

# MEET THE CONTENDERS

2026

## FLORIDA DERBY

1



### ALBUS



TRNR: RILEY MOTT

**PRO:** Made notable improvement when graduating at Tampa.  
**CON:** Thrown to the wolves in what looks like the deepest Kentucky Derby (G1) prep.

2



### CHIEF WALLABEE



TRNR: BILL MOTT

**PRO:** Fountain of Youth (G2) effort terrific, given his relative inexperience.  
**CON:** That inexperience is also the lone obvious drawback.

3



### WAYNE'S LAW



TRNR: AMADOR SANCHEZ

**PRO:** Outran expectations to split Renegade and The Puma at Tampa.  
**CON:** Consistent but needs a handful to all have off days.

4



### COMMANDMENT



TRNR: BRAD COX

**PRO:** Rallied inside to edge Chief Wallabee in fast edition of Fountain of Youth.  
**CON:** Like Sovereignty last year, this is not a race he "needs" to win ahead of Kentucky.

5



### REDLAND REBELS - SCR

6



### NEARLY



TRNR: TODD PLETCHER

**PRO:** Has really stepped up his game this meet winning three straight.  
**CON:** This field has far more depth than the Holy Bull (G3).

7



### TIMELESS VICTORY



TRNR: EDDIE PLESA JR.

**PRO:** Romped by six lengths in first attempt over this distance.  
**CON:** Well beaten by Nearly two back; doesn't look classy enough.

8



### THE PUMA



TRNR: GUSTAVO DELGADO

**PRO:** Sustained wide rally to win Tampa Bay Derby (G3); on the improve.  
**CON:** Three weeks might be too quick a turnaround.

9



### GREGARIOUS



TRNR: JOSE CASTRO

**PRO:** Has the speed to be involved early, for a short time.  
**CON:** One-start maiden looks very much out of place here.