

MEET THE CONTENDERS

2026

VIRGINIA DERBY

1



BUETANE



TRNR: DAN BLACKER

PRO: Consistent check getter has kept better company than anyone else here.
CON: Reverting to one turn a plus but nine furlongs might still stretch his limits.

2



GRITTIINESS



TRNR: TODD PLETCHER

PRO: Distant second in Withers S., though closest finish to date at one turn.
CON: Hard to like entirely as one of two maidens in the field.

3



EPIC DESIRE



TRNR: TODD PLETCHER

PRO: No factor in Sam F. Davis S., but form of race has turned out okay.
CON: Neither entry from leading barn looks one of the leading candidates.

4



WORK



TRNR: DOUG O'NEILL

PRO: Coming around at right time for two-time Ky Derby (G1)-winning barn.
CON: Smoked in all but latest run, which was on turf; not fast enough on paper.

5



HIGH CAMP



TRNR: WILL WALDEN

PRO: Both runs at Gulfstream solid and has worked well since graduation.
CON: Lack of experience versus winners the main drawback.

6



LOCKSTOCKNPHAROAH



TRNR: THOMAS DRURY

PRO: Impressive in both starts at Turfway; deserving of stakes try.
CON: Concedes experience on dirt having raced only on Tapeta.

7



INCREDIBOLT



TRNR: RILEY MOTT

PRO: Street Sense (G3) winner threw dud in Holy Bull (G3) but capable of better.
CON: Figures to be playing catchup; needs strong pace.

8



CONFESSONAL



TRNR: BRAD COX

PRO: Second best to Nearly two back and blinkers might help here.
CON: Gave up readily in the stretch of Sam F. Davis.

9



OCELLI



TRNR: WHIT BECKMAN

PRO: Earned checks first three before modest run in Sam F. Davis.
CON: Hard to endorse four-loss maiden for all.

10



CLOCKER SPECIAL



TRNR: RODOLPHE BRISSET

PRO: Should improve off comeback and breaks outside other speed.
CON: Speed ratings are relatively light so far.