RACING DUDES INSIDE TRACK
TO RISEN STAR DAY

RISEN STAR DAY
FAIR GROUNDS
NEW ORLEANS
2019

FULL PACE ANALYSIS OF EACH RACE
INCLUDES RUNNING STYLES AND OVERALL RACE-SHAPE ANALYSIS

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WELCOME

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

Saturday's racing at Fair Grounds is second to none with six stakes races in total, with four of them being graded stakes events. The card features both a Kentucky Derby and a Kentucky Oaks prep race, with the Grade 2 Risen Star and Grade 2 Rachel Alexandra, along with the Grade 3 Fair Grounds Handicap and the Grade 3 Mineshaft Handicap. The Risen Star will go off as the feature race of the day while also serving as the first 50-point race of the Kentucky Derby Prep Series.

For each of the graded 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!

OVERVIEW:

The first 50-point Kentucky Derby Prep Race has arrived, and as per recent tradition, the Grade 2 Risen Star Stakes kicks off this series that basically serves as a "Win and You're in" for the Kentucky Derby. A full field of 14, with one also-eligible entry, has signed on to run in this event, making this the largest prep up so far this year. The Grade 3 LeComte Stakes winner War of Will is back to try and make it three in a row; however, he faces a much tougher challenge this time around.

RACE SHAPE: THIS RACE LOOKS TO HAVE A FAST PACE:

Pure Speed: *Manny Wah, Gun It*
Pressing Speed: *Mr. Money, Dunph, War of Will*
Stalkers: *Plus Que Parfait, Henley's Joy, Owendale*
Closers: *Roiland, Chase the Ghost, Hog Creek Hustle, Country House, Limonite, Frolic More*

Anytime that you see a full field like this, the chances are that the pace will be honest. Gun It and Manny Wah will ensure that, with several horses likely to sit right off their flank up the backside. If the closers are good enough, then they should have the setup to get it done; however, War of Will has proven he can sit off the pace and pounce at the perfect moment as well.

TOP CHOICE: #9 COUNTRY HOUSE

Trainer Bill Mott is loaded with prospects this year. He rarely ships horses to Fair Grounds, which is the first sign that he is pretty serious about this horse. After losing by just a 1/2-length two starts back, he crushed his rivals next out at Gulfstream Park despite a very poor beginning. The horse that beat him two races back, Kentucky Wildcat, finished second in the Grade 3 Sam F. Davis Stakes last weekend, which is another good sign. Finally, the red-hot Luis Saez is coming with him to ride.

MAJOR THREATS: #14 WAR OF WILL, #1 PLUS QUE PARFAIT, #6 HOG CREEK HUSTLE

It will be tough to beat a horse like of War of Will in this race. He was about as impressive as it gets last time out in the LeComte. He is the deserving favorite, but he does draw a very tough post position. Speaking of tough draws, Plus Que Parfait had a terrible trip in the LeComte because of his post. He draws the rail here, which still isn't great, but he is

likely to get a better trip. Expect the late-running Hog Creek Hustle to make a move down the stretch, especially if the front-runners go fast for most of the race.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #3 MR. MONEY, #7 MANNY WAH, #8 OWENDALE, #10 LIMONITE, #15 GUN IT

If any horse in this group can show some slight improvement, then there will be the chance for an upset. Owendale exits a fast allowance victory that saw him beat Gun It, but both are highly-regarded. Mr. Money could be up-and-coming, but he must battle back from an illness that forced him to miss the LeComte. Limonite makes his 2019 debut after finishing third in the Grade 2 Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes.

OTHERS: #2 ROILAND, #4 CHASE THE GHOST, #5 HENLEY'S JOY, #11 DUNPH, #12 FROLIC MORE

Even though they are in the "Others" category, a few horses here could make some noise. Henley's Joy is trying dirt for the first time after a solid career so far on the turf. Dunph is ready for his 3-year-old debut after finishing third in the Remington Park Springboard Mile.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #9 Country House – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #14 War of Will – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #1 Plue Que Parfait – Confidence Level: 1 out of

Exacta: 1,9,14 BOX

Trifecta: 1,6,9,14 BOX

Superfecta: 1,6,9,14 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,6,9,14

Small Budget Wager: $2 exacta 1,9,14 BOX, $0.50 cent trifecta 1,6,9,14 BOX

Large Budget Wager: $5 exacta 1,9,14 BOX, $1 trifecta 1,6,9,14 BOX

RACE 11:
RACHEL ALEXANDRA STAKES

1 1/16 MILES ON THE DIRT
3-YEAR-OLDS, FILLIES
GRADE 2

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OVERVIEW:

Over the past several years, Fair Grounds has produced fabulous fillies who eventually won the Kentucky Oaks. Look no further than the name of this race: the great Rachel Alexandra prepped here at Fair Grounds, as did last year's winner, Monomoy Girl. The 2019 edition is loaded with talent. Will another star filly emerge onto the scene?

RACE SHAPE: THE PACE SHOULD BE SWIFT

Pure Speed: *Serengeti Empress*
Pressing Speed: *Street Band, Needs Supervision*
Stalkers: *Molto Bella, Positive Spirit, Liora, Bell's the One*
Closers: *Oxy Lady, Eres Tu*

The pace might not set up quite as fast here as it will for the Risen Star; however, there's still some speed signed on to run. The main pacesetter might be Serengeti Empress, who has had an up-and-down career. At her best, she has proven to be a monster, but she has also raced poorly. She is very likely to be on the front end with Street Band and Needs Supervision pressing her. The pace should be honest enough for the closers to have a solid chance.

TOP CHOICE: #4 POSITIVE SPIRIT

Her victory last time out in the Grade 2 Demoiselle Stakes at Aqueduct was ultra-impressive. She stalked the pace beautifully before pouring it on late to win by 10 1/2 lengths, and we have waited for her to return ever since. She should be able to sit a similar trip in this race and be just as tough to hold off when the real running begins.

MAJOR THREATS: #3 SERENGETI EMPRESS, #9 NEEDS SUPERVISION, #6 OXY LADY

It is hard to discount a horse like Serengeti Empress, who at times can look like the best horse in the division. She enters off of a really disappointing run in the Breeder's Cup Juvenile Fillies, though, which certainly makes her questionable. Needs Supervision was a winner here last time out in the Silverbulletday Stakes and fits well into this race once again.

The Grade 3 Tempted Stakes winner Oxy Lady who came within 3 lengths of a Grade 1 victory last time out in the Starlet Stakes at Los Alamitos.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 MOLTO BELLA, #8 ERES TU

Molto Bella is an improving filly who dominated the Gasparilla Stakes last time out at Tampa Bay Downs. However, two races back, she was a well-beaten fourth to our top choice. Eres Tu came running late to get second last time out in the Silverbulletday, and the pace setup could help her do the same thing once again here.

OTHERS: #2 STREET BAND, #5 LIORA, #7 BELL'S THE ONE

Out of these three, the standout is Liora, an upset winner of the Grade 2 Golden Rod Stakes as a 2-year-old. She must rebound here, though, from a poor showing last time out in the Silverbulletday.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #4 Positive Spirit – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #9 Needs Supervision – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #6 Oxy Lady – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Exacta: 3,4,9 BOX

Trifecta: 3,4,6,9 BOX

Superfecta: 3,4,6,9 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 3,4,6,9

Small Budget Wager: $0.50 Trifecta 3,4,6,9 BOX and $10 to win on #4 Positive Spirit

Large Budget Wager: $2 trifecta 3,4,6,9 BOX and $40 to win on #4 Positive Spirit

RACE 10:
FAIR GROUNDS HANDICAP

1 1/8 MILES ON THE TURF
4-YEAR-OLDS AND UP
GRADE 3

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OVERVIEW:

A solid field of 11 horses is set to compete in this tremendous betting race. A classic "Box 'em Up & Call 'em Home" event, many horses have a realistic shot at winning. The pace, as well as who gets the best trip, will determine the winner of this wide-open contest that has many of the top Fair Grounds connections involved.

RACE SHAPE: THIS RACE LOOKS LIKE IT WILL HAVE A SLOW PACE:

Pure Speed: *Great Wide Open*
Pressing Speed: *Big Changes, First Premio*
Stalkers: *Long On Luck, Bandua*
Closers: *Tiz a Slam, Sir Dudley Digges, Sun Lover, Combatant, Markitoff, Synchrony*

On paper, it looks like Great Wide Open will be all alone on the front end. If he can show up with a solid effort, then it will be tough to catch him on the front end. The closers are going to need a little help in this spot. With the pace likely slow, they could be put in a tough situation.

TOP CHOICE: #9 SYNCHRONY

He won this event last year off of a very long layoff, which announced his arrival onto the scene as a turf horse. He enters into this year's version in solid form after narrowly missing in the Grade 2 Seabiscuit Handicap at Del Mar to close out his 2018 season. The pace setup will be his biggest question mark, but he looks like the race's most talented horse.

MAJOR THREATS: #5 BIG CHANGES, #6 FIRST PREMIO, #10 GREAT WIDE OPEN

When talking about big races at Fair Grounds, it usually starts with trainer Brad Cox and jockey Florent Geroux, especially when on the turf. Big Changes has those powerful connections and is coming off of a stakes win at Gulfstream Park last time out. First Premio won an allowance here at Fair Grounds in his last start, while Great Wide Open could be the lone speed in this race. This group of three will be dangerous.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 SIR DUDLEY DIGGES, #7 COMBATANT, #8 MARKITOFF

Out of these three, Combatant is the most interesting because of his most recent start in the Grade 2 Mathis Brothers Stakes at Santa Anita, where he was a very close third. That kind of effort again here would make him dangerous.

OTHERS: #3 SUN LOVER, #4 LONG ON LUCK, #11 BANDUA, #1 TIZ A SLAM

It's going to take an exceptional performance from anyone in this group to make an impact in this very difficult event.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #9 Synchrony – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #5 Big Changes – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #10 Great Wide Open – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 5,9,10 BOX

Trifecta: 5,6,9,10 BOX

Superfecta: 5,6,9,10 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 5,9,10

Small Budget Wager: $.50 cent trifecta BOX 5,6,9,10

Large Budget Wager: $2 trifecta BOX 5,6,9,10

RACE 9: MINESHAFT HANDICAP

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1 1/16 MILES ON THE DIRT
4-YEAR-OLDS AND UP
GRADE 3

OVERVIEW:

This race traditionally draws a tough field, and this year's running is no different. A solid field of 13 horses will contest the event, and several could be on their way to a big year. Overall, this may be the toughest race on the undercard. Much like the Fair Grounds Handicap, this is another "Box 'em Up & Call 'em Home" event.

RACE SHAPE: THIS RACE LOOKS LIKE IT WILL SET UP WELL FOR HORSE COMING FROM OFF THE PACE:

Pure Speed: *Harlan Punch, Flameaway*
Pressing Speed: *Krewe Chief, Mo Dont No, Ballard High*
Stalkers: *Silver Dust, Long On Luck, Quip*
Closers: *Imperative, Lone Sailor, Third Day, Phat Man, Thirstforlife*

Several horses will look to go right to the lead out of the gate. As many as four could fight for top honors, and a couple more won't be too far behind. However, the true closers in this field leave a lot to be desired, which could mean that the speed horses who can sit just off the lead will have the best chances of winning.

TOP CHOICE: #2 HARLAN PUNCH

Since moving to the barn of Brad Cox, this son of Harlan's Holiday has been very solid. Last time out, he won the local prep for this event over several of the same rivals that he'll face here. The competition will be slightly tougher, but it is a good sign that Florent Geroux is back in the saddle. Cox is very good with older horses, especially this one who should be watched throughout the year.

MAJOR THREATS: #4 SILVER DUST, #5 LONE SAILOR, #3 KREWE CHIEF

Silver Dust nearly beat our top choice last time out in a race that came back very strong from a speed figure standpoint. Lone Sailor was the most frustrating horse of 2018 after just missing in several big races. He has a lot of talent, but can he put it all together this year? Krewe Chief is more than capable of making a big run at the end and would benefit greatly from a hot pace.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #6 THIRD DAY, #13 QUIP

Third Day gets Jose Ortiz to ride after an impressive allowance victory last out at Gulfstream Park. Quip makes his 4-year-old debut after winning the Grade 2 Tampa Bay Derby as a 3-year-old. However, we haven't seen him since last year's Preakness Stakes.

OTHERS: #1 IMPERATIVE, #7 MO DONT KNOW, #8 PHAT MAN, #9 FLAMEAWAY, #10 LONG ON LUCK, #11 BALLARD HIGH, #12 THIRSTFORLIFE

We are taking a stand against several horses in this race, including Flameaway, who was highly regarded as a 3-year-old. This is a very tough spot for him to be making his 4-year-old debut against a solid field of experienced runners, and his connections have hinted that he might be better suited for the turf.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #2 Harlan Punch – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #5 Lone Sailor – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #3 Krewe Chief – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Exacta: 2,4,5 BOX

Trifecta: 2,3,4,5 BOX

Superfecta: 2,3,4,5 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 2,3,4,5

Small Budget Wager: $0.50 cent trifecta BOX 2,3,4,5

Large Budget Wager: $2 trifecta BOX 2,3,4,5