

## IT ALL ADDS UP FOR KY DERBY POINTS SYSTEM



Always Dreaming splashes home first  
in the 2017 Kentucky Derby | *Horsephotos*

by Steve Sherack

LOUISVILLE, Ky – In the summer of 2012, officials at Churchill Downs announced the launch of the ‘**Road to the Kentucky Derby**’ points series with hopes of establishing a “fan-friendly, cohesive and simplified system” in order to “create compelling drama to appeal to a wider customer base.”

With five Kentucky Derbies now in the books since ditching the previous graded earnings qualifying system, so far so good, reports Senior Director of Communications at Churchill Downs Darren Rogers.

“We’re thrilled with the results and the way things are going,” Rogers said. “We established a clear and condensed road map that we believe is fan friendly. It’s a compact schedule that features competitive races and the captivating drama is second to none. We still had drama with the earnings system, but I don’t think it was as fan friendly or clearly defined.”

Points are awarded to the top four finishers in a series of designated races across the country and around the world. The 20 3-year-olds with the most points earn a spot in the starting gate for the ‘Run for the Roses.’

Unbeaten GI Arkansas Derby hero and ‘**TDN Rising Star**’ **Magnum Moon** (Malibu Moon) finished atop this year’s leaderboard with 150 points. After a pair of defections, GIII Lecomte S. winner **Instilled Regard** (Arch) filled the final of 20 slots with 29 points.

“Increased fan interest and wagering--those were the goals

and I think they have been well-received,” Rogers said. “A number of our partners and fellow stakeholders have seen record days when they’re hosting ‘Road to the Derby’ races and that’s great for the sport of racing. We’re certainly pleased, and on an annual basis, we continue to meet after the Triple Crown and figure out if there are ways to tweak it and make it better, including the recent additions of the Japanese and European Roads to the Derby.”

You won’t find a happier group on the First Saturday in May than chalk players these days. Kentucky Derby post-time favorites are now a perfect five-for-five since the tiered point system began in 2013, with **Orb** (Malibu Moon) returning \$12.80, **California Chrome** (Lucky Pulpit) \$7.00, **American Pharoah** (Pioneerof the Nile) \$7.80, **Nyquist** (Uncle Mo) \$6.60 and **Always Dreaming** (Bodemeister) \$11.40. All five entered the Derby starting gate without a prior losing effort at three.

### ***Pace Makes the Race...***

Has it become more important to have early speed in the Kentucky Derby? Talks of the early pace slowing down have become a hot topic with the last four Derby winners utilizing their high-cruising early speed to turn in similar stalk-and-pounce trips.

One thing that the points system has done is reward recency. The final round of major prep races--the GII TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby Mar. 24, G2 UAE Derby Mar. 31, GI Xpressbet Florida Derby Mar. 31, GII Wood Memorial Apr. 7, GII Toyota Blue Grass S. Apr. 7, GI Santa Anita Derby Apr. 7 and GI Arkansas Derby Apr. 14--all carry maximum points of 100-40-20-10 to the first four finishers. The GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile, on the contrary, only offers 20-8-4-2.

As a result, speedy one-turn graded winners and past Derby pace factors like **Keyed Entry** (Honour and Glory) (2006) and **Trinniberg** (Teuflesberg) (2012), or even an early season graded winner going a two-turn mile such as the front-running **Spanish Chestnut** (Horse Chestnut {Saf}) (2005), who finished off the board in his final two preps, are now more likely to be excluded from the starting gate.

Trinniberg, winner of the GIII Swale S. and GIII Bay Shore S., both at seven furlongs, famously pressed eventual Derby runner-up **Bodemeister** (Empire Maker) through scorching opening splits of :22.32 and :45.39 and faded to 17th behind I’ll **Have Another** (Flower Alley).

**Kentucky Derby 144 Cover Story cont.**

**Cont. p2**

**Giacomo** (Holy Bull) rallied from far back behind a hot opening pace of :22.28 and :45.38 established by eventual 16th-place finisher Spanish Chestnut to pull off a 50-1 upset.

Keyed Entry, winner of the GII Hutcheson S. going 7 1/2 furlongs and third-place finisher in the GI Wood Memorial, was last of 20 behind the mighty **Barbaro** (Dynaformer) after showing the way through fractions of :22.63 and :46.07.

The 2007 Derby, won in dramatic come-from-behind fashion by juvenile champ **Street Sense** (Street Cry {Ire}), is another renewal to take a closer look at.

The game runner-up **Hard Spun** (Danzig) had plenty of pursuers on his tail through fractions of :22.96 and :46.26, including **Stormello** (Stormy Atlantic) and **Teuflesberg** (Johannesburg).

Stormello, winner of the GI Hollywood Futurity, was a narrow second in his best attempt at three in the GII Fountain of Youth S. Southwest winner Teuflesberg would've also been on the bubble after finishing third in the GIII Rebel S. and fourth in the GI Blue Grass S. in his final two preps. Neither stuck around in the stretch, with Stormello finishing 19th and Teuflesberg 17th.

"It seems that you've taken a lot of the horses that were precocious at two and mostly speed and you've kind of eliminated them unless they've gotten just so mature and carried that on to their 3-year-old year," retired Hall of Fame jockey turned NBC analyst Jerry Bailey said. "So, yeah, I think [the points system] has had an effect of minimizing, if not eliminating, for the most part, that crazy speed that does nothing but ensure a fast pace."

Bailey, a two-time Derby winner courtesy of **Sea Hero** (Polish Navy) in 1993 and **Grindstone** (Unbridled) three years later, also crossed the line second aboard **Tejano Run** (Tejano) (1995) and **Empire Maker** (Unbridled) (2003) and was third with **Blumin Affair** (Dynaformer) (1994).

"As a jockey, I think it's always important to have tactical speed in a 20-horse field," Bailey said. "It's the rare individual that has early tactical speed and the stamina and staying power to go a mile and a quarter. You're supposed to be special to win that race."

Of the points system, Bailey said, "I think it's probably overall a good thing."

The speedy **Promises Fulfilled** (Shackleford), an upset front-running winner of the GII Xpressbet Fountain of Youth S., is one

of several runners that figure prominent early on paper in this year's Derby. Last of nine after lighting up the tote board with a :21.95 opening quarter-mile in the Florida Derby, he compiled a total of 52 points on the 'Road to the Derby,' placing him 14th overall.

"Promises Fulfilled has the points--he won the Fountain of Youth--so he's a legitimate entrant in this year's Kentucky Derby," Bailey said. "But he's going to probably employ the same

tactics, and if there's a one-dimensional horse in there, he's going to cook their goose."

Rogers is quick to acknowledge that a fast pace is still very possible with the points system as evidenced by the 2013 and 2016 renewals of the Kentucky Derby.

The points system era began with a first-time blinkered and next out GI Belmont S. winner **Palace Malice** (Curlin) speeding off through blistering early

fractions of :22.57 and :45.33, good for the fourth fastest half-mile in Derby history. '**TDN Rising Star**' **Danzing Candy** (Twirling Candy), meanwhile, led by four lengths through a :45.72 half-mile in Nyquist's win, ninth fastest of all time.

The three other Derby half-miles since the points series began were: :47.37 [set by **Uncle Sigh** (Indian Charlie) - 2014], :47.34 [**Dortmund** (Big Brown) - 2015] and :46.53 [**State of Honor** (To Honor and Serve) - 2017].

"From an analytical standpoint, I don't know if five years is enough of a data point to really draw any significant conclusions," Rogers said. "I believe a favorite winning each of the five years we've done this is more of a statistical anomaly. And the same thing with the pace. Twice in the last five years, we've had two of the nine fastest half-miles in Derby history. That's why I don't know if I can buy into that yet."

Rogers concluded, "Anytime you have a 20-horse field, I still think you have to have an elite horse, a good trip and a lot of luck. And maybe that's been the case each of the last five years."

### Stars of the Show...

No trainer has navigated the 'Road to the Kentucky Derby' better than seven-time Eclipse Award winner Todd Pletcher. Fresh off the heels of saddling his second Derby winner, all four members of this year's 'Todd Squad' captured 100 pointers--**Audible** (Into Mischief) (Florida Derby), Magnum Moon (Arkansas Derby), '**TDN Rising Star**' **Noble Indy** (Take



They're off in the Kentucky Derby | Coady

Charge Indy) (Louisiana Derby) and **Vino Rosso** (Curlin) (Wood Memorial). Pletcher has saddled a total of 17 starters in the last five Derbies, led by as many as five in 2013 and as few as two in 2016.

“It appears to be a fair system,” Pletcher said. “It doesn’t look like anybody has been left out that you could make a super, strong case for. I’ve always said with any system of qualifying for a race, everyone’s aware well in advance of what the system is and has time to prepare for it.”

The 2017 Derby winner Always Dreaming didn’t have any points to show for prior to making his stakes debut with a five-length tour de force in the Florida Derby.

“There’s always that risk like we took last year with Always Dreaming where we took a shot at one race [to qualify] in the Florida Derby,” Pletcher said. “God forbid something goes wrong and you stumble at the start, you could potentially put yourself in a precarious position, but it worked out in his case. I think in most scenarios, it seems like it’s worked out for all the right horses.”

Pletcher continued, “Some horses that maybe were qualifying before on graded earnings from sprint races might have had an impact on the outcome of some Derbies because of the pace scenario, but again, it’s all laid out there. And, obviously, if you have a filly that you’re seriously considering, you need to adjust your plans at least one race before and test the colts before you go to the Kentucky Derby.”



Todd Pletcher with Kentucky Derby winner  
Always Dreaming | Coady

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WinStar Farm will be locked and loaded in the starting gate as an owner of three runners in partnership, headed by the unbeaten Santa Anita Derby winner and **‘TDN Rising Star’** Justify (Scat Daddy). The flashy chestnut, a very well-documented unraced at two, has been installed as the morning-line favorite at 3-1.

Kenny Troutt’s operation, which tasted Derby success in 2010 with **Super Saver** (Maria’s Mon) and finished third with **Revolutionary** (War Pass) in 2013 and **‘TDN Rising Star’** Battle of Midway (Smart Strike) last year, will also be represented by Audible and Noble Indy. WinStar Farm is also the breeder of MGISW **Bolt d’Oro** (Medaglia d’Oro) and Noble Indy.

“It’s been very formful over the five years that they’ve done it so far,” WinStar Farm President/CEO Elliott Walden said of the points series. “The Derby winner has been a horse that has been among the top in points and I think that shows that the system is working. It does have an impact on the style of the race and the pace. With the 2-year-old form basically getting kicked out, it lends itself to a slower first half-mile, which in turn can cause some traffic issues for horses because the 20-horse field is not as spread out.”

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# #1 FIRENZE FIRE 50-1

(c, Poseidon's Warrior--**My Every Wish**, by Langfuhr)  
 O|B-Mr. Amore Stables (FL) | T-Jason Servis | J-Paco Lopez  
 Lifetime Record: GISW, 9-4-1-0, \$669,100

**PROS:** While he hasn't really shown that kind of form recently, Firenze Fire did best a field that included shorter-priced Derby contenders Good Magic (Curlin) and Enticed (Medaglia d'Oro) when he flew home wide and from far back to annex last year's GI Champagne S. at Belmont. His trainer Jason Servis, one of the most consistently high-percentage conditioners in the game, seems due for a "Big Horse" at some point. This post position is far from ideal, but pilot Paco Lopez is excellent out of the gate.

**CONS:** The first and most obvious con is Firenze Fire's post position: a horse hasn't won the Derby from the rail since Ferdinand in 1986. It's close to impossible to work out a clean trip from the one hole in this 20-horse-field era, and it would require a particular talent to overcome such a disadvantage. At a distance like this, Firenze Fire doesn't appear to be that sort of talent. He's been beaten a combined 20 1/2 lengths in his two most recent outings, and just hasn't done anything to expect a massive form reversal here.



Firenze Fire defeated champion Good Magic in last year's GI Champagne S. | *Horsephotos*

**PEDIGREE:** Firenze Fire hails from the first crop of Florida-based Poseidon's Warrior (Speightstown), a Grade I-winning pure sprinter whose two races at seven furlongs (he never went farther) resulted in off-the-board finishes. If the longshot is to see out the trip, his stamina will have to come from his dam. Langfuhr was the broodmare sire of last year's Derby runner-up Lookin At Lee (Lookin At Lucky), and Firenze Fire's second dam is a full-sister to 2011 Broodmare of the Year Oatsee (Unbridled), the dam of GI Preakness S. winner Shackelford, GI Alabama S. heroine Lady Joanne, et al.

**VERDICT:** Pretty tough to envision a win from this one. *-Brian DiDonato*

Firenze Fire's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
1/13/18	Jerome S.	1st
10/7/17	GI Champagne S.	1st
7/22/17	GIII Sanford S.	1st



*Coady photography*

**Florida-bred Champion**  
**FIRENZE FIRE**  
By Florida's 2017 Leading Freshman Sire Poseidon's Warrior  
**Good Luck in the Kentucky Derby**  
 Thank You to the field of incredible racehorses, a majority of which passed through Florida for training, sales and races on the Road to the Derby

# Kentucky Oaks



3YO filly  
**HEAVENHASMNIKKI**  
shown winning at  
Gulfstream in January 2018

Owner: Looch Racing Stables, Inc.  
Trainer: Anthony T. Quatarolo

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# Kentucky Derby



3YO colt  
**FIRENZE FIRE**  
shown winning  
the 2017 G1 Champagne  
Stakes at Belmont

Owner: Mr. Amore Stable  
Trainer: Jason Servis

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## #2 FREE DROP BILLY 30-1

(c, **Union Rags--Trensa**, by Giant's Causeway) | (\$200,000 KESEF yrl '16)  
 O-Albaugh Family Stables LLC | B-Helen K. Groves Revokable Trust (KY) | T-Dale Romans | J-Robby Albarado  
 | Lifetime Record: GISW, 8-2-3-2, \$625,220

**PROS:** Free Drop Billy got his career off to an auspicious start with a debut win going 5 1/2 local furlongs here last June, and was second in Saratoga's GIII Sanford S. and GI Hopeful S. before breaking through with a convincing four-length tally when stretched out for the first time in Keeneland's GI Claiborne Futurity in October. Despite a far-back finish in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile, he seemed poised for a big sophomore season.

**CONS:** But that breakout performance hasn't really come yet in 2018. He was a distant second behind Audible (Into Mischieff) in the GII Holy Bull S. Feb. 3, and third as the 17-10 chalk in Aqueduct's GIII Gotham S. Mar. 10. He returned to the site of his prior best effort for Keeneland's GII Toyota Blue Grass S. Apr. 7, but crossed the line a non-threatening fourth before being moved up a spot via the DQ of ducking-out Sporting Chance (Tiznow).



Free Drop Billy | Coady photography

**PEDIGREE:** Free Drop Billy's sire obviously saw out a route distance when he annexed the 2012 GI Belmont, and he's proven a very solid sire so far. Free Drop Billy gets plenty of stamina from his dam's side. His dam herself just missed going 1 3/8 miles on the grass in a Delaware Grade III, and is also responsible for multiple Group 1-winning European performer Hawkbill (Kitten's Joy). This is a stacked female family that includes Grade I winners Serape, Cozzene and Tiz Miz Sue. Recently deceased Giant's Causeway is the broodmare sire of the likes of Horse of the Year Gun Runner, who was third in the 2016 Derby.

**Verdict:** His juvenile form made him one to watch heading into the season, but he doesn't seem to have taken the next step at three. Would need a lot of no-shows to win, but perhaps a minor award is within reach. *—Brian DiDonato*

### Free Drop Billy's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
10/7/17	<b>GI Breeders' Futurity</b>	1st
6/15/17	<b>Maiden Special Weight-CD</b>	1st

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# BEST OF LUCK to FREE DROP BILLY

Albaugh Family Stables, Dale Romans and all his connections



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## #3 PROMISES FULFILLED 30-1

(c, **Shackleford–Marquee Delivery**, by Marquetry) | (\$37,000 KEESEP yrl '16)  
 O-Robert J. Baron | B-David Jacobs (KY) | T-Dale Romans | J-Corey Lanerie  
 Lifetime Record: GSW, 5-3-0-1, \$337,280

**PROS:** Promises Fulfilled's biggest weapon is his speed. He took his first two starts sprinting last season, and was a decent third after showing the way in the GII Kentucky Jockey Club S., which produced four next-out stakes winners, allowance winner and eventual GII Risen Star S. upsetter Bravazo, and two more stakes runners-up. He ran a pretty big race off the bench when defeating flashy 'TDN Rising Star' Strike Power (Speightstown) and champion/Derby contender Good Magic (Curlin) at 18-1 in the GII Fountain of Youth S. Louisville native Dale Romans has never won the Derby, but he's knocked on the door before and some his most noteworthy career victories have come with sophomores over Classic distances (2011 GI Preakness with Promises Fulfilled's sire Shackleford and 2015 GI Travers with Keen Ice.

**CONS:** Speed might also prove Promises Fulfilled's undoing--it did last time when he knocked heads with the aforementioned Strike Power through impossible splits before stopping to a distant last of nine in the GI Florida Derby.

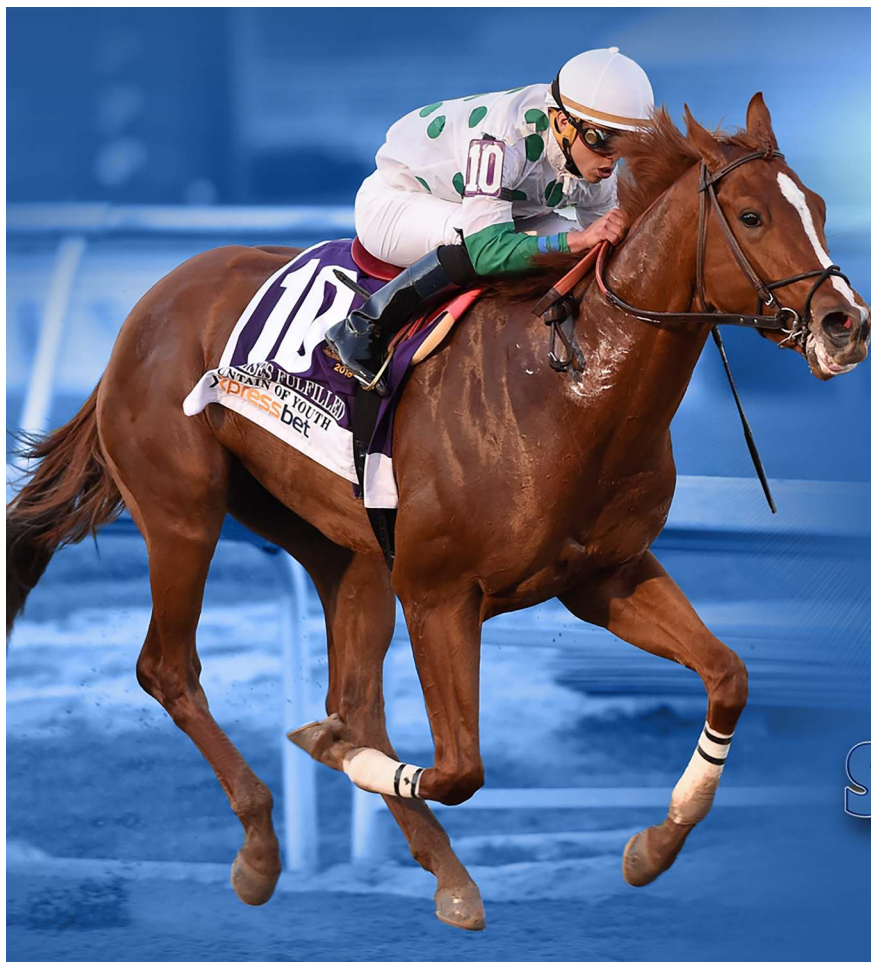
**PEDIGREE:** Young sire Shackleford could handle a route of ground himself, and he's produced two Grade II winners so far around two turns in Promises Fulfilled and Malagacy. His progeny haven't had many chances yet over Classic distances. Promises Fulfilled's dam Marquee Delivery was graded stakes-placed as far as nine panels, but her two other noteworthy progeny--both by Cowboy Cal--are/were best sprinting. Second dam Fast Delivery was a multiple stakes winner over 1 1/16 miles.

**VERDICT:** Promises Fulfilled seems to have only one way of going--especially with an inside post--and that makes him far more likely to have a say early than he will late.

–Brian DiDonato

### Promises Fulfilled's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
3/3/18	GII Fountain of Youth S.	1st
10/13/17	Allowance-KEE	1st
9/17/17	Maiden Special Weight-CD	1st



# A 'CLASSIC' SHACK ATTACK

Preakness (G1) winner Shackleford has sired 2 colts on the Derby trail from 2 crops of 3-year-olds, including PROMISES FULFILLED, winner of the Fountain of Youth S. (G2).

*Best of luck to his connections in Kentucky Derby 144.*

Owner: Robert J. Baron  
 Breeder: David Jacobs  
 Trainer: Dale Romans

# SHACKLEFORD

Forestry / Oatsee, by Unbridled | \$20,000 S&N



**DARBY DAN**  
 . C O M

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## #4 FLAMEAWAY 30-1

(c, *Scat Daddy*--*Vulcan Rose*, by Fusaichi Pegasus) | (\$150,000 yrl KEEJAN '16; \$400,000 yrl SARAUG '16)  
 O-John Oxley | B-Phoenix Rising Farms (ON) | T-Mark Casse | J-Jose Lezcano |  
 Lifetime Record: MGSW, 9-5-2-0, \$704,834

**PROS:** Flameaway spent the first two-thirds of his career bouncing between surfaces, but has found a home on dirt, where he's only been out of the exacta once in six starts. The chestnut's tenacity is one of his greatest strengths, as he's shown the ability and willingness to gut out close calls in the GIII Bourbon S., GIII Sam F. Davis S. and Kitten's Joy S. Overall, he boasts five victories, more than anybody else in the field. He also ran better than it looks when second after a slow start and traffic issues in the GII Tampa Bay Derby and held respectably to fill the same slot in the GII Toyota Blue Grass S. after contesting an above-average pace. He is likely to be forwardly placed in a Derby where there isn't a ton of confirmed speed.

**CONS:** Flameaway's career-high Beyer of 93 is probably at least 10 points too low to be a win candidate. He has also nine starts, more experience than most of the other figure-light runners, making the big jump forward he needs difficult to envision.

**PEDIGREE:** Bred in Ontario, Flameaway is a half-sister to SW Ellan Vannin (Spring At Last), while his dam is a half to GSW Essential Edge (Storm Cat). Most of the black-type in the pedigree lies under the third dam and it's almost all turf, as his second dam Rose of Tara (Ire) (Generous {Ire}) is a half-sister to MG1SW Salsabil (Ire) (Sadler's Wells) and G1SW Marju (Ire) (Last Tycoon {Ire}).

**VERDICT:** Flameaway is an admirable horse who won't go down for lack of trying, and he could stick around for the minors if the pace is slow, but he is too slow with too little upside to win.  
 --Joe Bianca

Flameaway's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/7/18	GII Toyota Blue Grass S.	2nd
2/10/18	GIII Sam F. Davis S.	1st
10/8/17	GIII Dixiana Bourbon S.	1st



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	AUDIBLE
	BOLT D'ORO
	FLAMEAWAY





## #5 AUDIBLE 8-1

(c, Into Mischief--Blue Devil Bel, by Gilded Time) | ( \$175,000 Ylg '16 FTNAUG; \$500,000 2yo '17 FTFMAR)  
 O-China Horse Club, Head of Plains Partners, Starlight Racing, WinStar Farm | B-Oak Bluff Stables LLC (NY)  
 T-Todd A Pletcher | J-Javier Castellano | Lifetime Record: GISW, 5-4-0-1, \$882,920

**PROS:** Audible is a perfect four-for four in attempts at beyond a mile, and paired up solid enough 99 Beyer Speed Figures in clear-cut victories in Gulfstream's GII Holy Bull S. and GI Xpressbet Florida Derby. He possesses a fair bit of tractability in that he can sit up close or come from a bit farther off it like he did last time. Trainer Todd Pletcher and WinStar teamed up to take the 2010 Derby with Super Saver, and Pletcher used a Florida Derby score as a springboard to glory in Louisville last year with Always Dreaming (Bodemeister). Three of the last five Derby winners made their prior starts in Hallandale Beach.



Audible | Coady photography

**CONS:** While leading trainer Pletcher does have two wins in the Derby, his overall record is often cited as a knock against his horses--he's had 48 career Derby starters before the four he'll saddle in 2018. One could also make the argument that this year's group of Florida sophomores wasn't quite as strong as it has been in past years, and that Audible was the main beneficiary of one of the biggest pace collapses of the prep season in the Florida Derby.



Horsephotos

*Best of Luck to*  
**AUDIBLE**  
*and all his connections!*

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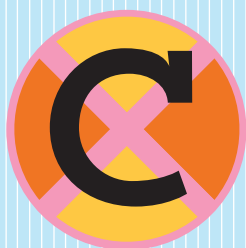
**PEDIGREE:** Sire Into Mischief's signature win came in the 2007 GI Cash Call Futurity, and at stud he's seen his stock rise to become one of the most in-demand stallions in America. For all his successful runners, he hasn't really had a true Classic distance horse yet, but it is worth noting that Into Mischief's half-sister Beholder (Henny Hughes) might have turned in her best performance ever when she crushed the boys in the 10-furlong GI TVG Pacific Classic S. in 2015; and half-brother Mendelssohn (Scat Daddy) annihilated this year's G2 UAE Derby field over 1 3/16 miles to stamp his own ticket to this race. Note that Audible's dam did much of her running in abbreviated sprints.

**VERDICT:** Not without knocks, but wouldn't be a shock if he kept the win streak going. --Brian DiDonato

Audible's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
3/31/18	GI Florida Derby	1st
2/3/18	GII Holy Bull S.	1st
12/6/17	Allowance/Opt. Claimer-AQU	1st

# CLIMAX

STALLIONS



## CURLIN TO MISCHIEF

CURLIN - LESLIE'S LADY (TRICKY CREEK)

- Half brother to Kentucky Derby entrant MENDELSSOHN
- Half brother to INTO MISCHIEF, sire of Kentucky Derby entrant AUDIBLE
- By CURLIN, sire of Kentucky Derby entrants GOOD MAGIC, SOLOMINI, and VINO ROSSO
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## EDITORIAL

WAR FRONT - PLAYA MAYA (ARCH)

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## #6 GOOD MAGIC 12-1

(c, [Curlin-Glinda the Good](#), by Hard Spun) | (\$1,000,000 yr1 KEESEP '16)  
 O-e Five Racing Thoroughbreds & Stonestreet Stables | B-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY)  
 T-Chad C. Brown | J-Jose L. Ortiz | Lifetime Record: Ch. 2yo, GISW, 5-2-2-1, \$1,855,000

**PROS:** Trainer Chad Brown has become a master of bringing horses up to a target race in peak condition, and Good Magic was no exception last autumn when he took a major step forward in capturing the GI Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile as a maiden. That performance came in the chestnut's third career start--a positive indicator as he enters the Kentucky Derby in his third start of a form cycle. Good Magic gave the impression of a horse short on training when third in the GII Xpressbet Fountain of Youth S. Mar. 3, but took a tangible step forward last month in his GII Toyota Blue Grass S. victory. The Stonestreet homebred made his own trip in the Blue Grass, clearing out space around the first turn to secure an ideal--albeit wide--position tracking the pace. That experience, paired with his push-button responsiveness to jockey Jose Ortiz's cues, should play to his benefit in a 20-horse Derby scramble.

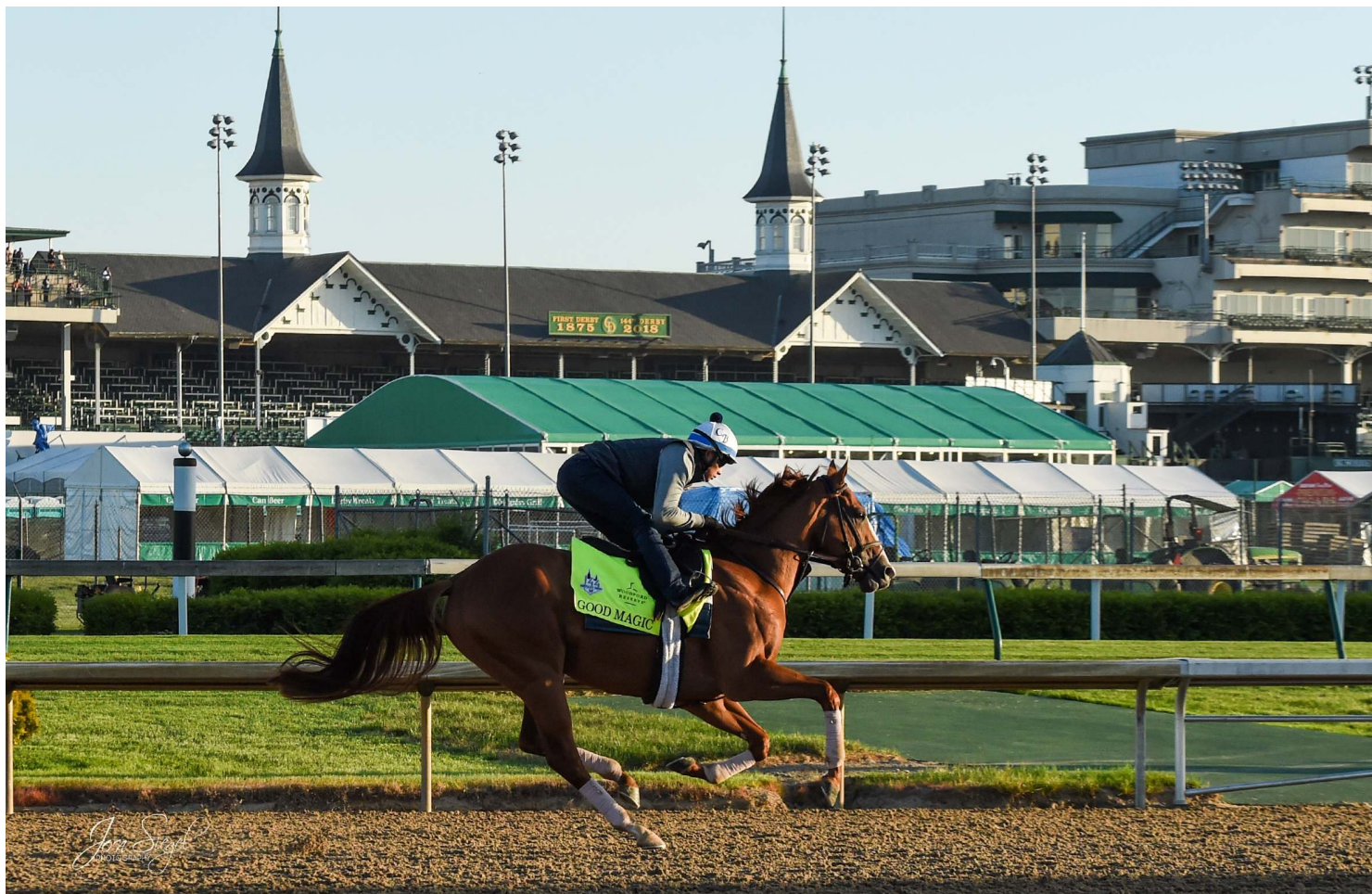
**CONS:** Good Magic ran his final sixteenth in the Blue Grass in a pedestrian :13.31, and ground loss aside, it could be argued that he was going best of a tired bunch of horses.

**PEDIGREE:** Both his performances on the racetrack and his bloodlines indicate that a 10-furlong trip should be no obstacle for this \$1-million son of Hall of Famer and two-time Horse of the Year Curlin. Good Magic's dam, Glinda the Good (Hard Spun), did her best work over a route of ground. Likewise, Good Magic broke through in his first try around two turns last fall and won clear in his first attempt at nine furlongs.

**VERDICT:** Good Magic appears poised to deliver the best performance of his career--something he'll undoubtedly need to topple some immensely talented rivals. He has the right running style and sufficient foundation to stamp him as a serious win threat. --*Ben Massam*

### Good Magic's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
4/7/18	<a href="#">GII Blue Grass S.</a>	1st
3/3/18	<a href="#">GII Fountain of Youth S.</a>	3rd
11/4/17	<a href="#">GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile</a>	1st



Good Magic with the iconic Twin Spires in the background | Jon Siegel photo



## #7 JUSTIFY 3-1

(c, *Scat Daddy--Stage Magic*, by Ghostzapper) | (\$500,000 yr1 KEESEP '16)  
 O-China Horse Club, Head of Plains Partners, Starlight Racing & WinStar Farm | B-John D. Gunther (KY) |  
 T-Bob Baffert | J-Mike E. Smith | Lifetime Record: GISW, 3-3-0-0, \$666,000

**PROS:** Justify has had one of the most impressive three-race starts to a career probably in history. He garnered the '**TDN Rising Star**' distinction for a 9 1/2-length romp going seven panels at Santa Anita Feb. 8, and he made short work of a one-mile optional claimer Mar. 11. The expensive KEESEP yearling stayed in his backyard for the GI Santa Anita Derby Apr. 7, and cruised around the track to defeat the talented Bolt d'Oro by three lengths with a 107 Beyer Speed Figure. Triple Crown-winning Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert knows as well as anyone how to manage this kind of talent, and Justify has made an excellent impression during in the mornings all week.

**CONS:** For as flashy and undeniably talented as Justify is, he is in no way battle tested, nor has he proven himself outside of his Santa Anita home base. He's also susceptible to a pace duel, and this year's Derby seems to have the potential for hotter splits than it has since the qualifying system was adjusted. Plus there's the dreaded Apollo Curse.

**PEDIGREE:** The late Scat Daddy, 18th in the 2007 Derby in his final career start, has emerged as an international sensation thanks in large part to his runners' prowess on the grass. He hasn't had a Grade I-winning 10-furlong dirt type in the States, but he'll have four chances to change that in this year's event. Justify's dam Stage Magic was multiple stakes-placed at 1 1/16 miles, and second dam Magical Illusion (Pulpit) was third in the 2004 GI Coaching Club American Oaks over 1 1/4 miles. Third dam Voodoo Lily (Baldski) was also GSP at a route, and this is the family of Kid Cruz, a graded winner at 10 furlongs in 2016.

**VERDICT:** What if he's just that good?

—Brian DiDonato

Justify's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/7/18	GI Santa Anita Derby	1st
3/11/18	Allowance/Opt. Claiming-SA	1st
2/18/18	Maiden Special Weight-SA	1st

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Kentucky Oaks-G1 <b>11 of 14</b>	Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile S.-G2 <b>8 of 11</b>
La Troienne S.-G1 <b>7 of 8</b>	Eight Belles S.-G2 <b>7 of 7</b>
Humana Distaff S.-G1 <b>7 of 8</b>	Edgewood S.-G3 <b>9 of 11</b>
Old Forester Turf Classic S.-G1 <b>5 of 10</b>	Pat Day Mile S.-G3 <b>12 of 14</b>
Alysheba S.-G2 <b>7 of 8</b>	Twin Spires Turf Sprint S.-G3 <b>7 of 11</b>
American Turf S.-G2 <b>12 of 14</b>	

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## #8 LONE SAILOR 50-1

(c, Majestic Warrior--Ambitious, by Mr. Greeley) | (\$120,000 KESEF yrl '16)  
 O-GMB Racing | B-Alexander-Groves-Matz, LLC (KY) | T-Thomas Amoss | J-James Graham  
 Lifetime Record: GISP, 8-1-3-1, \$334,237

**PROS:** With the exception of his punchless 3-year-old debut off a mini-layoff in the GIII Lecomte S., Lone Sailor gives the impression of a steady closer who can be counted on to deliver an honest effort. Grade I-placed as a juvenile, his narrowly beaten runner-up finish in the GII Twinspires.com Louisiana Derby last out represented a giant career-best effort by nearly every metric.

**CONS:** Lone Sailor's rallying finish at the Fair Grounds was undoubtedly aided by the flow of the race, which favored closers: the race's half-mile split of :46.61 was noticeably faster than the :48.18 posted by older males in the GII New Orleans H. earlier on the card. While Lone Sailor did finish a half-length ahead of next-out GIII Stonestreet Lexington S. winner My Boy Jack (Creative Cause), he struck the lead in the stretch before forfeiting it to a resurgent Noble Indy (Take Charge Indy). Although he gets a solid six weeks of rest coming into the first Saturday in May, the "one other than"-eligible colt will need to

continue the vast improvement he showed last out while facing by far the sternest test of his career.

**PEDIGREE:** While Lone Sailor's sire Majestic Warrior was more effective as a one-turn type, the Tom Amoss trainee pulls stamina from his damside, which features the coveted female family of 1983 Broodmare of the Year Courtly Dee, herself the dam of champion Althea. Lone Sailor's second dam, Aldiza (Storm Cat) captured the GI Go For Wand H. traveling nine furlongs.

**VERDICT:** Lone Sailor's best hope seems to be to take back and hope for a pace meltdown. But even if that scenario comes to fruition, it seems like a minor award is his ceiling. --*Ben Massam*

### Lone Sailor's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
3/24/18	GII Louisiana Derby	2nd
10/7/17	GI Breeders' Futurity	3rd



G M B Racing's Lone Sailor has trained forwardly at Churchill | Coady photography



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## #9 HOFBURG 20-1

(c, **Tapit**--Soothing Touch, by Touch Gold)  
 O | B-Juddmonte Farms Inc. (KY) | T-Bill Mott | J-Irad Ortiz, Jr. |  
 Lifetime Record: GISP, 3-1-1-0, \$227,950

**PROS:** While lightly raced, Juddmonte homebred Hofburg has come a long way in just three starts. Fourth in his debut last summer at Saratoga, he broke his maiden despite a wide journey upon return and rewarded trainer Bill Mott's confidence with a good second in the GI Xpressbet Florida Derby after another overland trip. Despite his inexperience, the chestnut has shown an intriguing ability to take dirt in his face, which will be a necessity as a late-runner in the 20-horse Derby. Bred to run all day, being saddled by a Hall of Fame trainer and with more upside likely left to find, there are worse longshots to take a second look at in this field.

**CONS:** Hofburg faces all of the challengers of Derby favorite Justify going into the Derby with three starts, but doesn't remotely have that one's speed yet. While his progression is encouraging, he will still have to take a big leap forward to get the job done. His running style also all but ensures ground loss and traffic trouble to some degree, making his task that much taller.

**PEDIGREE:** Hofburg is a half-brother to Juddmonte/Mott runner Emollient (Empire Maker), a star filly who won four Grade 1's, two on dirt, two on turf, from nine to 10 furlongs. His second dam is SW/MGSP Glia (A.P. Indy), while third dam Coup de Genie (Mr. Prospector) was a MG1SW French highweight and full-sister to fellow MG1SW highweight Machiavellian. While this pedigree leans toward turf, it also points to added distance as a benefit, which cannot be said for all Derby prospects.

**VERDICT:** On paper, Hofburg is too slow and has little chance. But add in the intangibles--Mott, untapped potential and pedigree, and he starts to make a little more sense. A win still looks unlikely, but he sticks out as a possible late-running exotics filler. --Joe Bianca

### Hofburg's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
3/31/18	GI Xpressbet Florida Derby	2nd
3/3/18	Maiden Special Weight	1st



Like favored Justify, Juddmonte Farms' Hofburg will be making his fourth career start in the Derby | Eclipse Sportswire



## #10 MY BOY JACK 30-1

(c, **Creative Cause--Gold N Shaft**, by Mineshaft) | (\$14,000 RNA wlg KEENOV '15; \$20,000 yrl KEESEP '16)  
 O-Don't Tell My Wife Stables, Monomoy Stables LLC & West Point Thoroughbreds | B-Brereton C. Jones (KY)  
 T-Keith Desormeaux | J-Kent Desormeaux | Lifetime Record: MGSW, 10-3-3-2, \$645,145

**PROS:** My Boy Jack has been the busiest of the Derby's 20 entrants, as he faces the starter for the 11th time in his career and the fifth time this season. A well-beaten third when making his first two-turn start on dirt in the GIII Sham S., he rallied powerfully from second-last to best Combatant (Scat Daddy) in the GIII Southwest S. The bargain purchase looked every bit the winner of the GII Louisiana Derby after making a long run from 10th, but he peaked on his run and went down by 3/4 of a length to Noble Indy (Take Charge Indy). He put in a similar rally when in search of valuable Derby points in the GIII Lexington S. and was up to beat Telekinesis (Curlin) by a head to secure his spot in the Derby. The team of Kent and Keith Desormeaux teamed with Exaggerator (Curlin) to be second in 2016.

**CONS:** My Boy Jack should really have sealed the deal in New Orleans, but hung a bit and even in victory last time, he wasn't attacking the line all that hard. He would need to improve his current speed figures fairly dramatically to be a factor.

**PEDIGREE:** A \$14,000 Keeneland November buyback turned \$20,000 Keeneland September yearling, it can be argued that My Boy Jack has already punched well above his weight. He is out of an unraced daughter of Gold N Delicious (Gold Alert), winner of Churchill's GIII Fleur de Lis H. at nine furlongs and second to My Flag (Easy Goer) in the 10-furlong GI Coaching Club American Oaks in 1996.

**VERDICT:** One of the more battle-tested of the Derby entrants, there remains a question as to just where My Boy Jack fits in the grand scheme of things. Believe he looks dangerous at some point, but finds the final furlong a task too tall. --*Alan Carasso*

My Boy Jack's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/14/18	GIII Lexington S.	1st
2/19/18	GIII Southwest S.	1st

### Best of Luck

to **MY BOY JACK** and to his owners **Don't Tell My Wife Stables, Monomoy Stables** and **West Point Thoroughbreds!**  
 Our sincere appreciation to breeder **Brereton C. Jones**, the **Airdrie Stud Team** and to buyer and trainer **Keith Desormeaux** for your trust and confidence in us! We are grateful to be a small part of this Derby experience!



*Proud to represent top horsemen!*



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## #11 BOLT D'ORO 8-1

(c, **Medaglia d'Oro**--**Globe Trot**, by A.P. Indy) | (\$630,000 yrl '16 FTSAUG)  
 O-Ruis Racing | B-WinStar Farm (KY) | T-Mick Ruis | J-Victor Espinoza |  
 Lifetime Record: : MGISW, 6-4-1-1, \$1,016,000

**PROS:** Bolt d'Oro has the distinction of being the only multiple Grade I winner in the field, having captured last year's Del Mar Futurity and FrontRunner S. on the west coast. He was third as the favorite in the GI Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile, but had little chance after a slow start and an extremely wide trip. After annexing the GII San Felipe S. via disqualification Mar. 10, the bay was unable to reel in likely favorite Justify in the Santa Anita Derby when that one was allowed an uncontested lead. Bolt d'Oro and Justify are the only runners with multiple triple-digit Beyer figures, as each have three while the rest of the field boasts one combined. 'Bolt' has double the experience of that rival though, and has shown the ability to adapt to a variety of pace scenarios. Despite being one of the most accomplished horses in the race, he is likely to go off as the fifth or even sixth choice in the wagering.

**CONS:** Though his rival had a tactical advantage, it still seemed like the better horse won in the Santa Anita Derby.

That means Bolt d'Oro has three lengths to make up on Justify while taking on 18 other challengers.

**PEDIGREE:** By Classic stayer Medaglia d'Oro, he is a half to MSW/MGSP Sonic Mule (Distorted Humor). Second dam Trip (Lord At War {Arg}) was a MGSW and is a half to Joke (Phone Trick), the MSW dam of MGISW Zensational (Unbridled's Song).

**VERDICT:** Bolt d'Oro has the credentials to win the Derby and may be a 'forgotten horse' by post. He's bred to like 10 furlongs and is versatile; the only question is if he has a forward move in him should Justify bring the goods again or another foe peak.

--Joe Bianca

### Bolt d'Oro's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
3/10/18	GII San Felipe S.	1st
9/30/17	GI FrontRunner S.	1st
9/4/17	GI Del Mar Futurity	1st

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## #12 ENTICED 30-1

(c, **Medaglia d'Oro--It's Tricky**, by Mineshaft)  
 O/B-Godolphin (KY) | T-Kieran McLaughlin | J-Junior Alvarado |  
 Lifetime Record: MGSW & GISP, 6-3-1-1, \$595,680

**PROS:** One of five of the Derby entrants with a win to his credit beneath the Twin Spires, Enticed is the lone member of the field to have posted a stakes win at Churchill, having defeated Promises Fulfilled (Shackleford) into third in the GII Kentucky Jockey Club S. last November. Super Saver (Maria's Mon) parlayed a KY JC win into Derby success in 2010. Another consistent sort, his lone effort outside the top three came when fourth as the favorite behind Audible (Into Mischief) in the GII Holy Bull S. in February. He is bred to appreciate the Derby distance and even further.

**CONS:** While he should be staying on to the wire, Enticed is more of a grinding type and lacks that strong burst of acceleration often exhibited by Derby winners. His win in the Gotham came at the expense of suspect competition and with an ideal set-up, though the Derby shapes similarly. There were no apparent excuses in the Wood when he simply couldn't match strides late with Vino Rosso (Curlin).

**PEDIGREE:** There is little question Enticed will see out Saturday's trip. By Medaglia d'Oro, fourth in the 2002 Derby, Enticed is the lone produce from the late Godolphin runner It's Tricky, a three-time Grade I winner at eight, 8 1/2 and nine furlongs. It's Tricky's sire was the Horse of the Year and Eclipse Award-winning older male in 2003, with victories in the GI Suburban H. and GI Jockey Club Gold Cup, both over a mile and a quarter. Enticed is bred on the same cross responsible for 2011 GI Kentucky Oaks winner Plum Pretty as well as his Saturday opponent Bolt d'Oro and Godolphin's GISW Dickinson.

**VERDICT:** Enticed would need a total pace meltdown and subpar runs from the market leaders to find the winner's circle. Others entice more. --*Alan Carasso*

### Enticed's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
4/7/18	<b>GII Wood Memorial</b>	2nd
3/10/18	<b>GIII Gotham S.</b>	3rd
11/25/17	<b>GII Kentucky Jockey Club S.</b>	1st



Enticed winning the KY Jockey Club last fall at Churchill | Coady photography

# Seven Wonders



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**Wonder Gadot** bidding to be his third Kentucky Oaks winner: no stallion has had so many since the 1880s.

Then **Bolt d'Oro** and **Enticed** in the Derby: *just another day in the office.*

---

You call him **Medaglia d'Oro**: to us, he's the eighth wonder...



## #13 BRAVAZO 50-1

(c, **Awesome Again--Tiz o' Gold**, by Cee's Tizzy)  
 O|B-Calumet Farm (KY) | T-D Wayne Lukas | J-Luis Conteras  
 Lifetime Record: GSW & GISP, 8-3-1-1, \$436,528

**PROS:** Bravazo has had the benefit of three prior outings over the local strip: he broke his maiden by daylight last September, and was third in the Street Sense S. before finishing a far-back 10th in the productive GII Kentucky Jockey Club S. He does own a Grade II win, by way of his 21-1 shocker in the GII Risen Star S. His Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas certainly knows what it takes to win an American Classic--he's got 14 Triple Crown trophies, including four from the Derby.

**CONS:** While Bravazo kicked off his season with back-to-back wins, it'd be easy to make the case that Risen Star victory was a fluke--there was very little movement in positions throughout that event, and the pace he attended was fairly soft. He really didn't have any major excuses for a distant eighth in the GII Louisiana Derby.

**PEDIGREE:** A winner of the GI Breeders' Cup Classic himself, some of sire Awesome Again's best runners have won at the highest level going 10 furlongs: fellow BC Classic winner Ghostzapper, GI Pacific Classic S. hero Game On Dude and GI Hollywood Gold Cup winner Awesome Gem. Bravazo is bred on the same Awesome Again--Cee's Tizzy cross as fellow Calumet/Lukas representative Oxbow, who upset the 2013 GI Preakness S. Oxbow's page is significantly more full however--his dam was an unraced full-sister to Tiznow, et al. Bravazo's dam faced the starter 30 times, but was a lower-level claimer. She did win over route distances, however.

**VERDICT:** Would be a complete shock.

—Brian DiDonato

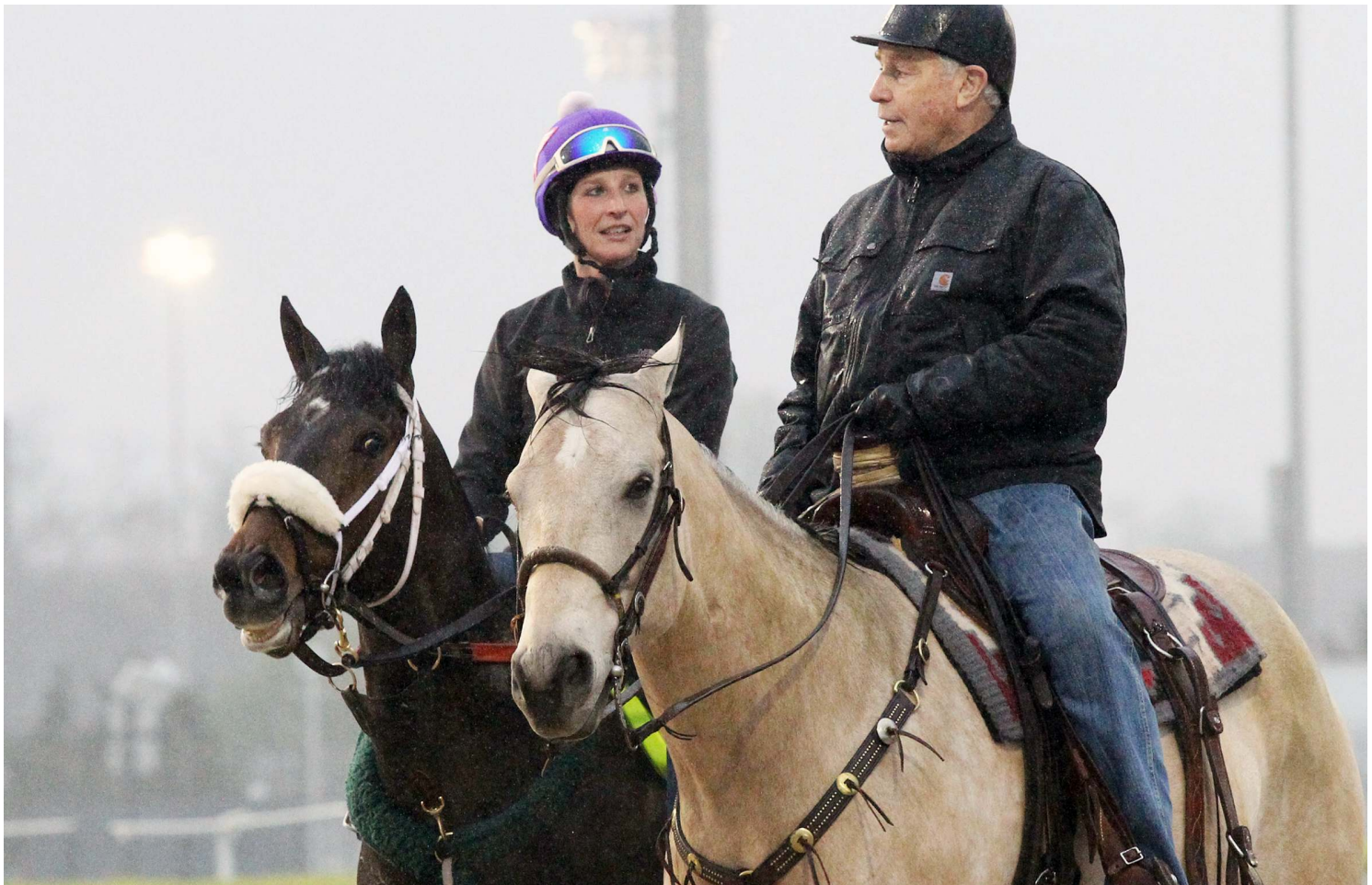
### Bravazo's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
1/13/18	Allowance/Opt. Claimer-OP	1st
9/16/17	Maiden Special Weight-CD	1st

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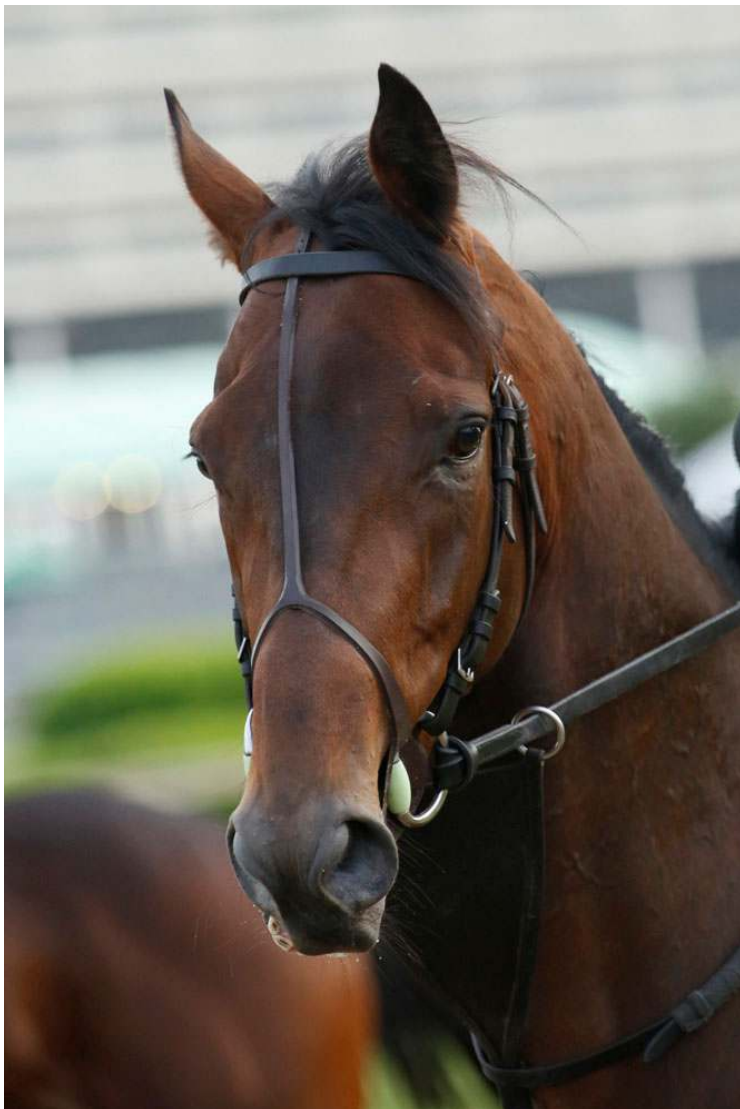
Bravazo (left) and trainer D. Wayne Lukas aboard Starbuck | Coady photography



## #14 MENDELSSOHN 5-1

(c, *Scat Daddy--Leslie's Lady*, by Tricky Creek) | (\$3,000,000 yrl KEESEP '16)  
 O--Michael B. Tabor, Mrs. John Magnier & Derrick Smith | B-Clarkland Farm (KY) | T-Aidan P. O'Brien | J-Ryan L. Moore |  
 Lifetime Record: GISW, 7-4-1-0, \$1,961,137

**PROS:** Unlike nearly every single other foreign raider to attempt the Derby, 2016 Keeneland September topper Mendelssohn has both dirt experience and big-time breeding to excel on the main track. The winner of last year's GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, he made his conventional-dirt debut Mar. 31 in the G2 UAE Derby and produced arguably the most impressive performance of any in this bunch, running away to an 18 1/2-length rout. The bay earned a 106 Beyer for that effort--while being geared down late--the fastest figure in this field outside of Justify's 107 in the GI Santa Anita Derby. Despite having success on turf and synthetic in his first six starts, it was logical that Mendelssohn would truly bloom once he got to dirt, considering his half-sister Beholder (Henny Hughes) was a four-time champion while racing exclusively on the main.



Horsephotos

**CONS:** While his UAE Derby was fast and impressive, the competition was not. Second that day was Rayya (Tiz Wonderful), who is pegged as a 12-1 chance in Friday's Oaks. He also gives up major dirt experience to every one of his rivals.

**PEDIGREE:** By Coolmore's late international superstar sire Scat Daddy, Mendelssohn is out of champion broodmare Leslie's Lady (Tricky Creek), a stakes winner on dirt who, in addition to Beholder, produced GISW and leading sire Into Mischief (Harlan's Holiday).

**VERDICT:** With the most eye-catching win of the prep season, Mendelssohn is one of the deserving favorites. There are hurdles, such as the cross-Atlantic ship and a steep class hike, but if he can replicate his UAE Derby, he will be a handful.

--Joe Bianca

Mendelssohn's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
3/31/18	G2 UAE Derby	1st
3/9/18	32red Patton S.	1st
11/3/17	GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf	1st

# NO OTHER SIRE HAS MORE 2018 DERBY HORSES THAN SCAT DADDY

SIRE	# OF HORSES	NAMES
<b>SCAT DADDY</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Mendelssohn, Justify, Flameaway, Combatant</b>
Curlin	3	Good Magic, Vino Rosso, Solomini
Medaglia d'Oro	2	Bolt d'Oro, Enticed
Malibu Moon	1	Magnum Moon
Into Mischief	1	Audible
Take Charge Indy	1	Noble Indy
Awesome Again	1	Bravazo
Creative Cause	1	My Boy Jack
Shackleford	1	Promises Fulfilled
Union Rags	1	Free Drop Billy
Majestic Warrior	1	Lone Sailor
Tapit	1	Hofburg
Poseidon's Warrior	1	Firenze Fire
Arch	1	Instilled Regard

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## #15 INSTILLED REGARD 50-1

(c, Arch--**Enhancing**, by Forestry) | (\$110,000 RNA yr1 KEESEP '16; \$1,050,000 2yo OBSMAR '17)  
 O-OXO Equine LLC | B-KatieRich Farms (KY) | T-Jerry Hollendorfer | J-Drayden Van Dyke |  
 Lifetime Record: GSW & GISP, 7-2-2-1, \$294,000

**PROS:** Barring his distant fourth-place effort to Justify (Scat Daddy) and Bolt d'Oro (Medaglia d'Oro) in the GI Santa Anita Derby last time, Instilled Regard has really not turned in a bad effort around two turns. Right there with the likes of Solomini (Curlin) and the sidelined McKinzie (Street Sense) in the GI Los Alamitos Futurity, the \$1.05-million OBS March breezer was a convincing winner of the GIII Lecomte S. at the Fair Grounds. It may have been a leaders' track when he was a one-paced fourth to Bravazo (Awesome Again) in the GII Risen Star S. and he was further off a moderate tempo last time at Santa Anita. The pace looks on here and Instilled Regard should be finishing.

**CONS:** On the surface, he should have toyed with apparently inferior horses like Bravazo and Snapper Sinclair (City Zip) in the Risen Star and the effort looks dull on the face of it. And he's got nearly 11 lengths of improvement to find against the likes of Justify and Bolt d'Oro. Drayden Van Dyke lacks in valuable Derby experience.

**PEDIGREE:** Bought back on a bid of \$110,000 at KEESEP in 2016, Instilled Regard fetched that seven-figure pricetag from Larry Best at OBS March. By the sire of GI Breeders' Cup Classic hero Blame, Instilled Regard is out of a daughter of recent Hall of Fame inductee Heavenly Prize (Seeking the Gold), herself a dual Grade I winner at 10 furlongs. Her son Good Reward (Storm Cat) was a two-time GISW at a mile and a quarter on turf.

**VERDICT:** While it's difficult to make the case that he can jump up and beat these, Instilled Regard isn't the craziest reach for the bottom of trifectas and supers, in particular. His win odds, likely to be well north of 50-1, are not indicative of his chances to spice things up in vertical wagers. --Alan Carasso

### Instilled Regard's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
12/9/17	GI Los Alamitos Futurity	3rd/p2d
10/29/17	Santa Anita Md Sp Wt	1st

# Kentucky Oaks

**Midnight Bisou**  
**Rayya**  
**Wonder Gadot**  
**Take Charge Paula**  
**Patrona Margarita**  
**Kelly's Humor**

# Kentucky Derby

**Instilled Regard**

*Reinagel photo*





## #16 MAGNUM MOON 6-1

(c, **Malibu Moon–Dazzling Song** by Unbridled's Song) | (\$380,000 yrl KEESSEP '16)  
 O-Robert E & Lawana L Low | B-Ramona S Bass LLC (KY) | T-Todd Pletcher | J-Luis Saez |  
 Lifetime Record: GISW, 4-4-0-0, \$1,177,800

**PROS:** One of the two unbeatens--along with Justify--and like that one looking to undo the 'Apollo' curse, Magnum Moon enters the Derby as one of the race's most versatile and adaptable contestants. A big-figure, pace-pressing maiden winner over six furlongs on debut, he settled kindly when given his first two-turn education at Tampa (see Always Dreaming) and was an easy winner. He overcame a three-wide stalking trip to defeat the more seasoned Solomini (Curlin) in the GII Rebel S., but dictated the running in the GI Arkansas Derby and closed his final three-eighths in a sharp :36.47. He will be off the speed this time around and that he is conditioned by a two-time Derby winner is hardly a bother.

**CONS:** Like it or not, the lack of race experience as a juvenile is a factor, abundant talent or not. In a race that has little margin for error, connections will want to cross their fingers that Magnum Moon will avoid running around in the final eighth of a mile the way he did in the Rebel and in the Arkansas Derby. Will likely be overbet based on his unblemished record.

**PEDIGREE:** A \$380,000 Keeneland September acquisition by Robert and Lawana Low, Magnum Moon is out of an unraced daughter of GSW Win McCool (Giant's Causeway), a half-sister to GISW Harmony Lodge (Hennessy), GSW Graeme Hall (Dehere) and SW Win's Fair Lady (Dehere). His fourth dam Honeytab (Al Hattab) produced MGSW Diligence (Miswaki). Malibu Moon was represented by 2013 Derby hero Orb, who was out of a mare by Unbridled, the sire of Unbridled's Song.

**VERDICT:** Other than Justify, Magnum Moon has as much raw talent as any of his Derby rivals. You may not get rich betting him, but he is a legitimate contender from the second flight of horses. --*Alan Carasso*

### Magnum Moon's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
4/14/18	GI Arkansas Derby	1st
3/17/18	GII Rebel S.	1st
2/15/18	Tampa allowance (N1X)	1st



Magnum Moon, one of four in the race for trainer Todd Pletcher, has looked great in the flesh this week | Sherackatthetrack





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**Note:** About 22,000 foals are born a year. Only 20 can qualify for the KY Derby. That’s about 9/100ths of one percent. EQB had 4 of those in 2015 (20% of the field), and has regularly been there before and after.

• 2009 - **PIONEEROF THE NILE**

2nd in KY Derby,  
earned \$1,634,200  
Homebred. EQB Culling Consult

• 2010 - **ESKENDEREYA**

Favorite, injured days before race,  
earned \$725,200  
EQB Yearling Purchase

• 2011 - **NEHRO**

2nd in KY Derby,  
earned \$978,381  
EQB Yearling Purchase

• 2014 - **VICAR’S IN TROUBLE**

injured, eased in Derby,  
earned \$788,454  
EQB 2YO Purchase

- **WE MISS ARTIE**

Mid pack,  
earned \$783,843  
EQB Yearling Purchase

• 2015 - **AMERICAN PHAROAH**

KY Derby Winner,  
earned \$811,500  
EQB Culling Consult

- **INTERNATIONAL STAR**

earned \$1,101,892  
EQB Yearling Purchase

- **EL KABEIR**

earned \$768,892  
EQB Yearling Purchase

- **MR. Z**

earned \$652,226  
EQB Yearling Purchase

• 2018 - **SOLOMINI**

EQB Yearling Purchase

- **MAGNUM MOON**

EQB Top Short-list at KEESEP

- **SASSY SIENNA (KY Oaks-G1)** EQB Yearling Purchase

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## #17 SOLOMINI 30-1

(c, *Curlin--Surf Song*, by Storm Cat) | (\$270,000 yrl KEESep '16)

O-Zayat Stables LLC, Mrs John Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith | B-Glenna R. Salyer (KY) | T-Bob Baffert | J-Flavien Prat | Lifetime Record: MGISP, 6-1-3-2, \$752,000

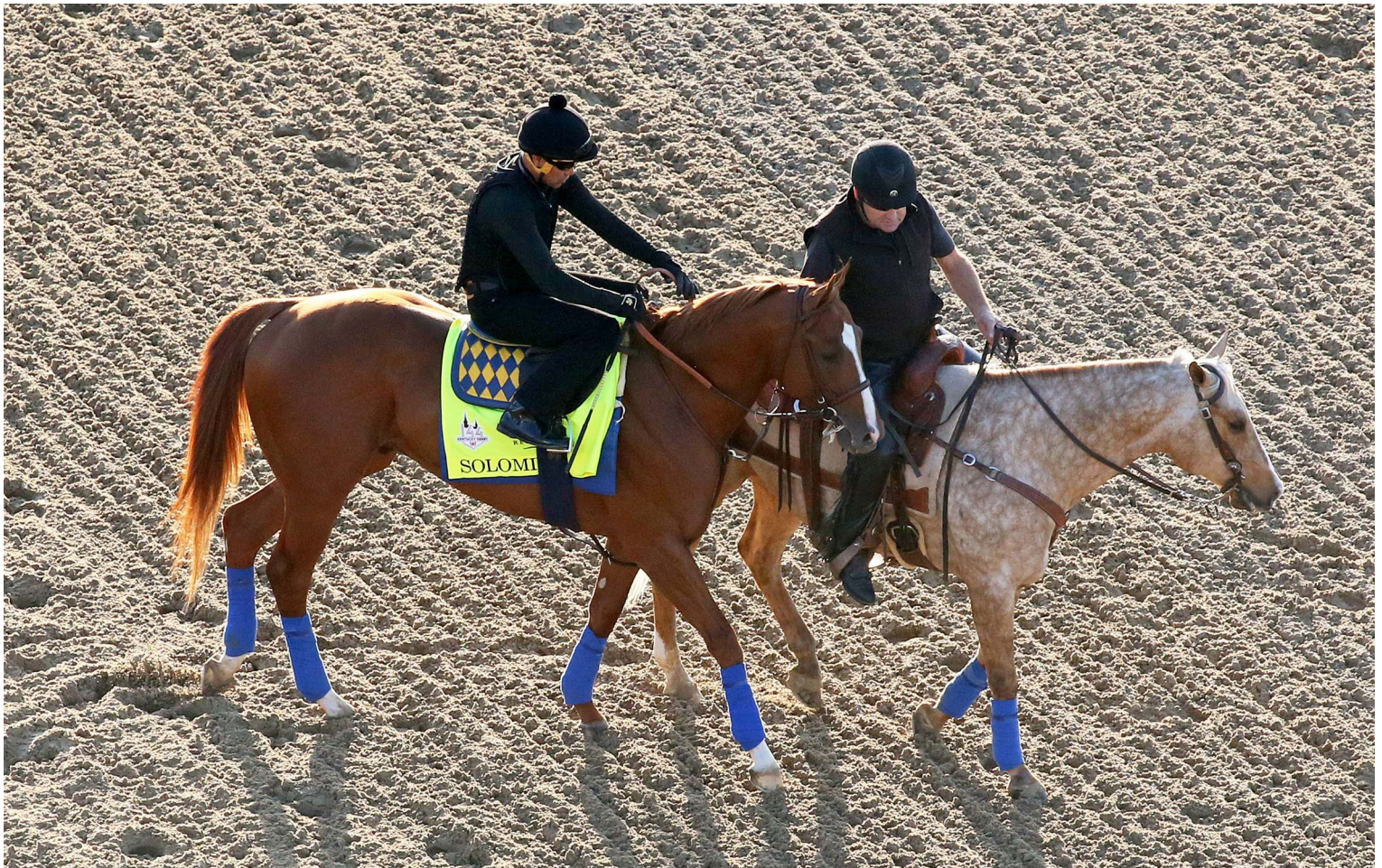
**PROS:** Solomini has never been out of the top three in his six trips to post to date and would have a Grade I victory to his credit were it not for a much-maligned disqualification in the Los Alamitos Futurity, where he was placed third behind stablemate McKinzie (*Street Sense*) and Instilled Regard (*Arch*). Should be primed for his best effort third off the December layoff, having finished second as the favorite in the GII Rebel S. and a battling third in the GI Arkansas Derby, both with tough trips. One of three runners in the race for his world-class sire, who won the Arkansas Derby by better than 10 lengths in his third career start and was third to *Street Sense* in the 2007 Run for the Roses.

**CONS:** Despite his consistency, he is still eligible for his first-level allowance condition and has really yet to run a race fast enough to trouble the market leaders. Magnum Moon has had his measure in their last two meetings and Solomini would need to find three or four lengths of improvement. Flavien Prat is a rising star, but lacks Derby experience.

**PEDIGREE:** Solomini is easily the most accomplished of his dam's seven foals to race and is a maternal grandson of MGSW & GISP Fleet Lady (*Avenue of Flags*), the dam of champion Midshipman (*Unbridled's Song*) and GSW Fast Cookie (*Deputy Minister*), who produced MGISP Frosted (*Tapit*) and GSW Indulgent (*Bernardini*).

**VERDICT:** You have to love the fact that Solomini goes out there and fires his best shot every single time. The burning question is whether that best shot is good enough and the answer seems to be not likely, as a few of these seem to possess a bit more talent than he does. --*Alan Carasso*

Solomini's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
12/9/17	<i>GI Los Alamitos Futurity</i>	1st (p3)
11/4/17	<i>GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile</i>	2nd



Solomini is one of three in the race for his sire, third in the 2007 Run for the Roses | *Coady photography*



## #18 VINO ROSSO 12-1

(c, **Curlin-Mythical Bride**, by Street Cry {Ire}) | (\$410,000 yrl KEESEP '16)  
 O-Repole Stable & St. Elias Stable | B-John D Gunther (KY) | T-Todd Pletcher | J-John R Velazquez |  
 Lifetime Record: GSW, 5-3-0-1, \$620,500

**PROS:** Bar an inexplicable fourth-place effort at low odds in the GII Tampa Bay Derby, Vino Rosso is another to have not set a hoof wrong in his brief career. Though he lacks a Grade I success, he finished a more-than-acceptable third to Flameaway (Scat Daddy) on his seasonal return in the GIII Sam F. Davis S. in February. The blinkers were on for the Tampa Bay Derby, but made little impact and his Derby dreams rested on the GII Wood Memorial. Settled well off a tearaway leader, he gradually reeled in that one and Enticed (Medaglia d'Oro) nearing the stretch and outfinished the latter after exchanging a series of bumps at the furlong grounds. John Velazquez sees fit to retain the call.

**CONS:** Possessed of a grinding, one-paced sort of style, he could be left flat-footed by some of his Derby rivals who appear more capable of a quicker turn of speed. Gate 18 is a negative for him, albeit a minor one, given that he should fall away from there and try to save some ground from mid-field.

**PEDIGREE:** One of two in the race bred by John Gunther, Vino Rosso is out of a winning half-sister to Commissioner (A.P. Indy), who carried the lead deep into the final furlong of the 2014 GI Belmont S. before being run down in the final strides by Tonalist (Tapit). He later added the GII Hawthorne Gold Cup going 10 furlongs. His SW & GSP second dam Flaming Heart (Touch Gold) also produced the good GSW & GISP sprinter Laugh Track (Distorted Humor).

**VERDICT:** Vino Rosso is a good bet to see out the Derby distance, but the quality of the field and--by extension--the win in the Wood Memorial raises some doubt. Wouldn't be a total surprise, but wagering that he is just a cut below the very best this year. --Alan Carasso

### Vino Rosso's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
4/7/17	<b>GII Wood Memorial S.</b>	1st
2/10/17	<b>GIII Sam F. Davis S.</b>	3rd



Vino Rosso came from well back to win the GII Wood Memorial S. | Sarah K Andrew photo



## #19 NOBLE INDY 30-1

(c, Take Charge Indy–**Noble Maz**, by Storm Boot) | (\$45,000 RNA yrl KEESEP '16)  
 O-WinStar Farm LLC & Repole Stable | B-WinStar Farm LLC (KY) | T-Todd Pletcher | J-Florent Geroux  
 Lifetime Record: GSW, 4-3-0-1, \$691,600

**PROS:** Noble Indy has done no wrong in four starts. He followed up an authoritative debut win with a gritty allowance score in his first start around two turns at Gulfstream Park in January. His lone defeat came in a merry-go-round-like renewal of the GII Risen Star S. Feb. 17 and the colt bounced back from that with another determined victory in the Mar. 24 GII Louisiana Derby. Noble Indy proved resurgent in that effort, forfeiting a clear lead entering the stretch before battling back to win while clearly against the flow of the race, which favored closers. His willingness to fight off challengers can only play to his favor Saturday.

**CONS:** Noble Indy has made his final two Derby preps at the Fair Grounds, facing fields that are seemingly a cut below the level of competition in other locales. Moreover, the workmanlike nature of his wins stands in sharp contrast to the flashiness that a Justify (Scat Daddy) or a Mendelssohn (Scat Daddy) brings to the table. Hall of Famer John Velazquez, who piloted the colt in the

Louisiana Derby, opts off to ride GII Wood Memorial hero Vino Rosso (Curlin).

**PEDIGREE:** A WinStar homebred, Noble Indy comes from the highly successful first crop of sire Take Charge Indy, who was sold to the Korean Racing Authority in late 2016. The colt's dual stakes-winning dam Noble Maz (Storm Boot) was a one-way speedball who proved most effective in five-furlong sprints.

**VERDICT:** Bought back by WinStar for \$45,000 as a KEESEP yearling, Noble Indy has proven to be an overachiever in his young career. As such, a win in the Kentucky Derby would likely require significant improvement on his part, as well as a regression from some of the top contenders. --*Ben Massam*

### Noble Indy's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
3/31/18	<b>GII Louisiana Derby</b>	1st
2/17/18	<b>GII Risen Star S.</b>	3rd

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## #20 COMBATANT 50-1

(c, *Scat Daddy--Border Dispute*, by Boundary) | (\$320,000 ylg '16 KESEEP)  
 O-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC & Willis Horton Racing LLC | B-Paget Bloodstock (KY) | T-Steven Asmussen  
 J-Ricardo Santana, Jr | Lifetime Record: MGSP, 7-1-3-1, \$388,550

**PROS:** One of four of the Derby entrants with only a maiden victory to his credit, Combatant has not been grossly overmatched in his stakes tries, including a runner-up effort to My Boy Jack (*Creative Cause*) in the GIII Southwest S. and a third to Magnum Moon (*Malibu Moon*) in the GII Rebel S. He turned in another typically gutsy effort last time in the GI Arkansas Derby, covering ground throughout and ultimately finishing fourth while no danger to the victorious Magnum Moon. While trainer Steve Asmussen has yet to taste Derby victory, he was third with Gun Runner (*Candy Ride {Arg}*) in 2016 and runner-up last year with Lookin At Lee (*Lookin At Lucky*).

**CONS:** That Combatant remains eligible for a first-level allowance must be construed as a negative, as he has been competitive without being able to solve some of the divisional heavies. Almost by default, landing gate 20 is a hindrance, though he will take back soon after the break and get as far over to the inside to save as much ground first time through the lane, then try to come with a late run.

**PEDIGREE:** One of a remarkable four horses in the race for his late sire, Combatant is a half-brother to the good European turf filly Long Lashes (*Rock Hard Ten*), who won the seven-furlong G3 Sweet Solera S. and the Listed Balanchine S. over six at the Curragh before hitting the board in the G2 Balanchine S. at Meydan. His dam is a half-sister to GI Wood Memorial third Just a Coincidence (*Forestry*) and a full-sister to turf GSP Plenty, while his third dam produced MGSW turfer Conserve (*Boundary*). Perhaps grass is in his future.

**VERDICT:** While he has performed admirably to this point in his career, he is clearly several lengths behind the cream of this year's sophomore crop. He should be running late, but he would do well to finish in the top 10. *—Alan Carasso*

Combatant's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/15/18	GI Arkansas Derby	4th
3/17/18	GII Rebel S.	3rd
2/19/18	GII Southwest S.	2nd



The consistent Combatant will try to give Steve Asmussen a first Derby success | *Horsephotos*



## #21 (AE) BLENDED CITIZEN 50-1

(c, Proud Citizen–Langara Lass, by Langfuhr) | (\$57,000 RNA Ylg '16 KEESEP; \$85,000 2yo '17 OBSMAR)  
 O-Greg Hall & SAYJAY Racing LLC | B-Ray Hanson (KY) | T-Doug O'Neill | J-Kyle Frey |  
 Lifetime Record: GSW, 9-2-0-2, \$196,854

**PROS:** Trainer Doug O'Neill has won two of the last six Derbies--with I'll Have Another (Flower Alley) in 2012 and Nyquist (Uncle Mo) two years ago... He does possess a solid late kick, and has done well over nine furlongs, particularly with his win in the GIII Jeff Ruby Steaks in March.

**CONS:** Blended Citizen hasn't run a race that is anywhere close to fast enough to win this. There's a good chance he's better on turf/synthetic. Should he draw into the race, he'll be marooned far out.

**PEDIGREE:** The late Proud Citizen has never sired a Grade I-winning colt, but he was represented by two GI Kentucky Oaks winners in Proud Spell and Believe You Can. The former is also out of a Langfuhr mare, and subsequently added Saratoga's GI Alabama S. going 10 furlongs. Blended Citizen is a half-brother to last year's Derby runner-up Lookin At Lee (Lookin At Lucky).

**VERDICT:** Hard to endorse should he make it in the field.  
 –Brian DiDonato

Blended Citizen's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
3/17/18	GIII Jeff Ruby Steaks	1st



Blended Citizen | Sherackatthetrack



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