

MEET THE CONTENDERS

2026

GOTHAM STAKES

1



BALBOA



PRO: Has run well all three times for Russell and should be prominent throughout.
CON: A mile might still be a tad farther than he really wants to go.

2



HAMMOND



PRO: Progressed each start and ran into a toughie last time in the Swale S.
CON: Far from certain whether he will have the best closing kick.

3



CROWN THE BUCKEYE



PRO: Shortening up to one turn and drop in class should help.
CON: Ran decently at FG but has still only beaten Ohio-breds.

4



FOURTH AND ONE



PRO: Ran well below par in nine-furlong Withers S. and likely better than that.
CON: Must contend with other speed and perhaps a cut below on class.

5



RIGHT TO PARTY



PRO: Relatively unexposed and should get an ideal pace setup.
CON: Well beaten by Iron Honor the first time they met.

6



IRON HONOR



PRO: Earned 99 Brisnet Speed rating winning key maiden; race flow here should suit.
CON: Concedes experience to the rest and will be a very short price.

7



EXHIBITION ONLY



PRO: Return to dirt produced eye-catching maiden win over this track and distance.
CON: Class rise and abundance of other speed appear major barriers.

8



CREOLE CHROME - SCR

9



DIRTY RICH



PRO: Stakes winner two back, albeit over 5 ½ furlongs.
CON: All-or-nothing type is yet more speed in a pace-heavy race.