

DRF Bets™

DERBY COUNTDOWN

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Arkansas Derby

Lexington



Magnum Moon

Photo by Barbara D. Livingston

Arkansas Derby Super Looks BY PETER THOMAS FORNATALE

ELEVENTH RACE **Probable Post 6:18 CDT**

1 1/8 Miles. 3-Year-Olds. ArkDerby (Grade 1). Purse: \$1,000,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
6	Magnum Moon.....	Saez L.....	122.....	8-5
5	Solomini.....	Prat F.....	118.....	2-1
8	Quip.....	Geroux F.....	122.....	9-2
9	Combatant.....	Santana R Jr.....	118.....	6-1
3	Tenfold.....	Espinoza V.....	118.....	10-1
4	Dream Baby Dream.....	Contreras L.....	118.....	15-1
2	Machismo.....	Spieth S.....	118.....	20-1
1	Beautiful Shot.....	Eramia R E.....	122.....	30-1
7	Plainsman.....	McMahon C.....	118.....	30-1

PICKS:

MARY RAMPPELLINI

Magnum Moon
Solomini
Combatant

CHUCK KUEHHAS

Tenfold
Magnum Moon
Solomini

BYRON KING

Magnum Moon
Solomini
Combatant

1. BEAUTIFUL SHOT (4-2-0-1, \$92,500, 0 Derby points)

Best Beyer: 75

Trainer: Keith Desormeaux

Pedigree: Trappe Shot–Beauty for Ashes (City Place)

Formulator facts: Keith Desormeaux's numbers second-off-layoff in graded stakes are 3 for 23 (13 percent) with 8 ITM (35 percent) and a \$1.59 ROI. All three of those winners were in the money in the previous start.

Outlook: Bay ridgling caught the eye when sprinting in his debut on a day when he was the only horse to rally off the pace at Del Mar. He looked great again winning a stakes before running an even third in the Bob Hope, a race that's produced a couple of next-out winners. He also may have been compromised by the slow pace there. The last race, however, can only be described as a debacle and while he checked badly, he really did no running. Whether he's talented enough to hang with these or wants to run this far are still very much open questions.

Value: A deserving longshot I'll try to oppose.

2. MACHISMO (6-1-0-1, \$55,796, 0 Derby points)

Best Beyer: 85

Trainer: Anthony Quartarolo

Pedigree: More Than Ready–Winsome Ways (Smart Strike)

Formulator Facts: Coming back in 1-7 days, Quartarolo is 2 for 33 (6 percent) with 21 percent of those ITM and a \$0.66 ROI.

Outlook: Connections decide to wheel Machismo back in a week in a desperate attempt to secure enough points to get in the starting gate on the first Saturday in May. Reportedly he lost a shoe in the Blue Grass and must be doing okay for them to even try the move. He did make a middle move last week, but as the previous form line to Magnum

Moon suggests, he's got his work cut out for him here. Optimists could point out that his seemingly dull Fountain of Youth run was flattered when Good Magic came back to win last week.

Value: Another who'll be a long price who I'm happy to let beat me.

3. TENFOLD (2-2-0-0, \$94,200, 0 Derby points)

Best Beyer: 87

Trainer: Steve Asmussen

Pedigree: Curlin–Tempress (Tapit)

Formulator facts: Asmussen only has two winners out of 25 starters in a five-year sample in dirt stakes for three-year-olds at Oaklawn, but 14 of those 25 finished fourth or higher. Plenty of those runners were square prices as well.

Outlook: He's undefeated, and it's interesting to see that both the wins came routing on the local dirt. He's got tactical speed and an inside draw, weapons that could prove useful here, though there are others who project to be faster early and he hasn't shown amazing finish. I'd feel better about his chances if his regular rider, Ricardo Santana Jr., had decided to stick around. He's got talent but the gut says this might be too much too soon. I can certainly understand the connections taking a chance, though.

Value: I would need over 12-1 or higher to include on anything but the widest spreads.

4. DREAM BABY DREAM (8-1-1-4, \$247,643, 20 Derby points)

Best Beyer: 83

Trainer: Steve Asmussen

DERBY COUNTDOWN

Arkansas Derby Super Looks CONTINUED

Pedigree: Into Mischief–Galetoire (Songandaprayer)

Formulator facts: Let's look at Asmussen's stats with the three jockeys he's using in today's race. With Luis Contreras (Dream Baby Dream) he's 19 percent winners, 51 percent ITM and a \$1.76 ROI. With Ricardo Santana Jr. (Combatant) he's 20 percent winners, 51 percent ITM and a \$1.62 ROI. Why no stats on Victor Espinoza (Tenfold)? He's only ridden one mount for Asmussen, a fourth-place finish on Unbridled's Note in the 2014 Arcadia at 6-1.

Outlook: The blinkers helped last time when he over-achieved, running second at a big number in New Mexico. He may have been flattered a bit by a strong pace but before that, he'd shown good late energy. The run in the allowance two back was a mixed bag. He had to steady into the first turn but he spent a large part of the race running on the advantageous inside as did his stablemate, the eventual winner New York Central. If he improves again he absolutely has a shot to run these down if the pace is strong as expected.

Value: I'd make him around 10-1 on the win end and he's very appealing as a horse to run in underneath and grab a vertical slice in bets like the trifecta and superfecta.

5. SOLOMINI (5-1-3-1, \$652,000, 34 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-old males is well known and the stats bear this out even if they don't overwhelm. He's 4 for 12 (33 percent) with a \$2.25 ROI with winners including Cupid, Hoppertunity, and the legendary American Pharoah. He won this race with Pharoah back in 2015.

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. Still, given Baffert's record in this division, a B-teamer could be more than good enough to get the job done. He's worked three times since the last race, a spot where he did have to steady late. Most recent work was a bullet but it didn't drop any jaws. We know how good he is, and there are others here that look likely to move forward.

Value: A contender but also a likely underlay once again. I think he should be 4-1 or 9-2 based on the level of competition signed on here, and you won't see that.

6. MAGNUM MOON (3-3-0-0, \$577,800, 50 Derby points)

Best Beyer: 97

Trainer: Todd Pletcher

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

Formulator Facts: Pletcher does well with 3-year-olds on dirt in graded stakes coming off wins. He's 40 for 186 (22 percent) with 96 ITM (52 percent) and a \$1.74 ROI.

Outlook: He is unbeaten and untested in three starts, and there's no telling how good this Todd Pletcher trainee might be. He looks to be the fastest of these already and there's reason to believe further improvement could be coming, especially when you look at how well Pletcher's 3-year-olds have been going. Last time he just aired while facing two of his main rivals today. The race two back wasn't a great field 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 also been productive, with three next-out winners. He's got the tactical speed to get position and has shown a good finish.

Value: A prime win contender at anything above 6-5.

7. PLAINSMAN (5-1-1-1, \$73,555, 0 Derby points)

Best Beyer: 83

Trainer: William B. Van Meter

Pedigree: Flatter–S S Pinafore (Street Sense)

Formulator facts: Van Meter shows a positive return at Oaklawn over the past five years. He's 16 for 116 (14 percent) with 49 ITM (42 percent) and a \$2.15 ROI.

Outlook: Battle-tested runner cost \$300,000 at Keeneland September back in 2016. Won maiden in January and had a couple of decent runs in first-level allowances since, though Tenfold handled him pretty easily last time. He'd need a massive level of improvement to even hit the board today. Note that he didn't appear to handle a wet track two back if those conditions arise on Saturday.

Value: I can't see using him anywhere regardless of price.

8 QUIP (4-3-0-0, \$282,800, 50 Derby points)

Best Beyer: 94

Trainer: Rodolphe Brisset

Pedigree: Distorted Humor–Princess Ash (Indian Charlie)

Formulator facts: Brisset, a former Mott assistant, hasn't been out on his own very long but he's been a friend to bettors who've used him, popping with a few nice prices including 88-1 maiden winner Our Closure at Keeneland and Quip last time at 19-1 in the Tampa Bay Derby. This will be his first runner at Oaklawn Park and Quip is his lone graded stakes winner in four tries.

Outlook: He turned things around last time when stalking a slow pace. Flameaway flattered the form there a bit by coming back to run second to Good Magic in the

DERBY COUNTDOWN

Arkansas Derby Super Looks CONTINUED

Blue Grass stakes. Quip is an improving horse but he has some big questions to answer. With a faster pace expected here, can he run faster early without compromising his speed late? That feels like the path to victory given how he appeared to resent restraint in the Kentucky Jockey Club last season. He is drawn outside the other speed, allowing for options, and Geroux rode him perfectly last time. Tricky call.

Value: A contender in the range of 6-1.

9. COMBATANT

Best Beyer: 94

Trainer: Steve Asmussen

Pedigree: Scat Daddy–Border Dispute (Boundary)

Formulator facts: It should come as no surprise that Asmussen's numbers are strong with 3-year-olds on dirt in graded stakes routes. He's 22 for 139 (16 percent) with 60 ITM (43 percent) and a \$1.88 ROI.

Outlook: Ran okay last time and the race might be better

than it appears at first glance. Some observers had that track as kind to speed so perhaps that's enough of a reason to give him a pass, as he tried to close from far back. It looked like he was going to pass Solomini late but he just kind of flattened out. Even so, he could just be a late developer who is improving. He was a bias upgrade coming out of the Southwest. He's run some fast figures, including last time and 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 just fall apart from the front.

Value: A potential key at 5-1 or higher.

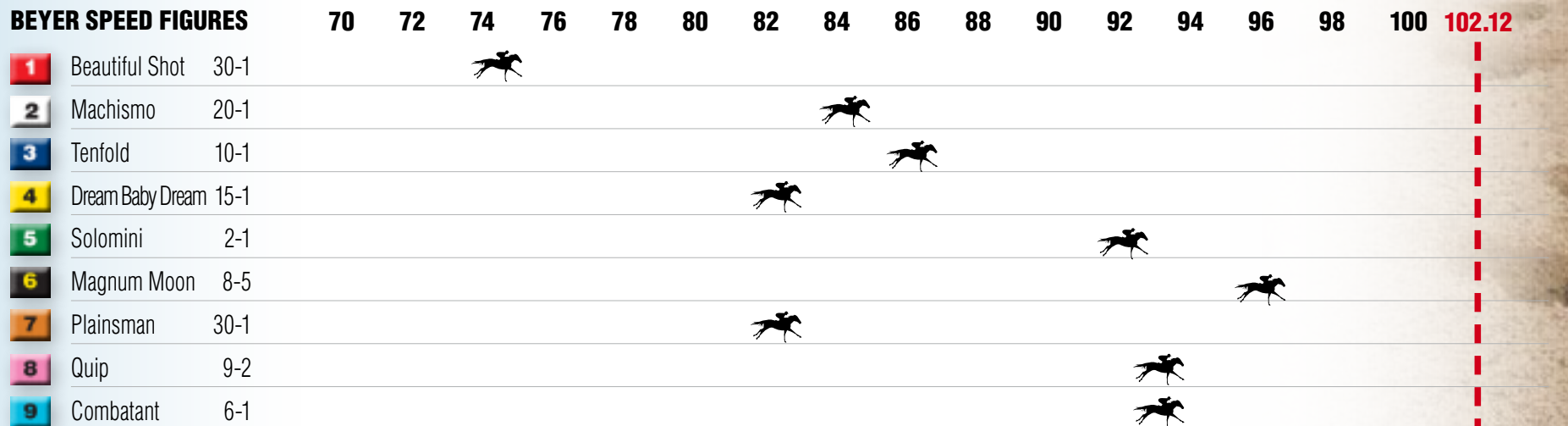
HOW I'D PLAY IT:

Combatant is a win bet for me. Magnum Moon might be as well. There will definitely be a Magnum Moon-Combatant exacta in the mix as well.

DERBY COUNTDOWN

Arkansas Derby Beyer Chart

Career-best Beyer Speed Figures for the field



Track's morning line odds

FIVE-YEAR BEYER TREND: **97.20**

WINNERS 2013: Overanalyze, 89 2014: Danza, 102 2015: American Pharoah, 105 2016: Creator, 96 2017: Classic Empire, 97

AVERAGE
WINNING BEYER

102.12

DERBY COUNTDOWN

Arkansas Derby Pace Projector



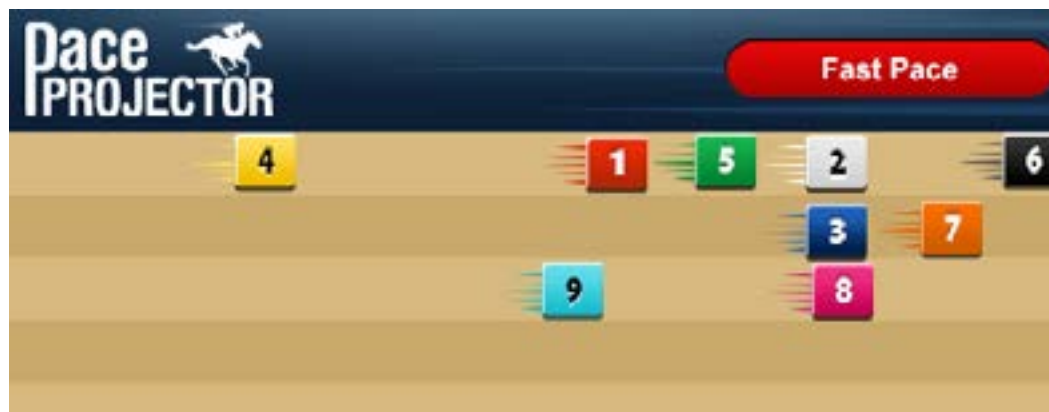
TimeformUS's Pace Projector uses an algorithm that takes pace figures, running style, and other factors into account to predict the pace at the half-mile call for route races. The Pace Projector is available for all North American races at TimeformUS.com.

ANALYSIS BY CRAIG MILKOWSKI, TimeformUS

The Pace: A solid field of nine is entered for the Arkansas Derby, and it includes Quip (#8), listed as a horse with a TimeformUS Running Style of Speed, and five others with the Tracker designation. One of the trackers, Magnum Moon (#6), has the highest TimeformUS Early Pace Rating in the field and thus is shown as the early leader. The Pace Projector has concluded the pace is likely to be fast.

Upgrades: Solomini (#5) is one of the trackers in this field and has the second best TimeformUS Late Pace Rating. Combatant (#9) has the best late pace rating in the field. Though he has hung a bit late in recent starts, he should be picking off horses in the stretch.

Downgrades: Quip won the Tampa Bay Derby last out pressing a slower-than-average pace with both the half-mile and three-quarter-mile calls being coded in blue by TimeformUS. He hasn't proven to be a need-the-lead type, but it is likely he will have to run much faster than he has previously.



Lexington Super Looks BY ANDREW CHAMPAGNE

NINTH RACE

Probable Post 5:34 EDT

1 1/16 Miles. 3-Year-Olds. Lexington (Grade 3). Purse: \$200,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
12	My Boy Jack	Desormeaux K J	120	5-2
2	Telekinesis	Castellano J J	118	4-1
6	Greyvitos	Rosario J	120	6-1
7	Pony Up	Velazquez J R	118	6-1
1	Battle At Sea	Carmouche K	118	8-1
3	Seven Trumpets	Albarado R J	118	8-1
4	Honor Up	Ortiz J L	118	12-1
8	Gracida	Leparoux J R	118	12-1
5	Magicalmeister	McKee J	118	20-1
9	Navy Armed Guard	Delgado D	118	20-1
10	Zanesville	Graham J	118	20-1
11	Arched Feather	Lebron V	118	20-1

Blinkers On: Gracida

PICKS:

BYRON KING

Telekinesis
My Boy Jack
Greyvitos

CHUCK KUEHHAS

Greyvitos
Telekinesis
Pony Up

MARTY MCGEE

My Boy Jack
Telekinesis
Pony Up

1. BATTLE AT SEA (5-2-0-1, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 83

Trainer: Mike Maker

Pedigree: Into Mischief – Mystery At Sea (Capote)

Formulator Fact: Maker and jockey Kendrick Carmouche have won with four of their last nine starters in route races dating to November.

Outlook: Added distance has brought out the best in this colt. After three unremarkable starts sprinting to begin his career, he's gone 2 for 2 in route races, the most recent win coming in a restricted stakes race at Fair Grounds. It's tough to love a front-runner in this race given the abundance of early speed signed on, but the rail draw shouldn't hinder him, and it wouldn't be a stunner if he hung on for a minor award.

Value: He's 8-1 on the morning line, but I think he may drift up. There's a chance he'll be double digits, and that seems fair to me. A win is probably too much to ask, but I'd need to use him underneath in the exotics at his likely price.

2. TELEKINESIS (2-1-0-1, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 90

Trainer: Mark Casse

Pedigree: Ghostzapper – Intentional Cry (Street Cry)

Formulator Fact: Offspring of Intentional Cry are 0 for 10 in races at a mile or longer.

Outlook: He turned plenty of heads with his debut score in February, enough that he was odds-on when stretching out to two turns last month. He didn't run terribly when third that day (his 87 Beyer Speed Figure is the third-best last-out number in this race), but it wasn't the kind of

progression you'd want from a second-time starter. Still, while I'd be a bit hesitant to take a short price, the pedigree says he'll love this trip, and Javier Castellano signs on.

Value: My guess is he'll be the second or third choice in this field, and that may be too short for me on the win end. I'd need 6-1 or so to be enticed there.

3. SEVEN TRUMPETS (6-2-0-1, 9 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 85

Trainer: Dale Romans

Pedigree: Morning Line – Angel Trumpet (Cape Canaveral)

Formulator Fact: Over the past year, Romans and jockey Robby Albarado are 6 for 8 in dirt races at Keeneland.

Outlook: He's floundered since a promising start to 2018, when he was a close second in the Jerome at Aqueduct. He's followed that up with a distant seventh in the Grade 3 Southwest and a fourth-place effort in the Grade 3 Sunland Derby. He'd need to run back to the Jerome to be competitive here, and he'd likely have to improve on that showing to win.

Value: I can't see him as anything other than filler on deeper trifecta or superfecta tickets, and I'd need at least double his 8-1 morning-line price to put him there.

4. HONOR UP (5-1-2-0, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 79

Trainer: Bill Mott

Pedigree: To Honor and Serve – Unobstructed View (Yes It's True)

Formulator Fact: Over the past five years, Mott is 0 for 7 with

DERBY COUNTDOWN

Lexington Super Looks CONTINUED

last-out maiden winners ages 3 and older in graded stakes races.

Outlook: Like Battle At Sea, he's improved with distance. He was second to eventual Florida Derby winner Audible two back in his first route race before airing last time out at 25 cents on the dollar. He hasn't run in more than four months, though, and this is not only his first start against winners but his first start against open company. Perhaps he's matured and developed in his time off, but it seems like he needs a race off the bench.

Value: His likely price is too short for me. I'd need 20-1 or so to throw him into the exotics.

5. MAGICALMEISTER (4-2-0-1, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 81

Trainer: James Chapman

Pedigree: Bodemeister – Invitation (Vindication)

Formulator Fact: Over the past five years, Chapman is 0 for 9 at Keeneland, with zero in-the-money finishes.

Outlook: He pulled off a 39-1 shocker two back at Turfway but came back to earth in a big way last time out, when he helped to set the early pace in the Grade 3 Jeff Ruby and faded to 10th. He did handle dirt well in his career debut, but that was going six furlongs at Mahoning Valley, and he could be close to a lively pace in this spot. I think he's an outsider in here.

Value: I can't see him being competitive in this spot, so I need to look elsewhere, regardless of the odds come post time.

6. GREYVITOS (4-2-0-1, 10 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 93

Trainer: Adam Kitchingman

Pedigree: Malibu Moon – Snow Top Mountain (Najran)

Formulator Fact: Over the past five years, Kitchingman is 0 for 9 with 3-year-olds off layoffs of 61 to 180 days.

Outlook: There's some real suspense here, as this one needs a victory and some defections to potentially run in the Kentucky Derby. He won a pair of stakes races late last year but was forced to the sidelines shortly after his second victory, which came in the Springboard Mile at Remington Park. He's worked very well lately and ships in off a sharp five-furlong gate drill at Santa Anita. The pace scenario poses a challenge, but he's shown he can handle an honest pace, and it helps that he does not need the lead to run well. If he's on his game, I think he could be the one to beat.

Value: Given the small barn he hails from, the layoff he's had, and the big field signed on, we may get a square price. Anything above 4-1 would strike me as an overlay.

7. PONY UP (6-1-4-0, 8 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 83

Trainer: Todd Pletcher

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

Formulator Fact: Since April 2014, Pletcher is 4 for 17 with runners switching from synthetic to dirt, but none of his winners went off at odds higher than 7-2.

Outlook: He's winless in four starts this year, but it's not for a lack of trying. He's run second three times (including in the Jeff Ruby), and his lone off-the-board finish came when he was fifth behind Audible in the Grade 2 Holy Bull. A win would give him 28 Kentucky Derby points (enough to qualify in most years), so it's easy to see why the connections are running here, but it certainly seems like he's better on turf and synthetic, and the powerhouse nature of said connections ensures this one won't be too much of a price.

Value: Given his relative lack of dirt form, I'd need double-digit odds to consider using him, and I doubt we'll get them.

8. GRACIDA (4-1-0-1, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 76

Trainer: Doug O'Neill

Pedigree: Custom for Carlos – Tensas Wedding Joy (Broken Vow)

Formulator Fact: Since 2015, O'Neill is 4 for 10 in dirt races at Keeneland (though as of this writing, he's 0 for 3 in such races at this meet).

Outlook: This \$400,000 auction purchase looked like a real prospect when he won his debut last summer at Del Mar, but it's been tough sledding since then. He went to the sidelines after a seventh-place finish in the Grade 1 Del Mar Futurity and has picked up minor awards in two Louisiana-bred stakes races this season. Most recently, he was beaten nearly five lengths by Battle At Sea, who also shows up in this spot. It's tough to see him making up that kind of ground on that rival, who himself may have some growing to do to compete with the most formidable foes in this field.

Value: I cannot endorse him at any price.

9. NAVY ARMED GUARD (8-1-2-2, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 83

Trainer: Joan Scott

Pedigree: Midshipman – Black Java (Pine Bluff)

Formulator Fact: Over the past five years, Scott is 1 for 28 in graded stakes races and 0 for 10 in graded stakes races on dirt.

DERBY COUNTDOWN

Lexington Super Looks CONTINUED

Outlook: The connections thought enough of this gelding to try him in the Grade 3 Sam F. Davis, where he finished a distant fifth. He finally won his maiden last time out while showing uncharacteristic early speed, but he got loose on the lead that day at Tampa, and he almost certainly will not see the same kind of trip here.

Value: Like the horse to this one's inside, I can't see him on my tickets, regardless of odds.

10. ZANESVILLE (6-2-1-0, 2 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 79

Trainer: Tom Amoss

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

Formulator Fact: Over the past five years, Amoss is 9 for 31 (29 percent) in dirt routes at Keeneland but 0 for 4 in such races at the graded stakes level.

Outlook: He was fourth at big odds in the Jeff Ruby, and he didn't have the best of trips. He ran wide and steadied but still managed a career-best Beyer Speed Figure in his first start on a synthetic surface. He's another who's woken up with the switch to two-turn races (remember, at Delta, anything longer than five furlongs is around two turns), and there should be plenty of pace in here to set up his late run. I'm not crazy about the post, but it seems like his form is on an upswing, and I think he presents real value in the exotics.

Value: His 20-1 morning line seems high to me. I think he'll come down, but even so, 12-1 would be a square price.

11. ARCHED FEATHER (5-1-0-0, 0 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 72

Trainer: Edward Frederick

Pedigree: Arch – Featherbed (Smart Strike)

Formulator Fact: Frederick's lone graded stakes starter over the past five years came in the 2014 Rebel Stakes, where Jet Cat was eighth at 86-1.

Outlook: It's tough to get excited about a horse who's beaten two horses in as many starts this season. He trailed in the Smarty Jones and was no factor in the Battaglia Memorial at Turfway Park, and while the recent work tab is flashy, he'll need to get to an entirely different level to compete with this bunch.

Value: He may be the biggest price on the board, and whatever he goes off at will likely be an underlay.

12. MY BOY JACK (9-2-3-2, 32 Kentucky Derby points)

Best Beyer: 94

Trainer: Keith Desormeaux

Pedigree: Creative Cause – Gold N Shaft (Mineshaft)

Formulator Fact: Over the past five years, the Desormeaux brothers are 32 for 107 (30 percent) in dirt-route races at 10-1 or lower, with 78 in-the-money finishes (73 percent).

Outlook: Even with 32 points to his name, My Boy Jack may not have enough to make the Kentucky Derby field without a top-two finish in this event. His best race is certainly good enough to win, and the race should set up for a closer, but he's marooned on the far outside in a 12-horse field. Kent Desormeaux will need to negotiate a trip, which isn't an easy task for a one-run closer in a race with a short stretch. He can absolutely win this race, and he may be favored, but I don't think he's head and shoulders above this group.

Value: My guess is he'll go off at around his 5-2 morning line. If you think the class relief will help him, that's probably enough to entice you.

HOW I'D PLAY IT

I'll play Greyvitos to win and place and key him in exactas. If he's ready, I think he'll be tough, and we may get a fair price given the layoff and the 12-horse field. I respect My Boy Jack, and he'll be a defensive throw-in on multi-race tickets, but I'll hope to get the slightly bigger price home. If you think the race has the potential to collapse and want a big price on those multirace tickets, consider Zanesville, who's been improving and figures to come flying late.

THE BET

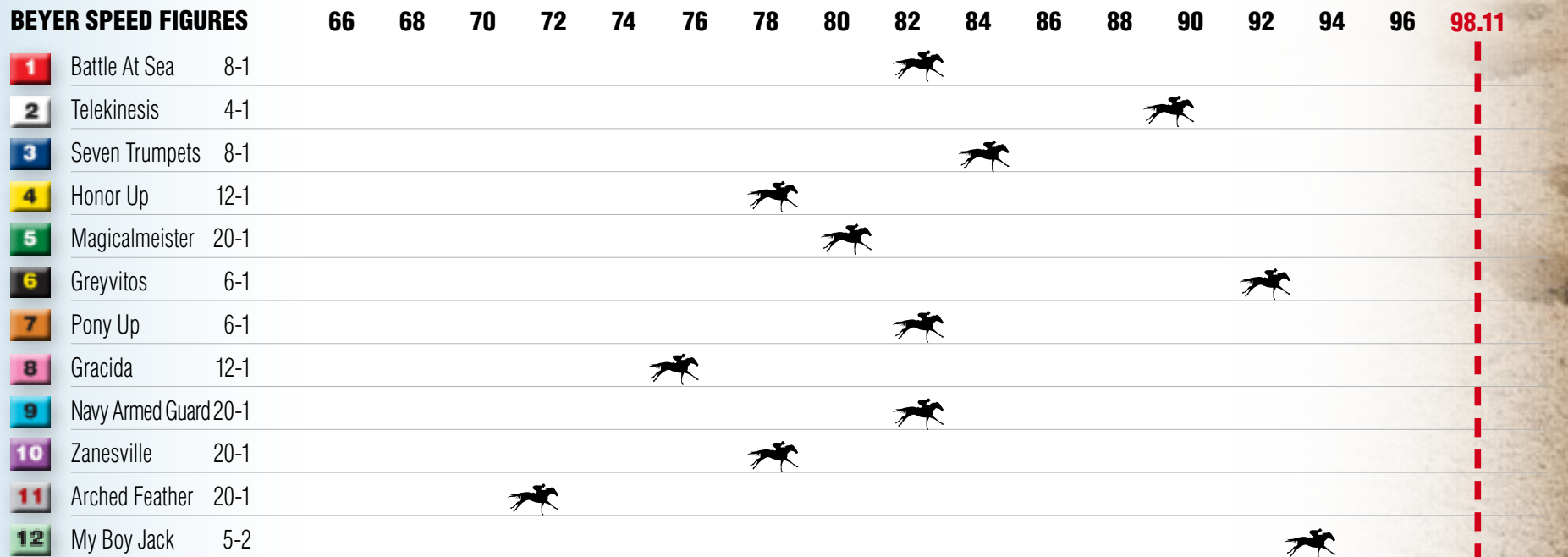
\$10 Win/Place: 6

\$4 Exacta Key Box: 6 w/1,2,10,12

DERBY COUNTDOWN

Lexington Beyer Chart

Career-best Beyer Speed Figures for the field



Track's morning line odds

FIVE-YEAR BEYER TREND: **91.20**

WINNERS 2013: Winning Cause, 89 2014: Mr Speaker, 90 2015: Divining Rod, 98 2016: Collected, 90 2017: Senior Investment, 89

AVERAGE
WINNING BEYER

98.11

Lexington 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 Lexington Stakes drew a healthy field of 12, and the TimeformUS Pace Projector thinks the pace will be hot. The three inside horses, Battle At Sea (#1), Telekinesis (#2), and Seven Trumpets (#3), have TimeformUS Running Styles of Leader or Speed. Five more in the field are listed as Tracker – preferring to sit just off the leaders. The pace also looks to be contested, with Battle At Sea, Telekinesis, and Gracida (#8) closely matched in TimeformUS Early Speed Ratings.

Upgrades: The TimeformUS Late Speed Rating for My Boy Jack (#12) is much the best in this field, and he should get plenty of pace in front of him. Zanesville (#10) is returning to dirt. He is improving and should get a nice setup in this one.

Downgrades: Battle At Sea is stepping way up in class for this one and has few options from the rail. Greyvitos (#6) is returning from an injury-induced four-month layoff and also likes to run near the front. This is a tough spot for a return.



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 Park	Magnum Moon	97	50	20	10	5
3/17/18	Jeff Ruby Steaks	1 1/8M	Turfway Park	Blended Citizen	83	20	8	4	2
3/24/18	Louisiana Derby	1 1/8M	Fair Grounds	Noble Indy	95	100	40	20	10
3/25/18	Sunland Derby	1 1/8M	Sunland Park	Runaway Ghost	85	50	20	10	5
3/31/18	UAE Derby	1 3/16M	Meydan	Mendelssohn	106	100	40	20	10
3/31/18	Florida Derby	1 1/8M	Gulfstream	Audible	99	100	40	20	10
4/7/18	Wood Memorial	1 1/8M	Aqueduct	Vino Rosso	98	100	40	20	10
4/7/18	Blue Grass	1 1/8M	Keeneland	Good Magic	95	100	40	20	10
4/7/18	Santa Anita Derby	1 1/8M	Santa Anita	Justify	107	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 4/13/18)

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	POINTS	NON-RESTRICTED STAKES EARNINGS
1.....	Good Magic.....	Chad Brown.....	134.....	\$1,838,400
2.....	Audible.....	Todd Pletcher.....	110.....	803,520
3.....	Noble Indy.....	Todd Pletcher.....	110.....	640,000
4.....	Vino Rosso.....	Todd Pletcher.....	107.....	572,500
5.....	Bolt d'Oro.....	Mick Ruis.....	104.....	980,000
6.....	Enticed.....	Kiaran McLaughlin.....	103.....	545,880
7.....	Mendelssohn.....	Aidan O'Brien.....	100.....	1,947,299
8.....	Justify.....	Bob Baffert.....	100.....	600,000
9.....	++Flameaway.....	Mark Casse.....	70.....	672,260
10.....	Bravazo.....	D. Wayne Lukas.....	54.....	359,913
11.....	Promises Fulfilled.....	Dale Romans.....	52.....	266,480
12.....	Magnum Moon.....	Todd Pletcher.....	50.....	540,000
13.....	++Runaway Ghost.....	Todd Fincher.....	50.....	520,310
14.....	Quip.....	Rodolphe Brisset.....	50.....	212,000
15.....	Free Drop Billy.....	Dale Romans.....	44.....	597,200
16.....	Lone Sailor.....	Tom Amoss.....	42.....	273,347
17.....	Hofburg.....	Bill Mott.....	40.....	192,000

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	POINTS	NON-RESTRICTED STAKES EARNINGS
18.....	Firenze Fire.....	Jason Servis.....	39.....	647,500
19.....	Solomini.....	Bob Baffert.....	34.....	616,000
20.....	My Boy Jack.....	Keith Desormeaux.....	32.....	502,000
21.....	Instilled Regard.....	Jerry Hollendorfer.....	29.....	196,000
22.....	Snapper Sinclair.....	Steven Asmussen.....	22.....	321,810
23.....	Combatant.....	Steven Asmussen.....	22.....	300,000
24.....	++Blended Citizen.....	Doug O'Neill.....	22.....	159,644
25.....	Reride.....	Steven Asmussen.....	20.....	298,000
26.....	Dream Baby Dream.....	Steven Asmussen.....	20.....	176,000
27.....	Restoring Hope.....	Bob Baffert.....	20.....	100,000
28.....	Old Time Revival.....	Kenneth Decker.....	20.....	100,000
29.....	Sporting Chance.....	D. Wayne Lukas.....	12.....	337,000
30.....	Givemeaminut.....	Dallas Stewart.....	12.....	196,000
31.....	Greyvitos.....	Adam Kitchingman.....	10.....	300,000
32.....	Pony Up.....	Todd Pletcher.....	8.....	81,580
33.....	Title Ready.....	Steve Asmussen.....	5.....	45,000
34.....	+City Plan.....	Eoin Harty.....	4.....	67,345

+ Not Triple Crown nominated ++ Late Triple Crown nominee