

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018

***DRF Bets***

# DERBY COUNTDOWN

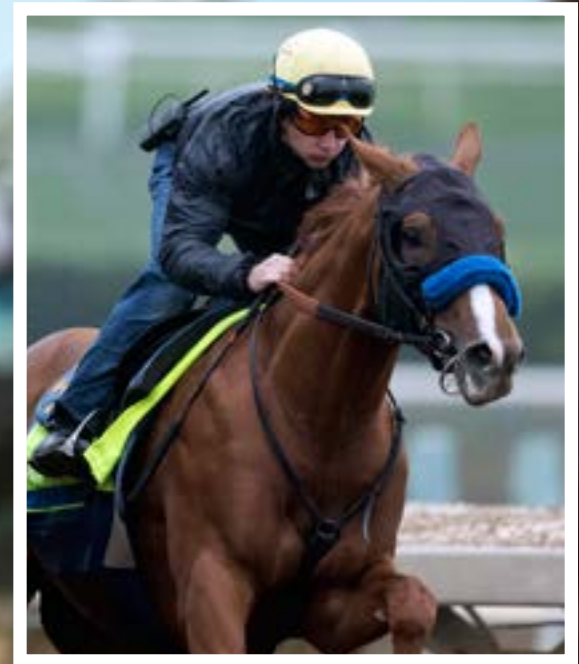
CLICK AND JUMP TO DESIRED SECTION ▼

**Rebel**

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**Jeff Ruby Steaks**

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**Solomini**

Photo by Barbara D. Livingston

# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Rebel Super Looks BY PETER THOMAS FORNATALE

### TENTH RACE

Probable Post 6:09 CDT

1 1/16 Miles. 3-Year-Olds. Rebel (Grade 2). Purse: \$900,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
3	Solomini	Prat F	115	3-2
4	Magnum Moon	Saez L	115	7-2
7	Sporting Chance	Velazquez J R	117	5-1
1	Title Ready	Ortiz J L	117	8-1
10	Combatant	Santana R Jr	115	8-1
2	Curlin's Honor	Geroux F	115	12-1
8	High North	Stevens G L	115	12-1
5	Higher Power	Eramia R E	117	20-1
9	Zing Zang	Lanerie C J	115	20-1
6	Pryor	Cabrera D	115	30-1
11	Bode's Maker	Loveberry J	115	50-1

### PICKS:

#### MARY RAMPELLINI

Solomini  
Sporting Chance  
Magnum Moon

#### KENNY PECK

High North  
Higher Power  
Magnum Moon

#### BYRON KING

Combatant  
Solomini  
Sporting Chance

### 1. TITLE READY (5-2-1-1, \$101,350, 0 Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 89

**Trainer:** Steve Asmussen

**Pedigree:** More Than Ready–Title Seeker (Monarchos)

**Formulator Facts:** Asmussen is one of the best there is, but his numbers are weak by his standards with dirt 3-year-olds making their second starts off the layoff in graded stakes. He's 4 for 35 (11 percent) with a \$0.74 ROI, but with more than half of those finishing in the money (18) it's likely he's just been unlucky.

**Outlook:** Asmussen charge steps up into the big leagues after a nice allowance score in first-time blinkers. Plenty of horses run better second time with the hood, and this one will need to improve again to hang with the best of these. It's a good draw for him, and he has the tactical speed to get position in or near the first flight. Has to hope they don't go too fast early.

**Value:** Looks usable if higher than 6-1.

### 2. CURLIN'S HONOR (2-2-0-0, \$56,220, 0 Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 76

**Trainer:** Mark Casse

**Pedigree:** Curlin–Franscat (Stormin Fever)

**Formulator Facts:** Mark Casse has solid numbers stretching out 3-year-old dirt horses from sprint to route. He's 6 for 27 (22 percent) on the win end with a \$2.40 ROI. However, in the opposite of the Asmussen stat above, his lower ITM success of 30 percent suggests that perhaps he's been a little fortunate. Looked at another way, the stretch-out is an all-or-nothing move for Casse. This should be considered when constructing your vertical bets. Interestingly, when filtered for second off the pine, the numbers improve. He's 4 for 13 (31 percent) with a \$3.41 ROI. Only

one additional runner hit the board in those spots.

**Outlook:** Another who projects to be forward, and his blood-line suggests that the added distance could be his friend. Nothing has run back yet from the allowance score, but even though he was a short price, it feels likely he learned something, having to idle in the stretch before getting up late. Undefeated colt goes for the three-peat, and it won't be easy, but he's unexposed and could make an impact here.

**Value:** Feels like one to consider at north of 10-1.

### 3. SOLOMINI (4-1-2-1, \$472,000, 14 Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 93

**Trainer:** Bob Baffert

**Pedigree:** Curlin–Surf Song (Storm Cat)

**Formulator Facts:** Baffert's strong history on this circuit with his 3-year-olds is well known, and the stats bear this out even if they don't overwhelm. He's 6 for 20 (30 percent) with a \$1.78 ROI with winners including Cupid, Hoppertunity and the legendary American Pharoah. He's won this race in three of the last five years.

**Outlook:** Multiple Grade 1-placed horse once looked like a possible A-teamer for Baffert. These days, he looks more like a B-teamer with the emergence of Justify and the continued development of McKinzie. Still, given Baffert's record in this division, a B-teamer could be more than good enough to get the job done. Looking at the works, he's got bullets in the chamber and projects a nice stalk-and-pounce trip. He's a major contender any way you slice it, with value being the lone question mark.

**Value:** A prime contender and possible key if 7-2 or higher, but that's not terribly likely.

# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Rebel Super Looks CONTINUED

### 4. MAGNUM MOON (2-2-0-0, \$37,800, 0 Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 95

**Trainer:** Todd Pletcher

**Pedigree:** Malibu Moon–Dazzling Song (Unbridled's Song)

**Formulator Facts:** Pletcher does well spotting his 3-year-olds at Tampa, where Magnum Moon won last time. Always Dreaming followed a similar route before going on to score in the Florida Derby and Kentucky Derby last year. All in all, with 3-year-olds on dirt in graded stakes coming off wins, Pletcher has typically excellent results, 36 for 141 (26 percent) with a \$1.94 ROI.

**Outlook:** Unbeaten and untested in two starts, there's no telling how good this Pletcher trainee might be. We know he's run fast enough that further improvement would put him in the mix. It wasn't a great field last time, but it was nice how easily he handled them, shutting off and finishing with class despite a pace that would have favored those ahead of him. The debut race has been productive, with three next-out winners. On TimeformUS's running-style numbers, he's got the best closing kick, which means the expected hot pace here could work to his benefit. DRF's Mary Rampellini notes that because of the racing surfaces, Tampa form often translates to Oaklawn.

**Value:** One to consider if longer than 7-2.

### 5. HIGHER POWER (3-2-0-1, \$68,728, 0 Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 79

**Trainer:** Donnie Von Hemel

**Pedigree:** Medaglia d'Oro–Alternate (Seattle Slew)

**Formulator Facts:** Donnie Von Hemel's overall mark at Oaklawn isn't great in our sample period (9 percent winners, \$1.29 ROI), but in graded stakes, it's comparatively good (3 for 21, 14 percent, \$1.89 ROI).

**Outlook:** The clock suggests he might be slow for the best of these, but it is nice to see local, two-turn form on offer. He

has the benefit of having done nothing wrong in his three starts, with trip and distance excuses first out followed by two straight wins. New York Central flattered him by coming right back to win with an 83 Beyer in the Oaklawn mud. He's a cool horse, and while a win might be hard to find, he makes a lot of sense to use underneath in exotics.

**Value:** At double-digit odds, a very interesting possible key in the underneath spots in your verticals, especially third and fourth in trifecats and superfectas.

### 6. PRYOR (4-1-0-1, \$54,886, 0 Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 81

**Trainer:** Ron Moquette

**Pedigree:** Paynter–Awesome Humor (Distorted Humor)

**Formulator Facts:** In the last five years, Moquette has tried three times to run a last-out maiden winner in a graded stakes race, so far without any of them hitting the board. With last-out maiden winners overall, he's 9 for 85 (11 percent) with a \$0.90 ROI.

**Outlook:** He took the big step up last time, but looking at his PPs feels like that old children's game "Which of these things does not belong?" Sure, he won easily, but he was clear on the lead in the slop, two conditions he's unlikely to get again today. It feels like his impact in this race will be limited to that of a pace player, though he might not be fast enough in that regard either. Up in trip, up in grade, bet on him, you won't get paid.

**Value:** A deserving longshot I'll try to fade.

### 7. SPORTING CHANCE (4-2-1-1, \$319,140, 2 Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 86

**Trainer:** D. Wayne Lukas

**Pedigree:** Tiznow–Winning Ride (Candy Ride)

**Formulator Facts:** In graded stakes with horses second off the layoff, Lukas is 4 for 27 with a whopping \$4.92 ROI,

numbers bolstered recently by Bravazo. Interestingly, in that sample, only one additional runner hit the board.

**Outlook:** The coach is back on the Derby trail, and the Hopeful winner had excuses in his seasonal debut, with a tricky trip on a sealed, muddy track. He owns the speed to get the lead or could go the stalk-and-pounce route (rider's preferred method) should others set out aggressively. The concern here is that he hasn't shown a ton of finish, and that's a quality that will likely be needed here. On breeding though, he should relish the trip. There are mixed signals here, so let price be your guide.

**Value:** Feels around a 6-1 chance value-wise, but wouldn't go crazy shorter than that.

### 8. HIGH NORTH (5-1-1-0, \$75,350, 1 Derby point)

**Best Beyer:** 85

**Trainer:** Brad Cox

**Pedigree:** Midnight Lute–Spacy Tracy (Awesome Again)

**Formulator Facts:** Cox is a talented and exciting trainer, though it's interesting to note that from a bettor's point of view, his horses can't necessarily be expected to improve second off the bench. First off, he's 148 for 570 (26 percent, with a 55 percent ITM) and has a \$2.00 ROI. Also, he's 94 for 373 (25 percent, 57 percent ITM), and the ROI drops to \$1.66. Second off a layoff in graded stakes, the numbers dip to 11 percent with a \$1.47 ROI.

**Outlook:** Despite the numbers presented above, it just seems logical that this one could improve again second time off the layoff. I like the improvement figure-wise in the first start at 3, and he might just keep developing. His form shows an affinity for routing, and he deserves another look. A good trip is projected under Hall of Fame pilot Gary Stevens. This barn has been going great guns, and it feels like a matter of time before Cox has a contender for

# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Rebel Super Looks CONTINUED

the Triple Crown races. Who knows? Perhaps the future is now.

**Value:** A price would be needed here, but he intrigues at 10-1 or higher.

### 9. ZING ZANG (5-1-0-0, \$49,845, 1 Derby point)

**Best Beyer:** 80

**Trainer:** Steve Asmussen

**Pedigree:** Tapit–Jet Away (Mr. Greeley)

**Formulator Facts:** Overall in stakes routes with 3-year-olds on dirt, Asmussen is 22 for 132 (17 percent) with a strong \$1.98 ROI.

**Outlook:** Last race probably a bit better than it looks given that he was wide on a muddy track that favored speed. But even if you grant him extra credit for that, he's still got plenty to find to threaten the exacta in a spot like this. He's still kind of exposed off his previous form.

**Value:** Deep closer has a ploddy look, and while these types of horses don't make appealing win bets, you could consider for third and fourth at a big number.

### 10. COMBATANT

**Best Beyer:** 94

**Trainer:** Steve Asmussen

**Pedigree:** Scat Daddy–Border Dispute (Boundary)

**Formulator Facts:** Let's look at how Asmussen combines with the three jockeys he reaches out to in this race. With Santana, Combatant's jock, he's 20 percent winners, 51 percent ITM, and a \$1.62 ROI. With Jose Ortiz, who rides Title Ready, he's 16/52/\$1.24. With Lanerie, who rides Zing Zang, he's 16/47/\$1.13.

**Outlook:** This is the bias upgrade you want coming out of the Southwest. I love that he has a big figure to run back

to from two back as well in the Smarty Jones, though it's notable that every runner from there came back to run slower. He breaks wide again, but that might be helpful given the dynamics expected to be at play. He could lay close enough and finish in a race that might fall apart from the front.

**Value:** A potential key at 6-1 or higher.

### 11. BODE'S MAKER (9-1-2-1, \$67,272, 0 Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 74

**Trainer:** Allen Milligan

**Pedigree:** Bodemeister–Romantic Frolic (Vindication)

**Formulator Facts:** Milligan has solid numbers overall for the type of horses he gets, though it is worth noting his established level of performance is lower than his average at Oaklawn, where he's 6 percent winners with 18 percent ITM and a \$0.93 ROI.

**Outlook:** He's run twice in stakes and been pounded both times. He hasn't run fast enough in any of his races to crack the exacta against this field. Best shot from way outside is probably to drop over and make one run. Wouldn't try to talk anyone out of lower-rung inclusion, but there are more appealing closers to do the clunking up.

**Value:** A deserving longshot I'm tempted to let beat me.

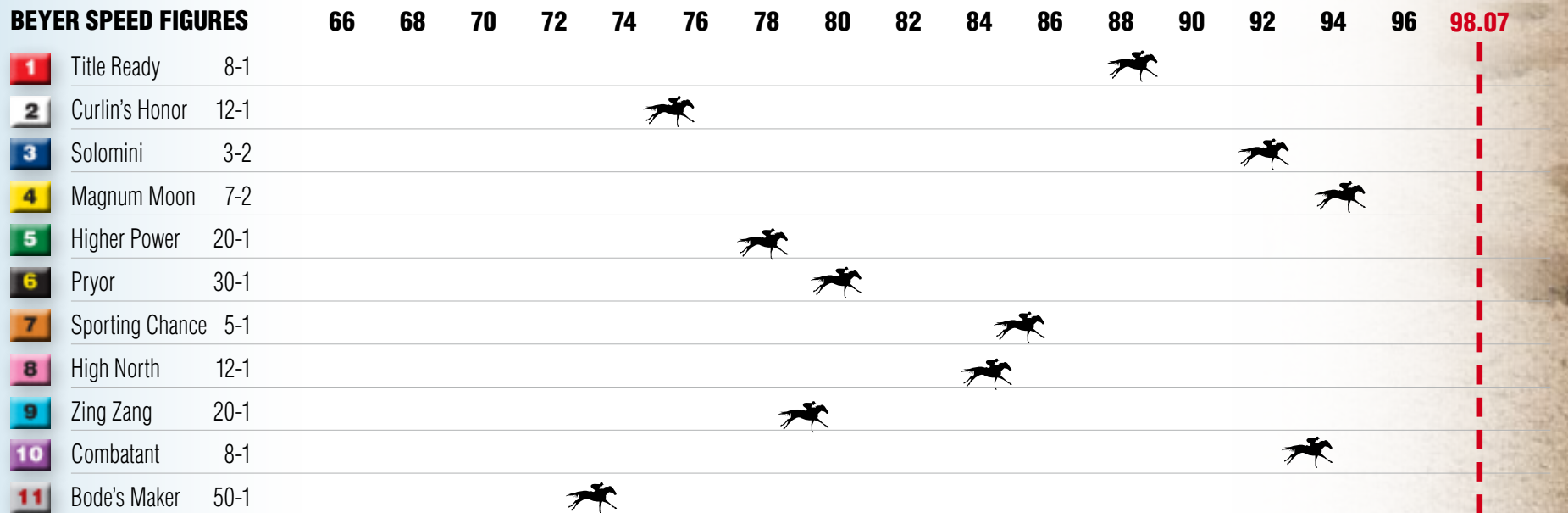
### HOW I'M PLAYING:

It's tricky to know how to play this until we get more of a sense of the odds, but I'm torn between three potential keys: Magnum Moon, High North, and Combatant. At the right numbers as cited above, I'd look to bet one or two of them to win, saving in exactas with other logical contenders above them in exactas.

# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Rebel Beyer Chart

Career-best Beyer Speed Figures for the field



*Track's morning line odds*

**FIVE-YEAR BEYER TREND: 97.00**

**WINNERS**    **2013:** Will Take Charge, 96    **2014:** Hoppertunity, 100    **2015:** American Pharoah, 100    **2016:** Cupid, 95    **2017:** Malagacy, 94



# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Rebel Pace Projector



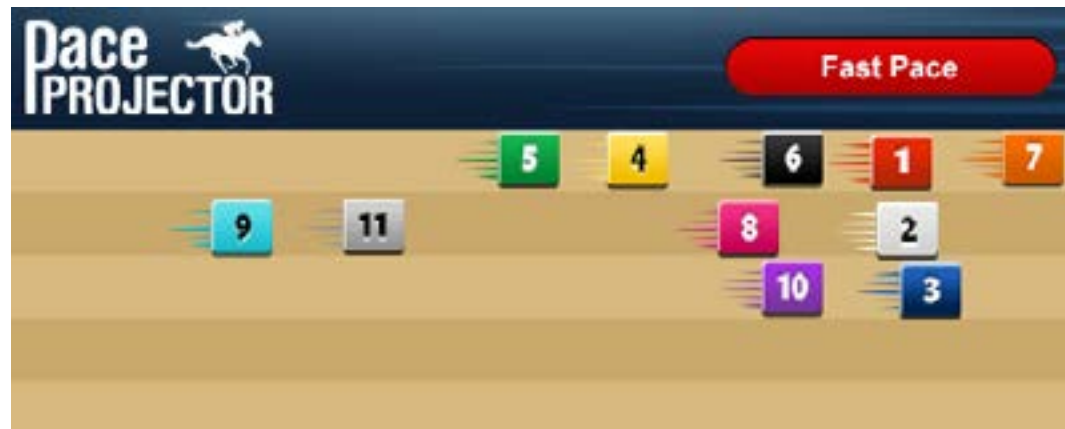
TimeformUS's Pace Projector uses an algorithm that takes pace figures, running style, and other factors into account to predict the pace at the half-mile call for route races. The Pace Projector is available for all North American races at TimeformUS.com.

### ANALYSIS BY CRAIG MILKOWSKI, TimeformUS

**The Pace:** The Rebel drew a big field of 11 and includes six horses labeled as either Leader, Speed, or Tracker by TimeformUS. Those six are all drawn in the first seven post positions. The pace is likely to be fast and contested.

**Upgrades:** Magnum Moon (#4) has the best TimeformUS Late Pace rating in the field and also overcame a slow pace to win last out in his first route try. High North (#8) ran a good fourth in the very strong Kentucky Jockey Club stakes to close out his two year old season. His fifth in his return, the Risen Star Stakes, can be excused due to the slow pace in a race that resembled a merry-go-round. Combatant (#10) is versatile and has run good speed figures but will need to work out a trip from his outside post.

**Downgrades:** Sporting Chance (#7) draws farthest out of the speeds with a short run to the first turn and will likely have to be ridden hard early to get good position. Curlin's honor has been heavily bet in both of his lifetime starts, both wins, but tries two turns for the first time as well as much tougher competition.



# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Jeff Ruby Super Looks BY ANDREW CHAMPAGNE

### TENTH RACE

**Probable Post 6:00 EDT**

1 1/8 Miles. All Weather. 3-Year-Olds. JRSteaks (Grade 3). Purse: \$200,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
7	Hazit.....	Van Dyke D .....	123 .....	5-1
11	Ride a Comet .....	Saez G.....	123 .....	5-1
3	Archaggelos.....	Hernandez R M .....	123 .....	6-1
4	Pony Up.....	Jimenez A.....	123 .....	6-1
6	Mugaritz.....	Juarez N .....	123 .....	6-1
8	Blended Citizen.....	Frey K.....	123 .....	6-1
1	Sky Promise .....	Gilligan J.....	123 .....	12-1
2	Cash Call Kitten .....	Gaffalione T.....	123 .....	12-1
5	Magicalmeister.....	McKee J.....	123 .....	12-1
10	Zanesville .....	Franklin M.....	123 .....	12-1
9	Dreamer's Point .....	Landeros C .....	123 .....	15-1
12	Arawak.....	Garcia J A.....	123 .....	15-1

Blinkers On: Blended Citizen

### PICKS:

#### RON GIERKINK

Archaggelos  
Blended Citizen  
Magicalmeister

#### JIM AMOROSO

Sky Promise  
Magicalmeister  
Blended Citizen

#### BYRON KING

Ride a Comet  
Archaggelos  
Pony Up

### 1. SKY PROMISE (10-1-2-3, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 80

**Trainer:** Kenneth McPeck

**Pedigree:** Sky Mesa–Maddie's Promise (Dehere)

**Formulator Fact:** Over the past four years, McPeck is 8 for 34 (24 percent) in route races at Turfway, with a \$2.62 ROI.

**Outlook:** Winless with the exception of a maiden triumph in a turf race at Ellis Park last July, he came from well back to finish second in the Battaglia, beaten a half-length. He improved his career-best Beyer Figure by 11 points. He may get a pace to run at, but could he also be a bounce candidate?

**Value:** You're likely to get a price on whatever horse you fancy in here, and in this case, the 12-1 morning line seems about right.

### 2. CASHCALL KITTEN (2-2-0-0, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 70

**Trainer:** Michael Maker

**Pedigree:** Kitten's Joy–Medium of Exchange (Exchange Rate)

**Formulator Fact:** Maker has won the last two renewals of this race with Oscar Nominated and Fast and Accurate, horses that like Cash Call Kitten were going from turf to synthetic.

**Outlook:** He debuted for a \$20,000 tag two back, but he won impressively that day and was professional last time out in a \$60,000 event. Like many in here, he's never tried a synthetic surface before, so that's a question mark, but it's worth noting that Tyler Gaffalione is set to fly north from Florida to ride.

**Value:** Because of the connections involved, I'm tempted

to believe he might drift down a few points from his 12-1 morning line, but 8-1 or so still wouldn't be a terrible price.

### 3. ARCHAGGELOS (4-2-1-0, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 76

**Trainer:** Michael Dickinson

**Pedigree:** Temple City–Mien (Nureyev)

**Formulator Fact:** Offspring of Mien include Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner Big Brown, who never raced on a synthetic surface but was 2 for 2 on turf.

**Outlook:** His win two back in the Grade 3 Grey at Woodbine was strong, and it showed he could run well on a synthetic surface. That was followed up, though, by a puzzling dud in the Display, and he's been off since that race (a stretch of more than three months). A repeat of his race two back would certainly make him a contender, and he's been working steadily, but he may need a career-best effort to get the job done.

**Value:** Maybe he's moved forward from 2 to 3, but the 6-1 morning line seems like a bit of an underlay.

### 4. PONY UP (5-1-3-0, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 83

**Trainer:** Todd Pletcher

**Pedigree:** Aikenite–A. P. Petal (A.P. Indy)

**Formulator Fact:** Over the past five years, Pletcher is 10 for 29 (34%) with horses going from dirt to synthetic, with a \$2.65 ROI.

**Outlook:** The connections took a shot in the Grade 2 Holy Bull last time out, where he was a distant fifth behind Audible. Before that, though, he ran three solid races on turf, including a close second behind eventual Sam F.

# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Jeff Ruby Super Looks CONTINUED

Davis winner Flameaway in the Kitten's Joy. He'd benefit from a solid early pace, which should materialize given the full field.

**Value:** If his turf form carries over to Turfway's synthetic track, I think he's a logical contender, and 6-1 would be more than acceptable (though he may drift down due to his powerhouse trainer).

### **5. MAGICALMEISTER** (3-2-0-1, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 81

**Trainer:** James Chapman

**Pedigree:** Bodemeister–Invitation (Vindication)

**Formulator Fact:** Prior to Magicalmeister's win last time out, Chapman was on a 1-for-15 streak in route races dating back to the summer of 2017.

**Outlook:** He lit up the tote board in the Battaglia, scoring at odds of 39-1 over several horses that also line up in this spot. He earned an 81 Beyer that day and raced close to respectable fractions, so the win certainly merits respect. That said, it was a big step forward, so a bounce is in play, and this field seems a bit more solid than the one he topped last month.

**Value:** If you think he can repeat his Battaglia effort, you'll likely get a double-digit price. Even if he does, though, he may only be good enough for a minor award.

### **6. MUGARITZ** (6-2-1-0, 1 Kentucky Derby point)

**Best Beyer:** 78

**Trainer:** Jonathan Wong

**Pedigree:** Dialed In–Flag the Mint Down (Flag Down)

**Formulator Fact:** Wong has not started a runner at Turfway Park in at least five years.

**Outlook:** This one woke up when shipped from South-

ern California to Golden Gate, reeling off two wins over the synthetic track before entering stakes company. He was second in the California Derby and fourth in the El Camino Real Derby, tiring late behind easy winner Paved. Wong sees fit to ship him to Kentucky, but while he may be a pace factor, it sure seemed like the distance was what got him last time out.

**Value:** His 6-1 morning line seems like an underlay. I'd need at least double that to endorse him in any capacity.

### **7. HAZIT** (4-1-1-0, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 84

**Trainer:** Todd Pletcher

**Pedigree:** War Front–Rumor (Indian Charlie)

**Formulator Fact:** Pletcher recently snapped a long streak of futility with horses stretching from sprints to routes second off a layoff, as Hazit will. Prior to Analyze the Odds's triumph March 11 at Aqueduct, Pletcher was 0 for 29 with such runners dating back to February of 2017.

**Outlook:** There were big expectations for this one, especially after he graduated in his debut against eventual champion Good Magic. However, he went to the sidelines following two disappointing efforts in Grade 1 races, only returning last month at Tampa Bay Downs. While he didn't win in his comeback, he set a swift pace over what's usually a pretty slow surface. There's plenty of turf in his pedigree, an indication he is likely to take to a synthetic track. The concern is the pace could be a testing one.

**Value:** At 5-1, he's the co-favorite on the morning line. I think he's talented enough to win, but there may be more value elsewhere, especially given that he's never run on anything other than dirt.

### **8. BLENDED CITIZEN** (7-1-0-2, 2 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 83

**Trainer:** Doug O'Neill

**Pedigree:** Proud Citizen–Langara Lass (Langfuhr)

**Formulator Fact:** Over the past three years, O'Neill is 8 for 24 (33 percent) in route races over synthetic tracks, with a \$2.90 ROI.

**Outlook:** His 3-year-old debut wasn't bad, as he rallied for third in the El Camino Real Derby. The blinkers go on in this spot, even though he's earned career-high Beyers in each of his last four races. Between the upward trend in form, his experience going long over a synthetic track, and the amount of early speed signed on, this colt may be the one to beat.

**Value:** He's a must-use in any wager, and I'll be pretty excited if he stays at the 6-1 morning line.

### **9. DREAMER'S POINT** (5-1-1-2, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 78

**Trainer:** Ian Wilkes

**Pedigree:** Shackleford–Mondenschein (Brahms)

**Formulator Fact:** Over the past five years, Wilkes is 1 for 23 in route races over synthetic tracks. His lone such win came in May of 2014 at Arlington Park.

**Outlook:** Wilkes trainees don't often win at first asking, so it was noteworthy when this one did last September. However, he hasn't won since, and while he's run up against the likes of Promises Fulfilled and Magnum Moon, his two-turn races suggest this distance may be a bit farther than he wants to go. Like several others, he figures to be prominent early, but anything beyond that seems murky.

**Value:** The 15-1 morning line may seem enticing, but it



# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Jeff Ruby Super Looks CONTINUED

certainly doesn't seem like the race shape favors his running style.

### 10. ZANESVILLE (5-2-1-0, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 74

**Trainer:** Tom Amoss

**Pedigree:** Tiznow–Scandalous Song (Unbridled's Song)

**Formulator Fact:** Over the past five years, offspring of Tiznow are 90 for 549 (16 percent) on synthetic tracks.

**Outlook:** In keeping with his pedigree, he stepped forward when stretched out to two turns three starts back. He graduated at Fair Grounds before a pair of okay allowance races going two turns on the Delta Downs bullring, the most recent of which saw him overpower a much weaker group than what he'll face today. There's a chance he's turning a corner, and the recent bullet workout looks spiffy, but he'll certainly need to take another sizable step forward to contend here.

**Value:** He's 12-1 on the morning line, and that seems like an underlay. Odds of 20-1 or so seem more appropriate.

### 11. RIDE A COMET (5-2-0-0, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 78

**Trainer:** Mark Casse

**Pedigree:** Candy Ride–Appealing Zophie (Successful Appeal)

**Formulator Fact:** Over the past five years, Casse is 0 for 10 at Turfway Park. That stretch includes five runners in this race.

**Outlook:** The light bulb may have gone on two back, when he splashed home in the slop to break his maiden. He followed that up with a sharp victory over winners on turf, although I'm not sure what he beat that day. Recent workouts are very fast, and he may get first run on the tiring pacesetters going into the far turn, but this post position certainly presents an obstacle.

**Value:** He's the co-favorite at 5-1 on the morning line, and that seems pretty fair.

### 12. ARAWAK (8-2-0-2, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

**Best Beyer:** 76

**Trainer:** Wesley Ward

**Pedigree:** Uncle Mo–Spicy Teddy (Spanish Steps)

**Formulator Fact:** Ward has won with five of his last nine routers at Turfway Park dating back to late January.

**Outlook:** He was impressive enough for Ward to send him to Royal Ascot last summer, and when he came back, he ran against some of this country's better 2-year-olds. He boasts a win here two back, but he was favored in the Battaglia and flatted out late. Furthermore, this is a terrible post position, especially for a horse that may be best going shorter.

**Value:** Ward merits respect, especially given his numbers this Turfway meet, but if this colt was trained by anyone else, he'd be seen as much more of an outsider.

## HOW I'D PLAY IT:

This may not be the highest-quality Derby prep, but it could be the best wagering race on the road to the roses. I'm keying Blended Citizen in exactas, and also betting him to win and place given the square price that could be produced by this large field.

## THE BET:

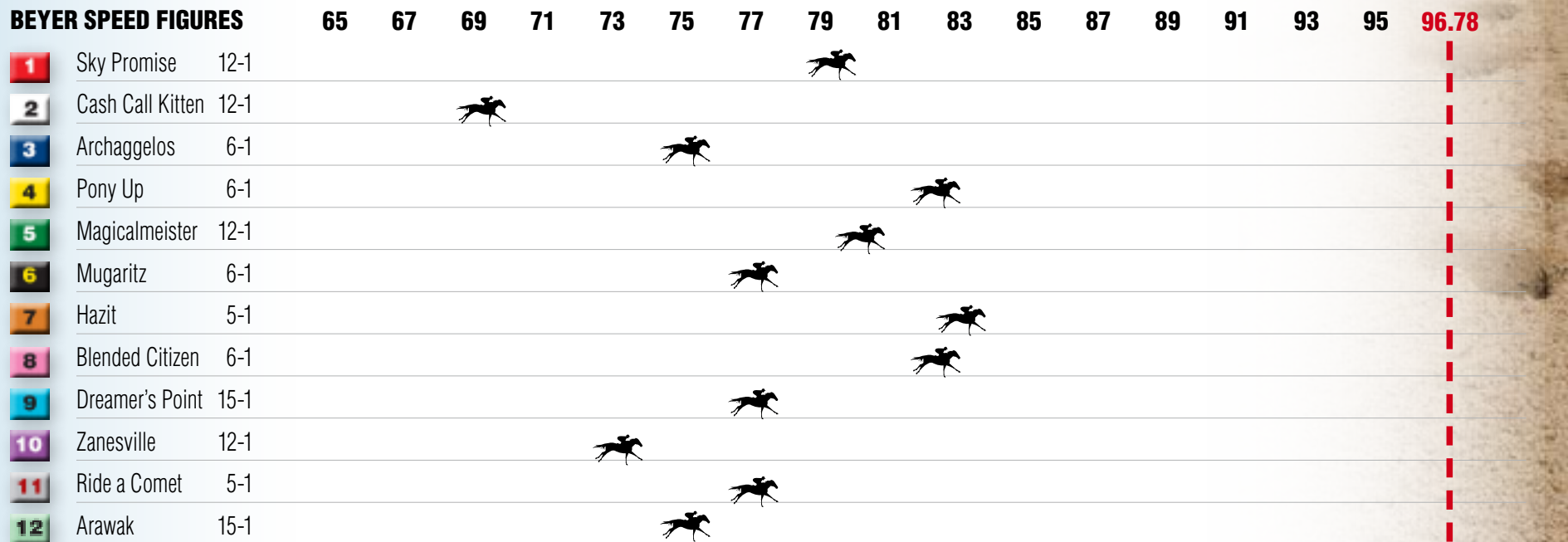
**\$3 exacta key box:** 8 w/1, 2, 4, 7, 11 (\$30)

**\$10 win/place:** 8 (\$20)

# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Jeff Ruby Beyer Chart

Career-best Beyer Speed Figures for the field



Track's morning line odds

**FIVE-YEAR BEYER TREND: 86.00**

**WINNERS** 2013: Black Onyx, 90 2014: We Miss Artie, 85 2015: Dubai Sky, 91 2016: Oscar Nominated, 82 2017: Fast and Accurate, 82

# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Jeff Ruby Pace Projector



TimeformUS's Pace Projector uses an algorithm that takes pace figures, running style, and other factors into account to predict the pace at the half-mile call for route races. The Pace Projector is available for all North American races at TimeformUS.com.

### ANALYSIS BY CRAIG MILKOWSKI, TimeformUS

**The Pace:** A full starting gate of 12 is entered and includes one horse listed as a Leader by TimeformUS, Hazit (#7), and six more listed as Trackers---those having shown plenty of tactical speed. The polytrack surface at Turfway is not as kind to speed as dirt tracks tend to be. Since 2009, there have been 28 races run at this nine furlong distance and only four winners have led after the opening half mile. Three more winners have been second at that point in the race. Horses can win near the front, but it isn't the preferred position over this surface and distance.

**Upgrades:** Sky Promise (#1) is a little light on the Timeform US Speed Figure side but is the top rated Late Pace horse in the race. He should get a great trip from the inside post. Pony Up (#4) has yet to run on a synthetic surface but has closed well on turf even when the pace has been slow. He should be flying late if he handles polytrack. Blended Citizen (#8) ran a good third when closing late in the hot paced El Camino Real Derby at Golden Gate Fields last out.

**Downgrades:** Hazit has only raced on dirt and doesn't seem like the type of horse that will adapt well to synthetic track racing, particularly at a route distance. Mugaritz (#6) pressed a very fast pace in the El Camino Real before fading to fourth. A similar fate seems likely here.



# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Road to the 2018 Kentucky Derby

DATE	RACE	DISTANCE	TRACK	WINNER	BEYER	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
9/16/17	Iroquois	1 1/16M	Churchill Downs	The Tabulator	76	10	4	2	1
9/30/17	FrontRunner	1 1/16M	Santa Anita	Bolt d'Oro	100	10	4	2	1
10/7/17	Champagne	1M	Belmont	Firenze Fire	90	10	4	2	1
10/7/17	Breeders' Futurity	1 1/16M	Keeneland	Free Drop Billy	79	10	4	2	1
11/4/17	BC Juvenile	1 1/16M	Del Mar	Good Magic	100	20	8	4	2
11/25/17	Kentucky Jockey Club	1 1/16M	Churchill Downs	Enticed	81	10	4	2	1
12/2/17	Remsen	1 1/8M	Aqueduct	Catholic Boy	91	10	4	2	1
12/9/17	Los Alamitos Futurity	1 1/16M	Los Alamitos	McKinzie	91	10	4	2	1
12/17/17	Springboard Mile	1 mile	Remington Park	Greyvitos	88	10	4	2	1
1/6/18	Sham	1M	Santa Anita	McKinzie	97	10	4	2	1
1/13/18	Lecomte	1M 70 yds	Fair Grounds	Instilled Regard	92	10	4	2	1
1/13/18	Jerome	1 mile	Aqueduct	Firenze Fire	85	10	4	2	1
1/15/18	Smarty Jones	1M	Oaklawn Park	Mourinho	99	10	4	2	1
2/3/18	Withers	1 1/8M	Aqueduct	Avery Island	87	10	4	2	1
2/3/18	Holy Bull	1 1/16M	Gulfstream	Audible	99	10	4	2	1
2/3/18	Robert B. Lewis	1 1/16M	Santa Anita	Lombo	86	10	4	2	1
2/10/18	Sam F. Davis	1 1/16M	Tampa Bay Downs	Flameaway	92	10	4	2	1
2/17/18	Risen Star	1 1/16M	Fair Grounds	Bravazo	93	50	20	10	5
2/17/18	El Camino Real Derby	1 1/8M	Golden Gate	Paved	86	10	4	2	1
2/19/18	Southwest	1 1/16M	Oaklawn Park	My Boy Jack	93	10	4	2	1

# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Kentucky Derby Championship Series

DATE .....	RACE .....	DISTANCE.....	TRACK.....	WINNER.....	BEYER.....	1ST ....	2ND ....	3RD ..	4TH
3/3/18 .....	Fountain of Youth .....	1 1/16M .....	Gulfstream .....	Promises Fulfilled .....	96.....	50 ....	20 ....	10 .....	5
3/10/18 .....	Gotham .....	1M .....	Aqueduct.....	Enticed .....	95.....	50 ....	20 ....	10 .....	5
3/10/18 .....	Tampa Bay Derby .....	1 1/16M .....	Tampa Bay Downs.....	Quip.....	94.....	50 ....	20 ....	10 .....	5
3/10/18 .....	San Felipe .....	1 1/16M .....	Santa Anita .....	Bolt d'Oro .....	101.....	50 ....	20 ....	10 .....	5
3/17/18.....	Rebel .....	1 1/16M .....	Oaklawn.....			50 ....	20 ....	10 .....	5
3/17/18.....	Jeff Ruby Steaks .....	1 1/8M .....	Turfway Park .....			20 ....	8.....	4.....	2
3/24/18 .....	Louisiana Derby.....	1 1/8M .....	Fair Grounds.....			100 ....	40 ....	20 ....	10
3/25/18.....	Sunland Derby .....	1 1/8M .....	Sunland Park .....			50 ....	20 ....	10 .....	5
3/31/18.....	UAE Derby .....	1 3/16M .....	Meydan.....			100 ....	40 ....	20 ....	10
3/31/18 .....	Florida Derby .....	1 1/8M .....	Gulfstream .....			100 ....	40 ....	20 ....	10
4/7/18 .....	Wood Memorial.....	1 1/8M .....	Aqueduct.....			100 ....	40 ....	20 ....	10
4/7/18 .....	Blue Grass .....	1 1/8M .....	Keeneland .....			100 ....	40 ....	20 ....	10
4/7/18 .....	Santa Anita Derby.....	1 1/8M .....	Santa Anita .....			100 ....	40 ....	20 ....	10
4/14/18.....	Arkansas Derby .....	1 1/8M .....	Oaklawn Park .....			100 ....	40 ....	20 ....	10
4/14/18 .....	Lexington .....	1 1/16M .....	Keeneland .....			20 ....	8.....	4.....	2



# DERBY COUNTDOWN

## Kentucky Derby 2018 Point Standings (through 3/16/18)

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	POINTS	NON-RESTRICTED STAKES EARNINGS
1.....	Bolt d'Oro.....	Mick Ruis.....	64.....	\$780,000
2.....	Enticed.....	Kiaran McLaughlin.....	63.....	360,880
3.....	Bravazo.....	D. Wayne Lukas.....	54.....	349,913
4.....	Promises Fulfilled.....	Dale Romans.....	52.....	256,480
5.....	Quip.....	Rodolphe Brisset.....	50.....	212,000
6.....	McKinzie.....	Bob Baffert.....	40.....	320,000
7.....	Good Magic.....	Chad Brown.....	34.....	1,238,400
8.....	Flameaway.....	Mark Casse.....	30.....	472,260
9.....	Firenze Fire.....	Jason Servis.....	29.....	582,500
10.....	Free Drop Billy.....	Dale Romans.....	24.....	497,200
11.....	Snapper Sinclair.....	Steven Asmussen.....	22.....	301,810
12.....	Strike Power.....	Mark Hennig.....	20.....	199,560
13.....	Old Time Revival.....	Kenneth Decker.....	20.....	80,000
14.....	Instilled Regard.....	Jerry Hollendorfer.....	19.....	196,000
15.....	Solomini.....	Bob Baffert.....	14.....	436,000
16.....	Catholic Boy.....	Jonathan Thomas.....	14.....	330,000
17.....	Avery Island.....	Kiaran McLaughlin.....	14.....	320,000
18.....	My Boy Jack.....	Keith Desormeaux.....	12.....	402,000
19.....	Combatant.....	Steven Asmussen.....	12.....	210,000
20.....	Mourinho.....	Bob Baffert.....	11.....	149,360
21.....	Greyvitos.....	Adam Kitchingman.....	10.....	300,000
22.....	Audible.....	Todd Pletcher.....	10.....	208,320
23.....	+ The Tabulator.....	Larry Rivelli.....	10.....	186,750
24.....	Kanthaka.....	Jerry Hollendorfer.....	10.....	168,000
25.....	World of Trouble.....	Jason Servis.....	10.....	145,000

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	POINTS	NON-RESTRICTED STAKES EARNINGS
26.....	Lombo.....	Michael Pender.....	10.....	90,345
27.....	+ f-Paved.....	Michael McCarthy.....	10.....	60,000
28.....	Noble Indy.....	Todd Pletcher.....	10.....	40,000
29.....	Vino Rosso.....	Todd Pletcher.....	7.....	37,500
30.....	Tiz Mischieff.....	Dale Romans.....	6.....	80,900
31.....	Hollywood Star.....	Dale Romans.....	5.....	98,500
32.....	Ayacara.....	Keith Desormeaux.....	5.....	71,345
33.....	Peace.....	Richard Mandella.....	5.....	27,000
34.....	Machismo.....	Anthony Quatarolo.....	5.....	19,200
35.....	+ City Plan.....	Eoin Harty.....	4.....	67,345
36.....	Principe Guilherme.....	Steven Asmussen.....	4.....	44,000
37.....	Seven Trumpets.....	Dale Romans.....	4.....	31,666
38.....	+ All Out Blitz.....	Simon Callaghan.....	4.....	20,000
39.....	Coltandmississippi.....	Todd Pletcher.....	3.....	31,137
40.....	Sporting Chance.....	D. Wayne Lukas.....	2.....	260,000
41.....	Givemeaminut.....	Dallas Stewart.....	2.....	156,000
42.....	Lone Sailor.....	Tom Amoss.....	2.....	73,347
43.....	+ Tap Daddy.....	Steven Asmussen.....	2.....	67,400
44.....	+ Kingsville.....	Danny Pish.....	2.....	44,000
45.....	Marconi.....	Todd Pletcher.....	2.....	36,520
46.....	Take the One O One.....	Brian Koriner.....	2.....	36,345
47.....	Vouch.....	Arnaud Delacour.....	2.....	25,000
48.....	Dark Vader.....	Peter Eurton.....	2.....	18,000
49.....	+ Blended Citizen.....	Doug O'Neill.....	2.....	16,644
50.....	+ Kowboy Karma.....	Larry Jones.....	1.....	94,000

+ Not Triple Crown nominated, f-filly