

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

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DUDES** **INSIDE**
TRACK
TO THE REBEL STAKES

**REBEL
STAKES**



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WELCOME



This Inside Track to the Rebel Stakes wagering guide gives you an inside look at all stakes races running on the card March 16, 2019, at Oaklawn Park. 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 Inside Track to the Rebel Stakes, our lead handicappers have been scouring through the card at Oaklawn Park in search of winning tickets on this loaded day of racing.

Oaklawn was able to lure enough 3-year-olds to this Saturday's Rebel Stakes (G2) to have it divided into two divisions! With 10 horses in one division and nine in the other, both races came up equally strong with Game Winner and Improbable leading each field. The two Rebels highlight a tremendous 11-race card that also features the return of Elate in the Azeri Stakes (G3), as well as the Essex Handicap for older males. Each division of the Rebel is offering \$750,000 and 63.75 qualifying points for the Kentucky Derby to the top four finishers (37.5, 15, 7.5 and 3.75).

For each of the stakes races on the card at Oaklawn Park, 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 10:

1 1/16 MILES ON
THE DIRT
3-YEAR-OLDS

REBEL STAKES [G2] DIVISION 2

OVERVIEW:

An historic day of racing will take place at Oaklawn Park this Saturday with two runnings of the Rebel Stakes (G2). This division is headlined by Breeders' Cup Juvenile Winner (G1) Game Winner, who will be making his long-awaited 3-year-old debut. Trainer Bob Baffert has had major success at Oaklawn Park in the past. The last time that the track split a prep race was in 2012 with the Southwest Stakes (G3), and Bob Baffert won both divisions. We'll see if it will be more of the same this year.

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

Pure Speed: Market King, Jersey Agenda

Pressing Speed: Parsimony, Omaha Beach, Our Braintrust

Stalkers: Game Winner, Captain Von Trappe

Closers: Laughing Fox, Gunmetal Gray, Kaziranga

This race should have a pretty stout pace up front. Jersey Agenda was part of a fast opening 1/4-mile last time out in the Southwest Stakes (G3), while Market King should be on the muscle early in this two-turn event. Add in Omaha Beach and Parsimony, who will press the leaders every step of the way, and this sets up well for the stalkers and closers.

TOP CHOICE: #5 GAME WINNER

The racing world always gets extra excited when the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Stakes (G1) winner makes his 3-year-old debut. This Baffert trainee has been working out extremely well leading up to this race, which should mean that he is ready for a big effort. Baffert is also no stranger to success at Oaklawn Park, where for years he has dominated the 3-year-old races. He ships to win, which is why Game Winner is a solid bet here.

MAJOR THREATS: #8 GUNMETAL GRAY, #6 OMAHA BEACH

The projected pace sets up very well for Gunmetal Gray, who drops to the back and makes one giant run at the end. That strategy could pay off for him here in a big way. The other horse to use is Omaha Beach, especially if he can stalk the early leaders. If so, he may get the jump on his main challengers. His maiden special weight win last time out was impressive.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 LAUGHING FOX

The top three horses in this field are going to be tough to beat; however, this Steve Asmussen trainee has turned some heads at Oaklawn Park. He has won two straight races here, including a sharp allowance victory last time out. From a numbers standpoint, he must improve; however, the pace should set up well for his stretch-running style.

OTHERS: #1 MARKET KING, #3 PARSIMONY, #4 JERSEY AGENDA, #7 OUR BRAINTRUST, #9 KARIRANGA, #10 CAPTAIN VON TRAPPGREYVITOS, #15 SUPER SOL, #16 COOL BOBBY

In this division, any horse in the "Others" category will have a tough time competing with the top-level entries. There are few in here that will play a factor from a pace standpoint; however, they most likely won't be around when the real running begins.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #5 Game Winner – Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #8 Gunmetal Gray – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #6 Omaha Beach – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Exacta: 5,6,8 BOX

Trifecta: 5,6/2,5,6,8/2,5,6,8

Superfecta: 2,5,6,8 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 5,6,8

Small Budget Wager: \$0.50 cent trifecta 5,6/2,5,6,8/3,5,6,7, \$20 win on #5 Game Winner

Large Budget Wager: \$1 trifecta 5,6/2,5,6,8/2,5,6,8, \$50 win on #5 Game Winner



RACE 9: ESSEX HANDICAP

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

OVERVIEW:

A solid field of 9 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 Oaklawn Park connections involved.

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

Pure Speed: *Snapper Sinclair, Giant Expectations*

Pressing Speed: *Chris and Dave*

Stalkers: *Nanoosh, Heavy Roller*

Closers: *Dalmore, Hence, Sonneteer, Rated R Superstar*

The lack of early speed is pretty clear in this spot. That should favor the California shipper Giant Expectations, the only horse in the race that will truly want the lead. He might be challenged by Snapper Sinclair; however, the other horses in the race will likely be content to sit back and watch it unfold up front.

TOP CHOICE: #8 GIANT EXPECTATIONS

The pace set up looks to be ideal for him. If he is left alone on the front end against this group of horses, then he will be extremely hard to pass. He already out-classes this group, having run in several tougher graded stakes races. Even if he doesn't get things his own way, he will still be difficult to beat.

MAJOR THREATS: #3 SONNETEER, #6 HEAVY ROLLER, #7 SNAPPER SINCLAIR

Several solid challengers loom large in this spot if Giant Expectations fails to show up with his best effort. Sonneteer loves Oaklawn Park, which will always make him dangerous. Heavy Roller seems to be the "hot horse" coming into this one after two straight wins against lesser company. Snapper Sinclair got back to the winner's circle in his last race, which came over this track against allowance company. He also possesses some early speed that could bother Giant Expectations on the front end.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #5 CHRIS AND DAVE, #9 RATED R SUPERSTAR

Chris and Dave will make the start for powerful Oaklawn Park connections. While this is a jump up in class, his last race was impressive. Rated R Superstar can never be completely thrown out. He is consistent enough to respect and fits into this race well from a class perspective.

OTHERS: #1 DALMORE, #2 HENCE, #4 NANOOSH

All of these horses have had their moments in the past, but they will need to get back to their top efforts in order to have a shot here. It's not likely, though you can't totally count them out in a race that could become wide open if the favorite runs poorly.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #8 Giant Expectations – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #3 Sonneteer – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #6 Heavy Roller – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 3,6,8 BOX

Trifecta: 3,6,7,8 BOX

Superfecta: 3,6,7,8 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 3,6,7,8

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta BOX 3,6,7,8

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta BOX 3,6,7,8



RACE 8:

1 1/16 MILES ON
THE DIRT
3-YEAR-OLDS

REBEL STAKES [G2] DIVISION 1

OVERVIEW:

The historic split of the Rebel Stakes (G2) starts here with a solid field of nine, which could turn into a fascinating head-to-head matchup between Improbable and Galilean. The two headliners have drawn side by side on the outside, adding to the drama. The last time that the track split a prep race was the 2012 Southwest Stakes (G3), and Baffert won both. The horses that he is bringing this time around are more than capable of doing the same.

RACE SHAPE: THE PACE SHOULD BE REASONABLE

Pure Speed: *Galilean*

Pressing Speed: *Extra Hope, Long Range Toddy, Improbable*

Stalkers: *Corruze, Classy John*

Closers: *Easy Shot, Proud Nation, Ninth Street*

The pace will be intriguing to watch unfold. The four logical candidates to take the lead are Galilean, Improbable, Extra Hope, and Long Range Toddy. However, none of these horses are true speed-burners, and that could turn this into a jockey's race. Jon Court picks up the mount on Long Range Toddy, which could mean that he'll go to the front with the speedy new rider. Regardless, the pace should not be too rapid in this race.

TOP CHOICE: #9 IMPROBABLE

This is the Baffert horse that has greatly impressed in the mornings leading up to this race. He is a perfect 3-for-3 in his career, winning the Los Alamitos Futurity (G1) to round out his 2-year-old season. The same owners as Justify also own this horse, hence the name Improbable, and it is quite amazing to have a horse this good in back-to-back years. He should be ready to roll.

MAJOR THREATS: #8 GALILEAN

We'll see if the Cal-bred can compete against open company. So far against state-bred company, he has been nearly flawless. His last two stakes victories came in impressive fashion, and last time out, he showed a new dimension by winning from off the lead in the California Cup Derby. His only loss came at a sprint distance, and this son of Uncle Mo has already proven to be solid at the Rebel's distance

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 EXTRA HOPE, #2 LONG RANGE TODDY

These two could provide a surprise, but the top two horses are going to be tough to beat. Long Range Toddy has to be used underneath, and he should also set the pace with Court aboard. Extra Hope put it all together with an impressive allowance win at Santa Anita Park last time out and does his best when running around two turns.

OTHERS: #3 CORRUZE, #4 EASY SHOT, #5 PROUD NATION, #6 NINTH STREET, #7 CLASSY JOHN

This race looks to be extremely top-heavy, meaning that the winner will not be a surprise. These horses will have to really step up their games to make an impact. Do not expect a 60-1 winner in this race like we did in the Southwest Stakes (G3).

PICKS AND PLAYS:

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

Bet to Place or Show: #8 Galilean – Confidence Level: 3.5 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #2 Long Range Toddy – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Exacta: 8,9/1,2,8,9

Trifecta: 8,9/1,2,8,9/1,2,8,9

Superfecta: 1,2,8,9 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 8,9

Small Budget Wager: \$40 to win on #9 Improbable

Large Budget Wager: \$100 to win on #9 Improbable



RACE 7:

1 1/16 MILES ON THE DIRT
4-YEAR-OLDS AND UP, FILLIES
AND MARES

AZERI [G2] STAKES

OVERVIEW:

This race traditionally draws a star-studded field, and this year's running is no different. The local prep race for the Apple Blossom Handicap (G1), this event has attracted star females Elate and Midnight Bisou and the fast-closing Eskimo Kisses. Even though the field contains just 5 horses, the star power is out. This is a great way to kick off the stakes action on the day.

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

Pure Speed: *Tapa Tapa Tapa*

Pressing Speed: *Elate, Midnight Bisou*

Stalkers: *Summer's Indy*

Closers: *Eskimo Kisses, Shamrock Rose*

Tapa Tapa Tapa is very likely to set the pace here, which usually means that the opening 1/4- and 1/2-miles will be fairly swift. However, without the presence of a lot of other speed in this contest, don't expect her to blaze. This has a chance to be a very moderate pace, which should lead to all horses in the race having a fair shot.

TOP CHOICE: #5 ELATE

It's exciting to see Elate back after an injury cut her season short last year. The superstar mare could be set for a monster season, with this race being the perfect launching point to her year. She should be able to stalk the early pace here before pouring it on in the stretch and getting the jump on her biggest challenger, Midnight Bisou. It will be fun to see her back in action on this card.

MAJOR THREATS: #2 MIDNIGHT BISOU

If anyone can upset the monster that is Elate, it will be Midnight Bisou, who started off her 4-year-old campaign with a win in the Houston Ladies Classic Stakes (G3). Last year, she danced every dance, often finishing just behind champion Monomoy Girl on several occasions. She is no stranger to going up against great horses, which will help her out with this tough challenge. You can bet that she'll give a solid effort.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 TAPA TAPA TAPA, #4 ESKIMO KISSES

Tapa Tapa Tapa is strictly a pace play in this race. If she can get out to an easy lead, then they might have trouble passing her in the stretch. She recently won the Wayward Lass Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs. Eskimo Kisses will come with a run late; however, she needs more pace and distance than what she is likely to get in this race.

OTHERS: #3 SUMMER'S INDY, #6 SHAMROCK ROSE

It is hard to list a Breeders' Cup winner in the "Others" category, but that is exactly what we are doing. Shamrock Rose won the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint (G1) last November; however, she is now stretching out in distance against a very tough field. This looks like a very difficult spot for her.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #5 Elate – Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #2 Midnight Bisou – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #1 Tapa Tapa Tapa – Confidence Level: 1 out of 5

Exacta: 2,5/1,2,5

Trifecta: 2,5/1,2,5/1,2,4,5

Superfecta: 2,5/1,2,5/1,2,4,5/1,2,4,5

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

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

Large Budget Wager: \$10 exacta 2,5/1,2,5