Hymn

3 Faust  
5 Floodlites  
2 Faster

### GALLORETTE S. (G3)

2 Ribaltagaia  
5 Austere  
3 Accent

8 Awesome Czech  
7 Child of the Moon  
1 Mahra's Love

2 Ribaltagaia  
3 Accent  
7 Child of the Moon

2 Ribaltagala  
4 Warming  
7 Child of the Moon

4 Warming  
7 Child of the Moon  
3 Accent

### JIM MCKAY TURF SPRINT S.

4 Chasing Liberty  
2 Determined Kingdom  
3 Jean Valjean

4 Chasing Liberty  
1 Run Curtis Run  
7 Isivunguvungu

4 Chasing Liberty  
8 Outlaw Kid  
7 Isivunguvungu

1 Run Curtis Run  
4 Chasing Liberty  
3 Jean Valjean

7 Isivunguvungu  
8 Outlaw Kid  
4 Chasing Liberty

### PREAKNESS S. (G1)

10 Napoleon Solo  
9 Iron Honor  
1 Taj Mahal

12 Incredibolt  
6 Chip Honcho  
5 Talkin

12 Incredibolt  
9 Iron Honor  
6 Chip Honcho

12 Incredibolt  
1 Taj Mahal  
8 Bull by the Horns

12 Incredibolt  
2 Ocelli  
9 Iron Honor

# TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



**LAUREL PARK**

## BLACK-EYED SUSAN STAKES AT LAUREL PARK

Gr 2 - 1-1/8 Miles - PURSE \$300,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Miss Fulton Gal	30/1
2	Ivy Girl	15/1
3	Holly's Holiday	6/1
4	Savor It	30/1
5	Braken Poppa	7/2
6	Haute Diva	15/1
7	Jumping the Gun	3/1
8	Majestic Lucia	12/1
9	A. P.'s Girl	5/1
10	My Miss Mo	7/2

### TOP PICKS

#10 My Miss Mo

#5 Braken Poppa

#7 Jumping the Gun

### WAGERS

\$20 win and place #10 My Miss Mo

\$2 trifecta 10 with 5,7 with all

\$1 trifecta 10 with all with 5,7

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A well-matched field of nine sophomore fillies will travel 1 1/8 miles on the main strip at Pimlico in Friday's \$300,000 Black-Eyed Susan S. (G2).

**#1 MISS FULTON GAL (30-1):** Michael Gorham trainee gets the rail for her graded bow and bagged a stakes race on the grounds two back. The bay daughter of Rock Your World is capable of producing a big turn of foot on her best day and could grab a share with a well-timed ride from John Velazquez.

**#2 IVY GIRL (15-1):** Rising sort from the barn of Amelia Green comes in with two black-type tallies in succession and has to be given a look second time off the short layoff. The Maxfield filly is essentially a one-run closer with a big closing punch, and the bay has to be given a top-three chance today with Victor Carrasco retaining the mount.

**#3 HOLLY'S HOLIDAY (6-1):** Maxfield three-year-old has vastly improved in a pair of runs in 2026, led by a stakes win at Oaklawn Park in her latest venture. The \$140,000 auction purchase was sharp in her stakes bow last time and continues to improve in advance of her third run of the season. Flavien Prat will ride the Kentucky-bred and rally her from off the pace in the affair.

**#4 SAVOR IT (30-1):** Vino Rosso filly ran off to a strong allowance win in her lifetime-best showing at Parx last time out. The St. Lewis trainee has yet to prove consistent in her lifetime and is hard to back with confidence, but she could challenge for a share with improvement off of her last triumph. Mychel Sanchez will be in the irons.

**#5 BRAKEN POPPA (7-2):** Cajun-bred from the Asmussen barn is four-for-four in route races in her lifetime, led by a pair of stakes wins in succession leading up to Friday. The dark bay daughter of Aurelius Maximus has good early speed but can win from off the pace, and the sophomore lass comes in fresh with some solid morning drills as of late, as well. Jose Ortiz will ride the prime win contender.

**#6 HAUTE DIVA (15-1):** Stakes-winning daughter of Constitution has been outrun in her last two graded runs in advance of this one, but she is clearly talented and her best will give her a chance at a top-three finish for Biancone. The Kentucky-bred filly faces a reasonable field in this spot and has the positional speed to be close from the break on Friday with Keith Asmussen in the irons.

**#7 JUMPING THE GUN (3-1):** Potential win player ran like a filly needing a race last time on the oval and will improve second time off the shelf. The Gun Runner bay has won or placed in every lifetime run to date, and the filly has run well in each of her route races to date for Simoff, who could have her peaking second time off the shelf. Luis Saez picking up the mount is a positive, as well.

**#8 MAJESTIC LUCIA (12-1):** Dangerous sort from the Barboza shedrow has been sharp in a pair of runs since joining this outfit and can't be ignored in her stakes bow. The McKinzie three-year-old earned a hefty Brisnet Late Pace rating in her route debut last time and might appreciate the move to nine panels for the initial time on this day. The Florida-bred filly will have Junior Alvarado in the stirrups.

**#9 A. P.'S GIRL (5-1):** Peter Eurton pupil has taken a nice step forward since having the hood removed three back and comes off a game try on the course in her latest endeavor. The Honor A. P. filly owns a pair of wins and a close second from three races leading up to this one and will be a pace presence at the very least in this affair with Irad riding. The improving Kentucky-bred will always be in range in her graded stakes debut.

**#10 MY MISS MO (7-2):** Top pick from the barn of Saffie Joseph has faced some of the better sophomore fillies in training this spring and looks formidable on this occasion. The Uncle Mo filly split a fine pair last time in the Gulfstream Park Oaks (G2) in her two-turn debut and will be tough to upend with even slight improvement against this cast despite drawing on the outside in the affair. Tyler Gaffalione retains the mount.

# MEET THE CONTENDERS

by Vance Hanson

## 1. TAJ MAHAL



**PRO:** Local hope won Federico Tesio S. for fun and will be winging it.

**CON:** Faces toughest field to date and there's a lot of other speed for him to deal with.

## 2. OCELLI



**PRO:** Surprise third in both the Wood Memorial (G2) and Kentucky Derby (G1).

**CON:** Still a maiden and has finished better than third only once in seven races.

## 3. CRUPPER



**PRO:** Won stakes debut at Oaklawn and plenty of stamina in his pedigree.

**CON:** Appears one of the primary outsiders from a speed rating perspective.

## 4. ROBUSTA



**PRO:** Nearly upset San Felipe (G2) three back though outclassed since.

**CON:** Adds fuel to pace; hard to see him improving much on Derby finish.

## 5. TALKIN



**PRO:** Snuck into trifecta against runaway Blue Grass (G1) winner.

**CON:** Winless since seven-furlong debut back in late August.

## 6. CHIP HONCHO



**PRO:** Louisiana Derby (G2) flop seems forgivable, given Risen Star (G2) effort.

**CON:** Another who likes to race up close in a field overflowing with speed.

## 7. THE HELL WE DID



**PRO:** Solid effort in Lexington (G3) despite some class concerns.

**CON:** Although sired by Derby winner, distance could be an issue.

## 8. BULL BY THE HORNS



**PRO:** Prevailed in Rushaway S. despite not getting a strong pace.

**CON:** Speed ratings look too weak to endorse with confidence.

## 9. IRON HONOR



**PRO:** Talented Gotham (G3) winner goes for two-time Preakness-winning barn.

**CON:** Rough trip in Wood Memorial, but finish against that crew looks shaky.



## 10. NAPOLEON SOLO



**PRO:** The field's lone prior G1 winner, albeit in modest renewal of Champagne.

**CON:** Hasn't really taken to two turns in a pair of attempts.

## 11. CORONA DE ORO



**PRO:** Much improved this season and should be within striking distance.

**CON:** Negatively affected by pace pressure in furlong-shorter Lexington.

## 12. INCREDIBOLT



**PRO:** Beaten only four lengths in Kentucky Derby off longish layoff.

**CON:** If two-week turnaround not ideal, it will affect him.

## 13. GREAT WHITE



**PRO:** Big physical specimen runs best employing stalk-and-pounce tactics.

**CON:** Worst loss his only try on dirt; pre- Derby antics resulted in scratch.

## 14. PRETTY BOY MIAH



**PRO:** A potential pace player if he can overcome draw, but for how long?

**CON:** Both wins around one turn were against far easier.



# TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



## THE PREAKNESS STAKES 151 AT LAUREL PARK

Gr 1 – 1-3/16 Miles – PURSE \$2,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Taj Mahal	5/1
2	Ocelli	6/1
3	Crupper	30/1
4	Robusta	30/1
5	Talkin	20/1
6	Chip Honcho	5/1
7	The Hell We Did	15/1
8	Bull by the Horns	30/1
9	Iron Honor	9/2
10	Napoleon Solo	8/1
11	Corona de Oro	30/1
12	Incredibolt	5/1
13	Great White	15/1
14	Pretty Boy Miah	15/1

### TOP PICKS

#9 Iron Honor

#10 Napoleon Solo

#2 Ocelli

#1 Taj Mahal

### WAGERS

\$30 win and place #9 Iron Honor

\$10 exacta key box 9 with 1,2,10

\$.50-cent trifecta 1,2,9,10 with 1,2,9,10 with all

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**#1 TAJ MAHAL (5-1):** Unbeaten son of Nyquist ran off to a commanding score in the Federico Tesio S. in his second black-type score last time and rates a big chance with further improvement on Saturday. The Brittany Russell pupil is proven over the surface and looked good going nine panels last time, indicating that the added ground will be within his scope, as well. The \$525,000 yearling purchase will be sent from the break by regular pilot Sheldon Russell.

**#2 OCELLI (6-1):** Whit Beckman trainee was a fine third in the Kentucky Derby (G1) and will be the one to beat with a repeat of that showing. The maiden has moved forward in a pair of runs with the hood coming off as of late, and the strong closing type figures to get a nice pace set up in the Preakness under the guidance of Tyler Gaffalione.

**#3 CRUPPER (30-1):** Von Hemel charge was a smart winner of the Bath House Row S. at Oaklawn Park last time out and has never been better in preparation for his graded debut. The Candy Ride colt faces a much better cast in this spot, but he's moving in the right direction and could surely grab a share with the right trip beneath Junior Alvarado.

**#4 ROBUSTA (30-1):** Accelerate colt has been dusted in a pair of graded runs in succession and needs a quick form reversal in order to impact the race for Doug O'Neill. The Calumet homebred would be a big surprise with Rafael Bejarano taking the reins.

**#5 TALKIN (20-1):** Twice Grade-1 placed son of Good Magic will make his third run of the season and could be rounding up to a peak effort for trainer Danny Gargan. The \$600,000 bay smoked a bullet four furlongs in advance of the heat and is not without a top-three chance with Irad in the stirrups.

**#6 CHIP HONCHO (5-1):** Logical win contender from the Asmussen shedrow finished a huge second in the Risen Star (G2) two back and will be a formidable foe with something resembling that performance. The Connect colt faced some fine foes in Louisiana this campaign and bypassed the Derby to point for this race. Red-hot pilot Jose Ortiz will take the reins.

**#7 THE HELL WE DID (12-1):** Authentic colt was a game runner-up in the Lexington (G3) in his initial route try and has appeal second time going long. The half-brother to Senor Buscador has room to improve in his third run of the campaign, and he has also posted two morning drills at this venue, as well. Luis Saez retains the mount.

**#8 BULL BY THE HORNS (30-1):** Rushaway S. star was dusted in his lone run in the graded ranks in advance of Saturday and has the look of an outsider for Saffie Joseph. The gray son of Essential Quality will be rallying from off the pace with Micah Husbands in the irons.

**#9 IRON HONOR (9-2):** Top pick didn't fire in his route debut in the Wood Memorial (G2) last time out, but the son of Nyquist was excellent in two outings prior to that and will also come in with blinkers off today. The Chad Brown trainee is bred to run all day, and I expect him to take back and make a run from well off the early tempo with Flavien Prat inheriting the mount.

**#10 NAPOLEON SOLO (8-1):** Grade 1 winner has blazing early speed and has a chance at a nice price while making his third run of 2026. The Chad Summers pupil dueled through rapid splits in the Wood Memorial in his latest showing and will be formidable in the lane with a more sensible trip in his local debut. Paco Lopez will be in the irons.

**#11 CORONA DE ORO (30-1):** Dallas Stewart pupil was a clear third in the Lexington (G3) when making his stakes debut most recently and is moving in the right direction as of late. The Bolt d'Oro colt is a question mark going this long, but the sophomore has ability and is not impossible for a top-four placing with John Velazquez on board for the first time.

**#12 INCREDIBOLT (5-1):** Riley Mott trainee was a respectable sixth in the Kentucky Derby last time with a troubled voyage and can't be dismissed from off the pace. The Virginia Derby victor might be moving best of all in the closing stages of the tilt with regular pilot Jaime Torres in the saddle.

**#13 GREAT WHITE (15-1):** Burly son of Volatile tired swiftly in his lone lifetime run on the dirt in the Blue Grass (G1), but the gray has some class to him and has reportedly been working well on the dirt recently for John Ennis. The John Battaglia Memorial S. star will track the contested pace from the opening bell with Alex Achard in the silks once again.

**#14 PRETTY BOY MIAH (15-1):** Englehart pupil has powered home to a pair of sharp wins since having blinkers added and will make his two-turn debut on this occasion. The dark bay son of Beau Liam was assigned the widest post in the group, and he's also a mystery with the added distance of the event, so the gelding would be something of a surprise under Ricardo Santana, Jr.

# BETTING THE 2026 PREAKNESS STAKES ON DIFFERENT BUDGETS

by John Mucciolo



The second leg of the Triple Crown will be hosted for the first ever time by Laurel Park on Saturday with a full field of 14 sophomores set to go postward. Just a trio of runners who raced in the Kentucky Derby (G1) in Louisville two weeks ago will go in the Maryland spectacle, but the event features a very talented cast in what is an especially well-matched field.

## \$30 BUDGET

- \$10 win and place #9 Iron Honor (\$20)
- \$5 exacta box 9-10 (\$10)

## \$60 BUDGET

- \$1 superfecta 9 with 1,2,10 with 1,2,6,10,12 with 1,2,5,6,7,10,12 (\$60)

## \$90 BUDGET

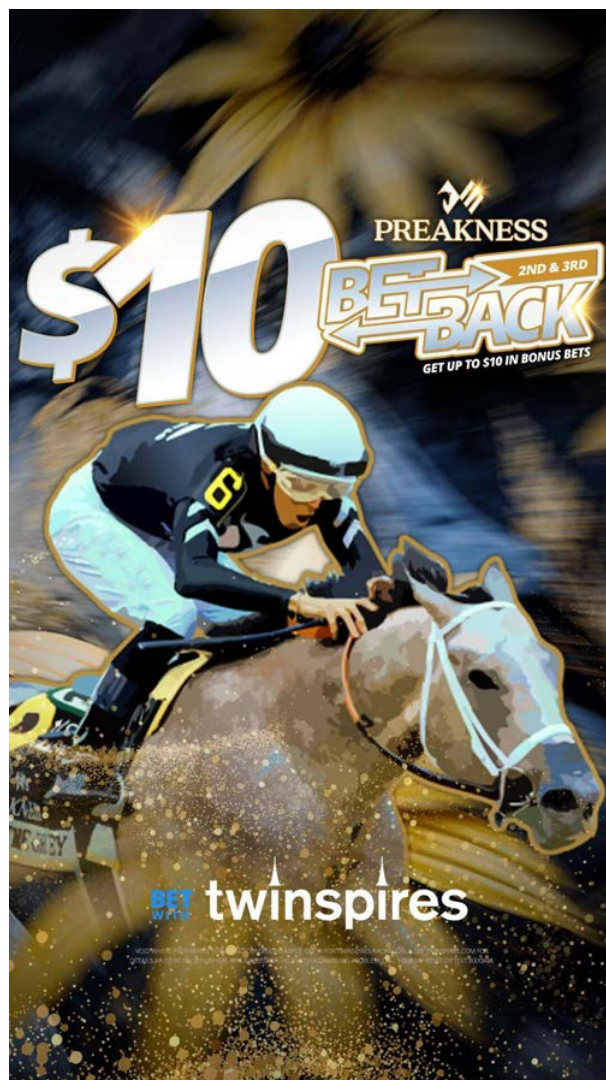
- \$5 exacta key box 9 with 1,2,10 (\$30)
- \$.50-cent trifecta 9,10 with 1,2,9,10 with 1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14 (\$30)
- \$.50-cent superfecta 9 with 1,2,10 with 1,2,6,10,12 with 1,2,5,6,7,10,12 (\$30)

I tabbed #9 Iron Honor (9-2) as the Preakness (G1) winner following his maiden win, and while his recent effort in the Wood Memorial (G2) left much to be desired, I have to stick to my guns with the son of Nyquist. Trained by Chad Brown, the \$475,000 Keeneland purchase was game in both of his two wins to kick off his career when going one turn, and the colt was close to rapid fractions before failing to fire late in the Wood. The blinkers have come off following that subpar showing, and I'm expecting a big move forward on Saturday with Flavien Prat picking up the mount.

The 2025 Champagne (G1) hero #10 Napoleon Solo (8-1) will be making the third run of his sophomore season and will peak at Laurel. The Chad Summers pupil has substantial early speed, and I love his outer post draw, with much of the additional pace in the field drawn to his inside. The Liam's Map colt has reportedly been working well in advance of his local bow, and I envision him forcing the action and leading turning for home with Paco Lopez on board.

#2 Ocelli (6-1) is still a maiden, but his excellent third in the Kentucky Derby showed how talented he is. Trained by Whit Beckman, the Connect colt is proven at the trip and also landed in a field where the pace will be swift and potentially contested, which will aid his closing burst. He has improved since having the blinkers removed two back and has to be on a lot of tickets with Tyler Gaffalione in the silks once again.

The unbeaten #1 Taj Mahal (5-1) ran his foes off of their respective feet in a Federico Tesio S. tour-de-force and is three-for-three on the course for trainer Brittany Russell. By Nyquist, the \$525,000 yearling purchase has improved his Brisnet Speed rating with each career run to date, and he will bring considerable pace from the rail, as well. If the colt can avoid an early duel, then he has to be given a winning chance with regular pilot Sheldon Russell on board.



# BEST LONGSHOT TO BET IN THE 2026 PREAKNESS STAKES

by Vance Hanson

Golden Tempo won the Kentucky Derby (G1) two weeks ago and paid \$48.24 to win, an amount virtually equal to the longest-priced Preakness (G1) winner of all time, Master Derby, who returned \$48.80 in 1975.

As noted in this space a year ago, we've seen six Preakness winners in the last 15 years pay more than \$20 to win. That doesn't guarantee we'll see another one on Saturday, but only that the race has produced some surprises of late.

This one-off edition of the Preakness at Laurel has attracted an unusual capacity field, so perhaps the chances of another surprise have inherently increased. Who among the likely longer prices, then, has the best chance to do so?

While not among my top two selections, I have come around to accepting that #5 Talkin (20-1) is the longshot to keep an eye on in this Preakness. He's proven capable at hitting the board in some big events, and his best is surely yet to come.

Although winless since his debut at Saratoga last August, note he defeated eventual Derby favorite Further Ado in that race. That rival has since returned the favor twice, and with retroactive interest in the Blue Grass (G1), but it's evidence at least that Talkin can beat a prominent member of the class.

In addition to unfortunately catching Further Ado over his beloved Keeneland strip, Talkin has been on the wrong end of some other freakish efforts. Another example was his distant second to returning rival Napoleon Solo in the Champagne (G1). Talkin seems poised to turn the tables on that one here over a distance of ground.

I can forgive Talkin's two most significant losses. He ran no race whatsoever in the Remsen (G2) when caught wide on both turns breaking from post 11, and in the Tampa Bay Derby (G3), he unsurprisingly weakened late after rating too close off a solid enough pace.

Connections and pedigree are other things going for Talkin. Trainer Danny Gargan won the Belmont (G1) a couple of years ago with Dornoch, while jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. is one of the modern greats in the saddle.

Talkin's family tree has also had success in the race. His sire, Good Magic, ran a blinder against Triple Crown winner Justify in the 2018 Preakness, while grandsire Curlin landed the Woodlawn Vase in 2007.

While not entirely sold on Talkin as a win prospect, there are plenty of things to suggest Talkin is potentially capable of outrunning most of these. I'll be using him liberally in my vertical exotics.



# 2026 PREAKNESS BRISNET SPEED RATING REPORT

by James Scully

Saturday's 151st running of the Preakness (G1) came up competitive. Laurel Park will play temporary host as Pimlico undergoes reconstruction, and while the 14-horse Preakness field clearly lacks the quality of the Kentucky Derby (G1) two weeks earlier, the 1 3/16-mile event should be appealing for horse players.

The morning line suggests five horses can compete for favoritism, with a slight 9-2 choice and four runners listed at 5-1. There hasn't been a 10-horse Preakness field since 2021, with the last four editions averaging 8.3 runners.

I will highlight the Brisnet Speed ratings of this year's contestants and provide analysis below for the top contenders, but let's start with a look at recent Preakness winners.

## Preakness winners

For the last five Preakness winners, the Brisnet Speed ratings earned in the two previous starts are listed below.

Horse	Last race	Two back
Journalism	102	108
Seize the Grey	92	89
National Treasure	97	97
Early Voting	111	91
Rombauer	96	91

Journalism wheeled back for the Preakness following a runner-up effort as the favorite in the Kentucky Derby. Michael McCarthy had prepared the classy colt for the five-week Triple Crown series, and Journalism thrived on short rest, winning the Preakness as the even-money favorite.

Early Voting bypassed the Kentucky Derby after recording a neck second in the Wood Memorial (G2), a decision that paid off for the Chad Brown trainee. The speedy colt easily recorded his biggest win in a six-race career, holding off Kentucky Derby runner-up Epicenter by 1 1/4 lengths at Pimlico.

Seize the Grey, National Treasure, and Rombauer weren't ready for the Kentucky Derby, saving their best for the second leg of the Triple Crown.

## 2026 PREAKNESS FIELD

Horse	Last race	Two back
Taj Mahal	101	97
Ocelli	97	90
Incredibolt	94	100
Talkin	91	87
Pretty Boy Miah	90	95
Chip Honcho	89	97
Crupper	89	76
Napoleon Solo	88	90
The Hell We Did	87	93
Corona de Oro	86	91
Iron Honor	86	95
Bull by the Horns	85	80
Great White	80	92
Robusta	79	85

I will focus on five Preakness runners who have separated themselves from the rest based on Brisnet Speed ratings.

A brilliant winner of the Federico Tesio on April 18, Taj Mahal brings a perfect record and home-court advantage to the Preakness, winning all three career starts at Laurel. His Speed ratings tower over many rivals, but Taj Mahal will face a class check.

Brittany Russell trains the Florida-bred son of Nyquist, and Taj Mahal jumped straight from a convincing six-furlong debut maiden win in early February to the one-mile Miracle Wood S. two weeks later, prevailing by a head after a courageous stretch duel. His overall Brisnet numbers have progressed favorably, registering big Early and Late Pace ratings rolling to an 8 1/4-length decision in the Federico Tesio. And while the last two wins have been gate-to-wire, Taj Mahal rated just off the early pace when breaking his maiden win. However, the rail draw limits jockey Sheldon Russell's options, and Taj Mahal figures to be prominent from the break.

Still winless from seven starts, Ocelli appears to be discovering his best form presently for Whit Beckman, offering an eye-catching rally off the far turn in the Kentucky Derby, eventually striking the front in deep stretch before being denied by Golden Tempo and Renegade in the final strides. And the late runner projects to receive another favorable setup in the Preakness, given the number of early speed types entered.

After placing in three consecutive maiden races, Ocelli logged a pair of sixths versus stakes rivals in the Sam F. Davis and Virginia Derby. He began to turn his form around in Wood Memorial (G2), recording an encouraging third. And after coming up a little short at Churchill Downs, Ocelli will look to make a serious late impact at Laurel.

A surprise addition to the Preakness, Incredibolt exited his sixth in the Kentucky Derby in good order and won't face the same level of competition in the second leg of the Triple Crown. The stalker didn't fire his best effort when opening 2026 in the Holy Bull (G3) at Gulfstream Park but appreciated the class relief in March's Virginia Derby, rolling to a four-length victory and netting a 100 Speed rating. Incredibolt will be one of only two runners in the Preakness field to earn a triple-digit Speed rating, and the dark bay colt looks poised to offer a serious challenge for up-and-coming trainer Riley Mott.

Chip Honcho and Iron Honor will try to rebound after disappointing in major Kentucky Derby qualifiers, with Chip Honcho finishing fifth at 2-1 odds in the Louisiana Derby (G2) and Iron Honor seventh as the favorite in the Wood Memorial (G2). Both runners had the points to qualify for the Kentucky Derby but were redirected to the Preakness by their connections, and Chip Honcho and Iron Honor recorded Speed ratings two starts back that put them squarely in the Preakness mix.

Chip Honcho registered a commendable 97 Speed rating, finishing a half-length second to early Kentucky Derby favorite and now-sidelined Paladin in February's Risen Star (G2) at Fair Grounds, and Iron Honor received a 95 number winning the Gotham (G3) at Aqueduct. Both are trained by two-time Preakness winners: Chip Honcho by Steve Assmussen and Iron Honor by Brown.

The remaining Preakness contestants will need to increase their Speed ratings significantly to record an upset win.

Good luck!



Riley Crow



# ANALYZING THE RUNNING STYLES OF 2026 PREAKNESS CONTENDERS

by James Scully

The largest Preakness (G1) field since 2011, Saturday's 151st running at Laurel Park attracted a preponderance of speed types among its 14 entrants. Not all are capable of being in the early mix, and some riders will look to change tactics due to the projected pace scenario, but a fast early tempo appears probable for the 1 3/16-mile race.

The lone confirmed deep closer, Ocelli, is still winless from seven starts. Off at 70-1 in the Kentucky Derby, Ocelli offered a furious rally to finish third, and his price will be much shorter in the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Incredibolt, Talkin, and Bull by the Horns are stalking types who have proven effective from off the pace, and all appear likely to drop back during the opening stages of the Preakness. The remaining eight contestants have done their best running on or very close to the pace.

I will project run styles for the field, using the four categories found in the Brisnet Past Performances.

## EARLY

Early types (E) prefer to race up front, either on or very close to the early lead.

**#1 Taj Mahal (5-1)** has led gate-to-wire in his last two starts, registering a 111 Brisnet E1 Pace rating, opening a sizable lead early in the 1 1/8-mile Federico Tesio S. last out. The rail draw probably forces jockey Sheldon Russell's hand, and if Taj Mahal breaks running, the unbeaten colt projects to be the speed of the speed in his first graded stakes appearance.

**#10 Napoleon Solo (8-1)** figures to be applying serious pressure from the outside, registering enormous Early Pace numbers leading all the way in the Champagne (G1) last fall. He's been training forwardly for Chad Summers.

**#14 Pretty Boy Miah (15-1)** has done his best running in the last two starts, establishing blistering fractions winning at 6 1/2 furlongs two back, and promises to be forward in his first two-turn start.

**#4 Robusta (30-1)** didn't show expected early speed in the Kentucky Derby and never made an impact, finishing 14th. His best performances have come when racing in the clear on or very close to the lead, and the dark bay colt figures to be pushing it on the two-week turnaround.

## EARLY/PRESSERS

Early/pressers (E/P) like to race in proximity to the early lead; they're versatile enough to show the way if the pace is moderate or settle just off a hot tempo.

**#6 Chip Honcho (5-1)** set the pace before grudgingly giving way to finish a close second in the Risen Star (G2) two back. He faltered at 2-1 when switching to rating tactics in the Louisiana Derby (G2), with his three best career efforts coming when racing on or very close to the lead.

**#13 Great White (15-1)** dueled for the early lead in the Blue Grass (G1), and after missing the Kentucky Derby due to flipping at the gate, the massive gray gelding may be keyed up early in the Preakness.

**#11 Corona de Oro (30-1)** set the pace before weakening to third in the Lexington (G3); his form improved when he began to show high speed from the starting gate two starts back.

**#3 Crupper (30-1)** earned a free Preakness berth, recording a frontrunning victory in a "Win & You're In" race at Oaklawn. He doesn't appear quick enough to challenge for the early lead but may try to establish positioning close to the front.

## PRESSER

Pressers (P) prefer to stalk the early action, generally towards midpack if the pace is honest.

**#9 Iron Honor (9-2)** removes blinkers, and despite racing prominently in his first two wins, the colt appears likely to switch to stalking tactics following a troubled seventh in the Wood Memorial (G2).

**#7 The Hell We Did (15-1)** pushed the pace in the Lexington but employed up-close stalking tactics, recording his lone two wins.

**#5 Talkin (20-1)** has raced close to the pace without success in a pair of stakes attempts this year; look for him to make one run Saturday.

## SUSTAINED

Sustained runners (S) can be classified as confirmed closers, horses who do their best running in the latter stages.

**#12 Incredibolt (5-1)** registered a 115 Brisnet Late Pace rating, winning the Virginia Derby two starts back and closed last-to-first winning the Street Sense (G3) last fall.

**#8 Bull by the Horns (30-1)** closed from last-to-first, recording his first stakes victory last out, the Rushaway S. at Turfway Park.

**#2 Ocelli (6-1)** will be coming from the clouds.

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**12 Cathryn Sophia (E/P 5)**  
**Own: Cash Is King Lic**  
 Green, Multi-colored Crown, Green Shamrocks On White  
**CASTELLANO JAVIER** (0 0-0-0 0%)

2016 494 22% 54% -0.54  
 +JKYw/EP types 591 26% 57% -0.15  
 +JKYw/Trn L60 2 50% 100% +10.60  
 +JKYw/ Routes 107 22% 54% -0.28

2016 69 33% 57% +0.92  
 Graded Stakes 28 7% 36% -1.84  
 +Btn favorite 74 30% 54% +0.13  
 +Routes 482 18% 43% -0.05

2016 214 14% 45% -0.40  
 +JKYw S types 114 11% 44% -0.20

**Prime Power: 147.1 (1st)**  
**L 121**

Life: 5 4- 0- 1 \$385,520 **102** Fst (109) 5 4- 0- 1 \$385,520 **102**  
 2016 3 2- 0- 1 \$295,520 **99** Off (109) 0 0- 0- 0 \$0  
 2015 2 2- 0- 0 \$90,000 **102** Dis (108) 0 0- 0- 0 \$0  
 CD 0 0- 0- 0 \$0 0 Trf (110) 0 0- 0- 0 \$0  
 AW 0 0- 0- 0 \$0

Sire Stats: AWD 6.7 15%Mud 241MudSts 1.57spi  
 Dam's Sire: AWD 7.3 15%Mud 820MudSts 2.23spi  
 Dam's Stats: Unraced 100%2yo 1str 1w 1sw 18.02dpi  
 SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014 \$30.0k (27/47) SireAvg: \$53.3k StudFee: \$15,000

2016 228 19% 45% -0.13  
 +Shopper 135 20% 39% -0.25

Sire Stats: AWD 7.2 20%Mud 492MudSts 1.22spi  
 Dam's Sire: AWD 7.5 17%Mud 142MudSts 2.28spi

★ Finished 3rd in last race ★ Best Dirt Speed is fastest among today's starters  
 ★ Hot Jockey in last 7 days (13 4-5-1)      ● Failed as favorite in last race ● Poor 'Graded Stakes' trainer record: 7% wins 28 sts

DATE TRK	DIST	RR	RACETYPE	CR	E1	E2	LP	1c	2c	SPD	PP	ST	1C	2C	STR	FIN	JOCKEY	ODDS	Top Finishers	Comment
09Apr16Kee6	1 <sup>1/16</sup> ft	:24	:47 <sup>1</sup> 1:11	1:43 <sup>2</sup>	117	@Ashland-G1	118 92 106/ 80	+7	+13	<b>94</b>	3	3 <sup>1/2</sup> 3 <sup>2/2</sup> 3 <sup>1</sup>	1hd	3 <sup>1/2</sup>	3 <sup>1</sup>	17	CastellanoJJ <sup>121</sup>	L *0.50	WpNMrkRclsVIntn <sup>rk</sup> CtrnSp <sup>2</sup>	Bold bid 4w; hung 5
27Feb16GP5	1m ft	:24	:47 1:11 <sup>4</sup>	1:36 <sup>3</sup>	117	@DvonaDal-G2 <sup>122</sup>	83 88/ 103	-4	-7	<b>96</b>	4	3 <sup>1/2</sup> 4 <sup>1/2</sup> 3 <sup>1/2</sup>	1 <sup>2</sup> <sub>2</sub>	1 <sup>2</sup> <sub>2</sub>	1 <sup>2</sup> <sub>2</sub>	17	CastellanoJJ <sup>122</sup>	Lf *0.20	CthrynSp <sup>7</sup> LwsBy <sup>2</sup> Drst <sup>13</sup> <sub>1</sub>	Pressed3w;bid1/4;handy 6
30Jan16GP3	7f ft	:22 <sup>3</sup>	:45 <sup>2</sup> 1:09 <sup>4</sup>	1:22	116	@FrwdGal-G2 <sup>121</sup>	84 91/ 104	-5	-11	<b>99</b>	1	6 4 <sup>4</sup> 3 <sup>1/2</sup> 1 <sup>1/2</sup>	1 <sup>5</sup> <sub>2</sub>	1 <sup>5</sup> <sub>2</sub>	1 <sup>5</sup> <sub>2</sub>	15	RosarioJ <sup>120</sup>	Lf *0.10	CthrynSp <sup>15</sup> IslndSnt <sup>4</sup> BallDiva <sup>3</sup>	Off step slowin hand 6
05Dec15Lrl5	7f ft	:23	:46 <sup>3</sup> 1:11	1:23	114	@GinTalkingB 100k <sup>121</sup>	97 101/ 98	-1	-6	<b>102</b>	5	1 1 <sup>1/2</sup> 1 <sup>2/2</sup> 1 <sup>8</sup>	1 <sup>16</sup>	1 <sup>16</sup>	1 <sup>16</sup>	116	RosadoRJ <sup>119</sup>	Lf *0.10	CthrynSp <sup>16</sup> Prgnss <sup>5</sup> ThndrngSk <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	On left lead; handily 6
30Oct15Prx5	6f ft	:22 <sup>2</sup>	:46 <sup>3</sup> :58 <sup>3</sup>	1:11 <sup>1</sup>	112	@Mdn 50k	119 94 94/ 102	-3	-11	<b>99</b>	2	3 1 <sup>1/2</sup> 1 <sup>2/2</sup> 1 <sup>5</sup>	1 <sup>12</sup>	1 <sup>5</sup>	1 <sup>12</sup>	112	RosadoRJ <sup>122</sup>	L *2.40	CtrnSp <sup>12</sup> AWnndSn <sup>5</sup> Wrlbrsfl <sup>2</sup> <sub>1</sub>	Sharp; handy fashion 9

2016 23Apr Kee 5f ft :59<sup>3</sup> B 1/36 03Apr Kee 4f ft :48<sup>1</sup> B 5/37 26Mar Pmm 6f ft 1:13 B 1/1 13Mar Pmm 4f ft :48<sup>2</sup> B 2/42 ●20Feb Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/66 24Jan Pmm 4f ft :50<sup>2</sup> B 89/103  
 ●16Jan Pmm 5f ft :59<sup>3</sup> B 1/13 08Jan Pmm 5f ft 1:00<sup>3</sup> B 2/23 ●31Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/76 ●20Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48<sup>1</sup> B 1/37 ●25Nov15 Prx 5f ft 1:00<sup>3</sup> B 1/14 ●16Nov15 Prx 5f ft :59<sup>3</sup> B 1/13

**13 Land Over Sea (S 1)**  
**Own: Reddam Racing Lic**  
 White, Purple Belt, White Band On Purple Sleeves, Purple  
**GUTIERREZ MARIO** (0 0-0-0 0%)

2016 214 14% 45% -0.40  
 +JKYw S types 114 11% 44% -0.20

2016 228 19% 45% -0.13  
 +Shopper 135 20% 39% -0.25

**Prime Power: 139.7 (4th)**  
**L 121**

Life: 8 2- 4- 1 \$472,000 **97** Fst (107) 7 1- 4- 1 \$430,000 **97**  
 2016 3 1- 2- 0 \$324,000 **93** Off (106) 0 0- 0- 0 \$0  
 2015 5 1- 2- 1 \$148,000 **97** Dis (107) 0 0- 0- 0 \$0  
 CD 0 0- 0- 0 \$0 0 Trf (108) 1 1- 0- 0 \$42,000 **82**  
 AW 0 0- 0- 0 \$0

Sire Stats: AWD 7.2 20%Mud 492MudSts 1.22spi  
 Dam's Sire: AWD 7.5 17%Mud 142MudSts 2.28spi

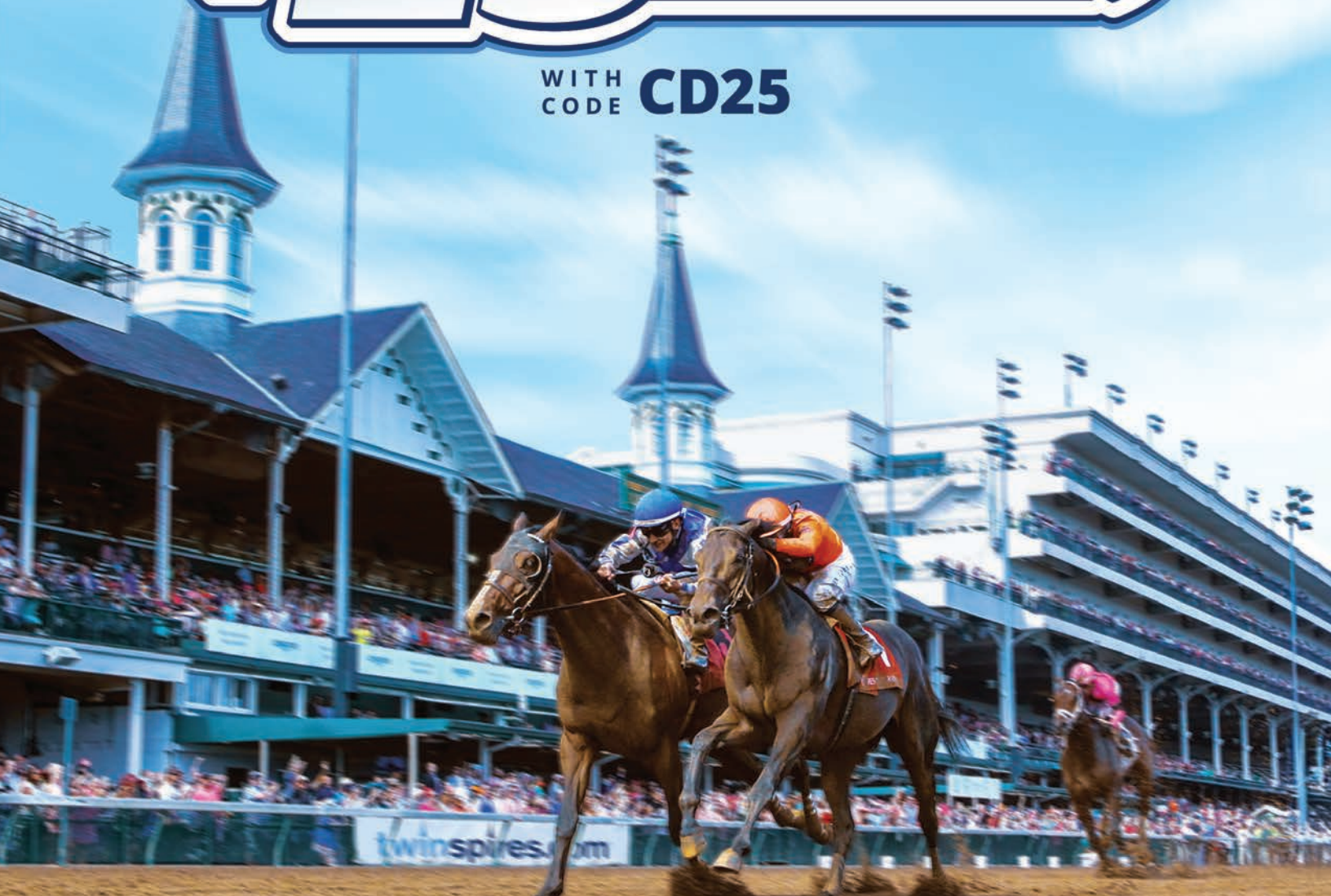
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