



PREAKNESS

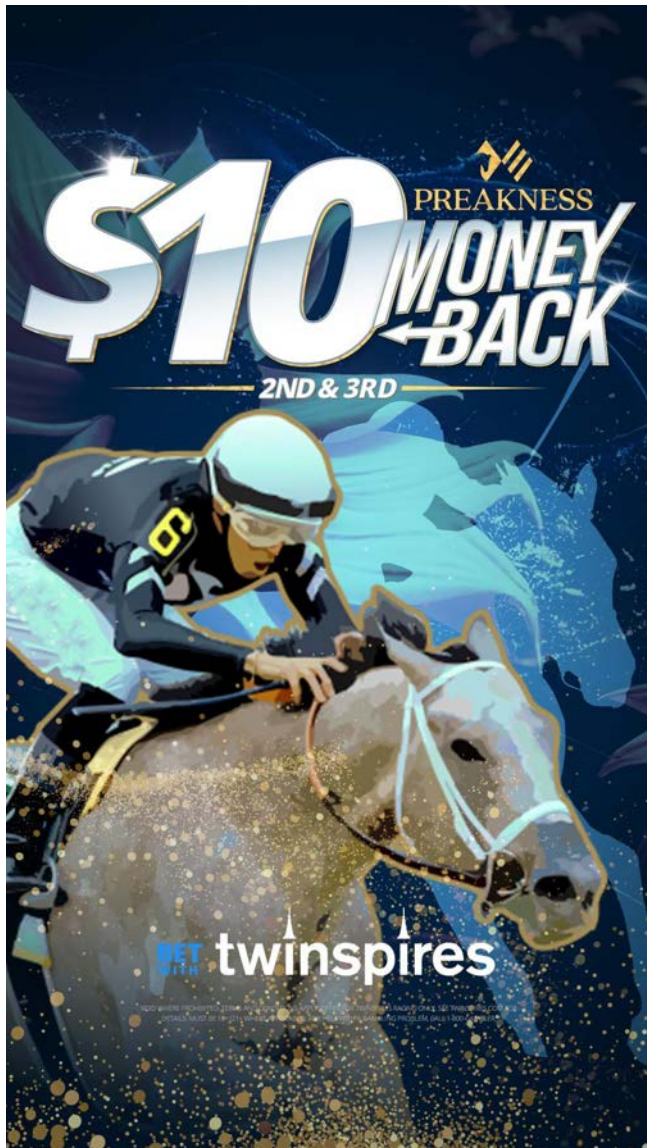
BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires**



twinspires®

PREAKNESS 150 BETTING GUIDE



CONTENTS

- 3 Stakes Schedule
- 4 Pimlico At a Glance
- 5 Tipsheet - Black-Eyed Susan Stakes
by John Mucciolo
- 6 Meet The Contenders - Preakness Stakes
- 7 Tipsheet - The Preakness by John Mucciolo
- 8 Speed Rating Analysis by James Scully
- 10 The Best Longshot to Bet in the
2025 Preakness Stakes by Vance Hanson
- 11 Analyzing the Running Styles of 2025
Preakness Contenders by Keeler Johnson
- 12 How to Read A Past Performance

STAKES SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

The Allaire Dupont Distaff Stakes	\$125,000 Guaranteed
The Hilltop Stakes	\$125,000 Guaranteed
The Miss Preakness Stakes (GIII)	\$150,000 Guaranteed
The Very One Stakes	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Pimlico Special (GIII)	\$250,000 Guaranteed
The Black-Eyed Susan Stakes (GII)	\$300,000 Guaranteed

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

The Maryland Sprint Stakes (GIII)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Skipat Stakes	\$125,000 Guaranteed
The Gallorette Stakes (GIII)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Chick Lang Stakes	\$200,000 Guaranteed
The Jim McKay Turf Sprint	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Sir Barton Stakes	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The James W. Murphy Stakes	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Dinner Party Stakes (GIII)	\$500,000 Guaranteed
The Preakness Stakes (GI)	\$2,000,000 Guaranteed



PIMLICO AT A GLANCE

Pimlico At A Glance May 20, 2024

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 4.09 – 1

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

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	52.87
Daily Double	65.30
Trifecta	272.81
Pick 3	368.24
Superfecta	1,576.69
Pick 4	1,761.95
Pick 5	43,216.33
Pick 6 Jackpot	33,213.89
Super High Five	3,438.60



TRACK BIAS MEET (05/09 – 05/27)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.0f Dirt	13	38%	S	Rail/Ins
6.0f Dirt	17	53%	E	Middle
1 1/16m Dirt	23	35%	E	Middle
1 1/8m Dirt	2	0%	E/P	Middle
Turf Sprint	4	0%	P	Rail/Ins
Turf Routes	8	13%	S	Mid/Out

TRACK BIAS WEEK (05/09 – 5/11)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.0f Dirt	6	33%	E/P	Rail/Ins
6.0f Dirt	11	55%	E	Ins/Mid
1 1/16m Dirt	11	27%	E/P	Middle
1 1/8m Dirt	2	0%	E/P	Middle
Turf Sprint	4	0%	P	Rail/Ins
Turf Routes	8	13%	S	Mid/Out

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	WINNING FAVORITES	'24-'25 WIN %
DeVaux Cherie	5	3	0	0	2.54	2	18%
Duarte, Jr. Jorge	2	2	0	0	5.45	0	17%
Shuman Mark	2	2	0	0	6.00	0	10%
Maldonado Jonathan	4	2	0	0	4.78	0	14%
Serey, Jr. Mario	4	2	0	0	19.30	0	12%
Allen, III A. Ferris	6	2	0	0	11.12	0	9%
Frock Charles A.	6	2	1	0	11.03	0	11%

HOT JOCKEYS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	BEATEN FAVORITES	'24-'25 WIN %
Russell Sheldon	23	7	4	3	8.17	1	21%
Ruiz Jorge	18	6	3	3	12.51	1	14%
Karamanos Horacio	8	2	0	1	10.99	2	14%

COLD TRAINERS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	BEATEN FAVORITES	'24-'25 WIN %
Mancilla Carlos A.	10	0	1	1	19.75	0	16%

COLD JOCKEYS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	BEATEN FAVORITES	'24-'25 WIN %
Sanchez Mychel J.	16	0	1	3	10.24	1	21%
Rosario Joel	11	0	1	1	7.71	1	15%
Rojas Martina	10	0	1	1	28.1	0	13%

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



BLACK-EYED SUSAN STAKES AT PIMLICO

Gr 2 – 1-1/8 Miles – PURSE \$300,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Liam in the Dust	6-1
2	Princess Aliyah	15-1
3	Margie's Intention	3-1
4	Runnin N Gunnin	5-2
5	Kinzie QUeen	10-1
6	Paris Lily	8-1
7	Reply	8-1
8	Amarth	4-1
9	Moon Cache	20-1

TOP PICKS

#8 Amarth

#1 Liam in the Dust

#4 Runnin N Gunnin

WAGERS

\$20 win #8 Amarth

\$5 exacta key box 8 with 1,4

\$.50-cent trifecta 1,4,8 with 1,4,8 with all

powered by **brisnet.com**

A well-matched field of nine sophomore fillies will travel 1 ½ miles on the main strip at Pimlico in Friday's \$300,000 Black-Eyed Susan S. (G2).

#1 LIAM IN THE DUST (6-1): Two-time graded stakes placed filly comes off of a nice allowance try at Keeneland last time out and could peak in her third run of the season. Rodolphe Brisset trainee has good early foot from the rail, and while she is inconsistent, the daughter of Liam's Map is more than capable on her best day. John Velazquez will ride.

#2 PRINCESS ALIYAH (15-1): Stakes heroine from the Lukas shedrow was a non-factor in the especially deep Eight Belles S. (G2) at Churchill Downs two weeks ago and gets a measure of class relief on this occasion. Into Mischief gray was a smart black-type winner at Oaklawn Park two prior and will be a factor with something resembling that performance. Nik Juarez has the assignment.

#3 MARGIE'S INTENTION (3-1): Cajun-bred filly has been first or second in four straight in advance of her initial run for conditioner Brad Cox. Honor A. P. filly has good tactical speed combined with a nice turn of foot, and she will be well placed at the top of the lane with Flavien Prat signed on.

#4 RUNNIN N GUNNIN (5-2): Steve Asmussen trainee was a distant third behind a pair of good ones in the Fantasy S. (G2) in her latest endeavor. The stakes-winning three-year-old has shown nice improvement from a trio of efforts in 2025 and I expect her to be in the hunt late with Jose Ortiz inheriting the ride.

#5 KINZIE QUEEN (10-1): Interesting long shot is a one-run closing type with a fine turn of foot and enters off a facile allowance score at Oaklawn last time out. Greg Compton charge will be a late danger at a nice number if the pace backs up in the stretch. Junior Alvarado will take the reins atop the McKinzie filly.

#6 PARIS LILY (8-1): Bay filly from the mighty Godolphin stable led at every call in an allowance coup at Keeneland most recently. Brendan Walsh pupil was unplaced in her lone prior run with stakes foes, but the daughter of City of Light comes off of a lifetime best run and will be a contender late with even slight improvement on Friday beneath Joel Rosario.

#7 REPLY (8-1): \$450,000 daughter of Curlin was a sharp debut winner prior to rallying for a runner-up result in the Webery City Miss Stakes at Laurel Park in her second showing. Brittany Russell pupil has obvious room to

improve with just a pair of outings under her belt, and the sophomore will appreciate the stretch out to nine furlongs in the affair, as well. The Repole color bearer picks up top pilot Irad Ortiz, Jr. for her graded bow.

#8 AMARTH (4-1): Top pick was an excellent second in the Busher S. to commence 2025 and was last seen being outrun in the deep Ashland S. (G1) most recently for Eddie Kenneally. The dark bay daughter of McKinzie fired a bullet five-eighths in preparation for this tilt, and I feel that she will peak while making her third run of the season. Luis Saez will pilot the stalker.

#9 MOON CACHE (20-1): Mosler three-year-old has run a pair of very good ones since being claimed three back and is not impossible in a group lacking a standout. Maryland-bred filly was close late in the Weber City in her latest venture, and if she can navigate a sensible voyage from the outside post slot, then the talented lass could be in line for a placing at a big price under Raul Mena.

MEET THE CONTENDERS PREAKNESS STAKES

1

GOAL ORIENTED



PRO: Grand-looking colt has bright future for eight-time winning Preakness barn.
CON: Enters extremely light on experience with only two starts since early April.

2

JOURNALISM



PRO: Ran big race to finish second in Kentucky Derby (G1) as favorite; class edge.
CON: Quick two-week turnaround the likely culprit if he runs below par.

3

AMERICAN PROMISE



PRO: Barn has won this seven times, including last year with longshot Seize the Grey.
CON: Virginia Derby win two back an outlier on form this year.

4

HEART OF HONOR



Pro: Gem of consistency with two wins and four seconds from six starters.
Con: Loss in UAE Derby (G2) not flattered by winner's poor Kentucky Derby showing.

5

PAY BILLY



PRO: Locally based colt has won three of last four, including Federico Tesio S.
CON: Doesn't appear fast enough on paper to garner more than a minor share.

6

RIVER THAMES



PRO: Just missed in Fountain of Youth (G2) to Sovereignty two back.
CON: Lacked a strong closing kick in Blue Grass (G1) and might prefer shorter trip.

7

SANDMAN



Pro: Deep closing kick blunted by off track at Churchill; rebound candidate.
Con: In need of quick pace but might not see Arkansas Derby (G1)-like fractions here.

8

CLEVER AGAIN



PRO: Connections have targeted this race a while and he enters fresh.
CON: Speedy type figures to get pressure while racing farther than he has before.

9

GOSGER



PRO: Won Lexington (G3) in a fashion to suggest he will continue to improve.
CON: Speed ratings are relatively light; must turn in another career best.



HorsePhotos.com

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



THE PREAKNESS STAKES 150 AT PIMLICO

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

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Goal Oriented	6-1
2	Journalism	8-5
3	American Promise	15-1
4	Heart of Honor	12-1
5	Pay Billy	20-1
6	River Thames	9-2
7	Sandman	4-1
8	Clever Again	5-1
9	Gosger	20-1

TOP PICKS

#2 Journalism

#3 American Promise

#8 Clever Again

#7 Sandman

WAGERS

\$10 exacta 2 with 3,7,8

\$1 trifecta 2 with 3,7,8 with all

\$1 superfecta 2,3 with 2,3 with 7,8 with all

powered by **brisnet.com**

#1 GOAL ORIENTED (6-1): Unbeaten Baffert pupil looked good in defeating allowance foes on the Derby undercard at Churchill Downs in his second lifetime appearance and will take a big class rise in the second leg of the Triple Crown. Not This Time colt has won from on the lead, and also off of the pace, and the fine prospect put in a swift half-mile morning drill in advance of this start, as well. Flavien Prat retains the ride.

#2 JOURNALISM (8-5): Santa Anita Derby (G1) star was a strong runner-up in Louisville most recently and is the clear one to beat for conditioner Mike McCarthy. The son of Curlin gets a tricky draw near the rail for his local debut, but he is all class and also has the versatility to work out a favorable trip with regular pilot Umberto Rispoli in the stirrups.

#3 AMERICAN PROMISE (15-1): Virginia Derby hero endured a tough trip in the Kentucky Derby (G1) off the layoff and will show big improvement on Saturday. The Justify chestnut will be put into the race early under Nik Juarez, and I consider the colt to be a major factor at a big price while always prominent on Saturday.

#4 HEART OF HONOR (12-1): Son of Honor A. P. has been first or second in each of his six career runs to date, led by a game second in the UAE Derby (G2) last time out. Jamie Osborne trainee is proven at the distance, and he could factor against this crew with a step forward while making his U. S. debut. Saffie Osborne will take the reins once again.

#5 PAY BILLY (20-1): Local hope is in a fine form cycle in advance of his stakes debut with tallies in the Private Terms S. and Federico Tesio S. in his last pair of outings. Michael Gorham pupil seems like a good fit at the 1 3/16-mile voyage, but he will have to prove that he is capable of running at this level. Regular rider Raul Mena will have the son of Improbable stalking the pace from the start.

#6 RIVER THAMES (9-2): Pletcher pupil won his first two races prior to coming home second in the Fountain of Youth S. (G2) and third in the Bluegrass S. (G1) as of late. Bay son of Maclean's Music hasn't done much wrong leading up to his Pimlico debut, and he will get first run on the deep closing types turning for home, too. Irad will be in the silks.

#7 SANDMAN (4-1): Arkansas Derby (G1) victor didn't have a smooth voyage in Kentucky last time out and will hope for clear sailing from off the pace against this group. Mark Casse-trained son of Tapit will receive a strong pace to rally into and will be doing his best work inside the final furlong with John Velazquez accepting the mount. Tapit colt could be the one.

#8 CLEVER AGAIN (5-1): Jose Ortiz opts to stick with this budding star from the barn of Steve Asmussen. Bay son of American Pharoah is two-for-two this campaign led by a win in the Hot Springs S. at Oaklawn Park in his latest appearance, and the well-bred colt is surely moving in the right direction in advance of his first run in the graded stakes ranks. The Kentucky-bred will be in the mix from the opening bell at a fair price.

#9 GOSGER (20-1): Nyquist colt didn't topple a great field in the Lexington S. (G3) at Keeneland last time, but the improving prospect did it the right way for conditioner Brendan Walsh. The homebred has never run a bad one from three career outings to date, but he will have to get faster to overcome

BRISNET SPEED RATING REPORT FOR 2025 PREAKNESS

by James Scully

Sovereignty snapped a three-year run of double-digit odds Kentucky Derby (G1) winners, scoring as the 7.98-1 third choice among 19 runners, but he will skip Saturday's 150th edition of the \$2 million Preakness (G1). Three Kentucky Derby contestants will return, including Derby runner-up Journalism, who has been installed as the 8-5 morning line favorite among nine runners in the middle leg of the Triple Crown.

We won't find longshots like Rich Strike (80-1 in 2022 Kentucky Derby), Mine That Bird (50-1 in 2009), and Giacomo (50-1 in 2005) in the roll call of Preakness winners – Master Derby recorded the biggest upset at 23-1 in 1975 – but the Preakness has still proved a challenging race to handicap, with no favorites prevailing since Justify in 2018. In fact, the last two Triple Crown winners (American Pharoah and Justify) are the only favorites to win in the last decade.

Thirteen of the last 16 Preakness winners had registered a triple-digit Brisnet Speed rating. Exceptions include two of the biggest longshot winners this century, Rombauer at 11.90-1 in 2021 and Seize the Grey at 9.80-1 last year, and four Preakness contestants have met the triple-digit threshold this year.

No Speed ratings are available for Heart of Honor, who will attempt to become the first international invader to win the Preakness. Let's preview the two most recent Speed ratings for the rest of the 2025 field, ranked by the top last-out number.

GOAL ORIENTED	104
	98
JOURNALISM	102
	108
CLEVER AGAIN	99
	93
RIVER THAMES	96
	99
PAY BILLY	95
	97
GOSGER	93
	93
SANDMAN	90
	101
AMERICAN PROMISE	62
	105

TAKEAWAYS

Trained by Hall of Famer Bob Baffert, who owns a record eight Preakness wins, Goal Oriented merits serious respect after netting the top last-out Brisnet Speed rating (104) for a frontrunning allowance win on the Kentucky Derby undercard. His inexperience rates as a legitimate concern, with Goal Oriented entering off only two previous starts, breaking his maiden at six furlongs in early April. Survivor, the inaugural Preakness winner in 1873, is the only horse to capture the Preakness in his third start.

Recent winners Early Voting (2022) and Cloud Computing (2017) had only three previous starts, so perhaps Goal Oriented will be talented enough to overcome his lack of foundation. By top sire Not This Time, the dark bay colt will also have to deal with a tricky rail post, but he has the tactical ability to make his own trip and is bred to relish the stretch out to 1 3/16 miles. He's fast and promising, but it's fair to question whether the Preakness will be too much too soon for Goal Oriented.

Journalism rates as the one to beat on numbers, registering a field-best 108 for Santa Anita Derby (G1) victory two back, and the powerfully built son of Curlin has netted triple-digit figures in his last three starts, winning four consecutive races prior to the Kentucky Derby. His four-race string of triple-digit Brisnet Late Pace ratings came to an end in the Kentucky Derby stretch, as Journalism weakened to second as the 3.42-1 favorite, but the Michael McCarthy-trained colt exited the race in great shape, according to reports. His early trip at Churchill Downs wasn't ideal in my estimation, as Journalism got forced toward the rail and shuffled back to 10th entering the first turn, but he made the best of it from that point and has an excellent chance to rebound at Old Hilltop. Lookin at Lucky, who experienced a troubled trip finishing sixth as the favorite for Baffert in the 2010 Kentucky Derby, is the last horse to win the Preakness after faltering as the Kentucky Derby favorite.

American Promise owns the second-best Speed rating, receiving a 105 for his 7 3/4-length victory in the Virginia Derby two starts previously. Bet down as the 12-1 fifth choice in the Kentucky Derby, the D. Wayne Lukas-trained colt will need to rebound from a disappointing 16th. His trip wasn't ideal, as American Promise rushed forward to force the action on the backstretch after getting interfered with at the start, and Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas knows how to get a horse to rebound off short rest.

A seven-time Preakness winner, Lukas's last two Triple Crown wins came in the middle leg, including Oxbow, who rebounded after a sixth in the 2013 Kentucky Derby. Preakness winners Timber Country (1995), Tabasco Cat (1994), and Tank's Prospect (1985) also lost the Kentucky Derby for Lukas, and Seize the Grey came back on two weeks' rest after winning the Pat Day Mile (G2) on last year's Kentucky Derby undercard.

American Promise is listed at 15-1 on the morning line, but given his strong Virginia Derby win and the respect Lukas projects to receive from bettors, his price figures to be lower come post time. The chestnut colt was perhaps a race short last time, returning from a seven-week freshening on Derby Day, and I won't be surprised to see American Promise turn things around with a good showing. He will show speed from post 3 with Nik Suarez.

Sandman received a 101 Speed rating, winning the Arkansas Derby (G1), but he never seriously got involved from off the pace in the Kentucky Derby, rallying belatedly for seventh as the 5.77-1 second choice. He's trained by Hall of Famer Mark Casse, who saddled War of Will to a minor upset in the 2019 Preakness after a seventh in the Kentucky Derby, and Sandman will look to get involved from off the pace on Saturday.

Clever Again appears on the cusp of triple-digit Speed ratings, earning a 99 for a sharp four-length win in the March 30 Hot Springs S. at Oaklawn Park last out. That was only his third career start, and the well-bred colt is conditioned by Hall of Famer and two-time Preakness winner Steve Asmussen. He's never faced graded stakes competition or raced beyond 1 1/16 miles, so the Preakness represents a major class check, but Clever Again has something going for him.

River Thames registered back-to-back 99 Speed ratings before declining three points in the Blue Grass (G1), checking in a close third, and he may benefit from skipping the Kentucky Derby in favor of the Preakness. Hall of Famer Todd Pletcher will seek his first win in the middle leg of the Triple Crown, and River Thames remains a candidate to keep progressing. His tactical ability may prove advantageous, but the bay colt's last effort at nine furlongs raises some concerns about the added distance.

Gosger exits a nice win in his stakes debut, the April 12 Lexington (G3), and his numbers are eligible to keep increasing with experience. A maiden winner two back, the Brendan Walsh-trained colt hails from the immediate female family of 2012 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner I'll Have Another, and the Lexington represented his first two-turn attempt. But Gosger faces a major challenge given his recent numbers.

Pay Billy stamped his Preakness ticket by winning the Federico Tesio S. at Laurel Park, but he rates as an outsider based on Speed ratings.

Good luck in Preakness 150!



THE BEST LONGSHOT TO BET IN THE 2025 PREAKNESS STAKES

by Vance Hanson

The longest-priced winner in Preakness (G1) history, Master Derby (1975), returned \$48.80, a far cry from some of the triple-digit payoffs we've seen in the Kentucky Derby (G1) over the last 20 years. There are several obvious factors for the discrepancy between the two races, but that doesn't mean there isn't value to be had at Pimlico.

On the contrary, there have been some healthy win payoffs in just the last 15 years alone: Shackleford (2011) paid \$27.20, Oxbow (2013) \$32.80, Cloud Computing (2017) \$28.80, Swiss Skydiver (2020) \$25.40, Rombauer (\$25.60), and Seize the Grey (2024) \$21.60.

There isn't really a common thread linking those six longer-priced winners, other than they were in the right place at the right time. Who among Saturday's group has a chance at being in the same position hoping to topple heavy favorite Journalism?

Given the amount of casual money the Preakness win pool has to tend to attract in recent years (only one horse has started at more than 20-1 in the past four editions), #9 **Gosger** (20-1) is likely overpriced on the morning line. But he still figures to offer attractive odds.

On paper, Gosger has a lot going for him. He's 2-for-3, his lone setback being a second in his debut over a too-short six furlongs. He's won both his interim starts at a mile or longer, including the April 12 Lexington (G3) at Keeneland by a widening two lengths in his stakes debut.

While his speed ratings suggest he has some improving to do to be in the Preakness frame, Gosger undoubtedly has the scope to do so. He's in good hands with trainer Brendan Walsh, who enjoyed an outstanding spring on the Kentucky circuit, and his stalk-and-pounce style figures to serve him well in a race seemingly loaded with pace. Additional distance is certain to suit.

Fans of pedigree will also find much to like about Gosger. By champion and Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist, he is half-sister to Harvey's Lil Goil, who peaked in the fall of her sophomore season winning the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1). Also worth noting is that Gosger's dam, Gloria S, is a half-sister to 2012 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner I'll Have Another.

As a longer shot, Gosger offers plenty of appeal in the Preakness and will at minimum be used in my vertical exotic wagers.



ANALYZING THE RUNNING STYLES OF 2025 PREAKNESS CONTENDERS

by Keeler Johnson

How fast a pace will we see in Saturday's 150th running of the \$2 million Preakness (G1)? Perhaps analyzing the field will reveal the answer.

Nine horses are slated to race 1 3/16 miles over the Pimlico main track in the second leg of the Triple Crown. Breaking down the nine contenders into four running style categories suggests there's plenty of speed in the 2025 Preakness field:

PACESETTERS

#1 Goal Oriented

Although Goal Oriented rallied from midfield to win his debut sprinting, he raced a bit greenly and fared better when switching to pacesetting tactics for his second start, a 1 1/16-mile \$125,000 allowance optional claiming win at Churchill Downs. Breaking from the rail will likely force this lightly raced colt to employ pacesetting tactics again, rather than risk getting buried in traffic (and kickback) behind horses.

#8 Clever Again

Clever Again has either set the pace or vied for the lead at every call in all three of his starts, including a gate-to-wire romp in the Hot Springs S. last time out. Expect to see this son of American Pharoah challenge Goal Oriented for early supremacy. Pressers/stalkers

PRESSERS/STALKERS

#3 American Promise

Virginia Derby winner American Promise has done best when setting or pressing the pace. He tired to finish 13th after sticking within a couple of lengths of hot pace fractions in the Kentucky Derby (G1), but even though vying early with Goal Oriented and Clever Again could prove tricky, a switch to true rating tactics in the Preakness seems unlikely.

#5 Pay Billy

Pay Billy hasn't settled more than two lengths off the pace in any of his last five starts. While certainly not a need-the-lead type, his pace-tracking wins in the Private Terms S. and Federico Tesio S. suggest Pay Billy will be forwardly placed at Pimlico.

#6 River Thames

River Thames has raced second or third during the early stages of all four of his races. He pressed the pace when finishing second by a neck in the Fountain of Youth (G2) against future Kentucky Derby winner Sovereignty, arguably his best performance to date.

#9 Gosger

Since stretching out over route distances, Gosger has pressed the pace to win a one-mile maiden special weight and tracked the pace on his way to a two-length triumph in the Lexington (G3). This stoutly bred colt figures to race prominently again in the Preakness.



MIDPACK CLOSERS

#2 Journalism

Journalism isn't a deep closer, but he likes to settle off the pace and come running down the homestretch. He closed from 2 1/2 lengths and 3 1/2 lengths behind to win the San Felipe (G2) and Santa Anita Derby (G1) against small fields, then rallied from 10th place in a 19-horse field to finish second in the Kentucky Derby.

#4 Heart of Honor

Dubai raider Heart of Honor is somewhat versatile. He rallied from well back to finish second by a head in the Al Bastakiya S., then raced more prominently when second by a nose in the UAE Derby (G2). Against a speed-packed Preakness field, Heart of Honor figures to race toward the rear of the pack early on, but without dropping too many lengths off the pace.

DEEP CLOSERS

#7 Sandman

Sandman is pretty much exclusively a deep closer. He's dropped at least 13 lengths off the pace in each of his last three starts, including a win in the Arkansas Derby (G1) and a seventh in the Kentucky Derby. Expect to see this gray colt trailing the Preakness field down the backstretch.

CONCLUSIONS

Two-thirds of the Preakness entrants have shown a tendency to race on or near the lead. An honest pace will likely unfold in the Triple Crown's second leg, possibly setting the stage for midpack closer Journalism to launch a winning rally in the homestretch.



SHARE THE THRILL!

BET WITH **twinspires®**

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. OFFER FOR TWINSPIRES RACING ONLY. SEE TWINSPIRES.COM FOR DETAILS. MUST BE 18+ (21+ WHERE APPLICABLE). FOR HELP WITH A GAMBLING PROBLEM, CALL 1-800-GAMBLER.