

FULL RACE PREVIEWS AND WAGERING STRATEGIES FOR ALL STAKES RACES ON THE CARD

**RACING
DUDES** **INSIDE
TRACK**

TO THE 2018 CIGAR MILE DAY



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OF EACH RACE**

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WELCOME



This *Inside Track* to *Cigar Mile Day at Aqueduct* gives you an inside look at all four stakes races running on the card. *The Racing Dudes* have been at it for years, offering daily handicapping picks and analyses for every track across the country. For this year's *Cigar Mile*, our lead handicappers have been scouring through the card at *Aqueduct* in search of winning tickets.

Saturday's racing at *Aqueduct* is second to none with four stakes races in total. The card features both a *Kentucky Derby* and a *Kentucky Oaks* prep race, along with the *Grade 3 Go for Wand Handicap* and the *Grade 1 Cigar Mile Handicap*. *The Cigar Mile* will go off as the feature race of the day while also serving as the last *Grade 1* event in the state of New York for 2018.

For each of the stakes races on the card, you can find the following:

FULL RACE PREVIEWS FOR EACH RACE, including:

- ▶ Overview of the race
- ▶ 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 Small Budget
- ▶ What to Play on a Large Budget

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 9:

1 MILE ON THE DIRT
3-YEAR-OLDS AND
UPWARD

CIGAR MILE HANDICAP

OVERVIEW:

This race serves as 2018's last major Grade 1 event in the state of New York. As always, it has drawn a competitive field, giving us several interesting betting options. Top New York-based trainer Chad Brown has entered Timeline and Patternrecognition in the race, while the best trainer overseas, Aidan O'Brien, brings his ever-popular Mendelssohn back to the Big Apple.

RACE SHAPE: THE PACE SETS UP WELL FOR CLOSERS

Pure Speed: Mendelssohn, Copper Town, True Timber, Patternrecognition

Pressing Speed: Stan the Man

Stalkers: Pat On the Back

Closers: Sunny Ridge, Timeline

Several speed horses are signed on to run here and several others will look to press the leaders right from the start. Having Mendelssohn in the race always means that the pace will be honest, but look for Patternrecognition, Copper Town, and True Timber to add fuel to the fire up front. There is no doubt that this race should set up well for closers like Sunny Ridge and Timeline.

TOP CHOICE: #5 COPPER TOWN

This is an all-or-nothing type of play. Copper Town is the fastest and most talented horse in the race, but he's also had several problems health-wise and has had a tough time staying on the track. When he does run, though, it is something to see, as he has won his last three races by a combined 15 lengths. This is his first start against stakes company; however, consider this: the last time that he faced Patternrecognition, Copper Town defeated him by 6 1/4 lengths. This horse has the talent to get it done if he shows up with his best effort.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 MENDELSSOHN, #2 SUNNY RIDGE, #8 PATTERNRECOGNITION

What will Mendelssohn do this time? One of the most over-rated horses that we've seen in quite a while, he is also an interesting horse that always plays a major part in each race. He is not an impossible winner here due to the distance cut-back. Sunny Ridge is just a hard-knocking type who gets a

beautiful setup from a pace scenario standpoint. Finally, Patternrecognition comes into the race running extremely well, having won two straight.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #7 TIMELINE

Could it be possible that this is just his time to win one of these types of races? After a solid 3-year-old season started going backwards on him in a hurry, he was given plenty of time off before returning this past April. He has only one win in five 2018 starts; however, he has been close to winning on several occasions. This spot makes sense for him and the pace setup is in his favor.

OTHERS: #3 PAT ON THE BACK, #4 STAN THE MAN, #6 TRUE TIMBER

It's not out of the question for anyone to make an impact in this very evenly-matched field. The worry with both Pat On The Back and Stan the Man is the fact that they could be a bit outclassed in this spot. True Timber, meanwhile, could get caught up in a pace duel that is going to be less than favorable for him.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #5 Copper Town – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #2 Sunny Ridge – Confidence Level: 4.5 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #7 Timeline – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 5,8/1,2,5,8 and 1,2,5,8/5,8

Trifecta: 1,2,5,8 BOX

Superfecta: 1,2,5,8 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,2,5,8

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta box 1,2,5,8

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta box 1,2,5,8 and \$2 exacta 5,8/1,2,5,8 and \$2 exacta 5,8/1,2,5,8



RACE 8: 1 1/8 MILE ON THE DIRT 2-YEAR-OLDS REMSEN STAKES

OVERVIEW:

With the Breeders' Cup very much behind us, the 2019 Kentucky Derby is set to take center stage. The Derby Trail will soon dominate the headlines and the Grade 2 Remsen Stakes is one of the last 2-year-old Kentucky Derby points races before the crop turns 3. Catholic Boy won this race last year before going on to win the Grade 1 Travers Stakes during the summer. The field for this year's race has come up a bit short; however, a few of these could be sleepers that are ready to jump up with a big race.

RACE SHAPE: THE PACE SETS UP WELL FOR CLOSERS

Pure Speed: Bourbon War, Gladiator King, Maximus Mischief

Pressing Speed: Tax

Stalkers: Chinomado, Network Effect

Closers: Jungle Warrior

The pace is likely to be swift; however, you must note that this is the first time that these 2-year-olds will be going 1 1/8 miles. That factor alone will slow things down a bit. Even if they are going a little slower than expected, it still will be a contested pace, with several of these horses wanting to go fast early on. The closers should have a legit shot in this race, which could mean good things for the Chad Brown-trained Network Effect.

TOP CHOICE: #5 NETWORK EFFECT

Let's see if this juvenile can make his way onto the Kentucky Derby trail. He was a decent second last time out in the Grade 3 Nashua Stakes at Aqueduct to Vekoma, who earned a 99 Beyer speed figure for the win. That bodes well for Network Effect here, with Vekoma not entered in this contest.

MAJOR THREATS: #6 MAXIMUS MISCHIEF, #3 BOURBON WAR

Maximus Mischief is a perfect two-for-two so far, with both wins coming in blowout fashion. The bad news, though, is

that both of those came at Parx. Can he make this move up in class? Bourbon War broke his maiden nicely on debut at Aqueduct and earned a speed figure that could make him competitive in this spot.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #4 GLADIATOR KING

This entry should catch your eye. He has won two in a row coming into this one; however, both were turf sprints. Now he moves back to the dirt, where he has lost twice. Still, his dirt race three back makes him a fairly attractive longshot, as he only lost that maiden special weight by a neck at Gulfstream Park West.

OTHERS: #2 CHINOMADO, #7 TAX, #1 JUNGLE WARRIOR

This race's talent seems to drop off past the top four runners above. It is hard to imagine any of these making an impact in what looks to be a top-heavy field.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #5 Network Effect – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #6 Maximus Mischief – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #4 Gladiator King – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 5,6/3,4,5,6

Trifecta: 5,6/3,4,5,6/3,4,5,6

Superfecta: 3,4,5,6 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 5,6

Small Budget Wager: \$20 to win on Network Effect

Large Budget Wager: \$50 to win on Network Effect and \$10 EX 5,6/3,4,5,6



RACE 6: 1 MILE ON THE DIRT 3-YEAR-OLDS & UPWARD, FILLIES & MARES

GO FOR WAND HANDICAP

OVERVIEW:

There is no getting around the headliner for this field. The Bob Baffert-trained *Marley's Freedom* will make her first start after losing the *Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint* as the favorite. Even though she lost that race, she still was very valiant in defeat after an absolutely brutal trip. She finds a softer spot against this field with thoughts of redemption and revenge on her mind.

RACE SHAPE: THE PACE SHOULD BE HONEST BUT NOT OVERLY FAST

Pure Speed: *Sower*

Pressing Speed: *Your Love, Tigalalu, Come Dancing*

Stalkers: *Marley's Freedom, Bonita Bianca*

Closers: *Browse, Pacific Wind*

Sower will likely go straight to the front and get a comfortable lead, which could prove dangerous for everyone else. However, you should note that she has not been able to hold on when faced with the challenge of graded stakes company. There is enough pressing speed in the race to keep her honest, too, so the closers will have a fair shot if they are good enough.

TOP CHOICE: #1 MARLEY'S FREEDOM

If she shows up with her best racem then she could end up winning by double-digit lengths. Trainer Bob Baffert had several non-efforts during this year's *Breeders' Cup Saturday*, but *Marley's Freedom* was not one of those non-efforts. Looking back, she actually ran fantastic but had a brutal trip. A normal trip/effort here will mean that she wins easily.

MAJOR THREATS: #3 SOWER, #7 COME DANCING

The threat of getting out to an early lead is one of the main ways in which the heavy favorite could get beat here, which is why *Sower* and *Come Dancing* are two to look out for in this race. Both have solid early speed and have enjoyed varying amounts of success this season. One of these two

could sneak away with it on the front end.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #4 BONITA BIANCA, #5 YOUR LOVE

If *Marley's Freedom* fails to fire, these are the two horses that will be sitting off the pace, waiting to pounce. *Bonita Bianca* has won two of her last three, while *Your Love* has won two out of her last four.

OTHERS: #2 BROWSE, #6 TIGALALU, #8 PACIFIC WIND

It is tough to see any of these three winning without a major improvement. The most interesting horse in this group is the Chad Brown-trained *Pacific Wind*. She always seems to show up in tough spots; however, she has not been able to get the job done since May. The cut back to a mile could be her saving grace, though, as she is two-for-two this year at the distance.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #1 *Marley's Freedom* – Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #7 *Come Dancing* – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #5 *Your Love* – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Exacta: 1/3,5,7

Trifecta: 1/3,5,7/3,5,7

Superfecta: 1,3,5,7 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,7

Small Budget Wager: \$2 exacta 1/3,5,7

Large Budget Wager: \$10 exacta 1/3,5,7 and #5 trifecta 1/3,5,7/3,5,7



RACE 4:

1 1/8 MILE ON THE DIRT
2-YEAR-OLD FILLIES

DEMOISELLE STAKES

OVERVIEW:

Each year, the *Kentucky Derby* trail grabs the majority of the headlines, but let's not forget about the *Kentucky Oaks* trail, which can be just as exciting and highly profitable. The *Grade 2 Demoiselle Stakes* is always a highlighted event in New York and serves as the second-to-last *Kentucky Oaks* prep race of the year. This year, the race has drawn a wide-open field of seven, giving us plenty of handicapping angles to examine.

RACE SHAPE: THIS RACE LOOKS TO BE DEVOID OF MUCH EARLY SPEED

Pure Speed: *Enliven*

Pressing Speed: *Filly Joel, Jennifer's Dream*

Stalkers: *Positive Spirit*

Closers: *Girl of Tosconova, Afleet Destiny, Molto Bella*

After drawing the rail, it is likely that *Enliven* will go straight to the front; this filly has natural front-end speed. Past her, this race lacks a lot of true speed horses. *Filly Joel* and *Jennifer's Dream* will likely sit off of the early pace just a bit in a stalking position. These three should have the advantage in a tough race for closers.

TOP CHOICE: #3 FILLY JOEL

After two lackluster efforts going 6 furlongs, this filly woke up in a big way when running 1 1/16 miles last time in a maiden-breaking score at *Belmont Park*. The final margin of victory was 6 1/4 lengths as she kicked clear with every stride. That type of effort will make her tough as she moves up to stakes company for the first time.

MAJOR THREATS: #7 MOLTO BELLA, #1 ENLIVEN

Molto Bella has been beaten by two nice horses recently, including the Bob Baffert-trained *Mother Mother* last time out at *Churchill Downs* in the *Rags to Riches Stakes*. *Enliven* also shows some back class against stakes company, finishing second last

time in the *Grade 3 Tempted Stakes* at *Aqueduct* to *Oxy Lady*.

LONG SHOTS TO USE: #2 GIRL OF TOSCONOVA, #4 POSITIVE SPIRIT

Trainer Charlie Baker chose to claim *Girl of Tosconova* out of her debut maiden claiming race for \$50,000 at *Belmont Park*. Her first start for him was a second-place effort against starter allowance company. *Positive Spirit* ships up from *Churchill Downs* after breaking her maiden nicely going 1 mile.

OTHERS: #5 JENNIFER'S DREAM, #6 AFLEET DESTINY

The *Laurel Park* shipper *Jennifer's Dream* will sit a nice trip in this race if she can establish a stalking position from her outside post. *Afleet Destiny* comes into this event off of a maiden special weight win at *Parx*. She will now have to prove she can make the leap from *Parx* to the NYRA circuit, though, which can sometimes be difficult.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #3 *Filly Joel* – Confidence Level: 1.5 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #7 *Molto Bella* – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #4 *Positive Spirit* – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Exacta: 1,3,7 BOX

Trifecta: 1,2,3,7 BOX

Superfecta: 1,2,3,7 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,2,3,7

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta box 1,2,3,7

Large Budget Wager: \$1 trifecta box 1,2,3,7