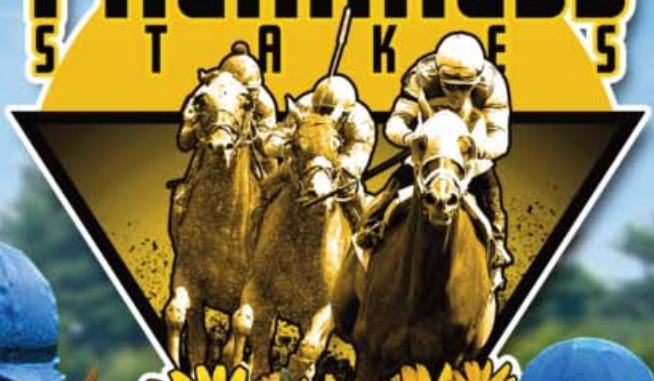


FULL RACE PREVIEWS & WAGERING STRATEGIES FOR ALL STAKES RACES ON THE CARD

RACING DUDES **inside** **TRACK**

TO THE PREAKNESS STAKES

PREAKNESS STAKES



EXCLUSIVE RACE ANALYSIS

WAGERING STRATEGIES FOR ALL STAKES
INCLUDING INCLUDING PREAKNESS AND BLACK-EYED SUSAN

EXCLUSIVE ANALYSIS

FROM PROFESSIONAL HORSEPLAYER
JONATHON KINCHEN

TOP 4 CONSENSUS PICKS

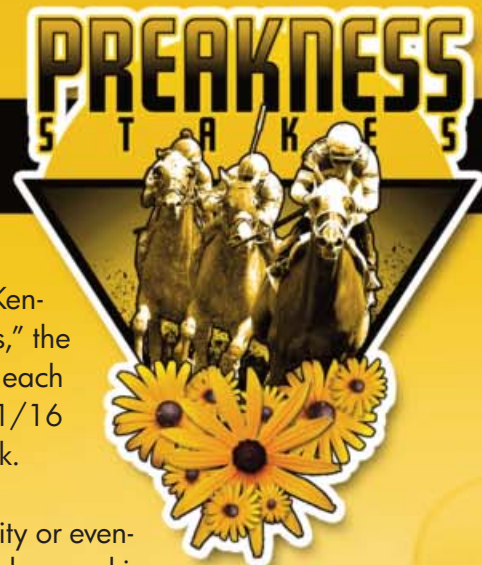
TOP 4 CHOICES FOR EACH OF THE 10 STAKES RACES
COVERED FROM THE HANDICAPPERS AT RACINGDUDES.COM

\$39.95 US \$53.90 CAN



WELCOME

The Preakness Stakes, the second jewel of the Triple Crown, is run between the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes. Called "The Run for the Black-Eyed Susans," the Preakness is held at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore on the third Saturday of each May. First run in 1873, the race is competed at a distance of 1 3/16 miles, 1/16 of a mile shorter than the Kentucky Derby, for 3-year-olds on the main dirt track.



After the controversial Kentucky Derby DQ, we won't see either Maximum Security or eventual Derby winner Country House at Pimlico. However, the race is full of contenders, making it an excellent betting race.

This **Inside Track to the Preakness Stakes** is a combination of some of the best handicapping forces in the country. The Racing Dudes have been at it for years, offering handicapping picks and analysis daily for over 7 years. This year, all hands are on deck. Racing Dudes Aaron and Jared have studied these Preakness Stakes contenders for months, while Mike Somich has also been busy at work. Somich is known for his massive multi-race scores. He is fairly new to the team, but is already making many fans, with his Pick 4 and Pick 5 analysis and picks.

And a special bonus this year, Jonathon Kinchen will be contributing to this **Inside Track to the Preakness Stakes**! Jonathon was the 2015 NHC Tour champion and remains the only player in NHC history to have both of his entries qualify for The Final Table. Jonathon's work has been seen with DRF, as well as more recently on Fox Sports. You can also check out the In The Money Players' Podcast, which he does with tournament expert Peter T. Fornatale.

IN THIS ALL-INCLUSIVE INSIDE TRACK TO THE PREAKNESS STAKES YOU CAN FIND:

- ▶ Multi-Race Wager plays and strategies from handicapping expert Mike Somich
- ▶ Exclusive analysis and picks from Jonathon Kinchen
- ▶ Race by Race analysis of all 9 stakes races on the Preakness Stakes card including:
 - ▶ Overview of the Race
 - ▶ Race Shape and Pace Analysis
 - ▶ Top Selections
 - ▶ Major threats
 - ▶ Longshots to Use
- ▶ Exclusive Picks and Plays for each race which include: Win bet, place or show bet, long shot across the board play, exacta, trifecta, Superfecta, horses to use in multi-race wagers, what to play on a small budget, and what to play on a large budget. Each win, place, show, or across the board selection comes with a confidence rating, so you can see how strongly we feel about each pick.
- ▶ Exclusive bonus analysis of the Black-Eyed Susan on Friday
- ▶ Top 4 choices for all stakes race from the handicappers at racingdudes.com

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

Good luck today!

PREAKNESS DAY

by Mike Somich

Let's dive into the mid-card Pick 4 to help build the bankroll for the later races! I'm going to play two tickets in this sequence because I really like my early opinions and I have a favorite that I want to beat in the third leg.

LEG 1 – RACE 6 – THE MARYLAND SPRINT (G3) – 6 FURLONGS ON THE DIRT

One of my top handicapping angles to project improvement is during horses' 4-year-old seasons when they fully mature into their bodies. We've got two horses here that fit that angle to a tee and they will be the only two that I'll use. #1 New York Central was a VERY good sprinter before his ownership had champagne wishes and Derby dreams while trying to stretch this horse out. Now he is back to doing what he does best: sprinting.

He ran his career-best speed figure last time out going 7 furlongs and I expect him to improve off of that effort second time out. That makes him awfully dangerous in this spot. The other 4-year-old making his second start of the year is the #6 Wentz from the John Servis barn. He's the quickest out of the gate, so he should make the lead, and he will be tough to catch. The other playable horses have major flaws here: Proforma is better on turf and Lewisville isn't fast enough to out-pace Wentz, so I am going to stop there and spread later.

LEG 2 – RACE 7 – THE SEARCHING – 1 1/2 MILES ON THE TURF

I spent a good 10 minutes trying to overthink this race before taking what the race is giving us. The horse who is in her best form currently is #5 Ickymasho. She's coming off of a G3 victory against a couple of these and there is no reason to think that they will turn the tables on

her. The lack of pace in here should set up well for her, and the steady improvement since the addition of Lasix is another positive. I'd be singling her if not for #3 Osare. She's lightly-raced out of the Jonathan Thomas barn, but she's improved every time that she's run and she showed flashes of brilliance last year.

I expect her to run a career-best number in this spot, which makes this a two-horse race. I won't use Violet Blue on my tickets unless there are some scratches, but that was the next horse up in my mind and really the only one who could win if both of these heavyweights fall flat.

LEG 3 – RACE 8 - \$52,000 ALLOWANCE – 6 FURLONGS ON THE DIRT

For the first time in the guide's history, I'll be punching the ALL button here! Two clear horses will be favored: #9 Overdeliver for trainer Todd Pletcher and jockey John Velazquez will be way too short of a price for me because a plethora of speed has signed up and this seems like way too much of a step backwards for my liking. Dropping from the Kentucky Derby trail all the way down to a conditional allowance with a marginal purse makes me question how much the connections like this horse. #1 Articulator, your clear second favorite, needs the lead and has packed it on the last four races after losing the lead.

Due to that aforementioned pace, I'm not even sure Articulator can make the lead. So why hit the ALL button? I can make a case for quite a few longshots in here, like #4 Bozzini getting back to sprinting and in good form, or #5 Dirtyfoot, who fits if you throw out his last race on turf. He'll also sit a perfect trip behind what should be a very contested pace. There are two longshots that I like the most, starting with #6 Jefazo, an improving 4-year-

old that closed professionally and took care of business while getting claimed last time out.

This is a jump in class and may be 1 furlong too short, but trainer Kieron Magee is 22% off of the claim, and if Jefazo improves, then he'll be right there. To his outside, #7 Passcode will be running for the second time in his 3-year-old season. Throw out his last effort since it was on turf and project improvement off of his maiden-breaking score, and he fits. Notice that he was 1.4 to 1 in a \$100,000 stakes race on November 10 and had loads of trouble. Since I've now made a case for four horses who will all be over 10-1 in a nine-horse field, and because there are major flaws in both favorites, using ALL instead of just 67% is the correct play.

**LEG 4 – RACE 9 – THE VERY ONE -
\$100,000 – 5 FURLONGS ON THE TURF**

I was very happy to see this one in the sequence because it's wide open and I've got a couple of horses that I really like in here. My top pick will be loading last, the #9 Wild About Star. This lightly-raced 5-year-old has the tactical speed to take advantage of the outside post. The bottom line is that her best is the best in here. While I am not positive that she'll be able to run back to that here, you cannot leave her off, and the Jose Camejo barn is 22% first time out and 21% turf sprinting. I talked on The Magic Mike Show this week about how I value early speed in turf sprints, and that points me directly to #6 Jo Jo Air, who showed stark improvement in her last race when she made the lead going 22 3/5 for the opening 1/4-mile. I expect her to do the same again here, and if she's by herself, then she'll be tough to catch. There is no shame in her having previously lost to Concrete Rose, Strike Silver, or Eyeinthesky. Right to her outside is #7 Angel at War, the last one that I'll include. This will be her first time on the lawn, but she's a speedball who likes to win (7-for-19 lifetime), and that's a great combination at 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. ■■

MIKE'S TICKETS:

\$0.50 PICK 4 – 1, 6 / 3, 5 / ALL (9) / 6, 7, 9 - \$54

\$0.50 PICK 4 – 1, 6 / 3 / 4, 6, 7, 9 / 6, 9 - \$8



GET YOUR PREAK-ON LATE PICK 4

by Jonathon Kinchen

I wish I was one of those guys who could tell you all the wild stories from that one time I hung out in the Preakness infield. You know, the type of guy with cell phone footage of some inebriated 20 something galloping along the top of the port-a-potties while unsuccessfully dodging cans of Keystone Light, but I can't. In fact, I can't even tell you about a trip to the Preakness under more suitable and "adult" conditions. I have never been to the Preakness. That might not seem that shocking for most people, but for me, I'm fortunate that there aren't too many "big races" in this country I haven't seen live.

Just because I haven't made it to the Preakness doesn't mean I don't love so many things about it. The handicapping puzzle of the Preakness is like nothing else we see all year. Just two weeks ago the nation's 3-year olds were asked a question about the 10 furlongs. Some answered it correctly, and some didn't. Now they have to answer the question about 14 days rest, which only Market King answered correctly in their short careers, but he doesn't really count, does he? Tight turns-smight turns!

Now we have to deal with this Preakness Puzzle. When was the last time the "top 4 finishers" in the Derby decided to skip the Preakness? It hasn't happened since I made my life-debut in 1982. It makes this puzzle the most difficult I've faced since I started this whole horse-playing thing! Let's lay out all these pieces on the table, start with the corners and sides, and try to solve this puzzle that concludes the All Graded Stakes Pick 4.

\$.50 Late Pick 4

Saturday, Race 10, 4:05pm ET, G3 Gallorette
Saturday, Race 11, 4:42pm ET, G3 Chick Lang
Saturday, Race 12, 5:39pm ET, G2 Dixie
Saturday, Race 13, 6:48pm ET, G1 Preakness

LEG A – G3 GALLORETTE:

Playing the horses is different than any other gambling game. You have to make decisions, take stands, create

value, and accept that sometimes you are "passing on a possible winner." Sure, I'm So Fancy, Inflexibility, Mitchell Road, and Viva Vegas all make sense. I'm So Fancy has Irish form that makes her a player for the more than capable Arnaud Delacour. Inflexibility doesn't need much explanation. She has fast figures, ridden by Javier Castellano and trained by the best turf trainer in the country in Chad Brown. Mitchell Road is tactical and could even wire the field if no one decides to go with her. Joel Rosario is very good when let loose on the front end. Viva Vegas missed by a neck in the local prep closing into slow fractions. Gets Jose Ortiz and could be heard from late.

However, I am not using any of those horses as As. Barkaa is the "other" Chad Brown that has my support. Like recent Chad Brown trainees Sistercharlie and Homerique, she was competitive in France at the Group 1 level. Speaking of Homerique, check out XBTV and watch her work with Barkaa on April 21 on the turf at Palm Meadows. She has the look of a real runner and 6-1 on the morning line is not something I can pass up. If it all goes wrong I can always come right back in the all graded stakes Pick Three.

A:

9 – Barkaa

B:

1 – I'm So Fancy
2 – Inflexibility
4 – Mitchell Road
8 – Viva Vegas

LEG B – G3 CHICK LANG:

I usually love the opportunity to bet on horses cutting back to sprint distances after connections give up trying to put a square peg (sprinter) into a round hole (route distances). However, this edition of the Chick Lang doesn't have one like that. Despite the absence of one of my favorite angles, I do think this race has a horse that presents a ton of value, Pyron. The Candy Ride colt has

the best last figure from various figure makers, but that figure will be questioned by some because it took place in the slop. I typically tread lightly when it comes to figures earned on sloppy surfaces, but Pyron's recent slop figure makes sense in the context of his debut figure which was earned on a fast surface. Steve Asmussen won this race last year with sprint phenom Mitole. Ricardo Santana Jr. has won 25% of his mounts for Steve Asmussen in dirt sprints in the last year. Malpais exits the bullring at Charles Town where he won a \$100k stake by 4 lengths. His 5 length win prior at the Fair Grounds shows a ton of versatility. Being drawn inside of Pyron is tricky, but if Luis Saez can work out a trip, this one could be tough.

The race looks like it has a ton of speed, but so does seemingly every other sprint stake. It's astonishing how many times the "speed of the speed" sticks around. I'll let the closers beat me.

A:

7 – Pyron (Top Choice)

B:

3 – Malpais

LEG C – G2 DIXIE:

This race is rather straightforward to me. You either believe in the 2019 Henry S. Clark as a prep for this race, or you don't. I don't. That opinion allows me to toss all of the horses exiting that race. Catholic Boy is the class of the race and on the short list of the most exiting older horses in training. A grade one winner on dirt and turf, he is battle tested, gutsy, and conditioned by one of the most exciting young trainers in the game, Jonathan Thomas. Is this a prep? Maybe. Is his 85% good enough? I think so. He doesn't get an easy draw, but either does his main competition in Inspector Lynley. Inspector Lynley has been facing legit grade one types in the back half of his career. I could name them, but just look at the PPs. I see the names of 5 horses that would be odds on in this race. Class is key in turf racing and these two are the classiest and I will take a stand against the rest.

A:

12 – Catholic Boy (Top Pick)

11 – Inspector Lynley

LEG D – G1 PREAKNESS:

The final piece of the puzzle. The conversation has to start with the best finisher from the Kentucky Derby that shows up in this race, Improbable. Trained by Bob Baffert, who is looking for his record-breaking eighth Preakness win. Bob clearly knows how to answer the 14-day question. Some will argue (I'm looking at you, PTF) that Improbable had a perfect trip and didn't see out the distance. I would say he had a good trip and was finishing just fine. I have sworn to never discuss "the DQ" again, but I think it's important to note that Improbable did have to hesitate a touch when all of that was going on. Not enough to say he "checked or steadied," but Irad did have to let off the gas a bit.

Regardless, I would have preferred him find a way to win from there. He is a must use for me based on exiting the fastest 3yo race (Arkansas Derby) in my opinion, but I cannot lean heavily at what is likely to be an over bet "old-shooter" (I should trademark that). The other "old-shooter" that is dangerous is War of Will. I did not like him in the Derby and he ran well enough to earn my respect. I think most will agree that the "action that will not be named" was enough of a reason to expect even more improvement. I would assume that the inside draw will encourage the connections to get him in the clear and not take the chance of traffic trouble. I respect horses that run through my negative opinion of them. Regardless, War of Will did that on the first Saturday in May.

I mentioned above how much I like the Arkansas Derby as a race, but I felt the opposite about the Florida Derby. The race had a slow pace, a former 16 claimer wired the field, Code of Honor seemed "dressed-up," etc. I was clearly wrong with Code of Honor and Maximum Security running so well in the big Derby. Right behind them in the Florida Derby was Bourbon War who was closing into that slow pace set by the horse that crossed the wire first in Louisville, Maximum Security. He is a must use based on his run in the Florida Derby. I actually think he could get a pace setup in here.

Brad Cox has burst on to the scene in the last 24 months with the champion filly Monomoy Girl, but he has seen success at all levels, all distances, all surfaces, and all circuits. He brings two horses to Baltimore that both look live. Owendale's win in the Lexington was impressive and he has the look of an improving type that should offer a ton of value with the "old-shooters" taking the fa-

miliarity dollars. That brings us to Ten Strike Racing/Madaket's Munnings colt, Warrior's Charge. I would be lying if I didn't tell you that I was rooting for this guy. Marshall Gramm and Clay Sanders, co-founders of Ten Strike, are friends and great ambassadors for the game. This is their first runner in a Triple Crown race and he is a fast one. WC comes into the Preakness off two wire-to-wire victories that saw him draw off by 6+ lengths. I envision him sitting right off War of Will who I think will be aggressively ridden from the rail. If good enough, which he may be, Warrior's Charge could get a perfect trip. ■■

A:

- 2 – Bourbon War (Top Pick)
- 3 – Warrior's Charge
- 4 – Improbable
- 5 – Owendale
- 1 – War of Will

All As:

(\$6 Pick 4) 9 w 7 w 11,12 w 1,2,3,4,5

All As with (1) B:

(\$2 Pick 4) 1,2,4,8 w 7 w 11,12 w 1,2,3,4,5

(\$2 Pick 4) 9 w 3 w 11,12 w 1,2,3,4,5

All As with (2) Bs:

(\$1 Pick 4) 1,2,4,8 w 3 w 11,12 w 1,2,3,4,5

Total = \$200



**FRIDAY RACE**

RACE 11:

**1 1/8 MILES ON
THE DIRT
3-YEAR-OLD FILLIES**

BLACK-EYED SUSAN [G2]

OVERVIEW:

The Kentucky Oaks (G1) saw a strong winner in Serengeti Empress, and she has taken control of the top spot in this division. However, the Black-Eyed Susan always plays a major factor among the 3-year-old fillies. A solid field of nine will line up to do battle in a wide-open event that could lead to a nice payout.

RACE SHAPE: FAST PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: *Ulele, Cookie Dough, Brill, Las Setas*

Pressing Speed: *Our Super Freak*

Stalkers: *Always Shopping, Point of Honor*

Closers: *Sweet Diane, Off Topic*

Several horses have speed in this race, which should lead to a swift battle on the front end. However, the same setup looked likely in the Kentucky Oaks, yet the pace duel never materialized. That race was won wire-to-wire, but on paper, it certainly doesn't look like that will be the case again here.

TOP CHOICE: #8 POINT OF HONOR

After two impressive races, including a win in the \$150,000 Suncoast Stakes, this horse had some major buzz heading into the Gulfstream Park Oaks (G2) last time out. She didn't run all that well in that spot, but she still has a lot of room to develop. The pace sets up well for her here, and the extra distance should be right up her alley.

MAJOR THREATS: #7 BRILL, #4 COOKIE DOUGH, #6 ALWAYS SHOPPING

At one time, Brill was high on everyone's radar after she broke her maiden on debut at Del Mar; however, she has not won since. She has at least run well lately, though. Cookie Dough has been very surprising this year in two solid efforts against tough company at Gulfstream Park. Always Shopping has won two straight, including the Gazelle Stakes (G2) at Aqueduct last time out at this distance.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 OFF TOPIC, #3 ULELE

Off Topic makes sense in the underneath positions after hitting the board five straight times, and her connections are also hard to ignore. Ulele will play a big part in the pace after winning wire to wire last time out at Keeneland, showing speed that could make her dangerous.

OTHERS: #9 LAS SETAS, #5 OUR SUPER FREAK, #1 SWEET DIANE

The two local hopefuls are Las Setas and Our Super Freak, who finished 1-2 in the local prep race for this one. Both could be outclassed a bit, along with Sweet Diane, who has come up short when facing similar competition in the past.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #8 Point of Honor – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #4 Cookie Dough – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #7 Brill – Confidence Level: 1.5 out of 5

Exacta: 4,7,8 BOX

Trifecta: 4,6,7,8 BOX

Superfecta: 4,6,7,8 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 4,6,7,8

Small Budget Wager: \$0.50 cent trifecta BOX 4,6,7,8

Large Budget Wager: \$1 trifecta BOX 4,6,7,8



RACE 13:

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

PREAKNESS STAKES [G1]

OVERVIEW:

Let's see if we can get back to normal after the most chaotic Kentucky Derby of all time. The top four finishers did not travel to Baltimore, but we still have a tremendous betting event. A whopping 13 horses will step into the gate on Saturday, and a case could be made for over half of the field. This year's Preakness is setting up to be an extremely close race.

RACE SHAPE: FAST PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: *War of Will, Warrior's Charge, Market King, Bodexpress*

Pressing Speed: *Improbable, Anothertwistafate*

Stalkers: *Owendale, Alwaysmining*

Closers: *Bourbon War, Signalman, Everfast, Laughing Fox, Win Win Win*

The front end should set up to be pretty fast with solid speed horses signed on to run. Not only that, but a couple of the stalkers can press the pace if need be as well, making for likely hot opening 1/4 and 1/2-mile fractions. Look for stalkers and/or closers to get the setup needed to run down the leaders late.

TOP CHOICE: #7 ALWAYS MINING

It's amazing how well it's setting up for the local horse to get the job done. His connections have targeted this race for months, and the plan is coming together nicely: he has won six straight contests. He will get a major class test in this race, but he looks to be ready from a speed figure standpoint. At 8-1, he's worth taking a big shot.

MAJOR THREATS: #5 OWENDALE, #4 IMPROBABLE, #1 WAR OF WILL, #3 WARRIOR'S CHARGE

The Brad Cox-trained pair of Owendale and Warrior's Charge look to be blossoming at the perfect time, making them the up-and-comers to play at a price. A pair of Kentucky Derby also-rans in War of Will and Improbable figure to play a big part in things as well; however, they will also be short

prices, and that is the major worry. The talent is there, though, and they are in with a shot.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 BOURBON WAR, #12 ANOTHER TWISTAFATE, #13 WIN WIN WIN

All three of these seem like logical contenders for the underneath positions. Anothertwistafate and Win Win Win drew poorly, so they must overcome these outside draws. Bourbon War likes to drop to the back, so his inside draw won't hurt him much. The pace looks like it could set up for a closer, which makes him more appealing. Out of these three, he has the best shot to win.

OTHERS: #11 LAUGHING FOX, #9 BODEXPRESS, #8 SIGNALMAN, #6 MARKET KING, #10 EVERFAST

This year's Preakness may lack a superstar horse, but the field's depth is the best that we've had in quite a while. You have to take a stand against a few, which is what we've done with this talented group.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #7 Alwaysmining – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #4 Improbable – Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #5 Owendale – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Exacta: 4,5,7/1,3,4,5,7 and 1,3,4,5,7/4,5,7

Trifecta: 4,5,7/1,3,4,5,7/1,2,3,4,5,7,12,13

Superfecta: 4,5,7/4,5,7/1,3,4,5,7/1,2,3,4,5,7,12,13

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,3,4,5,7

Small Budget Wager: \$1 Exacta 4,5,7/1,3,4,5,7 & 1,3,4,5,7/4,5,7

Large Budget Wager: \$1 Trifecta 4,5,7/1,3,4,5,7/1,2,3,4,5,7,12,13



RACE 12:

DIXIE-STAKES [G2]

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

OVERVIEW:

Get ready for the 4-year-old debut of Catholic Boy, who won the Travers Stakes (G1) and the Belmont Derby (G1) last season. He is the rare horse that runs extremely well on both turf and dirt, but the turf might be his best surface, so it will be fun to watch him in this spot. He faces a full field of 12 horses, which should be fun to watch.

RACE SHAPE: MODERATE PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: *Flameaway, Real Story*

Pressing Speed: *Have At It, Phlash Phelps, Catholic Boy*

Stalkers: *Just Howard, Inspector Lynley*

Closers: *Twenty Four Seven, Admission Office, Paret, Something Awesome, O Dionysus*

The potential addition of Flameaway (who's also cross-entered in a Friday stakes race on the main track) makes it interesting. He is a speed horse on the dirt, but this would be his first race on the turf, so what he will do on the new surface? Real Story will also show early speed, while Catholic Boy is best when close to the pace. It may not end up being blazing up front, but there is enough speed to make it honest.

TOP CHOICE: #12 CATHOLIC BOY

This race is not the ultimate goal for Catholic Boy, but his class might lead him to victory. He is a monster who can win on both turf and dirt, but the grass is probably his best surface. The post and the six-month layoff mean that he is not a single, but he will still be tough to beat.

MAJOR THREATS: #11 INSPECTOR LYNLEY, #5 HAVE AT IT, #7 REAL STORY

Inspector Lynley is an old pro that always shows up with an honest and solid effort. You have to run well to beat him. Have At It runs off of a long layoff in his first start as a 4-year-old, but his speed figures make him interesting at a price. The same can be said about Real Story, who should

set the pace. Both horses are logical alternatives to the two favorites.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 JUST HOWARD, #6 FLAMEAWAY, #10 O DIONYSUS

Just Howard should be tuned up and ready for a big effort after running first off of the layoff last time out. Flameaway would be making his turf debut if he enters this race. There is no doubt that he would play a factor in the pace, and he has the breeding that suggests he can run well on this surface. O Dionysus is always around in races like this in the Mid-Atlantic and usually shows up with a solid effort.

OTHERS: #3 ADMISSION OFFICE, #4 PARET, #8 PHLASH PHELPS, #9 SOMETHING AWESOME, #1 TWENTY FOUR SEVEN

The top horses in this spot just look to be a little too tough for this group to handle. It will take a major improvement for them to be competitive.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #12 Catholic Boy – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #11 Inspector Lynley – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

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

Exacta: 7,11,2 BOX

Trifecta: 5,7,11,12 BOX

Superfecta: 5,7,11,12 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 11,12

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta BOX 5,7,11,12

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta BOX 5,7,11,12



RACE 11:

CHICK-LANG-STAKES [G3]

6 FURLONGS ON
THE DIRT
3-YEAR-OLDS

OVERVIEW:

Last year, this race gave us Mitole, who hasn't lost since and won his first Grade 1 race two weeks ago at Churchill Downs. We may not have a superstar like Mitole in this year's field, but it has attracted a balanced field that will make for a great betting opportunity. This could end up being a "Box 'em up and call 'em home" type of race.

RACE SHAPE: FAST PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: *Malpais, Cabot, Gladiator King*

Pressing Speed: *Admiral Lynch, Pyron, Preamble*

Stalkers: *Lexitonian*

Closers: *Still Dreaming, Confessor*

Finally, we get a race that should have a very hot pace. Anytime Gladiator King is entered, you can be sure that the fractions will be quick up front. He'll likely have plenty of company in this one, with quality horses such as Malpais right on his flank. This should set it up for those who can close or stalk the early frontrunners.

TOP CHOICE: #7 PYRON

We have liked this horse from the very beginning. We cashed tickets in his debut, then cashed again last time out when he won an allowance race at Oaklawn Park. Trainer Steve Asmussen has brought him along beautifully, and this race makes a lot of sense for him. He should be ready for a big effort while stalking a hot early pace.

MAJOR THREATS: #3 MALPAIS, #6 GLADIATOR KING, #8 PREAMBLE

Malpais has won two straight coming into this contest, including a \$100k stakes at Charles Town last time out. Gladiator King is also a multiple stakes winner. Both are very talented; however, both will be involved in what will likely be a hot pace. Preamble can stalk the early leaders and has

done nothing wrong in his career, winning all three of his starts with ease. This will be his first try against stakes company.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 LEXITONIAN

Last time out, he lost to Borracho in a tough allowance race at Churchill Downs off of a long layoff. With improvement, he'll have a shot to improve off of his respectable performance in that last race. He could play a part in this one at a big price.

OTHERS: #2 STILL DREAMING, #4 ADMIRAL LYNCH, #5 CABOT, #9 CONFESSOR

There are solid horses in this group, but this race is loaded with stars. It will take something special for anyone amongst these horses to jump up and make an impact in the race.

PICKS and PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #7 Pyron – Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #8 Preamble – Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #3 Malpais – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Exacta: 3,7,8 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 10:

GALLORETTE STAKES [G3]

1 1/16 MILES ON THE TURF
3-YEAR-OLDS & UP, FILLIES AND MARES

OVERVIEW:

This is one of the most famous races on the Preakness Stakes undercard, and this year's version offers plenty of excitement. Over the past several years, trainer Chad Brown has dominated this division, and he has two entered in this event. They will face several quality horses to make this a handicapping challenge.

RACE SHAPE: SLOW PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: *I'm So Fancy, Mitchell Road*

Pressing Speed: *Dynatail*

Stalkers: *Inflexibility, Barkaa*

Closers: *Thewayiam, Hogans Holiday, In the Lee, Viva Vegas*

We could have a horse get loose on the lead today in this spot, or at least a couple that should dictate the terms of this race. Mitchell Road can show plenty of early speed, and the European invader I'm So Fancy should be sent from the rail. Dynatail may press them a little, but this does not look like a fast pace on paper.

TOP CHOICE: #9 BARKAA

We are taking a big risk by putting this filly on top after a poor performance last September in her American debut. She obviously had some issues after that race, as she has not been seen since. It's curious that she ends up in this spot here, and she also attracts Irad Ortiz, Jr., to ride. Brown is great off of the layoff and he simply owns this division. We'll take a shot.

MAJOR THREATS: #2 INFLEXIBILITY, #3 THEWAYIAM, #8 VIVA VEGAS, #1 I'M SO FANCY

Brown holds a nice 1-2 punch with the classy Inflexibility, who is always in with a chance, no matter where she runs. Thewayiam is a serious contender as well. She was second off of a long layoff last time, so she should be ready for a top effort. I'm So Fancy makes her American debut after a solid career overseas.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #4 MITCHELL ROAD, #5 DYNATAIL

Dynatail comes into this race off of an allowance win at Keeneland after a long layoff and is no stranger to races like this one. Mitchell Road could end up alone on the lead, which will make her dangerous. She has three straight wins on her resume; however, this is her first try against graded stakes company.

OTHERS: #6 HOGANS HOLIDAY, #7 IN THE LEE

These two horses are more than solid, but this race is just loaded with stars. It will take something special for one of these to jump up and make an impact here.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

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

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

Across the Board Longshot Play: #1 I'm So Fancy – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 1,3,9 BOX

Trifecta: 1,2,3,9 BOX

Superfecta: 1,2,3,9 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,2,3,9

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta BOX 1,2,3,9

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta BOX 1,2,3,9



RACE 9: THE VERY ONE STAKES

5 FURLONGS ON
THE TURF

3-YEAR-OLDS & UP, FILLIES AND MARES

OVERVIEW:

This will be a mad-dash to the finish right out of the gate when these nine fillies and mares sprint 5 furlongs on the turf. This field offers plenty of balance, making for another solid betting race on this loaded card. You should be able to catch a price here - if not to win, then at least in the underneath positions.

RACE SHAPE: SLOW PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: *Jo Jo Air, Angel At War*

Pressing Speed: *Sopuer Echo, Wild About Star*

Stalkers: *Eye On Berlin, Misericordia*

Closers: *Not in Jeopardy, Dare to Be, Bath and Tennis*

As far as turf sprints are concerned, this is shaping up to be a very slow pace. Only a couple of horses want the lead, with Jo Jo Air being the classiest of that bunch. She figures to be extremely tough to beat in this race, regardless of pace, but it does set up well for her.

TOP CHOICE: #6 JO JO AIR

This may be the most likely winner out of all the stakes races on the card. Jo Jo Air defeated the boys in her last start at Churchill Downs, which included Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (G1) winner Bulletin. She is back facing her own gender, which should make her ultra-tough to beat.

MAJOR THREATS: #4 SOUPER ECHO,
#8 MISERICORDIA, #9 WILD ABOUT STAR

Sopuer Echo was an impressive allowance winner in her last start which was her first start on the turf in quite some time. She is a logical alternative to the favorite. Misericordia makes her third start off of the layoff, which could lead to improvement. Wild About Star switches to the Jose Camejo barn after running well at Fair Grounds this season.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 DARE TO BE

Dare to Be gets back to the turf after a couple of failed attempts on the dirt. The grass is her best surface by far, and she also makes her second start off of a long layoff in this spot.

OTHERS: #1 NOT IN JEOPARDY, #3 EYE ON BERLIN, #5 BATH AND TENNIS, #7 ANGEL AT WAR

These four horses are overmatched in a top-heavy field. It would be a major upset if any of them wins.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #6 Jo Jo Air – Confidence Level: 5 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #4 Souper Echo – Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #8 Misericordia – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 4,6/4,6,8

Trifecta: 4,6/4,6,8,9/4,6,8,9

Superfecta: 4,6,8,9 BOX

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

Small Budget Wager: \$1 Exacta 4,6/4,6,8

Large Budget Wager: \$5 Exacta 4,6/4,6,8



RACE 7: SEARCHING STAKES

1 1/2 MILES ON
THE TURF

3-YEAR-OLDS & UP, FILLIES AND MARES

OVERVIEW:

The inaugural running of the Searching should provide us with an interesting handicapping challenge. A field of nine fillies and mares will run 12 furlongs on the turf. This marathon distance often yields some weird results, giving bettors an opportunity for a big score in the middle of the card.

RACE SHAPE: VERY SLOW PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: NONE

Pressing Speed: *So Innocent, Coach Whip, Osare*

Stalkers: *Ickymasho, Layla Noor, Peach of a Gal*

Closers: *Homeland Security, Vevina, Violet Blue*

As usual, these long races on the turf lack pace up front. Nobody will want the lead, so the whole field will likely be bunched up when turning for home. That will make for a wide-open scramble down the stretch, where they all should be flying to the finish.

TOP CHOICE: #5 ICKYMASHO

This is one of our favorite horses in training. She has been a solid Woodbine runner for years, but this year, she finally found success outside of Canada. Last time out, she picked up an impressive victory at Keeneland in the Bewitch Stakes (G3). She gets Jose Ortiz aboard once again, which should make her tough.

MAJOR THREATS: #2 HOMELAND SECURITY, #3 OSARE, #8 PEACH OF A GAL

Homeland Security should show improvement in her second start off of the layoff. Osare is the horse most likely to set the early pace. If she can get out to an early, then she will be hard-pressed to catch. However, she has not started in over eight months, so will she be fit enough to handle this dis-

tance? Peach of a Gal needs to show improvement after a couple of dull efforts. The extra distance should help her.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 SO INNOCENT

So Innocent is bred to run for days, which is important in a race this long. That factor alone makes her interesting, though there is no doubt that she must show some major improvement to pick up a win in this spot.

OTHERS: #6 VEVINA, #7 LAYLA NOOR, #9 VIOLET BLUE, #4 COACHWHIP

It was hard to throw anyone out of this race. All nine have a shot, but you have to take a stand against a few, which is what we did with these four. They seem to be just a touch out-classed in this ultra-difficult spot.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

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

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

Across the Board Longshot Play: #8 Peach of a Gal – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Exacta: 3,5,8 BOX

Trifecta: 2,3,5,8 BOX

Superfecta: 2,3,5,8 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 2,3,5,8

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta 2,3,5,8 BOX

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta 2,3,5,8 BOX



RACE 6:

MARYLAND SPRINT STAKES [G3]

6 FURLONGS ON
THE DIRT
3-YEAR-OLDS & UP

OVERVIEW:

The Maryland Sprint Stakes is a staple on the Preakness undercard each and every season. This year's version features a dynamic field of seven horses, all with a shot to make an impact.

RACE SHAPE: MODERATE PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: *Lewisfield, Always Sunshine, Wentz*

Pressing Speed: *New York Central, Parade of Nations*

Stalkers: *Proforma*

Closers: *Fellowship*

This one could go either way, depending on the tactics of the riders. There is no doubt that Lewisfield is the speed of the speed, but a few horses can press him if their riders decide to go for the lead. Wentz is the likely presser, with Always Sunshine not far behind. Overall, this race should yield a fair pace for all runners.

TOP CHOICE: #4 LEWISFIELD

With a lack of early pace up front, Lewisfield might be tough to catch on the front end. He seems to be the classiest horse in this short field as well, which gives him two major positives. What trip he gets will be the key. If pressured, he might struggle, but this level of competition seems like something he can handle.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 NEW YORK CENTRAL, #6 WENTZ, #7 PROFORMA

New York Central gets a cut back in distance while also dropping down in class and should play a major factor. Wentz was sharp in a Keeneland allowance race last time out and has had plenty of success on the Mid-Atlantic circuit. Proforma switches back to the dirt, which might be his best surface.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 FELLOWSHIP, #5 ALWAYS SUNSHINE

Fellowship is the strongest closer in the race. If the pace can set up right for him, then he can make an impact. Always Sunshine runs here off of a long layoff as a first-time gelding, but he may need a race before we see his best effort.

OTHERS: #3 PARADE OF NATIONS

This seems like an evenly-matched race except for this over-matched runner. He'll need to do some major improving in order to have a shot.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #4 Lewisfield – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #6 Wentz – Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

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

Exacta: 1,4,6 BOX

Trifecta: 1,4,6,7 BOX

Superfecta: 1,4,6,7 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 1,4,6,7

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent Trifecta BOX 1,4,6,7

Large Budget Wager: \$1 Trifecta BOX 1,4,6,7



RACE 5:

1 MILE ON THE TURF
3-YEAR-OLDS

JAMES W. MURPHY STAKES

OVERVIEW:

This is another race that will be critical in the Pick 4 and Pick 5 sequences. It also provides much more value than the first stakes race on the card, with a nice field of 10 strong contenders. The 3-year-old turf division really begins to heat up during this time of year, starting with this race.

RACE SHAPE: SLOW PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: *Real News, Empire of War*

Pressing Speed: *Thomas Shelby*

Stalkers: *Gearhead*

Closers: *Shootin the Breeze, Current, Enos, English Bee, War Film, Tybalt*

Most of the horses in this race like to drop towards the back of the pack. Real News and Empire War should be the ones battling for the lead, though neither should be setting fast fractions. They'll all most likely be bunched together when turning for home.

TOP CHOICE: #5 REAL NEWS

This fast colt stretches out in distance after running at 5.5 furlongs in his first three races. He won two of those, with his only loss coming at Keeneland to the hands of the ultra-talented Bulletin. The pace sets up pretty well for him, and stretching out to a mile shouldn't be too far.

MAJOR THREATS: #6 WAR FILM, #2 CURRENT, #3 EONS

War Film exits the very strong American Turf Stakes (G2) at Churchill Downs where he was a close fifth, only beaten by 1 3/4 lengths. Current is a classy colt for trainer Todd Pletcher and moves back to the dirt after a failed try in the Florida Derby (G1) on the dirt. Eons broke his maiden at Keeneland last time out in impressive fashion.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 SHOOTIN THE BREEZE, #4 ENGLISH BEE, #8 EMPIRE OF WAR

All of these horses make sense in the underneath positions. Shootin the Breeze and English Bee have each missed the board only once in their careers. Empire of War makes his second start off of a long layoff, so perhaps he is ready to show improvement.

OTHERS: #7 THOMAS SHELBY, #9 TYBALT, #10 GEARHEAD

This group is not without a chance in what is a wide-open affair. You have to take a stand against a few horses, though, which is why these horses ended up in the "Others" category.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #5 Real News – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #6 War Film – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #3 Enos – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Exacta: 2,5,6 BOX

Trifecta: 2,3,5,6 BOX

Superfecta: 2,3,5,6 BOX

Horses to Use in Multi-Race Wagers: 2,3,5,6

Small Budget Wager: \$.50 cent trifecta 2,3,5,6 BOX

Large Budget Wager: \$2 trifecta BOX 2,3,5,6 BOX



RACE 3:

LARC SIR BARTON STAKES

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

OVERVIEW:

A small field of six kicks off the stakes action on Preakness Saturday in the Sir Barton. Over the years, this race has produced several winners that have gone on bigger and better things throughout the year. That makes this an important race to keep an eye on, and it also provides an interesting challenge in the early Pick 4 and Pick 5 sequences.

RACE SHAPE: SLOW PACE EXPECTED

Pure Speed: *King for a Day*

Pressing Speed: *Pretty Good Year, Top Line Growth*

Stalkers: *V. I. P. Ticket*

Closers: *Trifor Gold, Tone Broke*

A slower pace is expected for this one, especially in this short field of six. King for a Day should control the early pace, with Top Line Growth being the main pressing speed. Both horses shouldn't be flying, though, which means you'll probably need to be close to the front to win.

TOP CHOICE: #3 KING FOR A DAY

Back before the year started, many believed that this would be trainer Todd Pletcher's best 3-year-old. An injury forced him off the Kentucky Derby Trail, which is why he is making his seasonal debut here. This seems like the perfect place to get his year started.

MAJOR THREATS: #5 TONE BROKE, #4 TOP LINE GROWTH, #6 V. I. P. TICKET

Tone Broke is back in the United States after a couple of unsuccessful races in Dubai. This will be a major class drop. Top Line Growth has just one race under his belt, a maiden claiming win by over 9 lengths. V. I. P. Ticket has been solid since moving from Laurel Park to Charles Town and moves up in class for this event.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 TRIFOR GOLD

This interesting horse finished second last time out in the Federico Tesio Stakes behind Alwaysmining, our top pick in the Preakness. However, he was well-beaten by double-digit lengths in that spot. He might be a factor again here in the underneath spots.

OTHERS: #2 PRETTY GOOD YEAR

He'll need to show improvement to have a shot against this type of field. He seems to have been entered just to make sure that the race fills for his stablemate Top Line Growth.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

Bet to Win: #3 King for a Day – Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

Bet to Place or Show: #5 Tone Broke – Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

Across the Board Longshot Play: #6 V. I. P. Ticket – Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

Exacta: 3,5/3,5,6

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

Superfecta: 3,4,5,6 BOX

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

Small Budget Wager: \$10 to win on #3 King for a Day

Large Budget Wager: \$40 to win on #3 King for a Day



expert picks



RACE	Aaron Halterman	Jared Welch	Mike Somich	Curtis "Magic" Kalleward	Jonathon Kinchen
FRIDAY 5/17/2019					
Black-Eyed Susan	Point of Honor Brill Cookie Dough Always Shopping	Point of Honor Ulele Brill Always Shopping	Sweet Diane Point of Honor Always Shopping Off Topic	Point of Honor Cookie Dough Always Shopping Our Super Freak	Point of Honor Always Shopping Brill Cookie Dough
SATURDAY 5/18/2019					
Sir Barton	King for a Day Tone Broke V. I. P. Ticket Top Line Growth	King for a Day Tone Broke Trifor GoldTop Line Growth	King for a Day Tone Broke Top Line Growth Pretty Good Year	King for a Day Top Line Growth Trifor Gold Tone Broke	King for a Day Top Line Growth Tone Broke V.I.P Ticket
James W. Murphy	Real News War Film Enos Current	Shootin the Breeze Real News War Film Current	Shootin the Breeze Real News War Film Current	War Film Empire of War Current Real News	English Bee Current Real News War Film
Maryland Spint	Lewisfield Wentz New York Central Proforma	New York Central Parade of Nations Lewisfield Wentz	New York Central Parade of Nations Lewisfield Wentz	New York Central Wentz Proforma Parade of Nations	Lewisfield New York Central Wentz Proforma
Searching	Ickymasho Osare Peach of a Gal Homeland Security	Ickymasho Osare Peach of a Gal Homeland Security	Osare Ickymasho Violet Blue Coachwhip	Osare Ickymasho Vevina Homeland Security	Ickymasho Coachwhip Osare Homeland Security
The Very One	Jo Jo Air Souper Echo Misericordia Wild About Star	Jo Jo Air Eye On Berlin Souper Echo Wild About Star	Jo Jo Air Wild About Star Angel At War Misericordia	Souper Echo Dare to Be Jo Jo Air Wild About Star	Jo Jo Air Misericordia Wild About Star Eye On Ballin
Gallorette	Barkaa I'm So Fancy Thewayiam Inflexibility	Mitchell Road Barkaa In the Lee Viva Vegas	Mitchell Road Thewayiam Barkaa In the Lee	Inflexibility Viva Vegas In the Lee Mitchell Road	Barkaa Inflexibility Mitchell Road I'm So Fancy
Chick Lang	Pyron Preamble Malpais Gladiator King	Pyron Preamble Admiral Lynch Cabot	Preamble Lexitonian Pyron Still Dreaming	Pyron Preamble Gladiator King Cabot	Pyron Malpais Preamble Cabot
Dixie	Catholic Boy Inspector Lynley Real Story Have It All	Catholic Boy Inspector Lynley Admission Office Just Howard	Admission Office Catholic Boy Inspector Lynley Have At It	Inspector Lynley Catholic Boy Admission Office Just Howard	Catholic Boy Inspector Lynely Real Story Admission Office
Preakness	Alwaysmining Improbable Owendale War of Will	Warrior's Charge Alwaysmining Improbable Anothertwistafate	Improbable Bodexpress Alwaysmining Anothertwistafate	War of Will Alwaysmining Improbable Warrior's Charge	Bourbon War Warrior's Charge Improbable Owendale