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INSIDE TRACK

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This **Inside Track to the Risen Star** wagering guide gives you an inside look at the six stakes races running at Fair Grounds Race Course on February 19, 2022, including the \$400,000 Risen Star Stakes (G2). The 1 1/8-mile race is worth 50-20-10-5 points to the top 4 finishers on the 2022 Road to the Kentucky Derby (G1).

The Racing Dudes have been at it for 10 years, offering daily handicapping picks and analysis for every track across the country. For this year's Inside Track to the Risen Star, our lead handicappers have been scouring through the card at Fair Grounds in search of winning tickets on this loaded day of racing.

The six stakes races total \$1.3 million in purses and include both Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks (G1) prep races: the Risen Star, the \$300,000 Rachel Alexandra (G2) for the Oaks, the \$250,000 Mineshaft (G3), the \$150,000 Fair Grounds (G3), the \$100,000 Albert M. Stall Memorial, and the \$100,000 Colonel Power.

But that's not all! Along with the six major stakes races, this Inside Track to the Risen Star wagering guide also includes race-by-race analysis, betting suggestions, and multi-race plays for Fair Ground's entire Saturday card.

For each of the six stakes at Fair Grounds, you will find the following:

FULL PREVIEW FOR THE RACE, including:

- ♦ Race Overview
- ♦ Race Shape and Pace Analysis
- ♦ Top Selections
- ♦ Major Threats
- ♦ Longshots to Use

You will also find specific wagering under the "Picks and Plays" section, which includes:

- ♦ Win Bet
- ♦ Place or Show Bet
- ♦ Longshot to Play Across the Board
- ♦ Exacta
- ♦ Trifecta
- ♦ Superfecta
- ♦ Horses to use in Multi-Race Wagers
- ♦ What to Play on a Straight Wager
- ♦ What to Play on an Exotic Wager

Each Win, Place, Show, or Across the Board wager comes with a confidence rating so that you can see how strongly we feel about each pick.

Finally, always remember to wager responsibly and never wager more than you can afford.

Good luck today!



RACE No. 7:

COLONEL POWER STAKES

ABOUT 5 1/2 FURLONGS ON THE TURF
4-YEAR-OLDS & UPWARD
\$100,000

OVERVIEW:

The Colonel Power kicks off the stakes action on what is setting up to be one of the better cards we've seen this year. This matchup looks a little one-sided, as on paper, Just Might is clearly the one to beat. Can any of these horses upset him?

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

Pure Speed: *Just Might*

Pressing Speed: *Cowan*

Stalkers: *Seven Scents, Gray Attempt*

Closers: *Pyron, Toro Strike, Strike Me Down, Inhalation*

There is no doubt the pace will be quick here, but it should be uncontested, which will make Just Might very tough to catch. He is clearly the only horse in this race that has tremendous early speed.

TOP CHOICE: #2 JUST MIGHT

Just Might looks for redemption today after a very questionable disqualification cost him a victory last time out. He was extremely sharp in that race, and faces many of the same horses today, so if he can repeat that effort we should see him in the winners circle. He looks like he will be alone on the lead in this race once again, which is just another factor that is in his favor today.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 Cowan, #6 Toro Strike

Cowan is an ultra-consistent runner who is definitely at his best when sprinting on the turf. He ended up being moved up to first last time out at Fair Grounds in a similar race. Toro Strike makes his United States debut for Pletcher today. He brings over a solid resume, but will this be too short for him?

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #4 Gray Attempt

This is your potential upsetter after his nice allowance victory last time out at this distance and over this turf course. The horse has won 3 of his last 4 and should improve off of that last effort, so he looks dangerous.

OTHERS: #3 Seven Scents, #5 Pyron, #7 Strike Me Down, #8 Inhalation

This race looks to be a little top-heavy, so anyone from this group making an impact is a long shot. This is a tough \$100K ungraded stakes.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #2 Just Might - Confidence Level: 5 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #6 Toro Strike - Confidence Level: 3.5 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #1 Cowan - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 2,6/1,2,6

TRIFECTA: 2,6/1,2,6/1,2,4,6

SUPERFECTA: 2,6/1,2,6/1,2,6/1,2,4,6

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 2

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$50 Win on #2 Just Might

EXOTIC WAGER: \$5 Exacta 2,6/1,2,6



RACE No.9:

ALBERT M. STALL MEMORIAL STAKES

ABOUT 1 1/16 MILES ON THE TURF
FILLIES & MARES 4-YEAR-OLDS & UPWARD
\$100,000

OVERVIEW:

The fillies and mares take center stage in this spot, which drew a competitive field of 10 evenly-matched runners. This race also kicks off the Late Pick 5, so getting a price home here would be nice. Lucky for us, it looks possible.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

Pure Speed: *Adelaide Miss, Amiche*

Pressing Speed: *She Can't Sing, Dawn's Dancer*

Stalkers: *Abscond, Drapes*

Closers: *Pass the Plate, Mo Normal, Out of Sorts, I Heard You*

These two-turn turf races usually produce slow paces, but we do have a quite a bit of speed here. Still, it's always hard to project a "fast" pace in these spots, so we'll go with "moderate" here.

TOP CHOICE: #1 PASS THE PLATE

This horse has been very consistent and seems to run her best races over this turf course, including a nice stakes victory over this track last time out. With the projected pace looking to be quicker than a normal turf route, this race should set up well for her, and the field she is facing is pretty similar to the last race. Trainer Paul McGee quietly does a very solid job, so I expect this horse to show up with a big effort.

MAJOR THREATS: #3 Abscond, #4 Out of Sorts, #8 Amiche

Abscond can win races like this but has had trouble getting the job done in several spots as a short price. Out of Sorts gets a rider upgrade to Saez today, which could make a big difference. Amiche won here 2 back and finished second in a stakes last time out.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #6 Adelaide Miss

This horse should set the pace just like last time out, when she faded to finish third against similar company. There is other speed in this race, which isn't ideal, but early speed in turf routes will always be dangerous.

OTHERS: #2 Mo Normal, #5 She Can't Sing, #7 Dawn's Dancer, #9 I Hear You, #10 Drapes

Anyone from this group making an impact in this spot would be a surprise. They need a lot of improving from a speed figure standpoint.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #1 Pass the Plate - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #8 Amiche - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #4 Out of Sorts - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 1,4,8 BOX

TRIFECTA: 1,3,4,8 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 1,3,4,8 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,3,4,8

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 Win on #1 Pass the Plate

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,3,4,8



RACE No 10:

MINESHAFT STAKES (G3)

1 1/16 MILES ON THE DIRT
4-YEAR-OLDS & UPWARD
\$250,000

OVERVIEW:

The Mineshaft is always a very fun event on this card. The race drew a few older horses who seem to be blossoming and could make an impact in bigger races as the year progresses.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A SLOW PACE

Pure Speed: *Sprawl, Olympiad*

Pressing Speed: *Big Dreaming*

Stalkers: *Silver Prospector, Fort Peck, Midcourt, Untreated*

Closers: *Title Ready, Miles D, O Besos, Happy American*

This one looks pretty slow on paper, with only two horses showing a ton of early speed, and neither are overly aggressive. Being towards the front is probably where you want to be in this spot.

TOP CHOICE: #4 OLYMPIAD

This horse could have a big future for trainer Bill Mott, similar to Speaker's Corner, who won at Gulfstream Park on Pegasus World Cup Day. He comes into this race off of a blowout allowance victory at Gulfstream Park, while 2 starts back, he was a competitive fourth in the very tough Cigar Mile (G1) at Aqueduct. His early speed should make him tough to run down in this spot.

MAJOR THREATS: #5 Miles D, #8 O Besos, #10 Untreated

Miles D was fairly underrated as a 3-year-old and comes into this race off of a nice victory over good horses last time out. O Besos won over this track last time out and can still improve in his second start off of the layoff. Untreated comes into this race off of 2 straight wins for the red-hot Todd Pletcher.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 Sprawl, #2 Silver Prospector

Sprawl runs second off of the layoff in this spot, which should help his chances. Silver Prospector will be doing the same thing while also changing tracks to Fair Grounds, which could help him out.

OTHERS: #3 Title Ready, #6 Fort Peck, #7 Midcourt, #9 Happy American, #11 Big Dreaming

When a race looks a bit top-heavy like this, it's tough to play these horses. Many of these seem to have lost their top form based on their recent efforts.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #4 Olympiad - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #5 Miles D - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #8 O Besos - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 4,5/4,5,8

TRIFECTA: 4,5/4,5,8,10/4,5,8,10

SUPERFECTA: 4,5,8,10 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 4,5

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$20 Win on #4 Olympiad

EXOTIC WAGER: \$5 Exacta 4,5/4,5,8



RACE No11:

FAIR GROUNDS STAKES (G3)

ABOUT 1 1/8 MILES ON THE TURF
4-YEAR-OLDS & UPWARD
\$150,000

OVERVIEW:

As is the case each year, this race drew an incredibly evenly-matched field. Several solid turf horses will line up to contest this race, with several of the top turf barns in the country represented, including Chad Brown.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A SLOW PACE

Pure Speed: *Forty Under, Halo Again*

Pressing Speed: *Cavalry Charge, Two Emmys*

Stalkers: *Major Fed, Point Me By, Largent*

Closers: *Santin, Monarchs Glen, Adhamo, Captivating Moon*

Like most turf routes in this country, the pace looks like it will be pretty slow in this spot. It should be an all out sprint for home as they turn the corner and enter the stretch.

TOP CHOICE: #6 ADHAMO

This runner makes his U.S. debut for Chad Brown today, which is always a solid angle. He raced in some tough spots in France, mostly over soft turf courses, and didn't embarrass himself. If he takes to a firm turf course in this spot, then I suspect he will show improvement, which makes him the one to beat.

MAJOR THREATS: #2 Forty Under, #3 Santin, #7 Halo Again, #10 Largent

Forty Under won the local prep race for this one and should be leading when turning for home. Santin was a close second in a Grade 1 at Del Mar last time out. Halo Again was a tough-luck loser in the local prep last time out, just missing in the photo by a head bob. Largent is easily the classiest horse in the race but must rebound from a poor effort last time out.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 Cavalry Charge, #11 Two Emmys

Cavalry Charge runs second off of the layoff today, which could lead to an improved effort. Two Emmys was a solid third in the local prep race for this one after setting the early pace.

OTHERS: #4 Major Fed, #5 Monarchs Glen, #8 Captivating Moon, #9 Point Me By

These horse aren't so bad, but this is a very difficult race, which makes a few of these tough to play. I wouldn't give up on them completely, though, as an upset could be brewing here.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #6 Adhamo - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #10 Largent - Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #3 Santin - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 3,6,10 BOX

TRIFECTA: 3,6,7,10 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 3,6,7,10 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 2,3,6,7,10

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 Win on #6 Adhamo

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 3,6,7,10



RACE No12:

RACHEL ALEXANDRA STAKES (G2)

1 1/16 MILES ON THE DIRT
FILLIES 3-YEAR-OLDS
\$300,000

OVERVIEW:

The 3-year-old fillies taking center stage in an event that has a long history of producing horses who make major impacts in the Kentucky Oaks (G1), so this prep is of extreme importance.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: *Turnerloose, Awake At Midnyte, Hidden Connection*

Pressing Speed: *Dream Lith, La Crete*

Stalkers: *Miss Mattie B, Devine Huntress*

Closers: *North County, Candy Raid, Goddess of Fire, California Angel*

This one looks to be setting up for a fast pace, with several of the key players in this race all showing nice speed early.

TOP CHOICE: #5 DIVINE HUNTRESS

It's not often we pick a horse coming from Parx to win a Grade 2, but she could be for real and her connections are solid. She dominated a bad field last time out under wraps and should get a nice pace setup for her closing kick. She has to step up in a major way today from a class standpoint, but she looks like a very talented filly.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 La Crete, #4 Dream Lith, #9 Awake At Midnyte, #11 Hidden Connection

La Crete is a perfect 2 for 2, including a win here last time out. Dream Lith makes her 3-year-old debut after winning the Golden Rod Stakes (G2) at Churchill Downs. Awake at Midnyte ships in from California after running second in a Grade 2. Hidden Connection gets some class relief after a poor effort in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1).

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #7 Turnerloose

This horse has been solid on the turf but moves over to the dirt today, which makes her a big question mark. However, you can trust the trainer and his decision-making, which makes her mildly interesting at a price.

OTHERS: #2 North County, #3 Miss Mattie B, #6 Candy Raid, #8 Goddess of Fire, #10 California Angel

There are a few in her that fit from a speed figure standpoint, but we aren't sure they can reproduce that effort in this spot. This will be a very difficult test for this group of horses.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #5 Divine Huntress - Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #4 Dream Lith - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #11 Hidden Connection - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 4,5,11 BOX

TRIFECTA: 1,4,5,11 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 1,4,5,11 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,4,5,9,11

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 Win on #5 Divine Huntress

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,4,5,11



RACE No 13:

RISEN STAR STAKES (G2)

1 1/8 MILES ON THE DIRT
3-YEAR-OLDS
\$400,000

OVERVIEW:

The main event is here, and wow, do we have a good one, folks! The Fair Grounds circuit for 3-year-olds looks strong for the second straight season and this race drew a fantastic field. This is the best prep of the year so far.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

Pure Speed: *Epicenter, Slow Down Andy*

Pressing Speed: *Pioneer of Medina, Bodock*

Stalkers: *Pappacap, Russian Tank, Trafalgar, Smile Happy*

Closers: *Tawny Port, Zandon*

We shouldn't see anything too crazy here; however, there is enough early speed to at least keep it honest. This should be a fair race for all types of runners. We'll see if Epicenter can go gate to wire or if someone can catch him again.

TOP CHOICE: #8 SMILE HAPPY

Simply put, this is a very exciting prospect, and we can't wait to see what he does on Saturday. He was a dominant winner of the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (G2) last time out, and THREE of those horses behind him have since won Kentucky Derby preps. That's a tremendous sign that bodes extremely well for his chances today. This guy has shown a solid burst of speed when asked in both of his starts. Let's see if he can do it again today!

MAJOR THREATS: #5 Epicenter, #7 Zandon, #10 Slow Down Andy

Epicenter has run very well over this track in 2 starts and is easily the best local horse. Zandon should improve after nearly winning at this level last time out. Slow Down Andy won last time out over Messier, who is our current #1 Kentucky Derby contender.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 Pappacap

This is a very consistent horse who you can seem to count on to hit the board but just hasn't finished the deal in any of his big races around two turns. He might be ignored at the windows, though, which makes him slightly playable at a bigger price.

OTHERS: #2 Russian Tank, #3 Trafalgar, #4 Tawny Port, #6 Pioneer of Medina, #9 Bodock

This group just looks a little outclassed in this spot. We'll need to see some improvement from a speed figure standpoint if any of these have a shot to pull the upset.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #8 Smile Happy - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #10 Slow Down Andy - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #5 Epicenter - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 5,8,10 BOX

TRIFECTA: 5,7,8,10 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 5,7,8,10 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 8,10

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$20 Win on #8 Smile Happy

EXOTIC WAGER: \$2 Exacta BOX 5,8,10

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FAIR GROUNDS

NON-STAKES ANALYSIS & PLAYS

Race 1: 2-1-6-8

#2 Candy's Pride can win here if she rebounds from a poor start last time out. **#1 Canada's Customs** has hit the board 3 times at this level. **#6 Honeysuckle Delight** and **#8 Pineapple Alley** round out a fairly weak field.

Exacta: 1,2/1,2,6

Trifecta: 1,2/1,2,6,8/1,2,6,8

Multi-Race: 1,2

Suggested Bet: \$2 Exacta 1,2/1,2,6

Race 2: 2-9-4-6

#2 Indigo Miss debuts today for a strong barn with Saez aboard. **#9 Rather Be Lucky** set the pace and nearly won last time out. **#4 Royal Flower** debuts in this spot for Asmussen. **#6 Imogene Malvina** debuts for a strong barn with Ortiz up.

Exacta: 2,4,9 BOX

Trifecta: 2,4,6,9 BOX

Multi-Race: 2,4,6,9

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 2,4,6,9

Race 3: 7-5-10-1

#7 More than Work has been close at this level in 2 straight starts. **#5 Mazuma** was very close to winning last time out. **#10 Almanzo** moves over to the dirt for this race. **#1 Freedom's Way** was a solid second at this level last time out.

Exacta: 5,7/5,7,10

Trifecta: 5,7/1,5,7,10/1,5,7,10

Multi-Race: 5,7

Suggested Bet: \$20 Win 7

Race 4: 10-9-3-1

#10 Momentous debuts for Pletcher with Luis Saez up. **#9 Marsalis** is a sharp-looking debut horse for Asmussen. **#3 Art Heist** is the best of the runners who've started. **#1 Major Contender** ran well behind a good horse last time out.

Exacta: 3,9,10 BOX

Trifecta: 1,3,9,10 BOX

Multi-Race: 1,3,6,9,10

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Trifecta BOX 1,3,9,10

Race 5: 6-3-11-2

#6 El Socio has been knocking on the door at this level and should get a good setup today. **#3 Courageously** has won 2 in a row easily against claiming company. **#11 Blue Lou Boyle** has been consistent at this level in his last 2 starts. **#2 Reigning Spirit** can win if he's ready to go after a long layoff.

Exacta: 3,6,11 BOX

Trifecta: 2,3,6,11 BOX

Multi-Race: 2,3,6,11

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Trifecta BOX 2,3,6,11

Race 6: 4-9-6-3

#4 Maasai Warrior was a solid second last time out to a pretty good horse and looks like the one to beat today. **#9 King Ottoman** and **#6 Scotland Yard** debut for Asmussen, who is always dangerous. **#3 Strong Quality** was a solid third behind a nice horse in his debut last time out.

Exacta: 4,6,9 BOX

Trifecta: 3,4,6,9 BOX

Multi-Race: 3,4,6,9

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 3,4,6,9

Race 8: 4-6-5-9

#4 Peaceful Waters was an impressive winner last time out over this track and has faced very good horses. **#6 Cyberknife** gets class relief in this spot after taking on tough stakes company last time out. **#5 Kupuna** won by 5 lengths in his last start, which came at Oaklawn Park. **#9 Gunfighter** will look to go 2 in a row after a nice victory over this track in his last start.

Exacta: 3,4,6 BOX

Trifecta: 3,4,6,9 BOX

Multi-Race: 3,4,6,9

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 3,4,6,9



FAIR GROUNDS

MULTI-RACE ANALYSIS & PLAYS

RACE 1: \$0.50 PICK 5

1,2 with 2,4,6,9 with 7 with 1,3,6,9,10 with 2,3,6,11 = \$80

RACE 2: \$0.50 PICK 4

2,4,6,9 with 7 with 1,3,6,9,10 with 2,3,6,11 = \$40

RACE 4: \$0.50 PICK 5

1,4,6,9,10 with 2,3,6,11 with 3,4,6,9 with 2 with 4,5,6 = \$120

RACE 5: \$0.50 PICK 4

2,3,6,11 with 3,4,6,9 with 2 with 4,5,6 = \$24

RACE 7: \$0.50 PICK 4

2,6 with 4,5,6,9 with 1,3,4,8 with 4,5 = \$32

RACE 9: \$0.50 PICK 5

1,3,4,8 with 4,5 with 2,3,6,7,10 with 1,4,5,9,11 with 8 = \$100

RACE 10: \$0.50 PICK 4

4,5 with 2,3,6,7,10 with 1,4,5,9,11 with 8,10 = \$50

