



PREAKNESS 148

BETTING GUIDE

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PREAKNESS 148

BETTING GUIDE



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AT A GLANCE

Pimlico At A Glance March 15, 2023

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 4.36 - 1

FAVORITE WIN%: 44% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 82%

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	62.95
Daily Double	61.69
Trifecta	289.72
Pick 3	343.48
Superfecta	1,237.73
Pick 4	2,205.16
Pick 5	8,998.55
Pick 6 Jackpot	3,948.40
Super High Five	8,090.67



Photo: AC Lauren King

TRACK BIAS MEET(09/09 - 09/25)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.0fDirt	3	67%	E	Rail
6.0fDirt	38	47%	E	Rail/Ins
1 1/16mDirt	12	42%	E	Rail
1 1/8mDirt	2	0%	S	Rail
Turf Sprint	15	27%	E/P	Middle
Turf Routes	20	5%	E/P	Outside

TRACK BIAS WEEK(05/11 - 05/14)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.0fDirt	1	0%	S	Inside
6.0fDirt	15	20%	P	Outside
1 1/16mDirt	9	44%	E	Rail
1 1/8mDirt	2	0%	E/P	Rail
Turf Sprint	4	25%	E	Rail/Ins
Turf Routes	3	33%	E	Middle

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	WINNING FAVORITES	'22-'23 WIN %
Russell Brittany T.	19	9	1	1	3.82	5	24%
Cash Norman L.	9	4	3	0	3.04	2	14%
Frock Charles L.	6	3	0	0	14.65	0	14%
Magee Kieron	7	3	1	2	3.06	2	23%
Jacobson David	3	2	0	0	2.77	0	19%
Salzman, Jr. John E.	3	2	0	0	3.10	1	16%
De Paz Horacio	6	2	1	1	4.07	2	18%
Sillaman Richard P.	6	2	1	0	6.12	1	17%

HOT JOCKEYS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	BEATEN FAVORITES	'22-'23 WIN %
Russell Sheldon	9	6	0	0	3.39	3	16%
Barbosa Jeiron	9	3	1	2	7.77	1	19%

MEET THE CONTENDERS

1

BLAZING SEVENS



PRO: Gradually rounding back into best form after a slow start to the season.

CON: Third in Blue Grass (G1), but form of that did not hold up well in Kentucky Derby (G1).

2

CHASE THE CHAOS



PRO: Capable of a late burst, as seen when taking the El Camino Real Derby.

CON: Far up the track in only prior stakes attempt on the dirt; latest not much better.

3

COFFEEWITHCHRIS



PRO: Maryland-bred a dual stakes winner since leaving the claiming ranks.

CON: Concedes plenty of class and 1 3/16m probably a stretch for him.

4

FIRST MISSION



PRO: Has come a long way in a short time; Lexington (G3) win showed a lot of promise.

CON: Obviously faces a stronger group of rivals than he did at Keeneland.

5

MAGE



PRO: Kentucky Derby winner put in a sustained 5f rally to garner the roses; the one to beat.

CON: One of a few returning on short rest and perhaps vulnerable off top effort.

6

NATIONAL TREASURE



PRO: Barn has won the Preakness (G1) seven times, though never with a non-Derby starter.

CON: Has battled some issues this season and might be a prep short of peak fitness.

7

PERFORM



PRO: Undefeated around two turns, including last-out score in Federico Tesio S. at Laurel.

CON: Remains with upside but up against it from a speed rating perspective.

8

RED ROUTE ONE



PRO: Finally broke through with first stakes win last out and often contends for a piece.

CON: Not quick enough to make Derby cut and deep closer will need a lot of pace help.



TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



PREAKNESS 148 AT PIMLICO

Gr 1 – 1-3/16 Miles – PURSE \$1,500,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	National Treasure	4-1
2	Chase the Chaos	50-1
3	Mage	8-5
4	Coffeewithchris	20-1
5	Red Route One	10-1
6	Perform	15-1
7	Blazing Sevens	6-1
8	First Mission	5-2

TOP PICKS

#3 Mage

#8 First Mission

#7 Blazing Sevens

#1 National Treasure

WAGERS

\$5 trifecta: key 3 with 1,5,7,8

\$5 trifecta: 3,8 with 3,8 with 1,5,7

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A total of eight three-year-olds will travel 1 3/16 miles over the Pimlico dirt in Saturday's \$1.5 million Preakness S. (G1).

#1 NATIONAL TREASURE (4-1): Talented son of Quality Road finished a decent fourth in the Santa Anita Derby (G1) in his latest showing. The \$500,000 yearling purchase capped 2022 with placings in the American Pharoah S. (G1) and Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), and he could be dangerous if he secures the lead from the break. John Velazquez will be in the stirrups.

#2 CHASE THE CHAOS (50-1): El Camino Real Derby victor was dusted in the San Felipe S. (G2) in his lone route on the dirt leading up to this task. Ed Moger pupil checked in eighth in the California Derby at Golden Gate most recently, and he would be a major surprise in the field. Sheldon Russell will ride.

#3 MAGE (8-5): Superb Kentucky Derby (G1) winner will make his fifth lifetime start in the Preakness and is clearly the one to beat. Gustavo Delgado trainee ran his best race to date at 1 ¼ miles last time out, and there is reason to believe that he will improve while making just his fifth lifetime run on Saturday. Good Magic colt will be closer early on with Javier Castellano back in the irons.

#4 COFFEEWITHCHRIS (20-1): Miracle Wood S. hero has been mostly consistent leading up to Saturday for John Salzman. The Ride on Curlin gelding was a decent fifth in the Federico Tesio S. in his latest outing, and he will need to make a huge step forward to challenge for the top prize against this cast. Jaime Rodriguez will be in the silks.

#5 RED ROUTE ONE (10-1): One-run closer from the Asmussen shedrow qualified for the race following his dramatic late score at Oaklawn Park last time out. The intriguing son of Gun Runner has improved his Brisnet Speed number in five straight performances, and another move in the right direction could see him challenging for a top-three finish late with Joel Rosario retaining the ride.

#6 PERFORM (15-1): Tesio star has shown marked improvement as a sophomore and has never been better for Shug McGaughey. The bay son of Good Magic will take back and make one run late, and if the pace backs up in the lane, then this colt could be interesting at a big price. Feargal Lynch has the call.

#7 BLAZING SEVENS (6-1): Champagne S. (G1) hero showed little in his sophomore debut but returned with a solid third-place result in the Blue Grass S. (G1) at Keeneland for conditioner Chad Brown. Also by Good Magic, the talented colt has been training in fine fashion for his third run off the break and will aim to give his trainer a second consecutive score in the race. Irad Ortiz, Jr. will be in the irons.

#8 FIRST MISSION (5-2): Main threat to the top pick was classy and game in taking the Lexington S. (G3) at Keeneland in his stakes debut for Brad Cox. The Godolphin homebred will appreciate the added ground in the race and also has the early speed to always be in the mix in a field lacking a lot of pace. Luis Saez will guide the budding star.

PREAKNESS REPORT: MAGE BRINGS LATE KICK TO PIMLICO

by James Scully

Mage closed fast to win the Kentucky Derby, notching his second win from only four starts. Inexperience and a tendency for slow starts proved no obstacle for the Gustavo Delgado-trained colt, who took advantage of a hot pace to score by a length. He was off as the 15-1 eighth choice among 18 runners.

For the second consecutive year, late runners played a major role in the Kentucky Derby outcome, accounting for three of the top four finishers.

Mage will seek the second leg of the Triple Crown, the \$1.5 million Preakness at Pimlico on May 20.

TAKE NO PRISONERS

The riders of Verifying (Tyler Gaffalione), Kingsbarns (Jose Ortiz), and Reincarnate (John Velazquez) sprinted forward when the gates opened, and Verifying beat his rivals to the fore, establishing opening fractions in the 1 1/4-mile race on a narrow lead.

That left Ortiz and Velazquez with a decision to make, and Velazquez attempted to settle Reincarnate entering the backstretch, allowing his mount a breather while stalking the action an up-close third.

Ortiz opted for a different strategy, an all-in approach where Kingsbarns kept trying for the lead regardless of consequences. The top two duelled through an opening half-mile in :45.73, continuing their unsustainable pace battle until the far turn.

The early theatrics set the table for late runners.

NEWFOUND RUN STYLE

Mage didn't become a late runner until the Florida Derby (G1) on April 1, rallying dramatically from 12th to strike the front in upper stretch, eventually finishing second to Forte. Slow starts forced a change in run style

From the first crop of Good Magic, the chestnut made his career debut in a seven-furlong maiden special weight at Gulfstream Park on Jan. 28. Here is what I wrote about Mage at the time (Kentucky Derby Report on Feb. 2).

First-out maiden winners in late January are up against it in terms of the Kentucky Derby, but Mage looks like one to follow. He didn't break on top in last Saturday's second race at Gulfstream Park, a 7-furlong maiden special weight, but quickly hustled to the front along the inside. He took serious pressure from another runner keen on the early lead, finally shrugging off his rival and opening a clear advantage nearing the conclusion of the far turn.

The Gustavo Delgado-trained colt drew off into the stretch, winning by nearly four lengths, and the chestnut son of Good Magic netted a whopping 101 Speed rating. That's a big number for this year's



crop, and Mage ran more than a second faster than the winner of the Inside Information (G2) later on the program. And the speedster is bred for longer distances. Mage's dam, Puca, was a stakes-placed router. Her half-brother, \$1.5 million earner Finnegans Wake, winner of the Woodford Reserve (G1) and 1 1/2-mile Hollywood Turf Cup (G2), rated as a deep closer who couldn't get warmed up at distances under a mile.

Mage didn't break sharply in his second start, the Fountain of Youth (G2) on March 4, but recovered to be an early fourth, racing evenly throughout his first stakes and two-turn attempt. Next came the Florida Derby, and Mage practically walked out of the starting gate, trailing through the early stages in a bulky finish.

Mage changed tactics, launching an eye-catching move on the far turn of the Florida Derby. He blew past Forte on the bend, but Mage ran out of steam after striking the front, winding up a length back of his accomplished foe. The progressing sophomore benefited from the experience, sustaining his momentum through the long stretch at Churchill Downs five weeks later.

After missing the break in the Kentucky Derby, Mage settled in 16th through the opening half-mile, and he came flying into the frame on the far turn, motoring past opponents and angling wide into the stretch. He overhauled a game Two Phil's inside the final furlong, edging away under the wire, and notched a 103 Speed rating.

MINOR AWARDS

Jeff Ruby Steaks (G3) romper Two Phil's ran great considering how close he was to the early pace, only two lengths back in fourth through the opening half-mile. The other frontrunners spit the bit by the top of the stretch, but Two Phil's surged to a clear lead while straightening for home. That's often a winning move in the Kentucky Derby.

Arkansas Derby (G1) winner Angel of Empire moved with Mage on the far turn but lacked the necessary kick after entering the stretch, rallying belatedly for third as the 4-1 favorite. Disarm, an up-and-coming type with only a maiden win to his credit, turned in a commendable showing from off the pace for fourth.



PREAKNESS

Let's examine the current probables (in alphabetical order).

Blazing Sevens: Chad Brown bypassed the Kentucky Derby with Preakness winners Cloud Computing (2017) and Early Voting (2022), and Blazing Sevens will make his Triple Crown debut in Baltimore. Winner of last year's Champagne (G1), the Good Magic colt didn't carry his form forward in the next two stakes appearances, but Blazing Sevens appears to be rounding into top condition following a third in the Blue Grass (G1).

Chase the Chaos: El Camino Real Derby winner would be an extreme longshot. In 2021, El Camino Real Derby winner Rombauer captured the Preakness after missing the Kentucky Derby, but the similarities stop there with Chase the Chaos, who would need to find form to challenge following an eighth in the California Derby and a seventh in the San Felipe (G2).

Confidence Game: Part of the hot pace, only two lengths back after the opening half-mile, Confidence Game didn't experience a clean trip on the far turn of the Kentucky Derby and was forced to check and lose momentum along the inside to avoid a retreating Verifying. The incident may not have cost him a top-three finish, but Confidence Game ran better than his 10th-place result would indicate. He probably needed the race after a 10-week layoff, and the Rebel (G2) winner rates as a candidate to show more off the comebacker.

Disarm: Only a maiden winner, Disarm weaved his way through traffic to be a closing fourth in the Kentucky Derby, and the athletic son of Gun Runner appears to be on an upward trajectory for Steve Asmussen. He'll need to keep moving forward to be a major factor at Pimlico, which isn't out of the question for the improving colt.

First Mission: Lightly-raced and extremely promising, First Mission established himself as a top contender winning the Lexington (G3) on April 15, reeling in loose-on-the-lead Arabian Lion to prevail, and his 103 Brisnet Speed rating ties Mage for the top last-out number in the Preakness field. The Brad Cox-trained Street Sense colt made his career debut in mid-February, breaking his maiden by a 6 3/4-length margin when stretching out to two turns in his second start, and First Mission likes to race up close to the pace.

Henry Q: A convincing winner of the Mine That Bird Derby two back, Henry Q failed to qualify for the Kentucky Derby when finishing third at short odds in the Sunland Derby (G3). He's been privately sold and transferred to Doug O'Neill in the interim, but the Preakness represents a major class test for the unproven colt.

Il Miracolo: The Preakness will be a tough ask following well-beaten performances in his last five stakes appearances, checking in sixth most recently in the Florida Derby (G1). His career-best 85 Speed rating won't cut it at this level.

Mage: The late-running chestnut has come a long way in a short time for trainer Gustavo Delgado, making his career debut 99 days prior to the Kentucky Derby. Mage can still learn to break better from the starting gate, which will only enhance the exciting three-year-old's talents.

National Treasure: A record seven-time winner of the Preakness, Bob Baffert will join the Triple Crown fray with National Treasure, who exits a fourth in the Santa Anita Derby (G1). Multiple Grade 1-placed as a juvenile, National Treasure opened his three-year-old season with a close third in the Sham (G3), and he missed a planned start in the San Felipe due to a minor foot injury. National Treasure likes to race within striking range of early leaders.

Perform: Connections will pay a \$150,000 supplemental fee since Perform wasn't Triple Crown-nominated, breaking his maiden by a 2 3/4-length margin in mid-March at Tampa Bay Downs. By Good Magic, the Shug McGaughey-trained colt came right back to win the Federico Tesio at Laurel a month later, and Perform will be running late in his first graded start.

Red Route One: Runner-up in the Rebel and Southwest (G3), the dedicated closer failed to qualify for the Kentucky Derby when sixth in the Arkansas Derby (G1). Red Route One rebounded in the \$200,000 Bath House Row S. at Oaklawn Park on April 22, a Preakness qualifier, rallying last-to-first to score by a head. The Steve Asmussen-trained son of Gun Runner will bring a late punch to the Preakness.

BRISNET SPEED RATING REPORT FOR 2023 PREAKNESS

by James Scully *Analysis written prior to Preakness Draw*

Only a couple of days remain until Monday's post position draw for the 148th running of the \$1.5 million Preakness at Pimlico on May 20, and 11 appear probable for the 1 3/16-mile race.

Mage looms as the presumptive favorite following his one-length victory in the Kentucky Derby, the initial stakes triumph from four career starts, where the up-and-coming colt netted a career-best 103 Brisnet Speed rating.

Disarm (fourth) and Confidence Game (10th) are also expected back from the Kentucky Derby two weeks earlier, in addition to the "new shooters" to the Triple Crown, which include an intriguing quintet.

First Mission and Arabian Lion, the respective 1-2 finishers from the April 15 Lexington (G3) at Keeneland, will receive betting support.

A romping maiden winner when making his two-turn debut second time out in mid-March, First Mission followed with a commendable half-length triumph in the Lexington, registering 103 Brisnet Speed and Late Pace numbers after reeling in loose-on-the-lead pacesetter Arabian Lion.

Bob Baffert, a record seven-time Preakness winner, will join the Triple Crown fray with probable pacesetter Arabian Lion and multiple Grade 1-placed National Treasure, who exits a fourth in the Santa Anita Derby (G1).

Grade 1-winning juvenile Blazing Sevens appears back on track after a rallying third in the Blue Grass (G1) at Keeneland. Trainer Chad Brown bypassed the Kentucky Derby in favor of the second jewel of the Triple Crown, a strategy he's employed successfully with Preakness winners Early Voting (2022) and Cloud Computing (2016).

Red Route One was under serious Kentucky Derby consideration after runner-up finishes in the Rebel (G2) and Southwest (G3) but failed to earn the necessary qualifying points when sixth in the Arkansas Derby (G1). The confirmed closer rebounded with a game stakes win in the Bath House Row Stakes at Oaklawn Park on April 22, and the Steve Asmussen-trained colt may continue to show more off the confidence-builder.



Here are the last two Speed ratings for the probable contenders:

MAGE	103 99
FIRST MISSION	103 93
ARABIAN LION	102 94
RED ROUTE ONE	98 95
NATIONAL TREASURE	97 97
BLAZING SEVENS	95 73
PERFORM	94 88
CONFIDENCE GAME	88 95
IL MIRACOLO	88 81
CHASE THE CHAOS	81 82

TAKEAWAYS

Mage, First Mission, and Arabian Lion figure to lead the betting market, with this trio standing apart by earning century-topping numbers in their last outing.

It's not an overwhelming advantage. None reached the triple-digit threshold prior to their last start, and progressive types are still emerging in the three-year-old division at this point in the season.

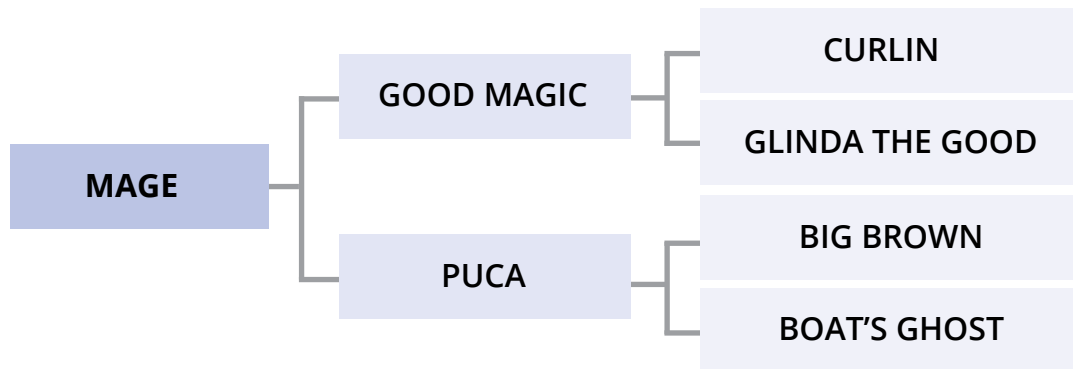
Mage ranked seventh by last-out Speed rating in the 18-horse Kentucky Derby field.

Disarm, Red Route One, National Treasure, and Blazing Sevens have held their own against top competition, and all bring improving Speed ratings to the Preakness.

Grade 2 winner Confidence Game chased a hot pace in the Kentucky Derby before weakening. Given he was probably a race short off the 10-week layoff, he rates as a candidate to improve upon the 95 rating earned two starts back. Perform will face a significant class check, and Chase the Chaos and Il Miracolo appear too slow to challenge.

KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE: MAGE

by Keeler Johnson



It's safe to say Mage hails from a family of Kentucky Derby (G1) veterans. His sire, grandsire, and dam sire all started in the Run for the Roses, giving Mage the pedigree to factor on the first Saturday in May.



Mage comes from the first crop of foals sired by Good Magic, the champion two-year-old male of 2017 after winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1). A son of two-time Horse of the Year and acclaimed classics sire Curlin (who placed third in the 2007 Kentucky Derby), Good Magic improved upon his own sire's Kentucky Derby performance by finishing second in 2018, beaten only by future Triple Crown winner Justify.

Good Magic is off to a hot start at stud. On the Road to the Kentucky Derby alone he's sired Champagne (G1) winner Blazing Sevens, Remsen (G2) hero Dubyuhnell, Iroquois (G3) winner Curly Jack, and Sham (G3) winner Reincarnate. As of April 20, Blazing Sevens and Reincarnate are under consideration to join Mage in the Kentucky Derby field.

Just like Curlin, Good Magic is siring classy dirt horses who thrive running one mile and farther. Mage is yet another example, qualifying to compete in the 2023 Kentucky Derby by placing fourth in the Fountain of Youth (G2) and second in the Florida Derby (G1) at Gulfstream Park.

Mage has only run three times, which brings back memories of Big Brown, the dam sire of Mage through Big Brown's daughter Puca. Big Brown went 3-for-3 to start his career, highlighted by a blowout victory in the Florida Derby, and he kept his win streak intact with a decisive triumph in the 2008 Kentucky Derby.

While not a resounding success at stud, Big Brown occasionally sires high-level winners. His best runner to date has been Dortmund, a classy dirt racer who won the Santa Anita Derby (G1) and Los Alamitos Futurity (G1) prior to finishing third in the 2015 Kentucky Derby.

Whereas Good Magic is emerging as a sire of dirt horses, Big Brown has sired both dirt horses and turf runners alike, and that versatility is evident in Puca. Victorious twice apiece on dirt and turf, Puca was at her best running long and recorded her best effort in the 1 1/8-mile Gazelle (G2) on dirt at Aqueduct, finishing second. She later ran 12th in the Kentucky Oaks (G1).

In addition to Mage, daughters of Big Brown have foaled W.A. Guineas (G2) and Asian Beau (G3) winner Treasured Star, Emancipation (G2) winner Roots, and Remington Springboard Mile S. winner Wildatlanticstorm. The first two have proven best on turf, while Wildatlanticstorm is a dirt racer.

The cross of Good Magic and Big Brown is reaping dividends with Mage. While Big Brown's progeny might be best racing a bit less than 1 1/4 miles, the stamina in Good Magic's pedigree should counterbalance any shortcomings and help Mage shine over classic distances.

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