



CHURCHILL DOWNS Saturday 05/07/2011



Forecast High 69 F
Low 57 F



PM T-Storms
Precip: 60%

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Saturday's sheet has 19 plays from 6 different tracks across the country, including SEVEN plays from CHURCHILL DOWNS

THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL

2 BIND (Race 2)

Very few trainers in the United States are better than Al Stall Jr. in developing young horses to reach their full potential and then some. Case in point is last years champion older horse Blame, winner of the Breeders' Cup Classic. Stall has the luxury of being patient, waiting for just the right spot to enter in. That is the reward he gets when training for Claiborne Farms, one of the top breeding and racing operations in the world. Stall has found the perfect race for the beautifully bred Bind today, to begin his quest for further riches in the near future. A matter of fact, Bind has the potential to become a top class three year old as the racing season progresses.

In his heavily bet debut February 19 at the Fair Grounds, Bind ran one of the finest races I have ever seen from a first time starter. He rated kindly for jockey Rosy Napravnick, and when asked to make a move towards the lead approaching the stretch, In the blink of an eye, Bind surged effortlessly to the lead under no encouragement, and was just ridden out to the wire on his way to a nine length victory. When Bind was entered for his next start thirty five days later, the public bet him down to 1-9, the same price Uncle Mo was in the Wood Memorial. Like Uncle Mo, Bind did not win in a shocker which sent a lot of losing tickets to the garbage can in disbelief. When a young horse with the brilliance that Bind had shown in his debut, is asked to stretch out to two turns for the first time, these things could happen, even though it was totally unexpected that day. On closer inspection, unlike Uncle Mo, whose race in the Wood was a debacle, Bind ran his eye balls out, fighting gallantly to the wire. To illustrate how impressive that performance was, Bind was beaten by Prime Cut who came back to run second in the Grade 3 Lexington at Keeneland in his next start. Bind was twelve lengths in front of the third horse Hydro Power, who came back to win by eleven lengths.

Today Bind seeks redemption in the perfect spot to to win and begin his step up the ladder to bigger and better things. He faces horses who have had several chances to win this condition without any success. Bind draws an inside post, which is a great slot for Napravnick to either go right to the front and say "catch me if you can", or take back and sit chilly before making her move to the lead. If Bind is as good as I expect him to be, and he takes the lead at the top of the stretch, it will be awfully tough for anyone to run him down.

2 REGALLY READY (Race 6)

[TURF ONLY] Is the speed of this field in the Grade 3 Turf Sprint. Jockey Corey Nakatani, who is two-for-two aboard this gelding, is the perfect man for the job. This son of top turf influence More Than Ready, made his grass debut last fall at Churchill Downs, and although the competition in the "two other than" allowance field was suspect, he did something rarely seen on this turf course. He won by 7 3/4 lengths, in one of the most impressive turf sprint performances I had witnessed in a long time. Off that win, Regally Royal was shipped to Southern California by trainer Steve Asmussen, where he would go on to win three of his next four starts, including a last-out win in a Grade 3 stake on April 16. Reagally Ready set wicked fractions in the 6 1/2 furlong race of 42.4 for the half and 1.05.4 for six furlongs, a pace not often seen even at Santa Anita, even when the course is rock hard like it was that day. He was very game in deep stretch, when hooked by a horse who was bearing down on him, and held on for the win. Regally Royal will appreciate the cut back to five furlongs, which benefits his blazing

early speed. He has shown in past races, that he can relax in the early stages, and save enough in deep stretch when he needs to give it his all. A Square price expected in a competitive field.

6 ARUNA (Race 8)

Much like her dam nine years earlier, this filly made a splash in her North American debut. Racing on a heavily biased inner turf course last summer at Saratoga, this daughter of Mr. Greeley overcame all kinds of adversity, closing late as if shot out of a cannon to get up by a head. Not only was she racing against the grain of the course, but the pace in the allowance race was absolutely glacial. It became clear after the race, that Aruna was destined for bigger and better things. Trainer Graham Motion wasted no time elevating her to stakes company. After making a mockery of the Pebbles at Belmont, she notched her first graded stakes win in the Mrs. Revere over the Matt Winn turf course at Churchill Downs. Motion began readying her for 2011 way back in February, sporting an extremely impressive worktab, with drills on turf in South Florida and the synthetic surface at Fair Hill. Motion entered 2011 with an embarrassment of riches in the turf distaff division. Between September 18 and November 26 of last year, he won Grade I stakes races with Check the Label, Shared Account and Gypsy's Warning. In an effort to plot out campaigns for those four stars, he has seemingly chosen the toughest spot for Aruna, a filly who he clearly holds in high regard. She figures to get a positive pace setup in this large field, and has proved that she is impervious to negative circumstances in her three victories last year. This race looms the start of a very strong campaign.

3 SHRILL (Race 13)

Made his debut last month at Keeneland for trainer Al Stall, Jr., who does win with firsters, but prefers to give them a race or two before tightening the screws, especially when they are as well bred as this colt is. Shrill is a three year old son of leading sire Distorted Humor, out of a stakes-winning Claiborne Farm mare named Yell, who was a Grade 2 winner, and multiple stakes placed at Churchill Downs. He is bred to run all day, so sprinting in his debut was certainly more of a public workout for this promising colt. When a colt like this goes on to a run a great race under circumstances which he is not suited to, that usually indicates that we are looking at a very talented runner. Shrill broke slowly in that April 16 debut at Keeneland. He was allowed to relax in the early stages in tenth position, twelve lengths behind the leader. He put in a very long sustained run, making up ground at every call. Despite going very wide at the top of the stretch, Shrill continued to pick up horses one by one, and was flying at the wire. He was third, beaten only two lengths, behind two quality runners and galloped out strong past the wire. Stall does much better with second time starters, hitting 18%, and he especially does well with the sprint to route move, which has been his bread and butter over the years. Shrill had put in some very solid workouts at the Fair Grounds this past winter, so not only do I expect him to love the added ground, but also the main track here at Churchill. Owner Claiborne Farm, is one the most successful breeding operations in the world. Their Broodmare band is second to none. Claiborne does not own breeding rights to Distorted Humor. They had to fork out \$100,000 to Win Star Farms for the right to send Yell there to produce a Live foal. So you know when they send their mare to a terrific stallion, they have very high hopes for the offspring. Top trainer Frank Brothers used to be their main man, but this changed a few years ago when they switched to Al Stall. Claiborne could not have made a better choice. Stall has done a remarkable job developing several of their homebreds to become top class runners. Stall's best job to date, was getting Blame to win last year's Breeders' Cup Classic, narrowly defeating the great Zenyatta in the shadow of the wire. Shrill has a long way to go to even be considered in the same breath as Blame, but if Shrill is going to develop into a future stakes winner, Stall is the one to accomplish the task.

EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO ENSURE ACCURACY OF PROGRAM NUMBERS. PLEASE VERIFY BEFORE WAGERING

RACE 1 Post Time 10:30 1 Mile | Open | 3 Year Olds | Starter Allowance | Purse: \$26,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 1-2-3)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
1A	PERFECT JOISKI	3-1	CRUZ M	MCPEEK K

Well spotted by the red hot McPeek, who won race after race at Keeneland. Back on dirt after a solid third April 20 over polytrack. Raced wide throughout against tougher rivals than what he meets today in this starter allowance. Cuts back to a one turn mile mile. Scored a decisive maiden win two back, also at a mile at Gulfstream. Makes his first start from an inside post after drawing posts ten, nine and seven in his first three outings. Reunited with Manny Cruz who was aboard in his maiden score.

5 SOUTHERN OCEAN 7-2 ALBARADO R LAUER M

Three very sharp races in a row since trainer Lauer took over from Smithwick. Two were very gritty wins, and the other was a solid second place finish. His victory last time out at Oaklawn, was against tougher horses than what he is meeting today.

Unlike the others in this field, Southern Ocean has two wins whereas the other five runners have just one. Gets a rider change to Albarado, who does well for this barn.

3 HAMPTON BAYS SUN

4-1 GARCIA A

MCPEEK K

Uncoupled mate of Perfect Joiski for trainer McPeek. Interesting to note that Cruz who had ridden both horses, has elected to stay with my top selection rather than Hampton Bays Sun. Throw out last start when way overmatched. Three straight sharp efforts in a row prior to that. Versatile colt can take back and make one run or stalk the pace. Gets a rider change to top jockey Alan Garcia.

6 MISSISSIPPI MONEY

6-1 JOHNSON J

COX B

Ships in from Oaklawn by Brad Cox, who is an excellent trainer who wins a high % of races, but still remains "under the radar". Game win April 2 off the Cox claim and stretching out to a route for the first time. Has enough tactical speed to overcome his outside post.

RACE 2

**Post Time 11:00 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up |
Allowance | Purse: \$51,000**



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 2-3-4) Pick 4 (Races 2-3-4-5)

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
2	BIND (Best Bet)	8-5	NAPRAVNIK R	STALL, JR. A



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

4 WORLDLY

2-1 BEJARANO R

MCGEE P

What this four year old has going for him that Bind does not have, is racing experience. What Bind has over him, is that he has much more upside. Worldly has won one race in in twelve starts, with five seconds, over a period of two years. Even though sprinkled into his record are several starts in graded stakes races for three year olds where he has been competitive, Worldly has come up empty in deep stretch when it counted. He returns off a layoff for a barn that does not win many races with returnees. Worldly has good tactical speed, but when he begins his rally towards the front, and Bind has the lead entering the stretch, it does not seem likely that Worldly will be able to outfinish him.

5 SUPREME RULER

15-1 COURT J

FIRES W

William "Jinks" Fires will be attempting to win the Kentucky Derby later in the card, but first things first. Supreme Ruler appears to be on the upswing, which can land him a piece of the pie today. He won his debut at Oaklawn in impressive fashion in his debut, closing from off the pace. It is true that Supreme Ruler benefitted from a fast pace on a track which favored closers, but nevertheless he got the job at a tough distance in a large field. He returned in his next start to run a solid second, beaten only a neck in fast time. Fires thought so much of this colt, that he sent him to New Mexico for the Grade 3 Sun land Derby. Things did not go right for Supreme Ruler right from the start when he was banged hard leaving the gate. It was back to Oaklawn. He ran a weak third, but on closer inspection I felt he was rushed back to soon after only twenty days to recover from the trip to new surroundings and back to his home base. Reunited with jockey James Court. I would be surprised if Supreme Ruler were to win, but a good showing is expected at a big price.

6 EL GRAYLING

5-1 LEBRON V

MAKER M

It is difficult to dismiss any horse that high percentage trainer Michael Maker sends to the track. For whatever reason, his last two starts have been performances that would normally send him either to the bench for a long respite, or a drop in class, Maker has opted instead to give El Grayling another chance in allowance company. If he runs back to any of his races earlier in the year and in 2010, he could nibble for a piece. He has proven a versatile sort, but has shown a lack of focus in deep stretch to seal the deal. El Grayling drops weight, and returns to the scene of a good second place finish last year.

RACE 3

Post Time 11:30 6 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | Maiden Special Weight | Purse: \$49,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 3-4-5)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
2	GOLDEN TRIUMPH	4-1	GARCIA A	MCLAUGHLIN K

Ran a "better than looks" third in his debut for top trainer Kianran McLaughlin. Caught in hard duel from the start, giving way grudgingly in the late stages. The field Golden Triumph faced that day was a strong one as evidenced by the second place finisher coming back to win in impressive fashion at Belmont Park last Saturday. This well bred son of Bernardini out of a dam who was a Grade 3 winner, should be tough to run down, unless the first timer from Baffert is well meant with talent. Has worked three times at Palm Meadows in south Florida in a very impressive manner.

4	C J RUSSELL	5-1	GARCIA M	BAFFERT B
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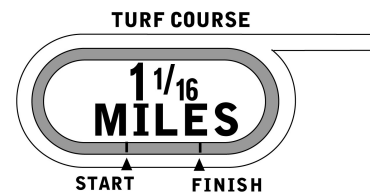
Invading Churchill Downs from Santa Anita for Bob Baffert who appears to have pointed this well bred son of El Corredor to this maiden event on the Derby undercard. Baffert has had great success shipping horses to different venues from his home base at Santa Anita and Hollywood Park. His record winning with first time starters is tremendous. Baffert scores 30 % of the time, which is difficult to match. C J Russel is a homebred for his long time friend and owner Michael Pegram. Both hooked up with Real Quiet, who nearly won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, and just got beat in the Belmont Stakes by a nose which cost them 5 million dollars and a Triple Crown. Hails from a dam who won first time out. C J Russel is a half to Gibson County, who was a top class runner. Shows a series of solid workouts at Santa Anita. My one concern is that there is a gap in his works from February 11 to March 30 (47 days). Not sure if the clockers missed a work or two, or something went amiss. Garcia gets the mount, a rider who Baffert has tremendous success using.

6	HOT PURSUIT	5-1	ALBARADO R	WERNER R
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Freshened up after showing vast improvement February 6 at the Fair Grounds off the trainer change to Ronny Werner, who has had a great year. Beaten a neck, after chasing wide from start to finish. What my main concern is, and the reason I prefer my top two selections more, is that Hot Pursuit drifted out late, and then was placed on the shelf. This could mean that something went wrong physically with him after the race. The positive is that since then, he has worked steadily, indicating that everything is ok with him.

RACE 4

Post Time 12:04 1 1/16 Miles | Fillies and Mares | 3 Year Olds And Up | Allowance Optional Claiming(\$80,000) | Purse: \$56,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 4-5-6) Pick 4 (Races 4-5-6-7)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
7	PERFECT SHIRL	5-1	CASTELLANO J	ATTFIELD R

Trainer Roger Attfield has an outstanding year. His expertise with distance grass horses is second to none. Perfect Shirl caught a very soft grass course at Keeneland April 16 returning from a layoff. Something appeared to happen to her in the Grade 1 Queen Elizabeth at Keeneland in her final start of the year as a three year old, when she failed to fire at anytime during the race. Prior to that race were a series of outstanding efforts against tougher rivals than what she faces in this race. Perfect Shirl is a very versatile filly, who can let the race develop in front of her, before new rider Castellano asks for her best approaching the stretch.

8	SNOW TOP MOUNTAIN	5-2	GOMEZ G	PROCTOR T
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Returned to his winning ways April 10 at Keeneland with a "better than it looks" win against eleven rivals. What caught my eye was the improved form he showed. As a three year old, Snow Top Mountain consistently ran well in graded stakes company, but found it difficult to get her picture taken in the winners circle. It seems that jockey Garrett Gomez has the midas touch with him,

as he knows when it is the perfect time to ask this filly to begin her move. Snow Top Mountain has run well over this course and today's 1 1/16 miles suits her well. My concern is that she is toting high weight of 123 Lbs, an impost she has never carried before.

4 PERSUADING

4-1 CASTANON J

ROMANS D

Appears to be the filly they all have to run down. She is expected to take up shop on the front end as soon as the gate opens, but could face pressure earlier than expected with the other speed War Tigress breaking two slots inside of her. Trainer Romans switched her back to dirt last time out in the Grade 3 Rampart, but she wanted no part out of it. Prior to that race were a series of very solid efforts in stakes company. In Persuading's last grass outing on March 5 at Gulfstream in the Grade 3 Honey Fox, she gave ground grudgingly only to be run down in deep stretch by the classy Never Retreat who came back to win and who is entered in a stakes event later in the card.

1 RIVIERA CHIC

6-1 LEPAROUX J

MAKER M

Was way overmatched last time out in a grade 3 stake at Keeneland over a synthetic surface she did not care for at all. Back on grass and draws the advantageous rail post which will allow top grass rider Leparoux to let the race develop in front of her than attack. Riviera Chic is a versatile runner who can be placed anywhere her rider wants to be. Trainer Michael Maker must be respected with everything he puts on the track.

OFF THE TURF SELECTIONS: # 4 Persuading # 1 Riviera Chic # 3 Shameless

RACE 5

**Post Time 12:38 7 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds |
Allowance Optional Claiming(\$75,000) | Purse: \$51,000**



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 5-6-7)

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
4	DEPECHE CHAT	4-1	BEJARANO R	ARNOLD, II G

Today will mark the first time that this colt has run two consecutive races without a layoff in the interim. He exits a solid second place finish at Gulfstream in a state bred allowance race on Florida Derby weekend. The winner of that race, Close it Out, came back to win the Shake You Down on closing day at Gulfstream three weeks later. This colt was well back of the hot pace that day, and now returns to Churchill Downs, the site of his debut victory last November. Interestingly enough in Depeche Chat's maiden score, he was nearly two lengths clear at the finish, in front of another debuting runner named Archarcharch, who is entered in the Kentucky Derby. While the fortunes of Archarcharch have been a little bit better, this guy seems poised for Derby day glory of his own.

9 THE MAN UPTOWN

9-2 CASTELLANO J

BROWN C

Trainer Chad Brown sent this guy five furlongs on the lawn back in March, presumably in an effort to get a start under his belt off a lengthy layoff. He ran a much improved race in his second start off the bench, as he rallied late at Keeneland to snag the place dough. He is back on dirt and happened to score his debut victory over this strip almost one year ago. There is very little speed in this affair, but in his aforementioned debut win, The Man Uptown was very close to a hot early pace. Brown is a very solid trainer, who is gradually making his mark in the game, who spots his horses very well. This Man figures to be ready to roll in his third start off the extended layoff.

5 GOODTIMEHADBYALL

8-1 DESORMEAUX K

SCHERER M

Trainer Merrill Scherer has given this gelding some time off after checking in second against allowance company at the Fair Grounds in late February. The winner of the race he exits, B G Suavecito, came back to win the Inaugural at Evangeline in April and the thirdplace finisher, subsequently won a claimer at Oaklawn Park. Churchill has treated Goodtimehadbyall well, as he scored a decisive win here last November under today's pilot, Kent Desormeaux. Though his best races have come from well off the pace, he has the necessary speed to stay within range from the opening furlongs.

6 LEE CHAPEL

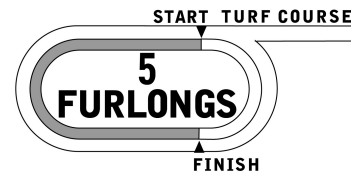
15-1 LEPAROUX J

WILKES I

Son of 2004 Horse of the Year Ghostzapper, is switching surfaces to dirt for trainer Ian Wilkes. He was ridden poorly in his last start as he pushed the pace before tiring in the stretch drive. That was a dichotomous running style from his debut, when he

lagged well behind the pace, before rallying gamely late. Lee Chapel's maiden win came here at Churchill. This is his first start here since. The jockey change to Julien Leparoux is significant today, given that he has done well for this barn in the past.

RACE 6 Post Time 1:19 5 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | G3 Twin Spires Turf Sprint S. | Purse: \$100,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 6-7-8) Pick 6 (Races 6-11)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
2	REGALLY READY (Best Bet)	3-1	NAKATANI C	ASMUSSEN S



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

5	CHAMBERLAIN BRIDGE	2-1	THERIOT J	CALHOUN W
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Seven year old gladiator, never fails to fire a big shot, and more often than not, he gets the job done. Loves this course. In five starts over the Churchill grass at today's five furlong distance, he has won four times and placed once. Huge second place finish last year in this same race. May have won if his rider was not forced to put on the breaks approaching the stretch. Appears to have lost a step or two from last year, but has still managed to run in both 2011 outings. Draws a good post for his running style. Should sit another stalk and pounce trip. Totes 124 Lbs, spotting weight to all, but won last year's Breeders' Cup Turf sprint at 6-1 carrying 126. Top trainer Bret Calhoun has done an exceptional job getting Chamberlain Bridge to show up for every race he is in, always facing the best grass sprinters in the land, and running big each time.

3	CUSTOM FOR CARLOS	3-1	LEPAROUX J	KENNEALLY E
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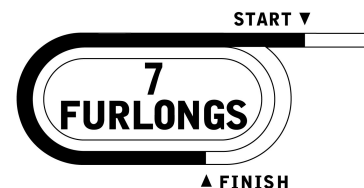
On dirt, he is one of the top sprinters in the country. The verdict is still out on whether or not he can compete at the highest level on grass. He has only tried the turf once, and that back in 2009 when he was not nearly as good as he is now. Custom for Carlos ran third that day chasing a hotly contested pace. The winner-Chamberlain Bridge who he faces once again today. He figures to put some pressure on Regally Ready, but to win, Carlos must transfer that great dirt form to the grass, against established top class turf performers.

8	BRIDGETOWN	5-2	VELAZQUEZ J	PLETCHER T
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Very consistent four year old comes off two straight hard earned victories off the trainer change to Pletcher as well as returning from a layoff. He was the beneficiary of setting a slow pace last time out over a rock hard grass course at Gulfstream. Figures to be able to occupy Regally Ready early, but drawing outside of that one who has post two, may catch him wide on the turn, while the other hugs the rail. Has worked four times over this track since his March 18 score.

OFF THE TURF SELECTIONS: # 3 Custom for Carlos # 7 Early Return # 1 Henry's Time

RACE 7 Post Time 2:08 7 Furlongs | Fillies and Mares | 4 Year Olds And Up | G1 Humana Distaff S. | Purse: \$300,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 7-8-9) Pick 5 (7-8-9-10-11)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
7	HILDA'S PASSION	6-5	CASTELLANO J	PLETCHER T

Albert Einstein said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. I attempted to beat this fleet footed daughter of Canadian Frontier in the Inside Information back in March. I'm not going to do that again. She has rapidly become the best female sprinter in the country. Her two recent victories were absolutely sensational From the time that trainer Todd Pletcher tried her on dirt at Saratoga, she has been nearly flawless, with a defeat in the Sugar Swirl

her only blemish. That defeat had a great deal to do with the ride she was given, as jockey Javier Castellano attempted to rate just off the pace She has since made it clear that being on the lead is her preferred early position There are few impediments for her to deal with in terms of getting the lead in Grade 1 Humana Distaff. If Castellano once again gets her to a clear lead, then Hilda?s Passion will be exceptionally difficult to catch in the stretch drive. Top trainer Todd Pletcher kept her at his training center at Palm Meadows in south Florida. Since her last start at Gulfstream Park March 19, Hilda?s Passion has worked four times, and all her breezes have been very strong.

6 TWELVE TWENTY TWO 8-1 LEPAROUX J DOMINGUEZ H

Once in a while you will notice a metamorphosis with a horse who suddenly goes from a useful horse to one who must be respected as a contender in a Grade 1 stakes. Twelve Twenty Two is such a filly. She had been running out west on synthetic surfaces from a two year old until being claimed last December for \$25,000 by trainer Henry Dominguez who is not a household name. Dominguez is one of top dogs on the New Mexico circuit, especially at Sunland Park. Right away, he switched Twelve Twenty Two to the dirt. Her resurrection then began. In four starts since, she has not been defeated. All were blow outs. In each race, the rider eased up on the reins well before hitting the wire. With nothing left to conquer at Sunland, her connections have opted to ship her to Churchill to face some of the very best fillies and mare in the country. Twelve Twenty Two is not nearly as quick early as the favorite Hilda's Passion, but she does have enough tactical speed to sit in good striking position and attack at the top of the stretch. There is no secret that for her to win, she must up her game. Leparoux who rode her at Sunland is back aboard. Twelve Twenty Two will offer generous odds today. If Hilda does not bring her A + game to the proceedings, an upset may be in the offering.

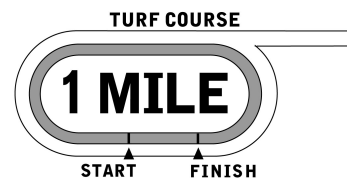
8 TIDAL POOL 8-1 BOREL C LUKAS D

Hall of Fame trainer Wayne Lukas has resurrected his career this year after struggling for quite some time the last couple of years. Lukas was leading trainer at Oaklawn this winter. One of his better horses who helped him accomplish the task is Tidal Pool who will be cutting back to seven furlongs today after several races going longer. At Churchill, horses cutting back in distance do very well, as they have the stamina to sustain a strong rally when others are tiring. Drawing an outside post going seven furlongs suits her running style. Tidal Pool should be able to work out trip from that spot with top Churchill Downs jock Calvin Borel back in the saddle. Expected to be a good price.

3 EVENING JEWEL 5-1 ESPINOZA V CASSIDY J

Is expected to be the second choice in the betting behind Hilda's Passion. There is no doubt that if she can run as well as she did last year in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint over this track and distance, upsetting the favorite is possible. In order to accomplish the task at hand, Evening Jewel will have to rally from off the pace and snatch her from behind. It appears that Evening Jewel has regressed a bit since last year. She has only won once on dirt, and that was going two turns three starts back at Santa Anita. On the plus side is that she has run very in both outings at Churchill. It is important to note, that Evening Jewel may have been compromised before the start of her last race, when she had to get a shoe repair in the paddock before heading out to the track for the post parade.

RACE 8 Post Time 2:59 1 Mile | Fillies and Mares | 3 Year Olds And Up | G2 Churchill Distaff Turf Mile S. | Purse: \$200,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 8-9-10) Pick 4 (Races 8-9-10-11)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
6	ARUNA (Best Bet)	4-1	DOMINGUEZ R	MOTION H



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

8 AVIATE (GB) 5-1 DESORMEAUX K MOTT W

Trainer Bill Mott endured a rough start to 2011, as his Gulfstream starters won at a paltry 8% clip. This Juddmonte homebred was one of the disappointments, finishing third in her North American debut, which came in the Honey Fox in early March. She spent most of 2010 racing over boggy turf courses, having had a difficult time quickening on the super firm Gulfstream weeds. The pace in the Honey Fox was hardly swift, given the caliber of horses in the field. That also worked against this daughter of Dansili. A course with a bit more give will certainly help given her European roots. Aviate also figures to get a much kinder pace

setup and has the advantage of a race under her belt off the ship to America. Serious improvement is expected today. Given the depth of this field you are almost guaranteed of a very fair price.

11 NEVER RETREAT

9-2 BRIDGMOHAN S

BLOCK C

This six year old mare has been a gem of consistency throughout her career. Since she was switched into the barn of top trainer Chris Block, Never Retreat has won five of nine races with her patented strong stretch rally. Today, she breaks from a tough outside post going a mile, but at Churchill, the turns are spacious, and the stretch is long enough for a closer to stretch their legs and gain enough momentum to make their presense felt in deep stretch. Never Retreat has proven that she does not mind breaking from and outside post because she prefers running outside of horses.

7 FANTASIA (GB)

10-1 ROSARIO J

SHEPPARD J

If you like Never Retreat, you must consider Fantasia. She ran a strong second to that rival April 16 over soft grass in her return from a layoff. She defeated Never Retreat in her final start last year. Even though Fantasia has only won once at a mile in nine attempts at the distance, I feel it is her best distance. Trainer Jonathen Sheppard is great with keeping grass horses in good form for a long time, and getting them to peak for a big race that he is pointing to. Today Fantasia gets a very positive rider change to Joel Rosario, who is the top dog in southern California, and has that midas touch when he jumps aboard a horse for the first time.

RACE 9

Post Time 3:51 7 Furlongs | Open | 4 Year Olds And Up | G2 Churchill Downs S. | Purse: \$300,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 9-10-11)

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
6	CAPT. CANDYMAN CAN	9-2	BOREL C	WILKES I

There was really no telling how this gelding would come back from an injury that kept him from starting at all in 2009. After two starts thus far in 2011, it is clear that he is rounding back into his best form from a couple of years ago. After a routinely easy victory at Tampa Bay Downs back in February, he was given a bit of time off before surfacing in the Sir Shackleton at Gulfstream Park. Candy entered that race with some question marks, missing two workouts in the middle of March. The grain of the track on Florida Derby day seemed as if it would work against this late runner, and that is why he was let go at a tepid 2-1. Jockey Julien Leparoux rode him aggressively, moving boldly into a wickedly hot pace on the turn. After wresting control, he dug in gamely, and held sway to the wire. That was a phenomenal effort given the adversity he faced, and proved unequivocally that he belongs in graded stakes company once again. He is two for three lifetime at Churchill and five for five at today's distance of 7 furlongs. His versatility always makes him dangerous. The Captain figures to be a bit farther back in this large field given the pace scenario, and if he runs the race I expect him to, we will all get the Candy.

3 APRIORITY

4-1 DOMINGUEZ R

FAWKES D

Trainer David Fawkes already had the sprint division leader in the barn when this guy began to show signs of rapid development over the winter. He stamped himself ready for more serious hurdles with a jaw-dropping win in an early March optional seller. His runner-up finish in the Carter was very strong, given that he was right on the pace from the start through a swift opening half-mile run in :44 and 2/5 seconds. Fawkes has had no issues with sending Apriority all over America. He is getting one of the nation's top pilots on board today. There is plenty of confirmed speed in here, and that is a group in which this guy belongs. Jockey Ramon Dominguez is one of the best in the land when it comes to getting horses to relax in stalking positions, and that is the likely pace setup for this colt. He will get first run on other main contenders like Smiling Tiger and Capt. Candyman Can and that is quite significant here.

2 SMILING TIGER

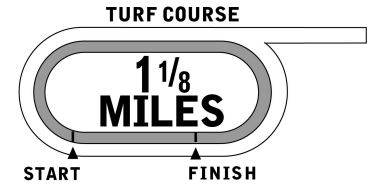
7-2 ROSARIO J

BONDE J

Only one horse in this field can boast having three Grade I wins. This son of Hold That Tiger defeated elders three times in 2010 and seems to have rebounded from a poor effort in the Palos Verdes earlier this year. Though he has bagged two wins in a row, he has suddenly developed issues breaking from the gate. That has to be a concern today, given that he is drawn inside, in a large field at a tough distance. There is no doubt that with his best effort, he is one of a select group of win candidates. His versatility is admirable, given that he had the ability to make one late run after the poor beginnings in each of his last two outings. All signs point to him showing up with another big effort in this spot.

A Kentucky fixture for years, trainer Kenny McPeek had the best Keeneland meet of his career at the recently concluded stand. He is hitting at a 37% clip overall in the last thirty days, and looks to have this colt ready to roll off the bench today. McPeek has hit at a 31% clip over the last five years with dirt starters coming off long layoffs. This particular horse has run very well when fresh in the past, as he broke his maiden off a long break in September 2009. Noble's Promise missed by just a head in the Rebel off a 80+ day break in March of last year. He scored a handy win in the Jimmy V here last fall off another long hiatus. Despite the obvious negatives, which include having never faced elders, there is a lot to like about this colt today. One of the positives, includes his likely big price given the contentious nature of this group.

RACE 10 Post Time 4:46 1 1/8 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | G1
 Woodford Reserve Turf Classic S. | Purse: \$500,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 10-11-12) Pick 4 (Races 10-11-12-13)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
5	PRINCE WILL I AM	5-1	VELAZQUEZ J	NIHEI M

It did not initially appear as if the grass would be greener for this striking chestnut son of Victory Gallop. In his second turf start, he ran a very impressive race at eleven furlongs at Saratoga, overcoming a poor trip and a speed favoring course to win by almost a length. Trainer Michelle Nihei has always shown confidence in him, and had no reservations about trying him in a Grade I stake off of that allowance victory. He gave her the first graded stakes win of her career, with an electrifying stretch kick in the Jamaica, a newly minted Grade I stake in 2010. Prince Will I Am has since stamped himself a serious player in the turf division, and will now be out to avenge a disappointing effort in the Pan American. A combination of an exceptionally firm course, and very moderate pace in the Pan American, seriously hindered this colt. Things appear as if they will shape up much better for him today, with a solid pace expected, on a course which have a bit of give to it. There are no distance concerns for him, given that the aforementioned victory in the Jamaica which came at nine furlongs. This being the third start of his form cycle, a top effort is expected from this consistent three time turf winner from a trainer who does great work with a small barn..

9 AL KHALI 10-1 GARCIA A MOTT W

One of the more enigmatic horses of the last two years, this five year old will be looking for his first Grade I score after prior Grade II and Grade III victories. He was re-united with jockey Alan Garcia last time out at Keeneland and wound up running one of the better races of his career. Stuck behind a very slow pace, he unleashed a furious stretch charge to miss by a nose. To put in perspective how slow the pace was in that allowance event, you must compare the respective early clips in the two other turf races on the same card. In his race the opening half-mile was run in :49 and 2/5 while the lesser allowance races on the same card were run in :48 and 2/5 and :47 and 2/5. The eventual 1-3-4-5-6 finishers were 1-2-3-5-4 at the half-mile mark, which illustrates how well the pace held together. That made for a very poor setup for Al Khali. He stands to enjoy much more favorable dynamics this afternoon. jockey Alan Garcia who was aboard him for the first time in his last outing, rode this quirky roan colored horse to perfection. He got Al Khali to relax early and then move up gradually without getting him riled up at any point in the running.

8 DOUBLES PARTNER 6-1 LEPAROUX J PLETCHER T

Has run twice as a four year old and both races were solid off the pace efforts. In each race, he was far back entering the stretch, and then rallied boldly down the middle of the track. Top grass rider Leparoux rode him to perfection in both those starts. Doubles Partner has proven to be a horse for this course, with a record of two for two at similar distances. Gets an expected lively pace to close into.

7 GET STORMY 8-1 DOMINGUEZ R BUSH T

When this five year old gets good during the year, he is capable of stringing together several solid performances. Another sharp effort could be in the cards today, following two gritty races in a row, both in Grade 1 stakes at Gulfstream and Keeneland. Get Stormy has won nine of twenty one starts, which is a tribute to his fine trainer Tom Bush, who knows what it takes to get this horse at peak form for a race he is pointing to. Gets a rider change to great rider Ramon Dominguez, who is one of the best at getting a horse with tactical speed to relax before making his move. Has a win at today's 1 1/8 mile distance as well as one over this course.

RACE 11 Post Time 6:24 1 1/4 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds | G1
Kentucky Derby Presented By Yum! Brands | Purse:
\$2,000,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 11-12-13) Super Hi-5

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
16	ANIMAL KINGDOM	30-1	ALBARADO R	MOTION H

Animal Kingdom joins Visionaire as the second horse that owner Team Valor International has started in the Kentucky Derby. Visionaire finished 12th in 2008.

Team Valor has had tremendous success, both in the US and aboard with their acquisitions. They are the most successful stable of partnership owned racehorses. At the helm calling all the shots is Barry Irwin. He has established Team Valor as one of the most accomplished racing stables among all types of owners. Irwin knows where to get horses and where to run them. He selects all of Team Valor's racing stock without the need for consultants.

Animal Kingdom is just one of their many success stories. He has shown steady improvement in all four starts. As a result of his outstanding distance pedigree, Team Valor wasted no time entering him at two turns in his first career start at Arlington last September. In an off the grass race, Animal Kingdom sustained a strong closing rally from dead last to be a clear second despite having traffic problems. It is interesting to note that Animal Kingdom did not race on lasix that day.

He wasted no time breaking his maiden thirty five days later at Keeneland at 1 1/8 miles receiving lasix for the first time. Animal Kingdom showed much more early speed. He stalked the pace in second position, took the lead at the top of the stretch, and drew away from eleven rivals with a 3 1/4 length victory.

Animal Kingdom was given the winter off. He resurfaced on March 3 at Gulfstream Park with a trainer change from Wayne Catalano to Graham Motion. Entered on grass for the first time, Animal Kingdom broke from a tough outside post. He broke awkwardly, but quickly recovered to race in perfect striking position. He continued to have dead aim on the leader through the stretch, but fell short by a neck. It was an excellent return to the races. Animal kingdom was running a mile, which is too short a distance for him to be at his best, but a great starting point to his three year old campaign. Needing Graded stakes earnings to have any chance of starting in the Kentucky Derby, Animal Kingdom was entered in the Grade 3 Spiral at Turfway Park twenty three days later. A change of tactics was employed. Similar to his debut, he was allowed to drop back to last place in a field of eleven. Animal Kingdom made a strong middle move into the fastest part of the pace. New rider Alan Garcia then angled him wide into the stretch to take the lead turning for home, winning by 2 3/4 lengths.

The million dollar question that Team Valor and Motion had to answer was if Animal Kingdom would be able to transfer his steadily improving form to dirt. You had to go back to the spring of 2010, several months before making his first career start, when Animal Kingdom breezed on the dirt at Adena Springs training track near Ocala Florida. This was where he was broken and trained by Randy Bradshaw, one of the very best in the game at developing yearlings. Once Animal Kingdom made his first start, until one week ago, he had not raced or worked on the dirt. A start in the Kentucky Derby or the American Turf one day earlier would be decided right after Animal Kingdom worked six furlongs on dirt at Churchill in company with stable mate Meistersinger, who had run a huge race in very fast time breaking his maiden at Gulfstream first time out. He had proven to be a very good work horse, which was a good test for Animal Kingdom who he spotted his mate three lengths at the start. Both colts raced as a team to the top of the stretch. Robby Albarado who was aboard Animal Kingdom, tapped his right flank a couple of times, and he quickly distanced himself from Meistersinger by eight lengths at the wire. His six furlong time of 1:13 breezing was just what the doctor ordered. He galloped out 1:26 2/5 for seven furlongs and then finished up his work at a mile, running his last 1/8th of a mile in: 24 flat. This workout was far better than the disappointing one he had a week earlier which was also in company. Robby Albarado who was aboard for the work, had only ridden Animal Kingdom once before in his maiden score. Albarado told Barry Irwin that he was very impressed by the way he handled the track. Now that Animal Kingdom passed a big test, the question is if you can equate an impressive workout in the morning to a strong performance against nineteen rivals in the Derby.

Animal Kingdom has an outstanding distance pedigree. Even though his father Leroidesanimaux was an Eclipse Award champion on the grass, he has sired Always A Princess and Gabby's Golden Gal, who were both multiple stakes winners on the dirt over a distance of ground. Leroidesanimaux family includes names like Candy Stripes, Invasor, who won the 2006 Breeders Cup Classic, and Candy Ride, all who excelled on dirt at the highest level. Going back several generations on Animal Kingdom's mother's side, there is an abundance of stakes winners on grass who could run all day. But buried deep into her pedigree was one horse, who was a champion on dirt. His name was High Gun, winner of the 1954 Belmont stakes.

I feel this is the weakest field that I can recall ever assembled for the Kentucky Derby, with so many short priced horses losing key Derby prep races. A wild card like Animal Kingdom, who you know will relish the 1 ¼ mile distance, and could end up the last man standing, must be considered a major player and a danger to win the Kentucky Derby. I have so much respect for Barry Irwin and Graham Motion, that if they both have decided to run, it is a huge vote of confidence. Like many others in the field, it is a guess how he will handle a wet track if confronted with it.

8 DIALED IN

4-1 LEPAROUX J

ZITO N

Trainer Nick Zito attempts to win his third Kentucky Derby with Dialed In, who I expect to be the post time favorite. Zito scored with Strike The Gold in 1991 and Go For Gin in 1994. He could have matched trainer Bob Bafferts record of three Derby winners last year with Ice Box, who finished with a flourish to run second. Dialed In has all the credentials to give Zito a Derby triple, and the first one for his longtime owner Robert LaPentata. This dynamic duo have won several graded stakes, highlighted by Da? Tara?s victory at 38-1 in the 2008 Belmont Stakes. In his wake was the undefeated Big Brown, who was attempting to become the twelve Triple Crown winner, and the first since Affirmed in 1978.

The field for this year?s Kentucky Derby is made up of a smorgasbord of horses that have done their best running over synthetic surfaces and on the grass. Sprinkled in are several horses such as Dialed In, who have done all their racing on conventional dirt, which could prove to be a big edge.

Dialed In has won three times in four career outings. His lone defeat was a strong second place finish March 6 at Gulfstream. Zito had decided to enter Dialed In against older rivals at 1 1/8 miles in his first start around two turns. This race would serve as a springboard to his main objective four weeks later in the Florida Derby. His plan worked to perfection. Dialed In was beaten a half length to Equestrio, who was also trained by Zito.

In the Florida Derby, Dialed In was sent off the second choice behind Soldat. Both colts had the benefit of making their third straight start at 1 1/8 miles. Soldat, who was coming off two front running victories, never got the lead, finishing a well beaten fifth. Dialed In took up his customary spot at the back of the pack. Jockey Julian Leparoux, who has ridden him in all 5 starts, stepped on the gas on the far turn. Dialed In responded with a strong wide rally moving up to third place turning for home. In deep stretch, he hooked the 68-1 pacesetter Shackleford. Nearing the wire, Dialed In edged clear to win by a hard fought head.

There are two ways to evaluate Dialed Ins performance. The first is that he won the Florida Derby on the square. Shackleford had run the race of his life. Dialed In had proven in his first two starts that he has the heart to hook you late and prevail. I give him a pass when suffering his first defeat against his elders. If not hurt by a slow pace and a bit more distance, Dialed In would have won. He would have entered the starting gate for Kentucky Derby undefeated.

On the other hand, what concerns me about Dialed In is that he got the perfect set up to run his race in the Florida Derby. The pace was fast enough to flatter his late running style. For a brief moment in deep stretch, I thought Dialed In was going to blow on by Shackleford, but instead he had to work very hard to prevail. The final 1/8th of a mile was run in a very slow 13 4/5 seconds. When I put all the pieces of this puzzle together, I am concerned that in the Derby, Dialed In will be unable to sustain his closing rally from far off the pace stretching out in distance. He is not an agile horse, but more like a grinder, who prefers rallying outside of horses. Dialed In must receive a perfectly timed ride from Leparoux and a trouble free trip. If Dialed Ins momentum is stopped at any point in the race, it will be a very difficult task for him to recover and win. Dialed In gets an infusion of stamina from his father Mineshaft who won nine races over a distance of ground. Four of those victories came in prestigious Grade 1 races. Dialed In?s mother Miss Doolittle won twice, both races sprinting. His close relatives, Eliza and Dinard, were both multiple graded stakes winners who could handle a distance of ground

Recent history has shown that you no longer have to have a longwinded pedigree to win the Kentucky Derby. Funny Cide is the perfect example. Zito has done a masterful job preparing Dialed In to be in peak form in the Derby. He wisely kept him in Florida, far away from the awful weather in Kentucky that has disrupted workouts of several Derby starters that have had to train over a sea of slop. Not the case for Dialed In, who has not missed a beat in his morning gallops and workouts under sunny skies and warm weather at Zitos home base at Palm Meadows.

Dialed In is expected to be the post time favorite in the Kentucky Derby. I am confident that he will bring his A game to the proceedings, but everything must fall into place perfectly for him to win. In a year in which there have been upsets galore in many Derby prep races, it could end up being a smart move to take a shot against him with a horse under the radar that will go off much bigger odds than what he should be, especially if the track comes up wet. Dialed In has never raced over the slop, but the same can be said about many of the other participants. Nevertheless, I respect Dialed In and his connections so much, that he will not be left off any of my tickets.

Trainer Steve Asmussen has had nine starters in the Kentucky Derby throughout his illustrious career. The closest he came was in 2007, when Curlin ran third despite a very tough trip in his fourth career start. Curlin had won his first three races by a combined margin of twenty eight lengths. He broke his maiden at Gulfstream and then demolished the field at Oaklawn in both the Grade 3 Rebel and the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby prior to being sent off at 5-1 in the Run for the Roses.

This February, Asmussen had a Derby candidate in Tapizar, who is sidelined as a result of an injury he suffered in the Grade 2 Robert B. Lewis at Santa Anita. At the time, a little known colt named Nehro had raced once, and the result was a fourth place finish in his debut on December 12 at the Fair Grounds. He returned thirty days later, where he would make his three year old debut at Oaklawn. You needed a telescope to find him, finishing tenth, beaten twenty two lengths. It would have been no surprise if Nehro's connections decided to drop him into a claimer in his next start. They opted instead to give him one more try at the same level. In a dramatic turn of events February 21 at Oaklawn, Nehro rallied from far off the pace, with an explosive wide sweeping move to the lead on the far turn. He continued to extend his margin in the stretch, on his way to a 4 ½ length victory. Even after Nehro's impressive win, there was not a whisper that there could be a potential Derby candidate in Arkansas.

This all changed thirty three days later, when Asmussen entered Nehro in the Grade 2 Louisiana Derby. A recent maiden winner being thrown to the wolves into stakes company against more accomplished rivals, is rarely done. There is very little chance of success. Nehro proved everyone wrong, when he ran second, beaten a neck to Pants On Fire at odds of 36-1, despite having some trouble on the turn and racing in tight quarters in the stretch. Despite the purse of the Louisiana Derby being \$1 million dollars, the money his owners received for his second place finish, fell short of what Nehro needed to earn a start in the Kentucky Derby.

He would stay at Oaklawn to run in the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby. Nehro proved he was for real, with a strong closing run in the middle of the track. What impressed me most was his versatility. Nehro had showed he could run well closing from far off the pace or stalking the front runners. Jockey Corey Nakatani, was aboard Nehro for the first time in the Arkansas Derby. He allowed him to drop back towards the rear of the pack, and into a nice comfortable stride. Nehro raced along the inside, and with a subtle but impressive turn of foot, Nakatani asked him for run on the far turn and into striking position. He made up five lengths cutting the corner before tipping out at the top of the lane. Nakatani took a light hold of him to give Nehro a breather, before steering him even wider for the stretch run. The winner Archarcharch had gotten the jump on Nehro, who was slowly cutting into his margin with every stride. Unfortunately, Archarcharch had just enough to hold him off in the shadow of the wire. If you observed the head on after the finish, you will notice that Nakatani continued to urge him on. Nehro galloping out well clear of the field before being eased up. This suggested that he had plenty left in the tank. With enough earnings now to run in the Kentucky Derby, Nehro will be asked to travel an additional 1/8th of a mile. When many of the other horses are gasping for air in mid stretch, he should have no problem sustaining his run to the wire.

For many years, a strong distance pedigree was emphasized in pin pointing the legitimate Kentucky Derby contenders. Leon Rasmussen was the authority on calculating dosage and a horse's pedigree going back several generations, to determine if the breeding was there to stay the Derby distance successfully. There was not a student of the game who would not read Rasmussen's column leading up to the Derby. The results in recent years, have shown that pedigree is not nearly as important as performance on the race track and how Derby bound horses are training over the quirky Churchill Downs course. Look how popular Daily Racing Forms columnist Mike Welsh's daily workout reports have become.

In the case of Nehro, I feel his pedigree is a welcome addition to the attributes he has shown on the racetrack. His sire Mineshaft was a multiple Grade 1 winner over a distance of ground. He won at the Jockey Club Gold Cup and the Woodward stakes, both run at 1 ¼ miles. Mineshaft has had several stakes winners who improved the further they traveled. Nehro's mother The Administrator, produced Saint Marden, winner of all four races in route events, as well as the classy Sweet Lips, who won 5 of 6 races going long, with earnings of \$565,000, several in stakes races. The Administrator herself is a half to Zalipour, who won six of seven races, over a distance of ground against quality opposition.

In a very unique year, in which many of the Kentucky Derby prep races have produced results that are very uninspiring, there are many more throw outs than legitimate contenders. Nehro has shown me enough in a variety of ways to consider him a worthy recipient of winning the first leg of the Triple Crown. He is peaking at the right time for a trainer and jockey, who have proven time and again that there is not a coveted prize they cannot win with the right horse at the right time. Ahmed Zayat owner of Nehro, also had the very talented 3 year old Pioneer of the Nile, who ran second in the 2009 Kentucky Derby. I have great respect for him and his family. Mr. Zayat has contributed a lot to the game and it would be only fitting if he were to win the Kentucky Derby.

I have two concerns about Nehro. He made his debut in mid December, and will be making his fifth start in less than four months, which is a lot of racing in a short period of time. There is an expression that you cannot squeeze the lemon dry. I am hoping there is enough juice left for another strong effort. Then there is the question whether or not he will handle the possibility of a wet track on Saturday. Nehro did not handle it all that well earlier in the week.

The path from Arkansas to Kentucky is paved with success in the run up to the first Saturday in May. Going back to 2004, a runner from the Arkansas Derby has finished in the Derby superfecta every year except 2008 (when Eight Belles finished second and was exiting the Fantasy at Oaklawn). This son of Arch was purchased for \$60,000 at the Keeneland September sale in 2009. It took him a while to get to the races. In his debut over this Churchill Downs oval, he finished a game second, and immediately stamped himself a horse with a bright future. His trainer, William Jinks Fires, was willing to try him in a stakes race. He was rewarded with a victory in the Sugar Bowl at the Fair Grounds.

From there, Fires settled Archarcharch in at his home base of Oaklawn Park and pointed him towards the big 3 Derby preps in Hot Springs plus an appetizer in the Smarty Jones. After a distant fourth place finish in the Smarty Jones, everyone wrote off this colt for the first time. In fact, the reason for his poor finish in the Smarty Jones was that he was aggressively ridden by Jon Court, and tired on a track that played very kindly to off the pace types (There was only one wire to wire winner in 9 races). He was dismissed at 14-1 in the Southwest, but rebounded in a big way. Archarcharch rated comfortably off a solid pace, took over approaching the top of the stretch and held well late. From there, he was back in the Derby conversation, and as a result was bet down to 7-1 against The Factor in the Rebel. Another pace stalking trip was his undoing, mainly because this was a pace set by the exceptionally fast Bob Baffert trainee, The Factor. This colt attempted to rally into a 1:10 and 4/5 pace on a track that was playing kind to speed, which is a recipe for disaster. However, this modest effort resulted in the public writing him off as a Kentucky Derby prospect.

How did Archarcharch reply to being let go at 25-1 in the Arkansas Derby when two colts who had a collective 0 wins around two turns both went off at less than 10-1 He posted the best effort in a prep race by any horse during the lead up to the Kentucky Derby. His victory came via a very patient ride by Court as he sat well back of a very hot pace that completely melted down late. Archarcharch was very game once he reached the front. Hard charging Nehro narrowed the gap to a neck at the wire. He has developed into a true router who can make his own luck. One of the things that I like most about Archarcharch, is that he reacted positively in a race where the pace was very hot, allowing his rider to settle him towards the back of the field. The pace is going to be hot again in the Derby, and we have all seen a snapshot of how this colt will handle it.

Just about six months ago a colt by Arch was victorious in a major race at Churchill Downs going 10 furlongs. That, of course, was Blame, winner of last year's Breeders' Cup Classic. His victory plus numerous strong performances by other progeny of Arch, lead you to believe that 10 furlongs will be no issue for this colt. His dam was a graded stakes placed sprinter and her best prior foal to race, was the stakes placed sprinter Run Sully Run, who was trained by Cam Gambolati. Archarcharch's second dam, Pattern Step, was by Nureyev who was a multiple graded stakes winner, having taken the Hollywood Oaks on dirt and the Providencia on turf. Archarcharch has two three quarter siblings who were victorious going long in Europe, including 1000 Guineas runner up Arch Swing. When you dig a bit deeper into his pedigree, it becomes clear that distance is not an issue. Of course his on track performances further dispel any concerns about him negotiating the demanding Derby distance.

In a year where the Derby prep races have been entirely underwhelming, Archarcharch was victorious in the Arkansas Derby, which I felt was the strongest of them all. A number of good horses went through the Oaklawn Derby preps this spring, and this guy left Arkansas as the top dog. The fact that he has handled the Churchill Downs oval in the past is an added plus. The fact that his jockey clearly has developed an understanding of how Archarcharch needs to be ridden in order to have optimal success is a huge plus. He has continued to develop, and will be one of a select few who can peak on May 7. I consider him among the main contenders in this field and I am expecting a strong effort at generous odds.

My concern is how Archarcharch will handle the possibility of a wet surface on Saturday. He has raced over it once at Oaklawn, resulting in a 13 length defeat. I am willing to excuse his performance, because he dueled for the lead from the start rather than take back and make 1run, which is clearly his preferred running style.

Right off the bat, lets make one thing clear. If trainer Bob Baffert enters a horse in the Kentucky Derby, he cannot be eliminated. Baffert will be attempting to win his fourth Derby. He scored with Silver charm in 1997 at 3-1. Baffert came right back the following year winning with Real Quiet at 8-1. Three years later, War Emblem wired the field at 20-1.

Baffert never considered Midnight Interlude a Derby prospect. His Derby hopeful was always The Factor. All bets were off when Midnight Interlude upset the field in the Santa Anita Derby at 13-1 on April 9. One week later, The Factor finished a very disappointing seventh as the odds on choice in the Arkansas Derby.

It is rare to see a recent maiden winner stepping up into a prestigious Grade 1 Stake like the Santa Anita Derby and win. The results of several Kentucky Derby prep races this spring were head scratchers, with several winning at huge prices.

Midnight Interlude never started as a two year old. He made his debut at Santa Anita on January 29, finishing a well beaten third at six furlongs. Four weeks later, he showed big improvement, running second stretching out to a mile around two turns. It would

have been impossible to predict that this son of War Chant could make the starting gate for the Run for the Roses a bit more than two months later. Midnight Interlude broke his maiden impressively in his third start on March 20. Baffert was delighted with his performance, but a start in the Kentucky Derby was still not in the cards. There was only one chance left to make the twenty horse cut based on Graded stakes earning. Simply put, Midnight Interlude had to win the Santa Anita Derby just twenty days after his maiden win. Five days before the race, he worked a bullet six furlongs in 1:10 3/5, the fastest of twenty horses who worked that distance. Baffert made it clear to anyone listening, that he was blown away by how well Midnight Interlude ran that morning. The difficult task ahead was could he compete against more seasoned rivals stretching out an additional furlong. He was also making his fourth start in a bit more than two months, which is a lot to ask of a young developing three year old. In an ?eye opening? performance, Midnight Interlude not only won chasing quick fractions from the start , steadying at the eighth pole and racing wide throughout, but he also displayed tremendous heart to prevail under intense pressure through the stretch. True this was the weakest Santa Anita Derby I have ever seen, but so were many of the other Derby preps before this race and afterwards. What was most important was that Midnight Interlude got the job done when he had to.

What makes him a legitimate Derby contender, in addition to Baffert calling the shots, is his excellent tactical speed. Unlike several horses entered who have raced on synthetic surfaces and grass, all four of Midnight Interludes races have been run over conventional dirt at Santa Anita. He is agile and gritty, which are attributes that are very important to have, especially facing nineteen other rivals. In analyzing Midnight Interludes pedigree, he has a nice mixture of speed on his sire line and stamina on the dam side. What is interesting, is that Midnight Interlude is bred both sides to excel on grass, which gives Baffert options no matter the outcome.

There has not been a Kentucky Derby winner since Apollo won in 1892 who did not start as a two year old. Another piece of history Midnight Interlude will have to overcome is that the only horse to win the Derby with four or less races under their belt was the filly Regret in 1915. As we have seen in recent years, there have been Kentucky Derby winners lacking the necessary distance pedigree to be effective at 1 ¼ miles. When you factor in how inferior this years Derby field has proven to be, a horse like Midnight Interlude must not be dismissed solely based on historical data. He has worked twice at Churchill Downs alongside another Baffert trainee. The first one was disappointing. This was not the case on May 3, when Midnight Interlude worked five furlongs in the slop with the same workmate. He showed more focus, a stronger stride and a better gallop out past the wire.

I expect a strong performance from Midnight Interlude, which could be good enough to land him in the winners circle at generous odds. He will be included in some of my wagers, but more as an underneath horse in exactas and trifectas.

RACE 12 Post Time 7:20 7 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | Allowance | Purse: \$53,500



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
9	STREAKIN' MOHICAN	2-1	BOREL C	O'NEILL D

There is an old adage in professional sports that states, "There's no substitute for speed." This is the quickest horse by a distance in a large field of optional claimers to kick off the late double. Jockey Calvin Borel is notorious for taking a mount in the races after the Kentucky Derby, and they are generally very high in quality. This gelded son of Songandaprayer is no exception. Though he has been collared in the stretch of his last two starts, Streakin' Mohican was forced to set the pace through punishing early fractions on both occasions. It is very difficult to envision any other horse in here contesting the pace with him. The only other legitimate frontrunners are drastically slower on paper. His consistency is remarkable (14-21 lifetime in the exacta) and there is no doubt that he is at his best when free wheeling on the front end. Expect Borel to put him there right from the start. It is important to take notice that when Mohican was claimed for \$40,000 by Doug O'Neil in January, off a sharp win in first start over conventional dirt, he then reeled off two solid races on the front end.

4	DE PRICE	6-1	CASTANON J	ROMANS D
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The last time this son of Aldebaran was at Churchill, he scored his first victory in his sixth career start. His winter in Gulfstream was productive. He picked up a win in allowance company. That race was followed up by a couple of runner up finishes in January. In terms of race flow, jockey Jesus Castanon will be looking for a very hot early pace. This colt does his best running from the back

of the pack. His recent workouts have been very sharp. He ran very well when freshened up prior to his last outing. De Price enters this race off a brief respite. He will be in position to strike if the early tempo is strong.

8 GOOD LORD

8-1 MARAGH R

KAELIN F

This Forrest Kaelin trainee has been at his best under the Twin Spires at Churchil Downs and now returns to Louisville after a winter in Tampa Bay. His two recent efforts against optional claimers at Tampa were both very strong, as speed rarely holds going seven panels over the Oldsmar oval. Though he has little chance of getting the lead from Mohican today, this gelding has run well when he is rated just off the pace in the past. Good Lord's recent drills and career record suggest that a bit of moisture in the track would help his chances.

10 TONTO TOO

12-1 GRAHAM J

THORNBURY J

Louisiana bred ran a bang up race in the Crescent City Derby last time out on closing weekend at the Fair Grounds. He was close to the solid pace that completely collapsed in that event, but held gamely through the waning stages. As the winner made his move, this gelding was severely impacted, and had to check sharply inside the sixteenth pole. He is now cutting back in distance, and figures to be a threat from off the pace at a very fair price.

RACE 13 Post Time 7:50 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up |
Maiden Special Weight | Purse: \$49,000



Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
3	SHRILL (Best Bet)	4-1	GOMEZ G	STALL, JR. A



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

1 GENTLE TAP

3-1 SMITH M

ASMUSSEN S

It is rare for a first timer to be asked to go two turns for the first time in his career, let alone run well, but that was trainer Steve Asmussen called on him to do March 26 at Oaklawn. Gentle Tap showed good early speed. then made a menacing wide move to challenge for the lead on the far turn. He dropped back in the stretch, but re-rallied late to run second, beaten less than a length despite being victimized by a slow pace on a track which favored early speed. The winner came back run a strong second in an allowance race in his next start. Today Gentle Tap draws the advantageous rail post and get a huge rider change to Mike Smith.

4 SCUFF

6-1 BRIDGMOHAN S

LOVELL M

Continues to improve since claimed two starts for \$30,000 buy very good trainer Michelle Lovell who had an outstanding Fair Grounds meet. Has shown more tactical speed than before the purchase. Beaten only a neck March 11 despite breaking from an outside post and racing wide throughout. The winner, who beat him a neck, came back to win an allowance race. Game second last time out at Keeneland. Should sit a good stalking trip from the start. Gets a rider change to Bridgemohan, who wins a huge 34 % when hooking up for this barn.

2 SHOTGUN SHINE

7-2 LEPAROUX J

KENNEALLY E

Back on conventioanl dirt after being well beaten April 8 on polytrack which he could not handle as the heavy favorite. Good efforts in prior two outings despite tough trips each time. Has tactical speed and a good inside post. Shows two good recent works over the track.

CANCELLATION NOTE: In the event the track you purchased cancels before the start of the program, or at any point during the program, an alerting e-mail will be sent to your DRF.com address. You are entitled to download a replacement daily selection sheet of your choice at anytime in the future at no charge.

Any questions or comments can be sent to: thewizard@selectionsbythewizard.net

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