

# 2016 BELMONT STAKES GUIDE

Presented by:

*Guaranteed  
Tip Sheet*



Maryland Jockey Club

Lani to run all Triple Crown races



Exaggerator wins the Preakness Stakes 2016

Chris Aplin ©  
Chris Aplin

Exaggerator winning the Preakness



Michael Spector

Frosted training in Saratoga for Met Mile



**Thank you for purchasing the 2016 Belmont Stakes Guide presented by Guaranteed Tip Sheet and RacingDudes.com!**

The Belmont Stakes is the final jewel of the elusive Triple Crown, but will not get as much hype this year since no horse will be going for the Triple Crown. Called "The Test of the Champion," the Belmont Stakes is run at Belmont Park in Elmont, NY, in early June. It is the oldest of the Triple Crown races and was first run in 1867. The race is the longest of the Triple Crown races ran at the grueling distance of 1½ miles for 3 year olds on the main dirt track. This year's edition of the Belmont Stakes will be run on Saturday, June 11 at approximately 6:45 p.m. (EDT).

This "2016 Belmont Stakes Guide presented by Guaranteed Tip Sheet and RacingDudes.com" will give you the information needed to hopefully make a nice return on one of the biggest days of horse racing of the year. With \$7.5 million in purse money over 10 stakes races on the day representing most of the divisions in the sport, the Belmont Stakes day card is the summer version of the Breeders' Cup on the east coast.

This Belmont Stakes Guide will highlight all 10 Stakes races on Saturday, June 11 at Belmont Park and break down each race as follows:

1. **Top Contenders:** analyzes the top horses in each race giving positives & negatives.
2. **Value Plays & Longshots:** analyzes horses that can be mid-range price to longshots in each race
3. **Other Entries:** notes on each horse entered in the stakes races on Belmont Stakes day
4. **Pace:** analysis of the expected pace scenario of each race.
5. **The Play:** wagering strategy and ways to approach each race.
6. **Picks:** Picks from Saratoga Slim, Racing Dudes (Aaron Halterman and Jared Welch) and Guaranteed Pick Sheet with consensus based on a 5-3-1 scoring system for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Guide will also include a section on Multi-Race Wagering Strategy.

For questions and to discuss more feel free to visit [racingdudes.com](http://racingdudes.com) or tweet us at @SaratogaSlim or @racing\_dudes on Twitter. Please note all of the analysis and wagering strategy were written by Saratoga Slim.

Thank you,  
Saratoga Slim

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**Grade-1 Metropolitan Handicap**



<b>Purse:</b>	\$1.25 million
<b>Distance:</b>	1 mile (Dirt)
<b>Age:</b>	3 year old & up
<b>Post Time:</b>	Sat., June 11 at ~4:41 p.m. (EDT)

**TOP CONTENDERS:**

**Frosted:** Multiple Graded stakes winner returns from disappointing 5<sup>th</sup> in Dubai World Cup. Cuts back to a mile & hasn't run a race at this short of a distance since maiden breaking win in October 2014. Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin believes a fast pace will play into Frosted's closing style and that the return from Dubai is not a concern.

**Mshawish:** Started 2016 with wins in Grade-3 Hal's Hope at mile & Grade-1 Donn Handicap at 1 & 1/8 mile. Returns from Dubai World Cup, where he finished 6<sup>th</sup> & 1¼ mile distance may have been too far for him. Trainer Todd Pletcher cuts him back to a mile, where he's had good success in his dirt career.

**VALUE PLAYS & LONGSHOTS:**

**Upstart:** Intriguing after blazing a 46 second flat four-furlong bullet workout at Belmont on May 21. Trainer Rick Violette added blinkers for the workout & has said Upstart will run in the Met Mile with the hood. Upstart never got good position in the Grade-2 Oaklawn Handicap finishing 5<sup>th</sup>, so blinkers are being used to try to assure him forward placement. Mile distance has always been thought to be his best distance & can be a huge race for him coming in as his third race of the year.

**Noble Bird:** Grade-1 winner comes out of blow-out win in Grade-2 Pimlico Special on May 20. Unlike his disappointing Grade-2 Alysheba run on Kentucky Oaks undercard, jockey Julien Leparoux let Noble Bird use his early speed in the Pimlico Special & he was uncatchable against a questionable field. Trainer Mark Casse has said that Noble Bird can either stalk or set the pace if no early speed comes to fruition in Met Mile.

**Marking:** Returns from Dubai after disappointing 4<sup>th</sup> in the Godolphin Mile. Second to super-horse Runhappy in the Grade-1 Malibu in December. Marking's winter in Dubai was a roller-coaster where he had gate issues & was heated up before all three of his races in the desert. A return to the larger U.S. gates with a starter may be the remedy for his issues, though, and trainer McLaughlin has said that he is working him in the gate.

**Stanford:** Scratched out of Grade-2 Pimlico Special to focus on Met Mile. Won Grade-2 Charles Town Classic gate-to-wire around 3-turns in last out at 1 & 1/8 mile. Will be looking for a similar front-end trip here for Pletcher.

**Other Entries:**

**Blofeld:** Has always been a horse with potential & it finally showed in Grade-2 Gulfstream Park Handicap win at a mile on March 5. Didn't have same late move in Grade-2 Oaklawn Handicap last out at 1 & 1/8 mile for Pletcher.

**Anchor Down:** Won local prep Grade-3 Westchester at Belmont Park on May 7, but got away setting slow pace in the slop that day, so that race may not be as strong as it looks on paper. Another entered here by Pletcher.

**Ami's Flatter:** Won 7 furlong Grade-3 Commonwealth at Keeneland on April 9 last out. When sent off favorite in Grade-3 Fred Hooper two-back ran poorly beaten 10 lengths.

**Tamarkuz:** Held on for 4<sup>th</sup> in 2015 Met Mile after contesting hot pace set by Bayern & Private Zone. Won Group-2 Godolphin Mile last year. Returns off 8 month layoff after 4<sup>th</sup> in Grade-2 Kelso in October 2015 for McLaughlin.

**Sloane Avenue:** Returns for 1<sup>st</sup> race in U.S. since October 2014. 5<sup>th</sup> in Godolphin Mile this year, but ran a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> in that race in 2015. Only dirt races in career are those two Godolphin Mile tries at the renovated Meydan course.

- Pace:**
- **Early Speed:** Stanford, Noble Bird, Upstart, Anchor Down
  - **Stalkers:** Marking, Tamarkuz, Mshawish, Ami's Flatter, Blofeld, Sloane Avenue
  - **Closers:** Frosted

With no major stretch-out speed sprinters entered, pace may not be as fast as previous years. **Stanford** may set the pace with the newly blinkered **Upstart** near the lead. **Noble Bird** has run his best showing early foot & Leparoux has learned not to "strangle" him. **Marking** (if he can get a good start) & **Mshawish** will loom large in the second flight. Joel Rosario will be re-united with **Frosted** looking for a fast pace to close into.

**The Play:** With Todd Pletcher and Kiaran McLaughlin both entering three horses each, you have to think they are going to get a piece of this pie somehow! Class usually rules this "stallion-making" race & the two classiest horses in the field are **Frosted** & **Mshawish**. Frosted's optimal distance may be beyond a mile & the pace scenario may not play to his late kick, but he's too dangerous & classy in this group. A Frosted / Mshawish exacta box multiple times will be the key play. **Stanford** will need to be used in multi-race wagers based on the possibility he steals the race on the front-end. **Upstart** & **Noble Bird** are underneath plays in trifectas & superfectas and back-up plays in multi-race wagers. **Marking** is all potential & if he's able to calm down in the post parade & gate, may upset at a price.

**Racing Dudes, Saratoga Slim & Guaranteed Tip Sheet (GTS) Picks (AS OF JUNE 2):**

	<b>Slim</b>	<b>Aaron</b>	<b>Jared</b>	<b>GTS</b>	<b>CONSENSUS</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
<b>Win</b>	Frosted	Mshawish	Mshawish		Mshawish	13
<b>Place</b>	Mshawish	Frosted	Frosted		Frosted	11
<b>Show</b>	Upstart	Noble Bird	Marking		Upstart / Noble Bird / Marking	1



With some of the best horses in North American converging on New York on Belmont Stakes day, opportunities to bet on Graded Stakes winning horses at long odds will be available and it will be important to pick your spots, always looking for value.

Belmont Parks will hold a total of 10 Stakes races covering most of the major divisions in North American horse racing as shown in the table below:

	Race	Grade	Purse	Conditions	Distance
Saturday, June 11	WinStar Farm Easy Goer		\$150,000	3YO	1 1/16 Mile (Dirt)
	Jaipur Invitational	III	\$300,000	4&UP	6 Furlongs (Turf)
	Brooklyn Invitational	II	\$400,000	4&UP	1 1/2 Mile (Dirt)
	Woody Stephens	II	\$500,000	3YO	7 Furlongs (Dirt)
	Acorn	I	\$700,000	F3YO	1 Mile (Dirt)
	Ogden Phipps	I	\$1,000,000	F&M 4&UP	1 1/16 Mile (Dirt)
	Longines Just a Game	I	\$700,000	F&M 4&UP	1 Mile (Turf)
	Mohegan Sun Metropolitan Handicap	I	\$1,250,000	3&UP	1 Mile (Dirt)
	Woodford Reserve Manhattan	I	\$1,000,000	4&UP	1 1/4 Mile (Turf)
	Belmont Stakes	I	\$1,500,000	3YO	1 1/2 Mile (Dirt)
<b>Total Purse =</b>			<b>\$7,500,000</b>		

The following guaranteed pools will be available on Belmont Stakes Day:

- \$500,000 Guaranteed Pick-5 (starting in first race)
- \$250,000 Guaranteed Pick 3 (begins in Race 3)
- \$1 million Guaranteed Pick 6
- \$1.5 million Guaranteed Pick 4 (beginning in Race 8 & ending with Belmont Stakes)

**Pick 3s, Pick 4s and Pick 5s:** Opportunities to break the bank will be abundant in these pools. The \$0.50 minimum wagers in the Pick 4 and 5 makes these wagers manageable on a smaller budget. Pick-3 wagers are minimum \$1 bets and are a good place to build larger wagers with fewer combinations. The Pick-6 pool is a \$2 minimum wager and very tough to manage on a small budget.

A great tool named DRF Ticket Maker is available on-line and on your smart phone to create these multi-race tickets. You are able to rank the chance of a horse winning each leg of these wagers as either A, B or C and the program creates the tickets for you based on your budget.

You will need to go "skinny" in a few legs in these wagers or your tickets will get expensive quickly. A few "singles" on the undercard based on the potential entries include:

- Justin Squared – Woody Stephens (Chick Lang winner & fast workouts coming in)
- Cathryn Sophia – Acorn (Kentucky Oaks champion)
- Exaggerator – Belmont Stakes (Preakness champion)

**Thank you once again for reading through this 2016 Belmont Stakes Guide presented by Guaranteed Tip Sheet and RacingDudes.com!**

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL!**