

2016 KENTUCKY OAKS & DERBY GUIDE

Presented by:

Guaranteed Tip Sheet



Nyquist winning Florida Derby



Exaggerator took sloppy Santa Anita Derby



Brody's Cause grinded Bluegrass Stakes win



Thank you for purchasing the 2016 Kentucky Oaks & Derby Guide presented by Guaranteed Tip Sheet and RacingDudes.com!

The Kentucky Derby is a part of the American fabric. During “the fastest two minutes in sports” the whole country turns its eyes to Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky, to see what 3-year old horse will win the “Run for the Roses.”

The Derby has been run every year since 1875 and famous horses that have won the race include Triple Crown winners Secretariat, Seattle Slew, Affirmed and most recently, American Pharoah. The 142nd running of the Kentucky Derby will be on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at approximately 6:34 p.m. (EDT).

The 1¼ mile race ran on the main dirt track is not only a spectacle; it’s also an opportunity to make a wager and hopefully make a major return! This “2016 Kentucky Oaks & Derby Guide presented by Guaranteed Tip Sheet and RacingDudes.com” will give you the information needed to hopefully make that major score!

This Guide includes:

- Kentucky Derby Overview including:
 - Picks from Guaranteed Pick Sheet, Racing Dudes and Saratoga Slim
 - Introduction
 - Post position analysis
- Horse capsules for each of the 20 projected horses in the 2016 Kentucky Derby field including:
 - Trainer, jockey, projected odds, horse running style (i.e., early speed, presser, closer)
 - Last five races including date, track, race (Graded stakes abbreviated to G1, G2 & G3 for Grade-1, Grade-2 & Grade-3), distance, finish and final Brisnet Speed Figure
 - Pros (positive angles on the horse), Cons (negative angles on the horse) and the Bottom Line
- The horse capsules are broken into five categories – Win Contenders (horses to use to win or on top in exotic wagers), Can Hit the Board (horses to use in the 2nd & 3rd place slots), Exotic Plays (horses to use, but only in the 3rd or 4th place slots), Consider (horses to possibly use or toss), Tosses (horses to not include on tickets)
- Historical pace analysis including the running styles of the past 15 Kentucky Derby winners
- Late pace analysis to help pick the winner & longshots to hit the board
- Kentucky Derby workout report summarizing expert opinions of works & gallops leading up to Derby
- Kentucky Oaks Overview with filly profiles, pace scenario and wagering approach
- Wagering strategy including trifecta, superfecta and Oaks/Derby double approach

For questions and to discuss more feel free to visit racingdudes.com or tweet us at @SaratogaSlim or @racing_dudes on Twitter. Please note all of the horse capsules, pace analysis and wagering strategy were written by Saratoga Slim.

Thank you,
Saratoga Slim

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Kentucky Derby Overview with Picks.....	3
Horse Capsules - Win Contenders	4
Horse Capsules – Can Hit the Board.....	5
Horse Capsules – Exotic Plays	6
Horse Capsules – Considers	7
Horse Capsules – Tosses	8
Historical Pace Analysis – Past 15 Derbies	9
Aligning Running Styles to Pace.....	10
Predicting the Derby Pace.....	10
2016 Kentucky Derby Running Styles.....	11
Late Pace Key to Picking Derby Winner & Longshots	12
Kentucky Derby Workout Report	15
Kentucky Oaks / Derby Days Wagering Strategy	17



Purse:	\$2 million
Distance:	1¼ miles (Dirt)
Age:	3 Year Olds
Post Time:	Sat., May 7 th ~6:34 p.m. (EDT)

The focus of this "2016 Kentucky Oaks & Derby Guide presented by Guaranteed Tip Sheet and RacingDudes.com" is for our readers to make a score! Let's start off with our Kentucky Derby picks and build out from here:

Racing Dudes, Saratoga Slim & Guaranteed Tip Sheet (GTS) Kentucky Derby Picks (AS OF MAY 5):

	Aaron	Jared	Slim	GTS	CONSENSUS*	Pts.
Win	Nyquist	Nyquist	Exaggerator	Creator	Nyquist	34
Place	Creator	Danzing Candy	Nyquist	Nyquist	Creator	17
Show	Danzing Candy	Creator	Gun Runner	Brody's Cause	Exaggerator	11
4th	Suddenbreakingnews	Mor Spirit	Creator	Exaggerator	Danzing Candy	11

*Consensus scored on 10 points for Win, 7 points for Place, 4 points for Show & 1 point for 4th

The Kentucky Derby is such a rare opportunity to win big mainly because of the size of the field. Most of the time, horse races will average about 8 horses in the starting gate with a maximum 14 horses allowed. Since the Derby is such a sought-after race to enter, though, Churchill Downs allows a maximum of 20 horses in the field. Since the field is so large with so many betting interests, the money is spread more evenly amongst the entrants and allows for major payouts. There was over \$124 million wagered in the Win, Place, Show, Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta pools in 2015 paid out to the winning tickets (after the track's take-out), so there is a lot on the line. These bet types will be covered later in the Guide.

As said before, the Derby will comprise of a maximum of 20 horses. All of these horses are three years old. The top 20 horses are selected based on the points that they have earned during designated Derby Prep Races that started in September 2015 and ended in early April 2016. Churchill Downs has now used this point system for the past four years.

Post Position Analysis: Since there are so many horses in one gate, post position analysis is an important part of handicapping the Derby.

For your reference, below is a table showing performance from each post position (1-20) since the use of a starting gate in 1930 including total starts, total 1st place, 2nd place & 3rd place finishes, win % from that post and In The Money % (ITM) (1st, 2nd or 3rd) from that post:

Post	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Starts	86	86	86	86	86	86	85	85	82	79	75	71	69	61	54	44	37	29	24	14
1st	8	7	5	5	9	2	6	8	4	9	2	3	4	2	5	4	0	1	1	1
2nd	4	5	6	6	8	7	6	5	5	6	4	3	5	5	2	3	1	4	1	0
3rd	5	13	8	4	2	3	5	4	8	9	3	3	7	5	1	3	2	0	0	1
Win %	9.3%	8.1%	5.8%	5.8%	10.5%	2.3%	7.1%	9.4%	4.9%	11.4%	2.7%	4.2%	5.8%	3.3%	9.3%	9.1%	0.0%	3.4%	4.2%	7.1%
ITM %	19.8%	29.1%	22.1%	17.4%	22.1%	14.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.7%	30.4%	12.0%	12.7%	23.2%	19.7%	14.8%	22.7%	8.1%	17.2%	8.3%	14.3%

Even though the #1 post position shows a 9.3 win %, any horse that draws the 1 post position is a complete "toss-out." The rail is the worst place to be since the Churchill chute basically lines up directly with the horse running into the rail. With 19 horses all pushing from the outside into the rail, the horse in the 1 position is in danger of getting hit into the rail to start the race. No horse has won the Derby from the 1 slot since Ferdinand in 1986. Additionally, a horse hasn't won from the 2 post position since Affirmed in 1978. The 3 post position hasn't won since 1998 with Real Quiet, so being on the inside is not a great place to be, even though the percentages in the table are skewed due to smaller fields in the past.

Another post position to be wary of is the #17 slot. No horse has ever won from this post position. Maybe it's just a coincidence, but 37 horses have started from this post without a winner to date.

The most favorable post positions are generally believed to be 5 through 16. Post positions 14 and 15 have the advantage of being at end of the main 14 horse gate and the start of the 6 stall auxiliary gate giving these two horses a little bit extra room to break. This even helps the horses in the 13 and 16 post positions to break more cleanly. The highest win and ITM % above are highlighted in green and the 13 through 16 have performed well including wins in two of the last three years from the 15 post with Orb in 2013 and American Pharoah in 2015.

Some would think the far outside posts would be disadvantageous, but since 1999 a total of eight winners have won from the auxiliary gate (posts 15 through 20). In addition to the wins from post 15 discussed above, Big Brown won from Post 20 in 2008, Animal Kingdom won from Post 16 in 2011, I'll Have Another won from Post 19 in 2012.

For post position analysis of the 2016 Derby, check racingdudes.com for updates and an article named "Kentucky Derby Pace Thesis Part 3"

**#13
Nyquist**



Coglianesse
Photos/Gulfstream Park

**Morning Line
Odds: 3/1**

**Early/Presser
(E/P5)**

Trainer: Doug O'Neill | **Jockey:** Mario Gutierrez

Pros: Undefeated, 4-time Grade 1 winner, champion 2-year old, richest horse to ever enter Derby with \$3.3 million in career earnings. His speed from the gate will put him on or near the lead, which is important in 20-horse field. O'Neill & Gutierrez teamed up for Derby win in 2011 with I'll Have Another. O'Neill will build his stamina in long gallops.

Cons: May have distance limitations on both sides of pedigree with sire Uncle Mo never winning over 1 1/16 mile & dam by sprinter Forestry. Needs to overcome "Breeders' Cup Juvenile Curse" (only 1 horse - Street Sense in 2006 - has won Derby after BC Juvenile victory). Taking unorthodox route to Derby with only one 2-turn race in 2016. Drifted out in many wins in stretch. Fl. Derby win may have been helped by inside bias. On wrong lead at end of Fl. Derby may just be a quirk instead of sign he was getting tired at end of race. On morning of April 7, his return to track after Fl. Derby was delayed with elevated white blood cell count.

Bottom Line: Will be the low-priced favorite on Derby day & will need to be used at least defensively

Last Five Races (Lifetime - 7 races, 7-0-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/2/16	GP	G1 Fl. Derby	1 1/8 M	1 st	97
2/15/16	SA	G2 San Vicente	7F	1 st	103
10/31/15	KEE	G1 BC Juv.	1 1/16 M	1 st	97
9/26/15	SA	G1 Frontrunner	1 1/16 M	1 st	96
9/7/15	DMR	G1 DMR Futurity	7F	1 st	94

**#11
Exaggerator**



Benoit Photo

**Morning Line
Odds: 8/1**

Presser (P3)

Trainer: Keith Desormeaux | **Jockey:** Kent Desormeaux

Pros: Middle move in Santa Anita (SA) Derby was 1 of the most dominating in Derby prep season. Only horse in field to run 4 straight Brisnet speed figures over 100 coming in. Has built a strong foundation with 9 career lifetime starts. Jockey Desormeaux has won 3 Derbies in his career (1998, 2000 & 2008). Changed his running style from being nearer to the pace to a mid-pack closer & this new approach worked to perfection in SA Derby.

Cons: Last 2 wins were on sloppy, muddy tracks in SA Derby & Delta Jackpot. Huge move in SA Derby was into hot pace & may have been slop induced. His inconsistent San Felipe & San Vicente runs flattening out late are major knocks, even though both races received good figures. After San Felipe, trainer Desormeaux questioned if he was a better miler, but his sire Curlin & female family have stamina influences.

Bottom Line: Lost 3 times to Nyquist, but may be able to turn the table at 1¼ mile, can be a key horse

Last Five Races (Lifetime - 9 races, 4-2-1):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/9/16	SA	G1 SA Derby	1 1/8 M	1 st	102
3/12/16	SA	G2 San Felipe	1 1/16 M	3 rd	101
2/15/16	SA	G2 San Vicente	7F	2 nd	101
11/21/15	Ded	G3 Delta Jackpot	1 1/16 M	1 st	103
10/31/15	KEE	G1 BC Juv.	1 1/16 M	4 th	94

**#3
Creator**



Coady Photography

**Morning Line
Odds: 10/1
Closer (S0)**

Trainer: Steve Asmussen | **Jockey:** Ricardo Santana, Jr.

Pros: Split horses, in tight to close strongly to win Arkansas (Ark.) Derby showing running style needed in Derby traffic. Steady increasing Brisnet speed figures over last 3 races. Ran strong 2nd over sloppy Churchill oval in late November. Has strong distance pedigree on dam side averaging 8½ furlongs per win. Unlike many horses sired by Tapit, he's not headstrong & has shown ability to relax early.

Cons: Took 6 races to break maiden, but may be getting hot at the right time with 2 wins in last 3. Those 2 wins are his only in 8 lifetime starts, but has hit the board in every career start except his 2nd lifetime start on turf. Started his career on turf and moved to the dirt, but has always wanted distance. Santana Jr. is a young jockey that will need to navigate the Derby traffic. Has 7 starts in past 5½ months all around 2-turns, so a big question is if all this racing will catch up to him & he'll "bounce" off his big Ark. Derby win.

Bottom Line: Improving type that is trending before Derby is dangerous, a must use in all plays

Last Five Races (Lifetime - 8 races, 2-4-1):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/16/16	OP	G1 Arkansas Derby	1 1/8 M	1 st	100
3/19/16	OP	G2 Rebel	1 1/16 M	3 rd	95
2/27/16	OP	Mdn 70k	1 1/16 M	1 st	93
2/12/16	FG	Mdn 40k	1M 70 yds	2 nd	78
12/31/15	FG	Mdn 40k	1 1/16 M	2 nd	82

**#5 Gun
Runner**



Coady Photography

**Morning Line
Odds: 10/1**

Presser (P4)

Trainer: Steve Asmussen | **Jockey:** Florent Geroux

Pros: Brisnet speed figures have progressed throughout career. Has tactical speed & ability to show quick acceleration displayed by "stop & start moves" in both Louisiana (La.) Derby & Risen Star. Broke maiden at Churchill & ran well in KJC as a 2-year old. Only career loss was in slop in KJC. Sire Candy Ride is hot. Geroux is an up-and-coming star.

Cons: On the Beyer Speed Figure scale, his 91 earned in the La. Derby would be too slow to win the Derby if he doesn't improve greatly. Six-week layoff from La. Derby is a knock, but will train up to race at Churchill & fired fresh off 3-month lay-off in Risen Star. Last winner of La. Derby to win Ky. Derby was Grindstone in 1996. This will be Geroux's first ever start in the Derby.

Bottom Line: The 6-week lay-off is worrisome, but tactical speed makes him a horse to use

Last Five Races (Lifetime - 5 races, 4-0-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
3/26/16	FG	G1 La. Derby	1 1/8 M	1 st	100
2/20/16	FG	G2 Risen Star	1 1/16 M	1 st	97
11/28/15	CD	G2 Kent. Jock. Club	1 1/16 M	4 th	92
10/17/15	KEE	ALW58000n1x	1 1/16 M	1 st	85
9/11/15	CD	MDN 38k	1 Mile	1 st	81

#17 Mor Spirit



Benoit Photo

Morning Line Odds: 12/1 Presser (P3)

Trainer: Bob Baffert | **Jockey:** Gary Stevens
Pros: Steady & consistent, has ran 1st or 2nd in all of his 7 career starts. Will not give up in stretch of Derby grinding. Ran solid 2nd at Churchill in the sloppy Kentucky Jockey Club. Triple Crown & 4-time Derby winning trainer Baffert & 3-time Derby winning jockey Stevens are top connections in the game.

Cons: Runs with a low head carriage & at one speed, but may be able to just keep grinding out steady fractions in Derby. Has been a lazy work-out horse, but put in a nice work before the SA Derby. He runs himself into shape during his races and has progressed in each start. Will need to be close to the lead in the stretch since he may not have the late "turn of foot" like others in this field.

Bottom Line: At or near the top of the crop, will need to use based on class & consistency

Last Five Races (Lifetime – 7 races, 3-4-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/9/16	SA	G1 SA Derby	1 1/8 M	2 nd	94
3/12/16	SA	G2 San Felipe	1 1/16 M	2 nd	102
2/6/16	SA	G3 Robert Lewis	1 1/16 M	1 st	99
12/19/15	Lrc	G1 Los Al Futurity	1 1/16 M	1 st	96
11/28/15	CD	G2 Kent. Jock. Club	1 1/16 M	2 nd	94

#19 Brody's Cause



Coady Photography

Morning Line Odds: 12/1 Closer (S0)

Trainer: Dale Romans | **Jockey:** Luis Saez
Pros: Classy 2-time Grade-1 winner after closing & grinding out win in Bluegrass. Sired by Giant's Causeway with other stamina influences, there is no doubt that he has the pedigree for the Derby distance. Broke his maiden at a mile over a fast Churchill strip last September & Romans has said, "He loves Churchill Downs."

Cons: Some may look at him as a Keeneland "horse for course" since his top races have come in Lexington. His Beyer & Brisnet speed figures are a cut below the top horses in the field. Disappointed in 2016 return over quirky Tampa Bay Downs oval, but just might mean that he needs "one off the bench."

Bottom Line: Must include underneath since he packs possibly the best closing kick in the field

Last Five Races (Lifetime – 6 races, 3-0-1):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/9/16	KEE	G1 Bluegrass	1 1/8 M	1 st	94
3/12/16	Tam	G2 Tampa Bay Derby	1 1/16 M	7 th	83
10/31/15	KEE	G1 BC Juv.	1 1/16 M	3 rd	94
10/3/15	KEE	G1 Breeders' Futurity	1 1/16 M	1 st	95
9/11/15	CD	Mdn 38k	1 Mile	1 st	81

#15 Outwork



NYRA

Morning Line Odds: 15/1 Early (E8)

Trainer: Todd Pletcher | **Jockey:** John Velazquez
Pros: Gutted out win over maiden Trojan Nation in muddy, sticky Wood Memorial. 2nd in Tampa Bay Derby impressive doing dirty work on front end, but couldn't hold off stable-mate Destin late. Has possibly best early foot in Derby field & with good post position should be on or near the Derby lead. On April 22, worked behind two Pletcher trainees to try to teach him to take dirt behind horses, so plan may be to take him off the pace in the Derby.

Cons: Won the slowest running of the Wood Memorial in the 92-year history of the race. Lightly raced with only 4 lifetime races & only 2 races around 2-turns, so hasn't built strong foundation. His 4½ furlong race in April 2015 means he raced as a 2-year old, but he's almost eligible for "The Curse of Apollo" (no horse has won the Derby without racing at 2 years old since 1882). Possible distance limitations sired by Uncle Mo, but strong stamina influence out of mare by Empire Maker (2003 Belmont Stakes winner).

Bottom Line: If he relaxes & rates, could be a good pace play at a good price to include

Last Four Races (Lifetime – 4 races, 3-1-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/9/16	AQ	G1 Wood Memorial	1 1/8 M	1 st	96
3/12/16	Tam	G2 Tampa Bay Derby	1 1/16 M	2 nd	96
2/13/16	Tam	OC75k/n1x-N	6 Furlongs	1 st	89
4/23/15	Kee	Mdn 50k	4½ F	1 st	82

#6 My Man Sam



Coady Photography

Morning Line Odds: 20/1 Closer (S0)

Trainer: Chad Brown | **Jockey:** Irad Ortiz, Jr.
Pros: Powerful closing kick to get 2nd in Bluegrass is impressive because he out-closed Cherry Wine after drawing 14 post & going 8 wide into stretch. Sustained run in maiden breaker & 2nd in allowance to Matt King Coal received high Beyer & Brisnet figures. Plenty of stamina influence on female side of pedigree & sire Trappe Shot is son of Tapit. Ortiz has decided on this mount over Shagaf, so it's a plus.

Cons: Lightly raced with only 4 lifetime starts. Bluegrass was a slow race overall & speed figure there is lacking. Originally brought into Brown barn as a turf horse, but trainer thought his movement was better suited to dirt.

Bottom Line: Might be getting good at right time, will be "wise-guy" horse on Derby day, watch the board

Last Four Races (Lifetime – 4 races, 1-2-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/9/16	KEE	G1 Bluegrass	1 1/8 M	2 nd	92
3/6/16	AQ	OC80k/n1x-N	1 1/16 M	2 nd	100
1/31/16	AQ	Mdn 60k	1 1/16 M	1 st	97
12/19/15	AQ	Mdn 60k	6 furlongs	5 th	70

#18 Majesto

Trainer: Gustavo Delgado | **Jockey:** Emisael Jaramillo

Pros: Had big run on the rail in the Fl. Derby to get 2nd & had a huge gallop out where he was in front of Nyquist by ~5 lengths past the wire. Had kept good company in top level maiden races all winter at Gulfstream. Has built strong foundation for Derby with three 1 & 1/8 mile routes in last 4 races.

Cons: Only broke maiden in last start before Fl. Derby. May have been helped by inside rail bias in Fl. Derby to run on late. With Castellano up has had his best races in last 2, but will not keep mount.

Bottom Line: Tough to trust horse who just broke maiden & without Castellano, but may be key longshot

Morning Line Odds: 30/1

PRESSER (P3)

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/2/16	GP	G1 Fl. Derby	1 1/8 M	2 nd	93
2/27/16	GP	Mdn 60k	1 1/16 M	1 st	97
2/6/16	GP	Mdn 50k	1 1/8 M	3 rd	81
1/9/16	GP	Mdn 50k	1 1/8 M	6 th	78
12/12/15	GP	Mdn 50k	1 1/16 M	2 nd	91

#12 Tom's Ready

Trainer: Dallas Stewart | **Jockey:** Brian Hernandez, Jr.

Pros: Proved that poor performance in Risen Star was due to wide trip on speed bias / rail track with steady 2nd in La. Derby. Stewart runners Commanding Curve (2014) & Golden Soul (2013) got 2nd in Derby at long prices. Worst loss of career was 8th over sloppy Churchill track in KJC.

Cons: Has only 1 win out of 9 career races. Even though he finished 2nd in La. Derby, was 4½ lengths behind Gun Runner. Six-week layoff from La. Derby is a knock, but will train up to race at Churchill.

Bottom Line: You'd feel real dumb leaving him off bottom of tickets after Stewart's past Derby places

Morning Line Odds: 30/1

CLOSER (S1)

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
3/26/16	FG	G1 La. Derby	1 1/8 M	2 nd	95
2/20/16	FG	G2 Risen Star	1 1/16 M	7 th	81
1/16/16	FG	G3 Lecomte	1M 70 yd.	2 nd	91
12/18/15	FG	OC50k/n1x-N	1M 70 yd.	2 nd	88
11/28/15	CD	G2 Kent. Jock. Club	1 1/16 M	8 th	81

#14 Mohaymen

Lauren King

Trainer: Kiaran McLaughlin | **Jockey:** Junior Alvarado

Pros: Was the top Derby prospect & undefeated before his 4th in Florida Derby, but never seemed comfortable on the wet Gulfstream track with wide trip. \$2.2 million purchase sired by Tapit, should be able to get the Derby distance. Well proportioned, but very small horse, has the agility, can overcome obstacles stalking & has a good mind. Putting in big works at Churchill after working at deep Palm Meadows.

Cons: Will need to bounce back after Florida Derby clunker. Showed immaturity in 2nd career race in Nashua when difficult in post parade and gate. Alvarado has never ridden in a Kentucky Derby, but has 6 Grade-1 wins to his credit. Speed figures have not improved from 2015. Will need to overcome the "Remsen Curse" (no Remsen winner has won the Derby in the past 22 years) – 1 & 1/8 mile race as 2-year old may have "dulled" him. Horses that he beat including Zulu, Greenpointcrusader & Flexibility did not flatter him with dull performances subsequent to running 2nd to Mohaymen. Being sired by Tapit, can tend to be head-strong early pulling jockey & may be too keyed up during big works at Churchill.

Bottom Line: No longer a horse to key in wagers & unwillingness to relax may be his undoing

Morning Line Odds: 10/1

Early/Presser (E/P6)

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/2/16	GP	G1 Fl. Derby	1 1/8 M	4 th	87
2/27/16	GP	G2 Fount. of Youth	1 1/16 M	1 st	102
1/30/16	GP	G2 Holy Bull	1 1/16 M	1 st	97
11/28/15	AQ	G2 Remsen	1 1/8 M	1 st	102
11/4/15	AQ	G2 Nashua	1 M	1 st	91

#2 Suddenbreakingnews

Coady Photography

Trainer: D. Von Hemel | **Jockey:** L. Quinonez

Pros: Late close to win Southwest in middle of the Oaklawn stretch was one of the most incredible moves in the Derby prep season. Bred to run all day by Mineshaft out of an Afleet Alex mare. May be the fastest closer out of the 8 to be entered in Derby.

Cons: Best races have come when he is extremely wide in the stretch (Ark Derby, Southwest) & may not be able to make up as much ground going so wide in Derby. Quinonez also may be making his big move too late. Started career at Remington Park, which is not historically an incubator for Derby prospects, but 2013 Eclipse winning 3-year old, Will Take Charge, did race there as a 2-year old.

Bottom Line: Sometimes too late & has needed clear outside paths that won't work in Derby

Morning Line Odds: 20/1

Closer (S0)

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/16/16	OP	G1 Arkansas Derby	1 1/8 M	2 nd	99
3/19/16	OP	G2 Rebel	1 1/16 M	5 th	93
2/15/16	OP	G3 Southwest	1 1/16 M	1 st	94
12/13/15	RP	Springboard M 250k	1 Mile	2 nd	86
11/6/15	RP	Clever Trevor 100k	7 Furlongs	1 st	89

#4 Mo Tom

Trainer: Tom Amoss **Jockey:** Corey Lanerie

Pros: If it wasn't for traffic & jockey error, might be one of the top Derby points horses. Even with traffic issues, has increased Brisnet Speed Figures in all of his career races. Win in Street Sense & 3rd in KJC in the slop prove that he has an affinity for Churchill. Has the ability to "stop & start on a dime."

Cons: Always seems to find trouble including stretch in La. Derby, Risen Star & KJC and this may continue with his deep closing tactics. May be a knock on the jock, but some horses just always know how to find trouble. May have distance limitations being sired by Uncle Mo. Six-week layoff from La. Derby is tough, but will train up to race at Churchill. Using the Beyer Speed Figures, only has an 88 as a career high.

Bottom Line: Tough to trust a closer that has found a clear path in only 1 of his last 4 races

Last Five Races (Lifetime – 7 races, 3-0-3):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
3/26/16	FG	G1 La. Derby	1 1/8 M	4 th	93
2/20/16	FG	G2 Risen Star	1 1/16 M	3 rd	95
1/16/16	FG	G3 Lecomte	1M 70 yd.	1 st	94
11/28/15	CD	G2 Kent. Jock. Club	1 1/16 M	3 rd	94
11/1/15	CD	Street Sense 80k	1 Mile	1 st	89

Morning Line Odds: 20/1

CLOSER (S0)

#10 Whitmore



Coady Photography

Trainer: Ron Moquett **Jockey:** Victor Espinoza

Pros: Middle moves on turn in Ark Derby, Rebel & Southwest are some of the most visually impressive in prep season. Started year with sharp 6 furlong sprint win, which is "old school" approach to training a Derby horse. Broke maiden at 1st asking impressively by 7¼ lengths on fast Churchill oval at 6 furlongs showing his liking for Derby track. Adds Espinoza, who has won past 2 Derbies & 3 overall.

Cons: After huge middle moves in Rebel & Ark Derby, flattened in stretch to get only 2nd & 3rd, but had wide trips / traffic issues in both races, specifically clipping heels in the opening stages of the Ark. Derby. May have moved too early in Rebel & couldn't sustain run after well timed move in Ark Derby at longer distance.

Bottom Line: Has had excuses, but hasn't been able to sustain middle moves & that's needed to win Derby


Last Five Races (Lifetime – 6 races, 2-2-1):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/16/16	OP	G1 Arkansas Derby	1 1/8 M	3 rd	97
3/19/16	OP	G2 Rebel	1 1/16 M	2 nd	97
2/15/16	OP	G3 Southwest	1 1/16 M	2 nd	91
1/16/16	OP	OC62.5k/n2l-N	6 Furlongs	1 st	92
11/21/15	Ded	G3 Delta Jackpot	1 1/16 M	5 th	86

Morning Line Odds: 20/1

Closer (S0)

#9 Destin



SV Photography

Trainer: Todd Pletcher **Jockey:** Javier Castellano

Pros: Has been a different horse since Pletcher added blinkers before his 4th place Lecomte finish. Progressed off that showing to win back-to-back graded stakes at Tampa Bay. Received a 100 Beyer Speed Figure in his Tampa Bay Derby win. Sired by Giant's Causeway, has plenty of distance pedigree. Full brother to Creative Cause, who ran 5th in 2012 Derby.

Cons: Will enter the Derby off an 8-week lay-off, which is an unorthodox approach. Has never run over a mile and 1/16th, so it'll be tough for him to build up the stamina from just working up to the Derby. Got overheated before the Tampa Bay Derby and was lathered up more than any other horse, which is a concern on Derby day in front of 150,000 fans. His best performances have come at Tampa Bay Downs, which is known as a "quirky" track, so he may be a "horse for course."

Bottom Line: Tough to bet heavily on horse off long lay-off & the way he gets heated before races worries


Last Five Races (Lifetime – 5 races, 3-1-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
3/12/16	Tam	G2 Tampa Bay Derby	1 1/16 M	1 st	97
2/13/16	Tam	G3 SF Davis	1 1/16 M	1 st	100
1/16/16	FG	G3 Lecomte	1M 70 yd.	4 th	88
12/18/15	GP	OC75k/n1x-N	1 Mile	2 nd	81
10/11/15	Bel	Mdn 75k	7F	1 st	84

Morning Line Odds: 15/1

Early/Presser (E/P4)

#20 Danzing Candy



Benoit Photo

Trainer: Clifford Sise **Jockey:** Mike Smith

Pros: Gate-to-wire San Felipe win over Mor Spirit & Exaggerator is career highlight. Fastest horse in the Derby field and will try to take them gate-to-wire. Hall of Fame jockey Smith won Derby in 2005. Can possibly bounce back from SA Derby where he set blazing fractions & flattened late and Smith says he wasn't handling slop well late.

Cons: Loss by 13 lengths in SA Derby cannot be overlooked. Fractious in gate before SA Derby & doesn't look like he can relax & rate. Lightly raced with 5 lifetime starts. Twirling Candy as sire means he may be able to get the Derby distance, but from on-track performances, may be best sprinting or at a 1-turn mile.

Bottom Line: Will get on the lead & will take them as far as he can, which may not be far enough

Last Five Races (Lifetime – 5 races, 3-0-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/9/16	SA	G1 SA Derby	1 1/8 M	4 th	87
3/12/16	SA	G2 San Felipe	1 1/16 M	1 st	104
2/4/16	SA	OC80k/n1x-N	1 Mile	1 st	98
12/26/15	SA	Mdn 56k	7 Furlongs	1 st	101
11/29/15	DMR	Mdn 52k	6 ½ F	8 th	79

Morning Line Odds: 15/1

Early (E8)

#16 Shagaf



Coglianes
Photos/NYRA

**Morning Line
Odds: 20/1
Early/Presser
(E/P4)**

Trainer: Chad Brown **Jockey:** Joel Rosario
Pros: Had excuses in Wood including getting bumped early, running close behind wall of horses at fast fractions, checking on turn & getting bumped late all in the slop. Grinding win in Gotham impressive as he swung off "golden rail" that day to track down lone speed. Has the distance pedigree sired by Bernardini & out of an Unbridled Song mare.

Cons: Lightly raced with only 4 lifetime starts. His excuses in the Wood may be overblown since he was sitting in good spot off far turn & didn't fire in the lane. Brisnet & Beyer speed figures seem too low to be competitive in this field.

Bottom Line: Will have more traffic than in Wood to overcome & may not be fast enough

Last Four Races (Lifetime – 4 races, 3-0-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/9/16	AQ	G1 Wood Memorial	1 1/8 M	5 th	92
3/5/16	AQ	G3 Gotham	1 1/16 M	1 st	94
1/29/16	GP	OC75k/n1x-N	1 Mile	1 st	90
11/22/15	AQ	Mdn 60k	1 Mile	1 st	99

#8 Lani



Melanie Martines

**Morning Line
Odds: 30/1**

Presser (N/A)

Trainer: Mikio Matsunaga **Jockey:** Yutaka Take
Pros: Was a hot horse to watch in early 2016 before 5th place finish in Japan to start year at a mile. Returned to win UAE Derby at 1 & 3/16 mile proving he'll be able to get Derby distance. Sired by Tapit showed "will to win" in UAE Derby getting up in the final strides to beat 3 others in deep stretch.

Cons: Ran estimated 82 Beyer Speed Figure to win UAE Derby, which is too slow to be competitive here. Has been getting worked up, getting studdish before morning workouts at Churchill and often gives out a "scream" before he hits the track, so it's a question how focused he is. UAE Derby winners have never finished above 5th (Master of Hounds - 2011) in Derby. Since 1967, horses exclusively raced outside North America before Derby have 2 wins in 43 tries (Canonero II 1971, Bold Forbes 1976).

Bottom Line: Will take money based on intrigue & Japanese connections - will help the price on better horses

Last Five Races (Lifetime – 6 races, 3-1-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
3/26/16	Mey	UAE Derby	1 3/16 M	1 st	N/A
2/21/16	Tok	Hcp 303696	1 Mile	5 th	N/A
11/28/15	Tok	Hcp 154660	1 Mile	1 st	N/A
11/22/15	Kyo	Stk 77737	1 1/8 M	1 st	N/A
10/3/15	Han	Stk 79647	1 1/8 M	2 nd	N/A

**#7 Oscar
Nominated**



Coady Photography

**Morning Line
Odds: 50/1
Presser (P5)**

Trainer: Mike Maker **Jockey:** Julien Leparoux
Pros: Showed grit swinging 5 wide tracking all-out to out-neck a good horse in Azar to win Spiral. Has hit the exacta in all 5 of his last races. Ramsey connections got an investor to pony up the \$200K to late-nominate him to Derby.

Cons: Has never run on dirt. Sire Kitten's Joy has primarily had success as a turf stallion. Ran as a maiden claimer 5 races back, so can't be looked at as the definition of class. Brisnet & Beyer figures lack significantly with 82 Beyer as his career high ran in Spiral.

Bottom Line: Betting that he takes to dirt & improves significantly is not a good approach

Last Five Races (Lifetime – 7 races, 3-2-0):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/2/16	TP	G3 Spiral	1 1/8 M	1 st	91
2/27/16	FG	Black Gold 50k	7 1/2 F	1 st	87
1/31/16	FG	K. Gee Mem. 50k	7 1/2 F	2 nd	73
11/20/15	FG	Alw57000n2L	1 Mile	2 nd	90
10/16/15	CD	MC75000-c	1 1/16 M	1 st	84

**#1 Trojan
Nation**



Coglianes Photo / NYRA

**Morning Line
Odds: 50/1
Closer(S3)**

Trainer: Patrick Gallagher **Jockey:** Aaron Gryder
Pros: Came out of nowhere to make strong move up rail to get 2nd by only a head in Wood. Had a bullet out of 58 work at Santa Anita before the Wood & shows that the West Coast may rule come Derby day. Maiden races versus Cupid & Hoffenheim show he's kept good company at Santa Anita.

Cons: Has never won a race making him a rare maiden coming into the Derby. Since 1933, maidens have run 9 times in the Derby with an 8th place being the best finish. Lost to Cupid by 9 lengths two back, so he has to improve plenty to be mentioned in the top of the class. His Wood run was up the rail on the best part of the track where there was not even a hoof mark.

Bottom Line: Tough to bet on a maiden to hit the superfecta in the Derby

Last Five Races (Lifetime – 6 races, 0-1-3):

Date	Track	Race	Dist.	Fin.	Bris
4/9/16	AQ	G1 Wood Memorial	1 1/8 M	2 nd	96
3/6/16	SA	Mdn 56K	1 Mile	3 rd	87
2/7/16	SA	Mdn 56K	1 1/16 M	3 rd	87
12/27/15	SA	Mdn 56K	1 1/16 M	4 th	84
11/15/15	DMR	Mdn 52k	1 Mile	3 rd	85

Also Eligibles:

#21 Laoban (50/1) (Early E6) – If the maiden draws into the field, will add more early speed from the far outside post. Hung on gamely in both the G1 Bluegrass and G3 Gotham after setting fast early paces. Another sired by Uncle Mo, outspoken trainer Eric Guillot would love to get him in the field. Jockey Cornelio Velazquez would get the mount.

#22 Cherry Wine (30/1) (Closer S0) – Another big time closer for trainer Dale Romans, would have been in the Derby field if he did not get beat by a head for 2nd in Bluegrass to My Man Sam. Outside post would not bother him if he drew in since jockey Robby Albarado would take him back behind the outside speed. His close in the G2 Rebel for 4th was hampered by traffic less than 2 lengths behind Creator for 3rd, so he has shown that he has kept good class in the prep season.

Handicapping the horses in the Kentucky Derby is just half the battle. Trying to predict the pace in the race is the next part of putting together the Derby puzzle.

The importance of pace is demonstrated by the table below showing the past 15 Kentucky Derbies with the winner, where the horse sat in position and lengths back at the ¾ mile point in the race, the fractions ran in the race at the ½ mile and ¾ mile point and a rating of the pace based on where the times rank in the past 15 years:

Year	Winner	BRIS Running Style		Winning Style	Place at 3/4 Mile	Lengths back at 3/4 Mile	Fractions		Pace	Track Condition
							1st 1/2 Mile	1st 3/4 Mile		
2001	Monarchos	S3	Closer	Pressed	10th	7.5	44.86	1:09.25	Fastest	Fast
2002	War Emblem	E6	Early	Early	1st	N/A	47.04	1:11.75	Slow	Fast
2003	Funny Cide	E/P6	Early/Presser	Early/Pressed	3rd	1.5	46.23	1:10.48		Fast
2004	Smarty Jones	E/P7	Early/Presser	Early/Presser	2nd	2.5	46.73	1:11.80	Slow	Sloppy
2005	Giacomo	E/P5	Early/Presser	Closed	18th	14.75	45.38	1:09.59	Fast	Fast
2006	Barbaro	E/P7	Early/Presser	Early/Pressed	4th	3	46.07	1:10.88		Fast
2007	Street Sense	S2	Closer	Closed	17th	12	46.26	1:11.13		Fast
2008	Big Brown	E/P8	Early/Presser	Early/Pressed	6th	3.75	47.04	1:11.14		Fast
2009	Mine That Bird	E/P4	Early/Presser	Closed	19th	14	47.23	1:12.09	Slow	Sloppy (Sealed)
2010	Super Saver	E6	Early	Presser	4th	6.5	46.16	1:10.58		Sloppy (Sealed)
2011	Animal Kingdom	P3	Presser	Presser	10th	6	48.63	1:13.40	Slowest	Fast
2012	I'll Have Another	E/P7	Early/Presser	Pressed	6th	6.5	45.39	1:09.80	Fast	Fast
2013	Orb	P2	Presser	Closed	17th	14.5	45.33	1:09:80	Fast	Sloppy (Sealed)
2014	California Chrome	E/P7	Early/Presser	Early/Pressed	3rd	0.5	47.37	1:11.80	Slow	Fast
2015	American Pharoah	E/P7	Early/Presser	Early/Pressed	3rd	1.5	47.34	1:11:29	Slow	Fast

Key
Fastest Pace
Fast Pace
Slow Pace
Slowest Pace

***Note:** The run-up distance was changed from zero to 34 feet starting in 2009.

Slow Paced Derbies:

Just like in any race on any given day of the year with a slow pace, a horse needs to stay closer to the pace to win. Not surprisingly, in 4 out of the 6 slowest Derbies in the past 15 years, horses that were on the lead or within a half to 2½ lengths of the lead at the ¾ mile point won the Derby including:

- War Emblem in 2002 – only horse in last 15 years to go gate-to-wire to win Derby
- Smarty Jones in 2004 – 2½ lengths back at ¾ mile point
- California Chrome in 2014 – ½ length back at ¾ mile point
- American Pharoah in 2015 – 1½ lengths back at ¾ mile point

In the slowest paced Derby in the last 15 years, Animal Kingdom in 2011 used his pressing style to sit 6 lengths off the lead to win. So even in that Derby, Animal Kingdom needed to keep “in touch” with the leaders early, even though he was sitting in 10th at the ¾ mile point.

The outlier for slow-paced Derbies was in 2009 when Mine That Bird closed from 14 lengths back to win, but that was one of the most unforeseen and unlikely results in Derby history, so it will be looked at as a true anomaly in this analysis.

Fast Paced Derbies:

In contrast, when a fast pace ensues, the pace may “melt down” on the front end and set it up for mid-pack runners and closers. To that point, in the 4 fastest Derbies in the past 15 years, in each case the winner pressed from mid-pack or closed from 6½ to 14¾ lengths back at the ¾ mile point in the race:

- Monarchos pressed in mid-pack **7½ lengths** back at the ¾ mile point in 2001 into the fastest pace to win.
- Giacomo closed from **14¾ lengths** back into at the ¾ mile point in 2005 into a fast pace to win.
- I'll Have Another pressed in mid-pack **6½ lengths** back at the ¾ mile point in 2012 into a fast pace to win.
- Orb closed from **14½ lengths** back at the ¾ mile point in 2013 into a fast pace to win.

Additionally in each slow or fast paced case, the early/presser or closer Brisnet running style of the winning horse almost perfectly aligned itself with how the horse ran and won the race.

Run Style Definitions

[E] A winner exhibiting a typical 'E' (or Early) run style would show the horse leading or battling for the lead through the duration of the race. An 'E' horse is any horse which typically vies for the early lead or whose better races are run on the lead. Most 'E' horses are need-the-lead types which can not reasonably be expected to successfully rate behind a pacesetter.

[E/P] A winner exhibiting a typical 'E/P' (or Early/Presser) run style would show the horse running 2nd or 3rd and within a few lengths early before making the winning move. A 'E/P' horse, like an 'E' horse, may also run on the frontend. However, unlike an 'E' horse, it can reasonably be expected to successfully lay just behind a pacesetter.

[P] A winner exhibiting a typical 'P' (or Presser) run style would show the horse running in the middle-of-the-pack early before making his winning move. A 'P' horse may at times run close to the pace but rarely, if ever, challenges for the lead early. Unlike a 'S' horse, the 'P' horse doesn't typically run from the rear-of-the-pack in it's better races.

[S] A winner exhibiting a typical 'S' (Sustain or Closer) run style would show the horse running in the back-of-the-pack early before making his late winning move.

[NA] A 'NA' (or Not Available) run style is used for first-time-starters and those horses without any meaningful running lines to accurately assess the horse's preferred run style.

[Early Speed Points] Ranging from a low of 0 points to a high of 8 points, this measures the Early Speed ability of the horse based upon its running position and beaten lengths at the 1st Call in recent races at today's distance. The higher the points, the more early speed the horse has shown in recent races. The Early Speed points are displayed in the past performances after the horse name and in parenthesis alongside BRIS Run Style - e.g. (P7).

For those not familiar with the Brisnet Run Style Definitions, please see the descriptions to the left from the Brisnet.com website and library and a summary below:

- The run style of the horse is either:

E = Early
E/P = Early/Presser
P = Presser
S = Sustained or Closer

- The number next to the run style represents the early speed points. The numbers range from 0-8 and measure the Early Speed of the horse based on its running position and beaten lengths at the first call of recent races. The higher the number, the more early speed a horse has shown in recent races.

In the 6 slowest Derbies in the past 15 years, the winner was either an Early (E), Early/Presser (E/P) or Presser (P) style runner, meaning that they naturally wanted to be nearer to the early pace:

- 2002 – War Emblem (E6)
- 2004 – Smarty Jones (E/P7)
- 2009 – Mine That Bird (E/P4)
- 2011 – Animal Kingdom (P3)
- 2014 – California Chrome (E/P7)
- 2015 – American Pharoah (E/P7)

Even Mine That Bird that closed from 14 lengths back at the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile mark still came into 2009 Derby with a slow pace rated as an E/P4 early/presser by Brisnet.

On the other end of the spectrum, in 2 out of the 4 years of fast-paced Derbies, the winner came into the race displaying the Presser or Closer running style, meaning that they more naturally wanted to lay back off the hot early pace and make one run late. These two horses include Monarchos (S3) in 2001 and Orb (P3) in 2013 that both closed into hot paces to win the Kentucky Derby.

Predicting the Derby Pace

Now that the importance of pace and correlation has been demonstrated, the next step is to try to predict the pace of this year's Derby. Using the running styles as an indicator of how much early speed is in the race is a great way to look back and predict future pace.

The table below shows the past 7 Kentucky Derbies with the Pace ranked, the top speed horses coming into the race based on the E and E/P running styles, the quantity of each running style in the race (noting the total of E8 and E/P8 horses) and pace description.

From the table below, in almost all cases horses with E running styles set the early Derby pace:

- In 6 of the last 7 years, horses with E running styles set the early pace (the exception being Palace Malice (P3) in 2013 when his trainer Todd Pletcher added blinkers and he decided to blaze fast fractions in the slop)
- Moreover, in 4 of the last 7 years horses with E8 running styles set the early fractions. E8 horses have the most early speed and are naturally "need to lead" types.

Pace:	Slow	Slow	Fast - Sloppy (Sealed)	Fast	Slowest	3rd fastest in last 7 years - Sloppy (Sealed)	Slow - Sloppy (Sealed)							
Year:	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009							
Top Speed Horses	Dortmund	E 8	Wildcat Red	E 8	Giant Finish	E 8	Bodemeister	E 8	Decisive Moment	E 8	Line of David	E 8	Join in the Dance	E 8
	Materiality	E/P 8	Chitu	E/P 8	Falling Sky	E 8	Trinniberg	E 8	Comma to the Top	E 7	Sidney's Candy	E 8	Atomic Rain	E 6
	Firing Line	E/P 8	General A Rod	E/P 8	Goldencents	E/P 8	Hansen	E 8	Shackleford	E 6	Conveyance	E 8	Regal Ransom	E 2
	Upstart	E/P 7	California Chrome	E/P 7	Verrazano	E/P 7	Gemologist	E/P 7			Discreetly Mine	E 8	Pioneer of the Nile	E/P 5
	American Pharoah	E/P 7	Harry's Holiday	E 6	Oxbox	E 4	I'll Have Another	E/P 7			American Lion	E/P 8		
		Uncle Sigh	E 5	Palace Malice	P 3	Take Charge Indy	E/P 5			Super Saver	E 6			
# of Horse Run Styles	1 x E8	1 E	1 x E8	3 E	2 x E8	3 E	3 x E8	3 E	1 x E8	3 E	4 X E8	5 E	1 X E8	3 E
	2 x E/P8	9 E/P	2 x E/P8	11 E/P	1 x E/P8	5 E/P		3 E/P	7 E/P		1 X E/P8	7 E/P	7 E/P	
		3 P		6 P		7 P		8 P		6 P		6 P	4 P	
		4 S		0 S		4 S		5 S		3 S		2 S	5 S	
		1 N/A		0 N/A		0 N/A		1 N/A		0 N/A		0 N/A	0 N/A	
	Total field = 18	Total field = 20	Total field = 19	Total field = 20	Total field = 19	Total field = 20	Total field = 19	Total field = 20	Total field = 19					
Pace Description	Dortmund (E8) & Firing Line (E/P8) set pace early. American Pharoah (E/P7) sat off slow pace & pounced to win.	Uncle Sigh (E5) & Chitu (E/P8) set slow pace early. California Chrome (E/P7) sat off pace & pounced to win. Pace slow once lone E8 Wildcat Red had bobbled break.	Palace Malice (P3) set fast pace (after adding blinkers). Goldencents (E/P8) & Verrazano (E/P7) attended pace. Oxbox (E4) sat 2nd. Fast pace set up for Orb's close to win.	Trinniberg (E8 sprinter) & Bodemeister (E8) dueled early with Hansen (E8) sitting 3rd, Take Charge Indy (E/P5) sat 4th, Gemologist (E/P7) sat 5th, I'll Have Another (E/P7) sat 6th on fast pace & won.	Shackleford (E6) and Comma to the Top (E7) battled early, Decisive Moment (E8) sat 3rd. Animal Kingdom (P3) sat mid-pack in 10th & moved late to win.	Conveyance (E8) set the pace, Sidney's Candy (E8) sat in 2nd, Line of David (E8) was in 3rd early, Discreetly Mine (E8) was 4th 7 then 5th early, Super Saver (E6) was 6th, then 4th before moving to win.	Join in the Dance (E8) set slow pace, Regal Ransom (E2) sat 2nd, Pioneer of the Nile (E/P5) was 3rd & 4th early and finished 2nd. Mine That Bird (E/P4) closed to win from far back.							

Importantly, in the top 3 fastest Derbies in the past 7 years, there was more than one horse with an E8 running style entered:

- Two E8s were entered in 2013 (Giant Finish & Falling Sky)
- Three E8s were entered in 2012 (Bodemeister, Trinniberg & Hansen)
- Four E8s were entered in 2010 (Line of David, Sidney's Candy, Conveyance & Discreetly Mine)

Since E8 horses have the most early speed and are "need to lead," it's natural that if two horses with these characteristics "hook up" on the front end that they will press each other and a fast pace will ensue.

Another item that plays into this pace discussion is the implementation of the Derby points system starting in 2013. With the change from Graded Stakes earnings, which included sprint races, to only awarding point in races over a mile, the Derby points system has thus eliminated the entry of "pure" sprinters in the Kentucky Derby.

Since proper route horses are slow once the longer Derby prep and receiving the points to qualify, the elimination of front-end sprinter speed is naturally slowing the pace of the Derby. This wasn't seen in the first year of the points system due to fast pace set by the aforementioned Palace Malice, but the pace of the last two Derbies has trended downward.

Additionally with only one pure E8 horse entered in each of the past two Derbies, a natural front end showdown has been lacking. When Wildcat Red (E8) bobbed at the break in the 2014 Derby, Uncle Sigh (E5) and Chitu (E/P7) set a slow pace with California Chrome stalking close by and taking over late.

Last year, Dortmund was the lone E8 and got out on the lead with Firing Line (E/P8) and American Pharoah (E/P7) close by. The result was a "merry-go-round" which was highly criticized as a slow Derby overall.

One other change that occurred after the breakdown of Eight Belles in the 2008 Derby was that Churchill analyzed ways to make the Derby safer, which is good for all involved, but is another reason for slower timed Derbies. This is why only those Derbies after 2009 area analyzed above.

2016 Kentucky Derby Running Styles

Turning to this year's Derby, the table below shows the Brisnet running styles for each horse expected in the 2016 Kentucky Derby (horses that are currently outside the top 20 are listed at the bottom of the table).

It should be immediately noted that two E8 horses are expected to be entered: **Outwork** and **Danzing Candy**. If they draw decent post positions (not the 1 or 2 post), there is every reason to believe that they will hook up on the front end and press each other into fast fractions.

Still, it is tough to bet on the fact that they will hook up because as we saw recently in 2014 with Wildcat Red's bobbled start that anything can happen out of the Derby starting gate. Even if they break on top, they may press each other and just fade late while horses in the second flight get the jump on the deep closers.

This second flight of horses pressing the pace will include the favorite **Nyquist**, who has been on or near the lead in all of his races except when he was bumped coming out of the gate in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

Mohaymen is a stalking type with tactical speed that will lie close to the lead, but has been headstrong in some of his races, so it's possible he'll be even close to the pace than some expect. **Destin** and **Shagaf** will look for a place to settle in this group.

Horse	Brisnet Running Style	
Danzing Candy	E8	Early
Outwork	E8	
Mohaymen	E/P6	Early / Pressers
Nyquist	E/P5	
Destin	E/P4	
Shagaf	E/P4	
Oscar Nominated	P5	Pressers
Gun Runner	P4	
Mor Spirit	P3	
Majesto	P3	
Exaggerator	P3	
Lani	N/A	N/A
Trojan Nation	S3	Closers
Tom's Ready	S1	
Whitmore	S0	
Brody's Cause	S0	
My Man Sam	S0	
Creator	S0	
Mo Tom	S0	
Suddenbreakingnews	S0	
Laoban	E6	Early
Cherry Wine	S0	Closers

The third flight of horses will have **Gun Runner** and **Mor Spirit** running steady fractions. Both will be looming throughout and will be dangerous if any of the horses in the second flight decide to go after the leaders.

A major question is where **Exaggerator** will sit early. As noted in his horse capsule, Exaggerator has recently changed his running style to be more off the pace and make one big run late. Earlier in his career, he had been nearer to the early pace. Most likely, Exaggerator will be at the back end of the third flight and in front of the deep closers.

They're will be no lack of one-run closers sitting back of the pack into the first turn including **Creator, Tom's Ready, Mo Tom, Brody's Cause** and **My Man Sam**. In total, 8 of the 20 runners are ranked as S-type closers. This is by far the most closers (by Brisnet ratings) entered in a Derby in the past 8 years.

Of these, **Whitmore** has the ability show early speed and should be flanking Exaggerator at the back of the third flight. Brody's Cause also may be more forwardly placed in this back group.

Predicting the 2016 Kentucky Derby Pace:

Predicting a fast pace in this year's Derby is totally contingent upon both Outwork and Danzing Candy drawing good post positions, breaking well and dueling early. If this happens, a "pace meltdown" may occur and allow mid-pack horses and closers to get up in the final strides to hit the board.

The most likely outcome in the race is that Outwork and Danzing Candy will fade after setting a moderate to fast pace and not be involved in the race late.

A moderate to fast pace is a likely outcome because of the correlation of E8 horses in past Derbies. An all-out blazing fast pace is not likely, though, since in this Derby points system era, pure sprinters are not making the gate and speeding up the pace. The past two years have been very slow paces, but also had a lack of pure E8 horses. This year's pace should not be as fast as the sprinter-induced paces of past years, but should be faster than the past two-years when E8 types were not prevalent.

With a moderate to fast pace expected, horses that have shown the capability to be near the pace, stalk and pounce late may be the top candidates to win the Derby in this new point system paradigm, just like California Chrome and American Pharoah the past two years.

The next section will evaluate how middle and late pace can be used to identify these horses that can put in a long, sustained runs to win the Derby or hit the board at long odds making your day, month or year of wagering.

For post position analysis of the 2016 Derby, check racingdudes.com for updates and an article named "Kentucky Derby Pace Thesis Part 3"

Late Pace Key to Picking Derby Winner & Longshots

Picking the Kentucky Derby winner and longshot is a part of American folklore. Hollywood movies have been based on the Derby longshot including the movie "50 to 1" about the aforementioned 2009 Kentucky Derby winner Mine that Bird.

The Derby longshot cannot be picked haphazardly, though. Unlike 2015 when the top echelon of 3 year olds separated themselves from the pack including American Pharaoh, Dortmund, Firing Line and Frosted, this year the winners of the Derby preps have been more widespread. The chance for a "bomb" to take the top win spot is still difficult to predict, but there is plenty of money to be made picking the right horses underneath in exotic wagers like the exacta, trifecta and superfecta.

In the past 7 years including the 50-1 longshot Mine That Bird in 2009, a total of seven horses with odds of more than 20-1 have finished in the top four of the Kentucky Derby. Six of these seven horses came off the pace to close into their final position as can be seen in the table below (only Shackleford in 2011 was on or near the lead and faded to 4th to hit the superfecta at long odds):

Year	Horse Name	Position at 1/2 Mile	Finish	Derby Odds
2009	Mine That Bird	19 th	1 st	50.6
2010	Make Music for Me	20 th	4 th	30
2011	Animal Kingdom	12 th	1 st	20.9
2011	Shackleford	1 st	4 th	23
2012	Went The Day Well	17 th	4 th	30.6
2013	Golden Soul	15 th	2 nd	35.4
2014	Commanding Curve	18 th	2 nd	37.8

Spotting these horses as they progress during the Derby prep races is the key to picking the longshot. Horses coming into the Derby in top form from their final prep have shown to be the most successful. To prove this point, a full chart of the top four finishers in the past seven Kentucky Derbies are shown in the table below with their final prep and speed figures (courtesy of Brisnet):

		Name	Run Style	Final Prep	Final Prep Finish	E1	E2	LP	Bris	Derby Odds
2009 (Sloppy)	Average Pace	1 Mine That Bird	E/P4	Sunland	4	81	89	79	88	50.6
		2 Pioneerof the Nile	E/P5	SA Derby	1	72	81	105	95	6.3
		3 Musket Man	P4	Ill. Derby	1	87	93	110	104	19
		4 Papa Clem	E/P5	Ark. Derby	1	89	89	106	100	12.2
2010 (Sloppy)	Average Pace	1 Super Saver	E6	Ark. Derby	2	89	97	96	99	8
		2 Ice Box	P3	Fl. Derby	1	78	90	108	101	11.7
		3 Paddy O'Prado	E/P5	Bluegrass	2	101	109	76	94	12.3
		4 Make Music for Me	P1	Bluegrass	6	88	97	80	90	30
2011	Slowest Pace	1 Animal Kingdom	P3	Spiral	1	76	84	101	97	20.9
		2 Nehro	S3	Ark. Derby	2	78	84	109	99	8.5
		3 Mucho Macho Man	E/P6	La. Derby	3	88	90	98	96	9.3
		4 Shackleford	E6	Fl. Derby	2	102	112	84	101	23
2012	Fast Pace	1 I'll Have Another	E/P7	SA Derby	1	77	82	109	98	15.3
		2 Bodemeister	E8	Ark. Derby	1	96	100	105	105	4.2
		3 Dullahan	S	Bluegrass	1	102	106	93	102	12.1
		4 Went The Day Well	P5	Spiral	1	83	94	101	103	30.6
2013 (Sloppy)	Fast Pace	1 Orb	P2	Fl. Derby	1	76	87	103	97	5.4
		2 Golden Soul	S2	La. Derby	4	83	96	100	100	35.4
		3 Revolutionary	S3	La. Derby	1	95	112	94	105	6.4
		4 Normandy Invasion	S2	Wood	2	71	80	114	99	9.3
2014	Slow Pace	1 California Chrome	E/P7	SA Derby	1	103	110	97	106	2.5
		2 Commanding Curve	P1	La. Derby	3	84	102	91	98	37.8
		3 Danza	E/P5	Ark. Derby	1	89	97	106	104	8.7
		4 Wicked Strong	P	Wood	1	103	114	86	103	6.5
2015	Slow Pace	1 American Pharoah	E/P7	Ark. Derby	1	98	103	95	102	2.9
		2 Firing Line	E/P8	Sunland	1	99	104	94	101	9.5
		3 Dortmund	E8	SA Derby	1	111	118	89	106	4.3
		4 Frosted	E/P4	Wood	1	94	108	101	107	10.3
7 Year Average =						89.0	97.4	97.5	100.0	

Races ran on synthetic tracks

Since longshots have recently shown the ability to run strong late, the E2 and LP columns are important in identifying what horses are coming into the race strong and have ability to still have fast pace figures at the end of the 1 & 1/8 mile final prep races.

For those not accustomed to the Brisnet nomenclature:

- E2 is the pace rating that measures how fast the horse ran from the start to the second call of the race (6 furlong (3/4 mile) pace in most route races)
- LP is a pace rating that measures how fast the horse ran from the second call of the race to the finish

From the charts:

- The top four Derby finishers over the past 7 years ran an average E2 of 97.4 in their final Derby prep
- The top four Derby finishers over the past 7 years ran an average LP of 97.5 in their final Derby prep

Every horse in the chart above had either an E2 or LP over 97 in their final Derby prep at a 1 & 1/8 mile, except the anomaly of the century, Mine That Bird.

Focusing on the 2016 Kentucky Derby, the winner may very likely come from the second or third flights of pressers, as discussed above in the Predicting the Pace section. The ability to show late pace is not only a characteristic of closers, though, as pressers have also shown strong LP figures in their final preps. The key is to use these pace numbers to identify horses that can put in a long, sustained run to win the Derby or hit the board.

The table below shows the top 25 Kentucky Derby contenders for 2016 with their E1, E2, LP pace figures from their final prep (courtesy of Brisnet). The table is in order of the final speed figure (see BRIS column):

	Name	Final Prep	Final Prep Track Condition	Final Prep Finish	E1	E2	LP	E2 & LP Ave.	LP minus E2	BRIS
1	Exaggerator	SA Derby	Sloppy	1st	84	100	98	99.0	-2	102
2	Gun Runner	La. Derby	Fast	1st	90	98	98	98.0	0	100
3	Creator	Ark. Derby	Fast	1st	80	94	101	97.5	7	100
4	Suddenbreakingnews	Ark. Derby	Fast	2nd	87	95	98	96.5	3	99
5	Whitmore	Ark. Derby	Fast	3rd	84	96	94	95.0	-2	97
6	Nyquist	Fl. Derby	Good	1st	91	94	95	94.5	1	97
7	Destin	TB Derby*	Fast	1st	84	92	100	96.0	8	97
8	Outwork	Wood	Muddy	1st	122	125	64	94.5	-61	96
9	Trojan Nation	Wood	Muddy	2nd	98	105	83	94.0	-22	96
10	Tom's Ready	La. Derby	Fast	2nd	84	93	94	93.5	1	95
11	Brody's Cause	Bluegrass	Fast	1st	79	90	94	92.0	4	94
12	Mor Spirit	SA Derby	Sloppy	2nd	106	110	76	93.0	-34	94
13	Mo Tom	La. Derby	Fast	4th	76	89	95	92.0	6	93
14	Majesto	Fl. Derby	Good	2nd	87	90	93	91.5	3	93
15	Cherry Wine	Bluegrass	Fast	3rd	79	89	91	90.0	2	92
16	My Man Sam	Bluegrass	Fast	2nd	76	86	94	90.0	8	92
17	Shagaf	Wood	Muddy	5th	109	117	63	90.0	-54	92
18	Oscar Nominated	Spiral	Fast (Synth)	1st	88	83	96	89.5	13	91
19	Laoban	Bluegrass	Fast	4th	101	103	71	87.0	-32	88
20	Mohaymen	Fl. Derby	Good	4th	88	92	81	86.5	-11	87
21	Danzing Candy	SA Derby	Sloppy	4th	118	119	53	86.0	-66	87
22	Lani	UAE Derby*	Fast	1st	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

*All final preps ran at 1 1/8 Mile except TB Derby at 1 & 1/6 M & UAE Derby at 1 & 3/16 Mile

All values over 97 for E2, LP and overall Bris speed figure are highlighted in green, since this is the prerequisite that has been set from the past 7 Derbies to hit the superfecta.

To hone in on this prerequisite from the past 7 Derbies, a horse should average a 97.5 between their E2 & LP figures to hit the superfecta. Only 3 horses out of the 25 listed had an E2 & LP average higher than 97 including Exaggerator (99), Gun Runner (98) and Creator (97.5).

Since all of the Derby preps are ran at 1 & 1/8 mile (except the UAE Derby at 1 & 3/16 mile and Destin's Tampa Bay Derby at 1 & 1/16 mile), the final pace figure is an important figure to use as all of these horses stretch out to 1¼ mile for the first time. The horses that are showing speed late are more likely to be able to stretch out, regardless if they are frontrunners, pace pressers or closers.

A major disclaimer here is that it is difficult to base any betting strategy on only one race, especially the horse's last race. Still, comparing the late pace figures from the final prep to the Kentucky Derby does show some data correlation over the past few years that cannot be ignored when trying to identify a Derby winner and longshot.

The Picks:

Looking at trying to pick the Derby winner, **Gun Runner** and **Exaggerator** are strong candidates based on the foundation each has built as a 2-year old and their consistent Brisnet Speed figures this year. They both come into the Derby showing good form winning Grade-1 stakes by 4½ and 6¼ lengths, respectively. They also are both classy horses running against some of the top horses in the crop. As stated before, with a moderate pace expected, they have both been able to show tactical speed and should be nearer to the pace than the group of 8 deep closers and should "get the jump" on these horses.

Creator is just one of those horses that is getting good at the right time and cannot be ignored. He has the pedigree to go longer and didn't look to be getting leg-weary at the end of his huge Arkansas Derby run. It should also be noted that the 1st or 2nd place finisher in the Arkansas Derby has hit the superfecta in 6 of the past 7 years (see the table on Page 13). For these reasons, Creator is a horse that will need to be used in all exotic wagers.

This Guide is being written while the final workouts are being completed by the Oaks & Derby contenders. Workouts are important to watch for yourself and analyze. Workouts will be available on the Kentucky Derby YouTube channel and on their website. There will be plenty of hype on certain horses after their workouts at Churchill Downs or at other tracks across the country. It's important to try to rely on professionals that watch workouts everyday instead of every person on Twitter or social media saying that this horse looks awesome!

Incorporate workouts into your handicapping by possibly taking a negative approach. If you hear something negative about a horse (e.g., high temperature, uncomfortable during works, physical issues) then that may be a reason to shy away from that horse in your wagering strategy. Don't jump on a horse that you may have not been so hot about just because a bunch of people are saying, "He looks great!" and "What an awesome work!"

The workout report below is primarily from third-party sources, but always relies on professional opinions. The workout report below focuses on the qualitative reports from the workouts and not the pure times:

Horse	Date	Notes
Nyquist	4/29	Has been training at Keeneland directly after Florida Derby. Worked 1 mile to build stamina at Keeneland on 4/29 in company with Ralis, beat him by 8 lengths, but switched to left lead right before the wire (just like he did at the end of Florida Derby). Shipped to Churchill on 4/30.
Exaggerator	4/30	Arrived at Churchill Downs on 4/27 & had solid maintenance work on 4/30 over wet oval.
Gun Runner	4/25	Noticeably making noise at the end of work, but didn't seem to affect strong gallop out. Jockey Geroux was up for work & said he's always been that way and "If it was something new, it would be concerning."
	5/28	Looked good in maintenance work.
Creator	4/25	Moved well in 1 st maintenance work after Ark. Derby. Based on work, Asmussen said he may be able to apply his speed differently in Derby, so he may be more forward.
	5/2	Looked good in maintenance work. Has looked impressive in all gallops leading up to this work.
Brody's Cause	4/23	Good work on 4/23. Lathered up during training on 4/28.
	4/30	Solid maintenance work on 4/30
My Man Sam	4/29	Even with workmate through wire & then galloped out ahead in maintenance move in early morning. Doesn't seem to want to settle in the mornings, though, pulling rider, just like at the beginning of Bluegrass Stakes.
Outwork	4/22	Important work set behind two Pletcher 3-year old stakes trainees at Belmont. Work was to train him to take dirt behind horses & relax. He passed with flying colors taking dirt & powerfully overcoming his 2 workmates in stretch. This may be most important work of any Derby work since it has major Derby pace scenario implications.
	4/29	Rated as the best work of the day by many experts. Again looked like he could relax going in company and blew away workmate in stretch. Looked excellent.
Mor Spirit	4/26	Worked in company with fast maiden Jimbo Fallon. Went very fast early & slow late. Added big cup blinkers with Baffert looking for some speed during work since he has historically been a lazy work horse.
	5/2	Worked in company again with Jimbo Fallon starting 2 lengths behind, fast early, but sustained speed better & was even at wire, looking good for a horse that isn't known as a great work horse
Majesto	4/26	Looked good in "2-minute" lick. Coming off deep track training at Gulfstream Park West over the winter. Has made good impression every morning at Churchill with energetic gallops on 4/27 & 4/28
	4/29	Worked latest of all Derby prospects waiting for jockey Castellano to finish Destin's work & track was chopped up. Work was not as impressive as others on the day.
Mohaymen	4/19	Fast bullet work, but was rank, pulling rider with ears pinned back. Coming off works at deep Palm Meadows track over winter, so he is moving faster over Churchill dirt.
	4/29	Jumped up in air 3 times before starting work, doesn't seem like he can relax even during gallops every morning. Ears pinned back again during work and under the wire.
	5/4	Taken to the paddock before gallop to try to calm him down & seemed to work to relax him more
Suddenbreakingnews	4/29	Worked with white shadow roll, may have been the 2 nd best work on the day, worked solo. Looked good galloping on 4/26.
Whitmore	4/29	Early morning workout looked good & bested workmate easily.
Destin	4/26	Got hot on 1st three days (4/26-4/28) at Churchill just like before Tampa Bay Derby
	4/29	Worked in company with top 3-year old Stradivari (pointing to Preakness) & reports weren't good. Had to be nudged to wire, on wrong lead with head cocked to outside.
Tom's Ready	4/29	In company, put in a good work
Mo Tom	4/29	Decent work, nothing special, has gotten hot on 4/26 & 4/28, but reports were good that he galloped well on 4/27.
Shagaf	4/24	Trainer Brown called work "the best" he has ever had. Looked good morning of 4/27, but seemed to tire at end of gallop on 4/28
	4/29	Went well in work getting high reviews by many
Oscar Nominated	4/29	Arrived at Churchill first time for this work & looked OK, bested workmate
Lani	4/27	Works have been an adventure & unorthodox, gallops forever & then breaks off
Fellowship	4/29	Still 21 st & needs to draw in, but was good besting his company in bullet work



Purse:	\$1 million
Distance:	1 & 1/8 miles
Age:	3 year old fillies
Post Time:	Fri., May 6 th ~5:49 p.m. (EDT)

With the 2-year old Eclipse, undefeated champion Songbird being forced to miss the Kentucky Oaks due to a low grade fever, the Oaks becomes a much more wide open and better betting race. Entries for the Oaks are spotlighted below with Post Position, morning line odds and listed as Win Contenders, Can Hit the Board, Exotic Plays and Others. The Oaks pace scenario, wagering strategy and picks can be found after the filly spotlights:

WIN CONTENDERS

#10 Rachel's Valentina (7/2) – Returned with strong 2nd in the Grade-1 Ashland at Keeneland on April 9th before getting run down by a late closing Weep No More. Went toe-to-toe with 1 of the fastest fillies in the country, Cathryn Sophia, in the Ashland stretch after sitting off the pace set by Carina Mia & still held on for 2nd, so she proved that she was on top of her game off long layoff. Hadn't run since the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies where she ran 2nd to Songbird and kept relatively close to Songbird early before getting dusted late. Her name precedes herself as she is the daughter of 2009 Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra. She is a smaller type filly, but very versatile. Great Churchill work on 4/28.

#3 Lewis Bay (8/1) – Has run 1st or 2nd in all 5 of career starts. Comes in with fastest Brisnet Sped Figure of 99 at this 1 & 1/8 mile distance from win in the Grade-2 Gazelle at Aqueduct in the mud. She has tactical speed and if she can stay closer to the pace, she may get first jump on the closers. Has looked great in 4/21 & 4/29 works at Churchill.

#13 Land Over Sea (5/1) – Has run good behind Songbird five times, three of those in 2nd place. Once she got away from Songbird, she showed her class by winning Grade-2 Fairground (FG) Oaks drawing off in the long stretch by 4½ lengths. She will need a fast pace & may get it with Cathryn Sophia added into the race. Even without a fast early pace, she may still be dangerous based on her class & be able to pass tired fillies late at the 1 & 1/8 mile trip.

#12 Cathryn Sophia (9/2) – Was undefeated coming into Grade-1 Ashland, but after taking over in stretch, was run down late by Weep No More & flattened to 3rd behind Rachel's Valentina. Trainer Servis originally was pointing to 7-furlong Grade-2 Eight Belles on Oaks undercard, but after defection of Songbird will now point to Oaks. The distance limitations that she showed in the stretch of the Ashland cannot be underestimated as she will have to add another 1/16th mile in the Oaks. Has been working huge at Keeneland in preparation.

CAN HIT THE BOARD

#2 Weep No More (9/2) – Shocked the horse racing world at 30/1 odds to win the G1 Ashland closing like a rocket to chase down Rachel's Valentina & Cathryn Sophia. Earned a nice 92 Beyer Speed Figure for that win. Rides a 3 race win streak into the Oaks. Another closer that will need a fast pace in the Oaks.

#1 Terra Promessa (10/1) – Rides 4 race win streak into Oaks including Grade-3 Fantasy & Honeybee wins at Oaklawn. Has shown the ability to stalk & be closer to the pace and without Songbird in the field may be able to find a nice spot behind any front-end speed. Looked a little leg-weary at the end of Fantasy, so distance may be a question.

EXOTIC PLAYS

#4 Go Maggie Go (12/1) - With only 2 starts in her career, winning the Kentucky Oaks would be difficult, but won Grade-2 Gulfstream Park (GP) Oaks to qualify. Trainer Dale Romans has been known to pull the upset, so she may be the filly coming on at the right time to use at a price. Late nominee to Oaks after Songbird dropped out.

#5 Dream Dance (30/1) - Strong back-class last fall behind Carina Mia & Stageplay in races at Churchill. Returned to place 2nd behind Land Over Sea in FG Oaks & then won at Keeneland in an allowance on April 16, so she will be coming third off the layoff for the Kentucky Oaks. Could be a sneaky longshot play underneath. Great Churchill work on 4/29.

OTHERS:

#7 Mo d'Amour (30/1) – 3rd behind Lewis Bay & Royal Obsession in Gazelle, connections changed course to enter Oaks after Songbird defection. Pletcher trainee sired by Uncle Mo has some of the best connections in the game.

#8 Royal Obsession (20/1) – Ran 2nd to Lewis Bay in Gazelle, but could only get 4th with wide trip in Grade-2 Rachel Alexandra. Has looked impressive in morning workouts at Churchill.

#6 Mokat (20/1) – Late nominee to Oaks after Songbird dropped out. Ran 2nd to Songbird in Grade-1 SA Oaks, but was never a threat. 3rd to Songbird in Santa Ysabel before that, she's kept good class, but probably isn't fast enough.

#10 Venus Valentine (30/1) - After winning Grade-2 Rachel Alexandra at Fairgrounds at 74/1 odds, came down to earth in the FG Oaks beaten 10 lengths to finish 5th. May be adding blinkers to be more forwardly placed for Oaks.

#14 Taxable (20/1) – After 2nd in Fantasy to stablemate Terra Promessa, trainer Steve Asmussen 3 in Oaks gate. Has only 3 lifetime races, but has a lot of potential sired by Tapit & out of a Giant's Causeway mare. Bad post, though.

#9 Paolo Queen (30/1) – Will set pace, tough throughout 2nd place finish in GP Oaks.

(AE) Dothraki Queen (30/1) – If she makes the gate, may be 1 to watch based on her strong 2 year old form on dirt including 3rd in Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies behind Songbird & Rachel's Valentina. 1 start this year was a dud on turf.

- Oaks**
- **Early Speed:** Paolo Queen (E8), Rachel's Valentina (E/P8),
 - **Pacers:** Go Maggie Go (E/P6), Mo d'Amour (E/P6), Cathryn Sophia (E/P5), Terra Promessa (E/P6), Lewis Bay (P5), Taxable (E/P4), Mokat (P2), Royal Obsession (P2),
 - **Closers:** Land Over Sea (S1), Dream Dance (S1), Weep No More (S0), Venus Valentine (S0), AE Dothraki Queen (S0)

Field Size:
14

Paolo Queen may be on the lead if she can clear from the 9 post. **Cathryn Sophia** most likely will near the lead, but will have a lot of work from the 12 post. **Rachel's Valentina** will be pressing from the 11 hole with classy fillies like **Lewis Bay** and **Terra Promessa** in mid-pack breaking from the inside. **Go Maggie Go** may find a nice spot in mid-pack & may be able to get the jump on the deep closers like **Land Over Sea**, **Dream Dance** and **Weep No More**. The closers may not have a fast enough pace to close into if Cathryn Sophia & Rachel's Valentina don't press.

Kentucky Oaks Wagering Strategy:

Rachel's Valentina may get pounded on the board based on her name and connections. Even though she is an include based on her class and return performance, it may be best to play her defensively. **Cathryn Sophia** should take a lot of money and be a top choice, but the way she flattened in the stretch of the Ashland in her first two-turn race is very concerning. **Land Over Sea** may get bet down based on her races behind Songbird and her FG Oaks performance, but with the pace expected to be on the moderate side, she may also be a filly to use defensively. The key horse can be **Lewis Bay** at a decent price. Her performance two back in the Grade-2 Davona Dale behind Cathryn Sophia was impressive in her return off a long lay-off and she was dominant in the mud to follow that up in the Grade-2 Gazelle at this distance. Her consistency to hit the exacta makes her a horse to key in exacta and trifecta wagering with Land Over Sea and Rachel's Valentina throwing in longshots like Go Maggie Go and Royal Obsession. Additionally, a medium-sized win bet on Lewis Bay in the Kentucky Oaks will return a nice pay-out.

A fun bet to play that usually draws a big pool is the Kentucky Oaks / Derby double. Using Lewis Bay, Rachel's Valentina & Land Over Sea with Nyquist & Exagerrator would give 6 combinations and cost \$12 for a \$2 double. Any bet with Rachel's Valentina may need to be used multiple times since she will get bet heavily and the pay-outs will be smallest with her. If using Nyquist in the last leg of the double, a good approach would be to play him multiple times, since the pay-outs will also be smallest with the likely Derby favorite.

Racing Dudes, Saratoga Slim & Guaranteed Tip Sheet (GTS) Kentucky Oaks Picks (AS OF MAY 5):

	Aaron	Jared	Slim	GTS	CONSENSUS*	Pts.
Win	Rachel's Valentina	Lewis Bay	Lewis Bay	Rachel's Valentina	Lewis Bay	34
Place	Lewis Bay	Weep No More	Rachel's Valentina	Lewis Bay	Rachel's Valentina	28
Show	Land Over Sea	Cathryn Sophia	Land Over Sea	Weep No More	Weep No More	11
4th	Cathryn Sophia	Rachel's Valentina	Go Maggie Go	Cathryn Sophia	Land Over Sea	8

**Consensus scored on 10 points for Win, 7 points for Place, 4 points for Show & 1 point for 4th*

Kentucky Oaks / Derby Days Wagering Strategy

Since there is a good deal of "uninformed money" in the Kentucky Derby pool, those that are more informed have an upper-hand. Hopefully, reading the horse capsules, workout report & pace analysis above has helped you become one of those informed members of the pari-mutuel wagering pool and you're ready to approach wagering strategy.

Handicapping is only a part of the Kentucky Derby puzzle and learning about what bets are available to you and where to focus your money is as important as picking the winner.

Before looking at the bets available to you, money management must first be discussed. You will lose your shirt if you don't decide on your budget going into the Derby weekend. There have been many days at the track where I start chasing, lose track of where I'm at with my budget, start betting and even if I hit a few races late, I still come out behind for the day. Deciding on your budget going in and being disciplined to keep to those bets will make you more confident going into the big 2 days of wagering over the Oaks and Derby days.

I personally play about \$50 on a given weekend on Stakes and other races. On Derby weekend with the opportunities more abundant, I am looking to increase my budget four to five times to \$200 to \$250 over the two days of racing. You can decide what you are willing to wager on these two days. It might be more than I am willing to wager or less. The wagering strategy below will be based on my \$200 to \$250 budget and you can adjust accordingly to your own budget. I'll be looking to budget about \$100 on betting on the Kentucky Derby by itself and use the rest of my budget on multi-race wagers and undercard race plays.

So without further delay, here are the bets available to you and how you may want to structure your tickets:

Win: A rule of wagering is "Always start with your win bet." Look to make Win wagers on horses with odds greater than 8/1 in the Derby. Even though Nyquist may be the most likely winner, it is very tough to take short odds like 5-

2 or 3-1 on a horse in such a large field of 20 horses. So many things can go wrong in this huge field and the value is not there in the Win pool on him as the top favorite.

I'll watch the board on Derby day and see what overlays exist in the wagering (horses going off at higher odds than their actual chance of winning the race). Based on the pace & speed figure analyses above, I'll be looking to make a win wager on **Exaggerator** (projected at 8/1 odds). In most races on regular days, I'll only make one win wager in a race, but with the odds high enough on many Derby horses, I may extend to two horses in the win pool. I'll start off my wagering by placing **\$10 to Win** on Exaggerator.

Place & Show: Betting place (horse to come in first or second) or show (horse to come in first, second or third) should be reserved for the longshots in the field. I personally don't play in the place & show pools. If I was to play in these pools, I would only make place & show bets on horses greater than 20-1 in the Win pool. Those win odds should provide a good gauge to what horses will be good bets in the Place & Show pools and you can also find the Place & Show pool totals available on the tote board if you want to figure out what the pay-outs may be.

Exacta: Betting the top two finishers in the race in an Exacta is a fun bet that can return a handsome return. To win with the Exacta, both of the horses you bet have to end up first and second in the Derby. The bet can be made straight or in a box.

For example, if you wanted to say **Exaggerator** and **Nyquist** are going to finish first and second, then you can either play it straight Exaggerator in first and Nyquist in second or you can box them. In a box, you would still win if Nyquist comes in first and Exaggerator finishes in second. To play an exacta box, your bet amount is doubled to cover the two combinations.

A good strategy for the Derby (and the Derby only!) is to play a 6 horse exacta box. If any of the 6 horses come in first and second, then you win! A six horse exacta box gives you 30 combinations of finish. Therefore, a \$1 exacta box would **cost \$30 to bet**. \$1 is the lowest denomination bet for the exacta box (\$2 is the minimum for a straight exacta on Oaks / Derby days). A good strategy is to use a mix of pressers with a few closers in the exacta box. A good mix of favorites and longshots can make a nice score. An example of this type of exacta box can be seen below (throwing out Nyquist to look for a better score since this is only a \$1 wager):

\$1.00 Exacta Box		
6	1st	Exaggerator, Gun Runner, Creator, Majesto, Brody's Cause, My Man Sam
5	2nd	Exaggerator, Gun Runner, Creator, Majesto, Brody's Cause, My Man Sam
\$30		

If you are using the favorites in an exacta, it is smart to play the bet multiple times, since the payouts will be much smaller if a favorite wins. Watch the exacta payouts (starting with the advanced wagering on Friday before the Derby and before the Derby begins) and adjust the weighting of your bets accordingly.

Trifecta: Betting the top three finishing horses in the race in a Trifecta is more challenging and can end up in a bigger score. Boxing three horses in a \$.50 Trifecta only costs \$3. The minimum denomination for the Trifecta bet is \$.50. It is possible to manage Trifecta wagering using boxes and straight bets to minimize your bet size. One strategy is to key two horses in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd spots and use 8 other horses in the other spots.

For example, if you want to key Exaggerator and Nyquist in 1st & 2nd over 8 other horses in third, then that would make up 16 combinations. For a \$.50 trifecta box, this bet would cost **only \$8**. If you wanted to use those 8 horses in first over Exaggerator and Nyquist in 2nd & 3rd, then the bet is **another \$8**. Lastly, you can key Exaggerator and Nyquist in the 1st and 3rd spot with the other 8 horses in 2nd for **another \$8** bet. **The total bet is only \$24** and if Nyquist and Exaggerator both hit the board, you may have a very nice payout if you used some longshots. Here is example of how that type of bet can be played:

\$.50 Trifecta		
2	1st	Exaggerator, Nyquist
1	2nd	Exaggerator, Nyquist
8	3rd	Gun Runner, Creator, Mor Spirit, Brody's Cause, My Man Sam, Tom's Ready, Majesto, Outwork
\$8.00	Total Bet	

\$.50 Trifecta		
2	1st	Exaggerator, Nyquist
8	2nd	Gun Runner, Creator, Mor Spirit, Brody's Cause, My Man Sam, Tom's Ready, Majesto, Outwork
1	3rd	Exaggerator, Nyquist
\$8.00	Total Bet	

\$.50 Trifecta		
8	1st	Gun Runner, Creator, Mor Spirit, Brody's Cause, My Man Sam, Tom's Ready, Majesto, Outwork
2	2nd	Exaggerator, Nyquist
1	3rd	Exaggerator, Nyquist
\$8.00	Total Bet	

I have keyed the Derby favorite Nyquist as part of these trifectas, but since the trifecta with Nyquist in 1st will pay less, I will key him on top of all 9 horses that I like and hope for longshots to come in the trifecta for a nice return. Therefore, I'll play Nyquist on top of 9 horses in the 2nd & 3rd position for a \$.50 trifecta for a **total \$36 bet** as an extra bet as shown below:

\$0.50	Trifecta	
1	1st	Nyquist
9	2nd	Exaggerator, Gun Runner, Creator, Brody's Cause, My Man Sam, Tom's Ready, Majesto, Outwork, Mor Spirit
8	3rd	Exaggerator, Gun Runner, Creator, Brody's Cause, My Man Sam, Tom's Ready, Majesto, Outwork, Mor Spirit
\$36.00	Total Bet	

With my bets so far, I am exactly at **\$100 of my initial \$100** Derby race budget. I have keyed on Nyquist and Exaggerator in my plays. Even though they may go off as the two top betting interests, I have played them in exotic wagers with longshots to try to hit a bigger score.

You must have conviction and focus on one to three horses that you want to key or your tickets will explode in size and you'll be betting more than your budget quickly. Also, if you spread too much, you won't even know what you are rooting for when watching the biggest race of the year! Focusing on a few horses makes the Derby more fun to watch and also keeps you inside your budget.

If both Nyquist and Exaggerator don't run well, then I may be in trouble with my bets, but I have backed up with the exacta box with 5 other horses with Exaggerator (not including Nyquist). I have backed up not having Nyquist in that exacta box with my straight trifecta with Nyquist on top with 9 other horses (8 different horses than Exaggerator).

I've been able to stay within an acceptable budget for the race with focusing on a few key horses, but have spread enough to feel comfortable that I have a safety net under me if these key horses don't run well.

Superfecta: If I'm doing well on the day going into the Derby or am alive in some of my multi-race wagers, I may look to swing for the fences and play a superfecta. One of the biggest scores is the superfecta – betting the top four finishers in the Derby. Over the last 11 years, this \$1 minimum wager has paid over \$24,000 each year except in 2014 when it paid \$7,600 and in 2015 when it paid only \$634.

The \$1 minimum on the superfecta makes it a tough bet to make for a normal person with a small to medium budget. If you are holding a Kentucky Derby party and want to have everyone throw in \$10 into a pool, then the superfecta will be the most fun play where everyone can split a big win.

A good strategy for a smaller budget is to start with two horses boxed over another two horses boxed for 4 combinations and a **\$4 total bet** as shown to the right.

\$1.00	Superfecta	
2	1st	Exaggerator, Nyquist
1	2nd	Exaggerator, Nyquist
2	3rd	Gun Runner, Creator
1	4th	Gun Runner, Creator
\$4.00	Total Bet	

A good approach to Superfecta wagering is to start with this 2-by-2 grid and then build out the tickets and combinations from there. With so many combinations and so many horses, tickets can get expensive quickly in Superfecta wagering. A \$1 Superfecta 6 horse box costs \$360 to play! Unless you are a big bankroll player, you may want to build out your tickets with the most likely winners in the top two spots in the Superfecta, betting over horses that you believe can get up to finish in third and fourth. Using closers in the third and fourth spots is a good strategy.

\$1.00	Superfecta	
2	1st	Exaggerator, Nyquist
1	2nd	Exaggerator, Nyquist
6	3rd	Gun Runner, Creator, Brody's Cause, My Man Sam, Tom's Ready, Majesto
5	4th	Gun Runner, Creator, Brody's Cause, My Man Sam, Tom's Ready, Majesto
\$60.00	Total Bet	

Continuing to build out on the 2-by-2 grid above by adding 3 closers like My Man Sam, Brody's Cause and Tom's Ready with a longshot in Majesto to the 3rd & 4th place slots adds to a total of 30 combinations to equal the \$60 ticket shown above.

These two bets would **equal \$64** additional to my original \$100 budget, so I may not dip into the superfecta pool.

Multi-Race Wagers: With \$100 to \$150 remaining in my original budget, I will spread money and pick my spots over the two days of racing. From Friday, May 6 to Saturday, May 7, Churchill Downs will hold a total of 13 Graded Stakes races covering all the major divisions in North American horse racing as shown in the table below with some potential entries.

With the best horses in North American converging on Louisville over these two days, 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. Here are the multi-race wagers available to you over the Oaks / Derby days.

Date	Race #	Post Time (EDT)	Grade	Race	Distance	Age	Surface	Field Size	Entries
Friday 5/6/2016	6	1:26	1	La Troienne	1 1/16 M	4YO+ F&M	Dirt	7	Sheer Drama, Curalina, Penwith, Angela Renee, Theogony, Brooklynsway, Engaginglee
	7	2:08	2	Eight Belles	7 Furlongs	3YO	Dirt	8	Carina Mia, Marquee Miss, Stageplay, Nickname, Jade Princess, Blip n' Th Bye, Put the Blame On Me, Summer Reading
	8	3:02	3	Turf Sprint	5 Furlongs	3YO+	Turf	13	Hootenanny, Power Alert (AUS), Something Extra, Summation Time, Rocket Heat, Weast Hill, American Sailor, Latent Revenge, Mongol Bull, Speightsong, Alsvid, Guns Loaded, Sylvan Park
	9	4:02	2	Alysheba	1 1/16 M	4YO+	Dirt	10	Eagle, Noble Bird, Majestic Affair, Cat Burglar, Departing, Natchez, Top Billing, Face of Winner, Midnight Storm, Majestic Harbor
	10	4:52	3	Edgewood	1 1/16 M	3YO Fillies	Turf	13	Catch a Glimpse, Adore, Believe in Bertie, Harmonize, Nodiad (IRE), Outsider Art, Sky My Sky, Ava's Kitten, Enjoy Yourself (GB), Jeremy's Legacy (IRE), Heavenly View, Born To Be Winner, Auntie Joy
	11	5:49	1	Kentucky Oaks	1 1/8 M	3YO Fillies	Dirt	14 (+1 AE)	(See Oaks Overview)
Saturday 5/7/2016	6	1:13	2	Distaff Turf Mile	1 Mile	4YO+ F&M	Turf	9	Tepin, Isabella Sings, Bureau de Change, Cash Control, Rainha Da Bateria, Super Saks, Josdesanimaux, She's Not Here, Zipessa
	7	1:55	2	Churchill Downs	7 Furlongs	4YO+	Dirt	9	Speightster, Calculator, Salutos Amigos, Limousine Liberal, Holy Boss, Barbados, Kobe's Back, Squadron A, Catalina Red
	8	2:45	1	Humana Distaff	7 Furlongs	4YO+ F&M	Dirt	10	Wavell Avenue, Birdatthewire, Enchanting Lady, Taris, Stonetastic, Sarah Sis, Spelling Again, Kathbalu, You Bought Her, Super Saks
	9	3:35	2	American Turf	1 1/16 M	3YO	Turf	13	Airoforce, Surgical Strike, Shakhimat, Frank Conversation, Dressed in Hermes, Azar, Camelot Kitten, Converge, J R's Holiday, Cutacomer, Beach Patrol, Two Step Time, American Patriot
	10	4:25	3	Pat Day Mile	1 Mile	3YO	Dirt	14	American Freedom, Cocked and Loaded, Fellowship, Discreetness, Forevamo, Imperial Hint, Star Hill, Lookin for a Kiss, Unbridled Outlaw, Torrontes, Ralis, Sharp Azteca, American Dubai, Gray Sky
	11	5:25	1	Woodford Reserve Turf Classic	1 1/8 M	4YO+	Turf	13	Big Blue Kitten, Slumber, Bolo, Chocolate Ride, Danish Dynaformer, Divisidero, Tourist, Reporting Star, World Approval, Grand Tito, Midnight Storm, Triple Threat (FR), Kasaqui (ARG)
	12	6:34	1	Kentucky Derby	1 1/4 M	3YO	Dirt	20 (+2 AE)	(See Derby Horse Capsules)

Oaks / Derby Double: this bet is evaluated in the Kentucky Oaks Overview page in this Guide.

Oaks / Woodford / Derby Pick 3: Including the Grade-1 Woodford Reserve Turf Classic with your Oaks & Derby thoughts can result in a big hit. With a \$1 minimum denomination, you will want to go "skinny" in at least one leg of the Pick 3. If I feel strong about a couple horses in the Woodford once the entries come out, I may play (for example) a \$1 Pick-3 with Lewis Bay & Rachel's Alexander in the Oaks with Big Blue Kitten, Finnegans Wake & Grand Arch in the Woodford with Exaggerator & Nyquist in the Derby for a total \$12 ticket. Since the Woodford is a wide open turf race, each horse added in that race would add another \$4 to the bet.

Woodford / Derby Double: I've had my best success by backing up my bets with Woodford / Derby doubles to California Chrome and American Pharoah in the past two years, so this is a good bet if you don't hit on the Oaks as your first leg of the Oaks / Woodford / Derby Pick 3.

Pick 3s, Pick 4s and Pick 5s: Opportunities to break the bank will be abundant over the two days in these pools, if you are willing to handicap the undercard races. The \$0.50 minimum wager makes these wagers manageable on a smaller budget. 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 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 single options on the undercard based on the potential entries in the table above include:

- Carina Mia – Eight Belles on Friday (one of the best fillies in the country, should've been in Oaks)
- Tepin - Distaff Turf Mile on Saturday (2015 Eclipse Award Female Turf champion, undefeated since)
- Wavell Avenue – Humana Distaff (2015 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint winner, great workout on 4/29)
- American Freedom – Pat Day Mile (looked like a freak for Bob Baffert in last race & great workout on 4/26)

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

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!