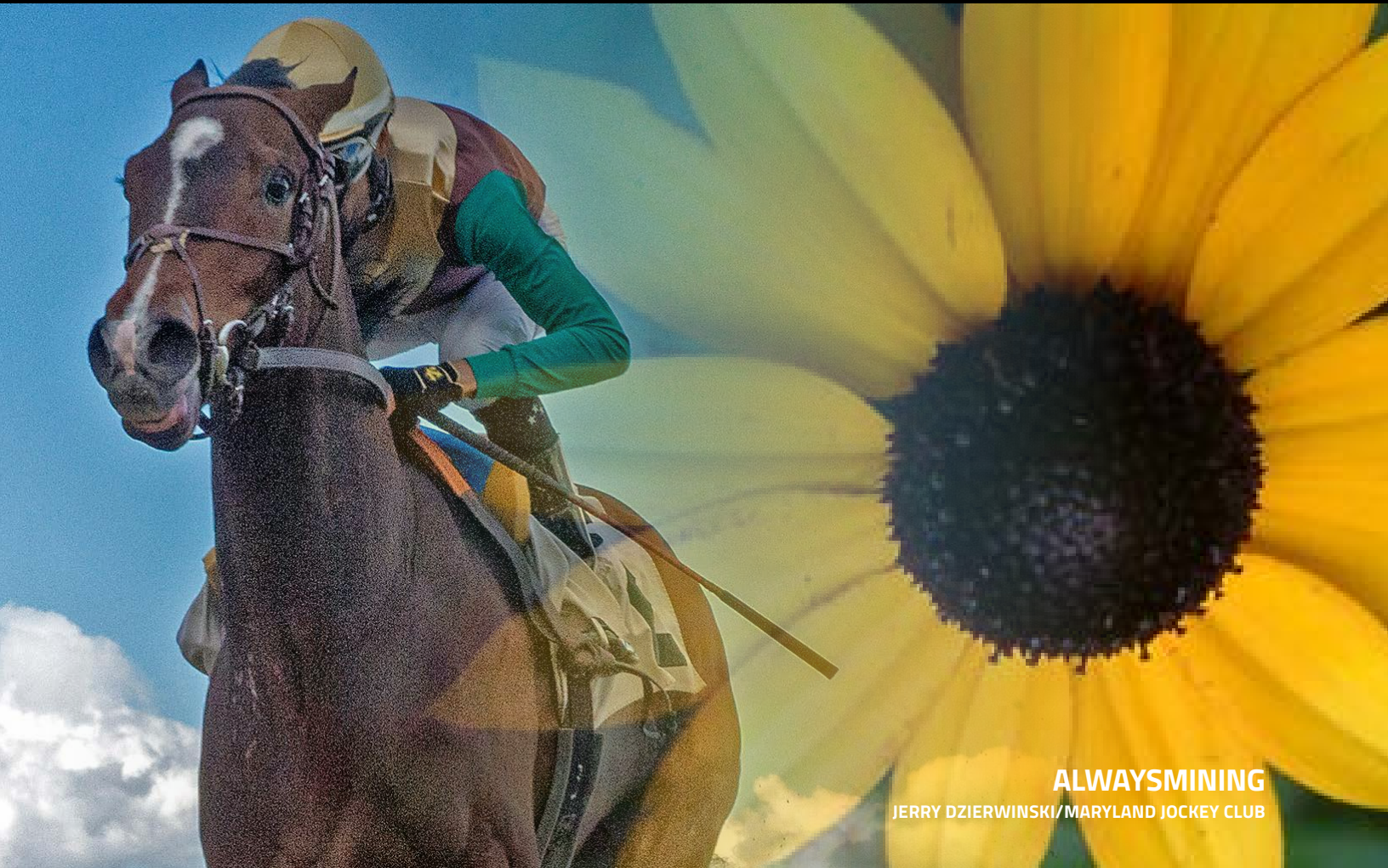




# PREAKNESS 2019

P L A Y E R ' S   G U I D E



**ALWAYS MINING**  
JERRY DZIERWINSKI/MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB

## **INSIDE**

CONTENDER PROFILES | PEDIGREE ANALYSIS | PAST PERFORMANCES  
GRADED HANDICAP | CARD ANALYSIS | SELECTIONS

# Derby pair stands out in field

## MIKE WATCHMAKER



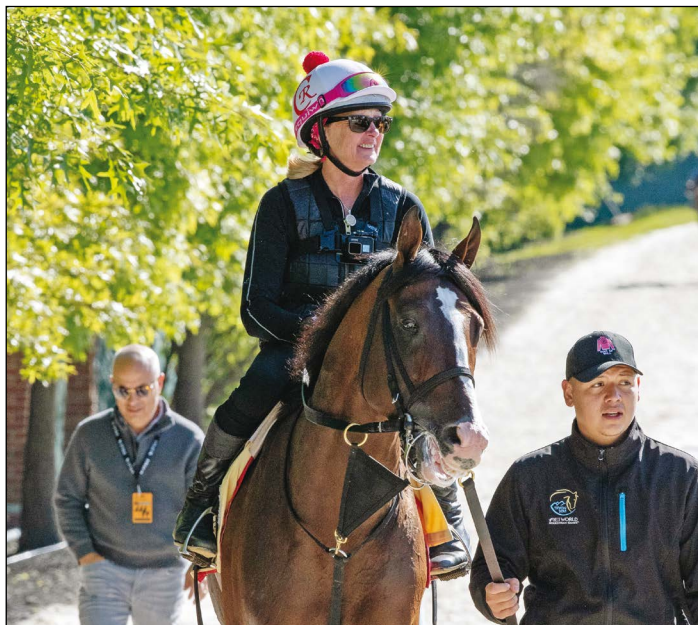
Only four of the 13 horses in Saturday's Preakness at Pimlico competed in the Kentucky Derby, and none of them was the Derby's first horse under the wire, or the one who was made the official winner.

I note this not to go off on how the Triple Crown needs repair, because it certainly does not. While some wring their hands over the nature of this year's Preakness and claim if there were more time between the three Triple Crown races we wouldn't see a Preakness as soft as this one, I say this all depends much more on the quality of each year's 3-year-old crop. Besides, with two Triple Crown winners since the good ol' days of 2015, including one all the way back to just last year, this sort of Triple Crown renovation talk should be subjected to a 25-year moratorium.

No, I note the fact that less than one-third of this Preakness field is composed of Derby participants because I feel it is interesting from a handicapping perspective.

There is a general belief among horseplayers and handicappers that the 3-year-olds who compete in the Kentucky Derby are simply better than those who don't. When you think about it, this makes a lot of sense.

In almost all instances, the reason why a 3-year-old does not run in the Derby but does compete in the Preakness has little to do with timing. Let's be real. A 3-year-old who is mobile enough to start in the Preakness just two weeks after the Derby was probably mobile enough to compete in the Derby. No, this is all about the lack of



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

### War of Will could improve off his troubled run in the Derby.

sufficient points to make the Derby field, which, to be blunt, is merely a euphemism for simply not being good enough to make the Derby cut.

That is the foundation for the belief that Derby contestants are a cut above their contemporaries. But like everything else in racing, this is not an immutable truth.

For example, only two years ago, Cloud Computing won the Preakness, and did not participate in the Kentucky Derby. Eight years before that, Rachel Alexandra bounded out of a Kentucky Oaks win to deny males in the Preakness. And three years before that, Bernardini won the Preakness after passing on the Derby.

Yet, despite these relatively recent exceptions, I do consider the belief that Derby participants are generally a notch above their peers to be well founded.

Most of the time, anyway. I mean, two of the four in this Preakness coming out of the Derby are horses I just cannot see winning.

Bodexpress is one. Sure, two starts back, Bodexpress was second around the track in the Florida Derby to Maximum Security, who came back to finish first in the Kentucky Derby. But the Florida Derby was a slow-paced, conveyor belt-like affair. It is more important that Bodexpress had already run up the white flag and was going to be soundly beaten when he was one of the three horses fouled by Maximum Security nearing the stretch of the Derby. And most importantly, Bodexpress is a maiden. He hasn't yet won a race of any sort.

The other Derby colt I can't make in this Preakness is Win Win Win. To me, Win Win Win is a prototypical closing sprinter. His Beyer Speed Figures in his last three starts (which were his first three attempts going two turns) fell by 10, 11, and 10 Beyer points from a big sprint win four starts back. Win Win Win did get some extra credit for rallying in the Blue Grass against the grain of a speed-favoring track. But

he was never a threat to win, and I saw no excuse for him in the Derby, in which he was 10th under the wire.

Of course, I find it even tougher to make many of the nine in this Preakness who didn't start in the Derby. Late entrant Everfast might be the most overmatched horse in the race. He is 0 for 9 since a desperate maiden win last summer at Ellis Park and was absolutely crushed in stakes in his last three starts at giant odds. Moreover, from a Beyer standpoint, Everfast is one of the two slowest horses here along with Market King, who lacks even a single race from his eight career starts that gives him a remote chance of contending.

Signalman isn't that much faster. He had no business getting nailed for second by Win Win Win in Blue Grass after a perfect trip, and he never ran a step in the Fountain of Youth in his other start this year, despite a fantastically favorable pace setup.

Laughing Fox and Warrior's Charge both hail from top outfits (Steve Asmussen and Brad Cox, respectively) and come off nice wins at Oaklawn. But Laughing Fox was badly beaten the two times he ran against some of the better members of this 3-year-old crop, and Warrior's Charge is unlikely to pull the same sort of comfy trips he's had of late beating much weaker company.

Speaking of sweet trips, Alwaysmining, the big local hope in this Preakness, has had a string of them in soft, short-field races. He has won six straight and hasn't had to break a sweat in hardly any of them. But I suspect he's in for a big wake-up call Saturday.

On the other hand, Another-twistafate didn't have the most ideal of trips finishing second in the Lexington and Sunland

Derby since moving back to dirt. Still, the best we've seen of him so far would at best get him a minor share.

Owendale and Bourbon War are the remaining two in this Preakness who did not compete in the Derby, and I think each has a shot. Owendale ran by far the best race of his life winning the Lexington most recently over Anothertwistafate, making good on an explosive five-wide move on the far turn. That said, Owendale was nicely set up pace-wise in the Lexington, and now must go an additional furlong against stronger company.

Bourbon War is dangerous. He was severely compromised by the slow pace when fourth in the Florida Derby, and he has been very close to Code of Honor, who was third under the line in the Derby, albeit with a very good trip. My concern with Bourbon War is when he was a rapidly gaining second in the

Fountain of Youth two starts back, he capitalized on a pace meltdown of historic proportions, the likes of which he is unlikely to see Saturday, or maybe ever again.

That leaves Improbable and War of Will, the other two in this Preakness who ran in the Derby. And I do believe they are a cut above this field.

Improbable was my pick in the Derby, and though he finished worse than second for the first time in his six-race career that day, his fifth-place finish was an okay effort. He didn't have the trouble in the Derby that others had, but he never seemed entirely comfortable, either.

However, Improbable's game second to the brutally unlucky Omaha Beach two starts back in the Arkansas Derby is the best race anyone in this Preakness has ever run. And despite a stellar wet-track pedigree (he is by City Zip, from an A.P. Indy

mare), I sense Improbable will be well served by getting away from the sloppy tracks he's caught in his last two starts and getting back on fast footing this time.

That said, War of Will is my Preakness pick.

I realize that might surprise a few folks because no one was a bigger War of Will skeptic than yours truly when he was winning the Lecomte and Risen Star early this year. My book on him then was, despite easy, favorable trips in those races, War of Will just didn't run all that fast in winning them, and he should have.

But War of Will opened my eyes in the Derby. He was full of run all the way to the point when Maximum Security veered out and almost dropped him, and he demonstrated courage to fight on for a time after that severe trouble.

As it was, War of Will wound up being beaten only two

lengths by the Derby's third-place finisher, and to say that Maximum Security gave him at least two lengths worth of trouble would be a massive understatement.

What is even more impressive, War of Will ran as well as he did in the Derby without a truly representative outing in 11 weeks. You can't count his start in the Louisiana Derby in late March as representative, because it wasn't. Don't forget, War of Will sustained a right hind injury in the initial stages of that one. Not only does that make his Louisiana Derby a total throw-out, it also makes you wonder what benefit, if any, he could have possibly gained out of that start.

In that sense alone, War of Will has a greater right than anyone in this Preakness to take a significant step forward Saturday. But that, in combination with a fair trip, might well be all he needs.







10 Everfast

Own: Calumet Farm
50-1 Black, Gold Chevrons, Gold Chevrons On



B. c. 3 (Feb) KEEJAN17 \$47,000
Sire: Take Charge Indy (A.P. Indy)
Dam: Awesome Surprise (Awesome Again)
Tr: Romans Dale(-) 2019:(123 10 .08)



L 126

Table with 2 columns: Life and D.Fst, containing various race statistics for Everfast.

TimeformUS Pace: Early 111 Late 85
4Mar1940CD fst 1 C 221 :452 1:102 1:351 PDayMile-G3
30Mar1944GP fst 1 1/8 484 1:124 1:361 1:484 FlaDerby-G1

74 11/13 74 5/13 66 5/13 57 5/10 51 5/10 Albarado R J
79 5/11 73 3/13 95 10/13 91 5/13 Landeros C
65 9/11 71 10/12 109 9/12 81 8/13 Landeros C

118 66.00 83-05 MrMoney118 1/2 HogCreekHustl118 2/3 DrmMkr118 1/2 Vied 4w, between, even
L122 90.60 75-12 MximumScurty122 3/4 Bodxprss122 3/4 CodofHonor122 3/4 Inside, done before 6f
L116 63.60 68-19 Code of Honor116 3/4 Bourbon War116 2/3 Vekoma122 2/3 5wd 1st, 3w/4, no kick

WORKS: Apr27CD 5f fst:1:03 1/3 B 36/43 Mar23 GP 5f fst:1:04 1/4 B 20/40 Feb23 GP 5f fst:1:02 2/4 B 30/44

TRAINER: Dir(351 .15 \$1.44) Routes(298 .13 \$1.54) GrdStk(73 .10 \$1.38)

J/T 2018-19 (.14 \$2.51)

11 Laughing Fox

Own: Alex & JoAnn Lieblong
20-1 Royal Blue, Black Bars On White Sleeves



Ch. c. 3 (May) OBSMAR18 \$375,000
Sire: Union Rags (Dixie Union) \$60,000
Dam: Saskawea (Stormy Atlantic)
Tr: Asmussen Steven M(-) 2019:(761 154 .20)



L 126

Table with 2 columns: Life and D.Fst, containing various race statistics for Laughing Fox.

TimeformUS Pace: Early 89 Late 115
4May19410P fst 1 1/8 464 1:111 1:371 1:493 OPInvntNB300k
13Apr19410P sly 1/8 C 472 1:122 1:372 1:494 ArkDerby-G1
16Mar19400P fst 1 1/8 232 :471 1:114 1:422 Rebel-G2

91 10/11 88 8/9 97 3/3 1nk Vazquez R A
89 5/11 110 11/11 96 3/4 45 47 3/4 Santana R Jr
77 2/10 85 3/8 97 4/6 610 71 2/3 Santana R Jr

L123 4.00 93-14 Laughing Fox123 3/4 Night Ops123 3/4 Proverb123 3/4 4wd advance, prevailed
L118 27.10 84-19 Omaha Beach122 1/2 Improbable122 2/3 Country House118 1/2 Angld3w str, mild bid
L119 9.20 80-09 OmahaBeach118 1/2 GameWinner118 3/4 MarketKing117 1/2 Pinchdst, no rally btw

WORKS: May13CD 4f fst:5:13 B 59/69 May10P 3f sly:3:38 B 2/5 Apr24OP 5f fst:5:94 B 1/19 Apr8OP 4f my:4:81 B 1/22 Apr10P 5f fst:1:00 3/4 B 4/18 Mar25OP 4f fst:5:2 B 15/19

TRAINER: WonLastStart(521 .23 \$1.65) Dir(2139 .22 \$1.57) Routes(1177 .21 \$1.53) GrdStk(177 .15 \$1.45)

J/T 2018-19(P10M .40 \$2.10) J/T 2018-19(808 .23 \$1.73)

12 Anothertwistafate

Own: Peter Redekop B C Ltd
6-1 Fuchsia, Black Rrs, Black Rrs On



Dk. b or br c. 3 (Apr) OBSOPN18 \$360,000
Sire: Scat Daddy (Johannesburg) \$30,000
Dam: Imprecation (First Defence)
Tr: Wright Blaine(-) 2019:(135 22 .16)



L 126

Table with 2 columns: Life and D.Fst, containing various race statistics for Anothertwistafate.

TimeformUS Pace: Early 112 Late 80
13Apr19-9Kee fst 1 1/8 241 :481 1:124 1:44 Lexingtng-G3
24Mar1941Sun fst 1 1/8 453 1:093 1:343 1:464 SunDrby-G3
16Feb19-7GG fst 1 1/8 49 1:133 1:381 1:501 EICamRIDL 101k

95 4/10 31 3/13 2 41 1/2 22 2 1/2 Castellano J J
94 2/9 20 3 1/3 4 1/3 3 1/3 2nk Hernandez J J
94 4/11 11 1/2 1 1/2 16 17 Hernandez J J

L120f \*1.40 84-14 Owendale118 1/2 Anothertwistafate120 1/2 Sueno118 5/8 Bthrd early, boxed in
L122 3.50 102-03 CttingHmor122 2/3 Anothrtwstft122 5/8 MchoGst122 1/2 Covered up, 4w bid, miss
L122 \*1.20 97-15 Anothertwistafate122 1/2 Kingly122 1/2 More Ice122 1/2 Set pace, clear, handily

WORKS: May11 GG 4f fst:1:14 1/8 H 1/8 May4 GG 5f fst:1:04 1/4 H 11/51 Apr4 Sun 4f fst:4:64 B 1/7 Mar17 GG 6f fst:1:14 H 2/11 Mar10 GG 5f fst:1:01 H 4/67 Mar2 GG 4f fst:4:92 H 14/55

TRAINER: 31-60Days(137 .18 \$1.09) Dir(227 25 \$1.71) Routes(154 20 \$1.63) GrdStk(8 .00 \$0.00)

13 Win Win Win

Own: Live Oak Plantation
15-1 White, Red Dots, Black Sleeves, Red Cap



Dk. b or br c. 3 (Mar)
Sire: Hat Trick\*Jpn (Sunday Silence)
Dam: Miss Smarty Pants (Smarty Jones)
Tr: Trombetta Michael J(6 0 0 2 .00) 2019:(173 27 .16)



L 126

Table with 2 columns: Life and D.Fst, containing various race statistics for Win Win Win.

TimeformUS Pace: Early 82 Late 111
4May1942CD sly 1/8 463 1:122 1:382 2:034 KyDerby-G1
Placed 9th through disqualification
6Apr1940Kee fst 1 1/8 47 1:112 1:372 1:504 BlueGras-G2

89 12/19 17 14/17 11 15 13 10 10 Pimentel J
88 8/14 13 11 11 8 6 5 2 2 3/4 Ortiz I Jr
89 7/11 7 10 7 11 6 7 3 3 3 3/4 Ortiz I Jr

L126 16.80 79-20 MxmmScrty126 1/2 ContryHos126 3/4 CodofHonor126 3/4 4wd early, no menace
L123 3.30 80-17 Vekoma123 3/4 Win Win Win123 3/4 Signalman123 3/4 Bmpd st, steadied 5/16
L117 \*1.40 96-02 Tacitus117 1/2 Outshine118 1/2 Win Win Win117 1/2 5w into lane, rallied

WORKS: Apr28CD 4f fst:4:73 B 4/76 Apr21 Fai tr t 4f 5f fst:1:01 B 3/10 Mar30 Fai tr t 4f 5f fst:1:01 B 6/75 Mar23 Fai tr t 4f 4f fst:4:8 B 1/26 Feb24 Tam 5f fst:5:91 Bg 1/33

TRAINER: 1stBlnk(42 .14 \$2.20) BlnkOn(44 .14 \$2.10) Dir(444 .16 \$1.32) Routes(300 .15 \$1.66) GrdStk(10 .00 \$0.00)

J/T 2018-19(P11M .17 \$0.95) J/T 2018-19(224 .23 \$1.83)

# War of Will

4-1

**Breeder:** Flaxman Holdings Ltd.

**Trainer:** Mark Casse

**Owner:** Gary Barber

**Jockey:** Tyler Gaffalione

**Record:** 9-3-1-1

**STRENGTHS:** Lost in the Kentucky Derby controversy was how well War of Will ran in his first start since the Louisiana Derby, a race in which he pulled a muscle and was unable to perform at his best. Trained by Mark Casse, this son of War Front has a versatile running style that should allow jockey Tyler Gaffalione to position him wherever he sees fit, whether that be outright on the lead or sitting just off the pace and getting first run on the closers. Making his second start since the Louisiana Derby (which could be viewed as a non-effort), War of Will should be expected to take a step forward.

**WEAKNESSES:** War of Will will vie for favoritism in the Preakness, but it's not as if he has any real edge on this field from a speed-figure standpoint. A career-best Beyer of 95 is solid and makes him a serious player, but given the price he's likely to go off at, it could be argued that others will be more enticing.

**BETTING VALUE:** Depending on how you view War of Will, arguments can be made that he'll offer value in the Preakness given the full field and the intriguing fresh faces that will run, or it could be argued that in a field that seemingly lacks a standout, taking a short price on him is ill-advised. Regardless of what side of the argument you land on, War of Will is likely to be one of the favorites in this year's Preakness, potentially going off at odds in the 3-1 or 4-1 range.

— Matt Bernier

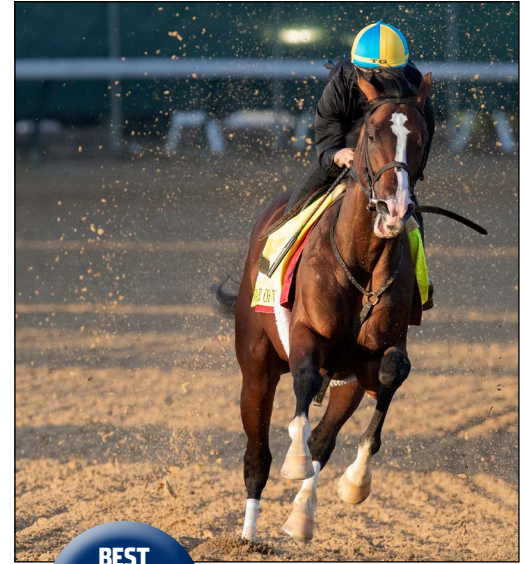


**SIRE:** War Front was a Grade 2-winning sprinter on dirt but has become a popular international sire for his turf prowess, with Group 1 winners including Air Force Blue, Brave Anna, Roly Poly, and U S Navy Flag, most at shorter distances. However, his runners have shown dirt ability or versatility. Declaration of War was a multiple Group 1 winner in Europe, then finished third in the Breeders' Cup Classic in his only start on dirt. The Factor won the Grade 2 Rebel Stakes and later was a Grade 1-winning dirt sprinter, while Departing was a multiple graded-winning millionaire.

**DAM:** Visions of Clarity, a stakes winner at a mile, is the dam of Pathfork, a Group 1 winner at seven furlongs, and the long-winded stakes winner Tacticus, who won at up to 1 3/4 miles. Visions of Clarity is a half-sister to Irish classic winner and Breeders' Cup Mile winner Spinning World. Their grandam is the great broodmare Aviance, the pivot point for Grade/Group 1 winners Aldebaran, Chimes of Freedom, Denon, and Good Journey. This is the family of several other legendary broodmares, including Better Than Honour, the dam of a pair of Belmont Stakes winners.

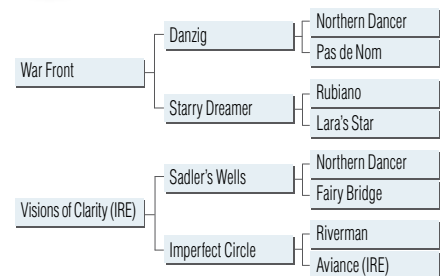
**OUTLOOK:** War of Will has become that relatively rare dirt runner by War Front, despite an additional turf influence from Visions of Clarity. War Front's progeny show a tendency to excel in one-turn races, but a hefty dose of stamina from War of Will's female family has allowed him to excel thus far. After his trouble in the Kentucky Derby, War of Will did flatten out slightly in the final sixteenth and, of course, cuts back a sixteenth here.

— Nicole Russo



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

BEST  
BEYER  
95



Bay colt  
Foaled April 17, 2016,  
in Kentucky





# Bourbon War

# 12-1

**Breeder:** Conquest Stables, LLC  
**Trainer:** Mark Hennig  
**Owner:** Bourbon Lane Stable and Lake Star Stable  
**Jockey:** Irad Ortiz Jr.  
**Record:** 5-2-1-0



**STRENGTHS:** His company lines leap out. This winter in Florida, he defeated eventual Sunland Derby winner Cutting Humor in an allowance race, followed that with a second to Code of Honor in the Fountain of Youth, and then was fourth in the Grade 1 Florida Derby behind Maximum Security, Bodexpress, and Code of Honor. A couple of weeks ago, Florida horses sparked in the Kentucky Derby, with Maximum Security first past the post, only to be disqualified for interference, and Code of Honor elevated from third to second in the Derby on that same disqualification. Given how close this colt was to Code of Honor – running three-quarters of a length behind him in both the Fountain of Youth and Florida Derby – he seems a worthy addition to the Triple Crown trail.

**WEAKNESSES:** With a career-best Beyer Speed Figure of 93, posted in his Fountain of Youth runner-up finish, others are faster on figures, led by morning-line favorite Improbable, who has run four straight Beyers in the 95 to 99 range. This horse also has a closing style that suggests he is pace dependent. He had pace in front of him in the Fountain of Youth, but did not benefit from such fractions in a slow-paced Florida Derby, leaving his late run ineffective.

**BETTING VALUE:** Derby alumni Improbable and War of Will figure to draw the bulk of the betting dollars in the Preakness, though he should be one of the more fancied newcomers. Expect odds of approximately 8-1.  
**– Byron King**

**SIRE:** Perennial leading sire Tapit's ability to produce stamina is not in doubt. He is the sire of Belmont Stakes winners Tonalist (2014), Creator (2016), and Tapwrit (2017) as well as runner-up Frosted (2015) and third-place finisher Lani (2016) in that oldest and longest American classic. Tapit also is the sire of Eclipse Award champions Hansen, Stardom Bound, and Unique Bella, all Grade 1 winners around two turns.

**DAM:** Bourbon War is the first foal out of My Conquestadory, who trended toward synthetic and turf surfaces, winning the Grade 1 Alcibiades Stakes and Grade 2 Summer Stakes as a juvenile and finishing third in the Grade 1 Del Mar Oaks as a 3-year-old. My Conquestadory, whose best performances came around two turns, is out of the Malibu Moon mare Golden Artemis, who was stakes-placed sprinting as a juvenile. This is the extended family of millionaire sprinter Kelly Kip.

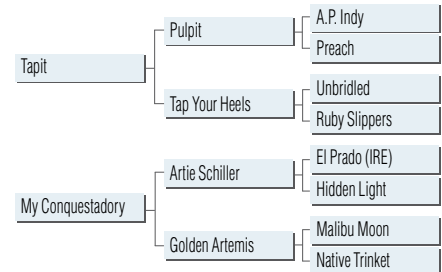
**OUTLOOK:** Bourbon War's immediate family says that he should be able to run a route of ground. However, Tapit is a multipurpose sire, and the eclectic nature of this female family should give this colt many options in the future.

**– Nicole Russo**



LAUREN KING/COGLIANESE PHOTOS

**BEST  
BEYER  
93**



Bay colt  
 Foaled Feb. 23, 2016,  
 in Kentucky

# Warrior's Charge

# 12-1

**Breeder:** Al Shaqab Racing  
**Trainer:** Brad Cox  
**Owner:** Ten Strike Racing and Madaket Stables LLC  
**Jockey:** Javier Castellano  
**Record:** 5-2-0-3



**STRENGTHS:** Unstoppable in his last two since adopting front-running tactics and is in career-best form. He settled nicely after the first quarter last time, then reeled off 24-second splits that left them gasping. Firmly in control, he was geared down for the final sixteenth. Earned a 97 Beyer Speed Figure for his last race, and that would put him squarely in the mix. Only one other Preakness entrant, stablemate Owendale, has a better last-race Beyer (98). His connections are showing a tremendous amount of confidence by supplementing at a cost of \$150,000. Trainer Brad Cox is one of the bright young lights in the training game. Over the past 90 days, the barn is 66 for 219 (30 percent winners) with a \$2.10 return on investment.

**WEAKNESSES:** This will be the acid test in terms of class and pace, as the Preakness represents his first stakes start. With Alwaysmining and Bodexpress entered, there is a chance that Warrior's Charge will have to go faster earlier than ever before. It will be interesting to see if he can carry his speed this extra distance.

**BETTING VALUE:** Warrior's Charge is sharp and has the speed to obtain a forward position. A price of 6-1 seems fair. He looms a win and exotics contender.

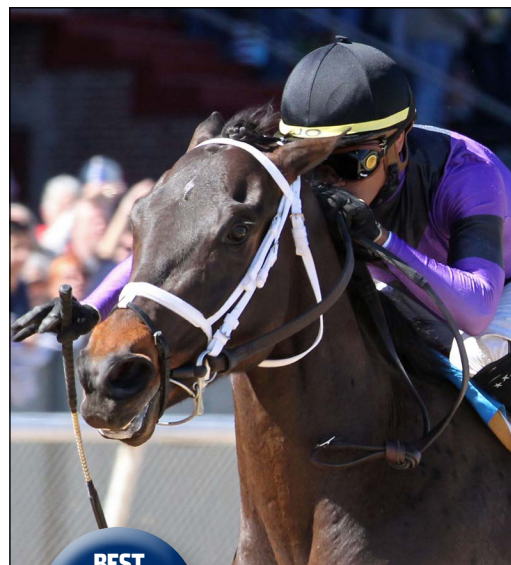
— Dan Illman

**SIRE:** Munnings, by champion sprinter Speightstown, won the Woody Stephens Stakes, Tom Fool Handicap, and Gulfstream Park Sprint Championship, all Grade 2 sprints. He did finish third in the Grade 1 Haskell Invitational around two turns behind champions Rachel Alexandra and Summer Bird, and two of his best runners have gone longer. I'm a Chatterbox was a multiple Grade 1 winner around two turns, and millionaire Om, although second in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, has won four graded stakes at a mile or longer.

**DAM:** Warrior's Charge is the first runner for Battling Brook, whose only win came in a maiden-claiming race going 6 1/2 furlongs at Hastings. The only Grade/Group 1 performer under the first three dams is Liquidity, who finished second in the 2006 Del Mar Futurity.

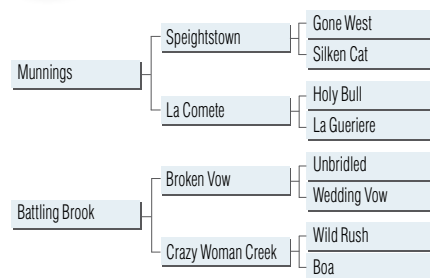
**OUTLOOK:** This is a light pedigree, and at a glance, it is very much speed-oriented. However, Munnings has proven that his runners can stretch out at times.

— Nicole Russo



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

**BEST  
BEYER  
97**



Dark bay colt  
 Foaled Feb. 22, 2016,  
 in Florida

# Improbable

5-2

**Trainer:** Bob Baffert

**Owner:** WinStar Farm LLC, China Horse Club International Ltd., and Starlight Racing

**Jockey:** Irad Ortiz Jr.

**Record:** 6-3-2-0

**Breeder:** St. George's Farm & G. Watts Humphrey Jr.



**STRENGTHS:** He owns two running lines that are simply better than anything anyone else in this Preakness field can counter with. His victory last December in the Los Alamitos Futurity was powerful, especially considering the way he finished. In a blink, he put big distance between himself and the balance of that field. And in the Arkansas Derby, he ran Omaha Beach to one length while finishing almost six lengths ahead of official Kentucky Derby winner Country House, despite acting up before the start in a failed experiment with blinkers on. No one in this Preakness has ever run as well as he did in that event. He is consistent, his fifth-place finish in the Kentucky Derby (he was moved up to fourth on disqualification) was the first time he finished worse than second in six career starts. And even though he didn't have the trouble others in the Derby had, he still performed respectably.

**WEAKNESSES:** As sharp as he was in the Arkansas Derby, and even though he was just caught in the first division of the Rebel in his 3-year-old debut, he is still looking for his first win this year. He seems to be searching for his most effective running style. He has run well coming from off the pace, but he also has positional speed and might do better employing more of that.

**BETTING VALUE:** He was the surprising lukewarm favorite in the Derby, but definitely figures to be favorite in this depleted Preakness. Odds shorter than 5-2 would be tough to take, even if he is the most likely winner.

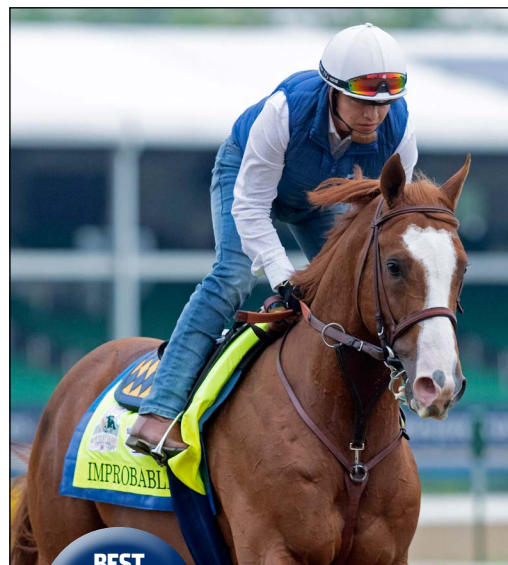
— Mike Watchmaker

**SIRE:** City Zip won eight stakes, highlighted by a dead heat in the Hopeful Stakes at seven furlongs. His eclectic stud career has been highlighted by both sprinters and routers on a variety of surfaces. He is the sire of Eclipse Award champion Dayatthespa and Canadian Horse of the Year Catch a Glimpse, who turned in virtuoso two-turn performances in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf and BC Juvenile Fillies Turf, respectively, to secure championships. Catch a Glimpse went on to capture the Belmont Oaks at 1 1/4 miles. His other top runners include Breeders' Cup winners Work All Week, Finest City, and Bulletin; Collected, who won the Pacific Classic at 1 1/4 miles and finished second in the Breeders' Cup Classic; and Grade 1-winning sprinters Bustin Stones and Palace.

**DAM:** Rare Event won on both dirt and turf, all at a mile or longer. Her first two dams, stakes winners Our Rite of Spring and Turkish Tryst, also scored their wins at a mile or longer, and Turkish Tryst won at 1 1/2 miles. Our Rite of Spring is a half-sister to Hard Spun, a Grade 1 winner at seven furlongs who also placed in two classics and won multiple graded stakes around two turns. This is the extended female family of 1974 Preakness and Belmont winner and champion Little Current.

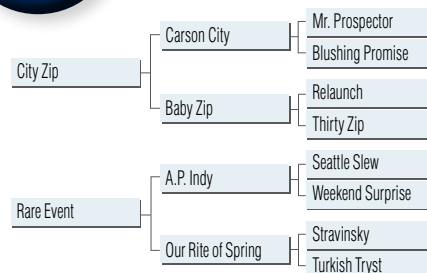
**OUTLOOK:** A popular assumption that City Zip cannot sire a distance horse is proved erroneous by his turf routers. Rare Event, by stamina influence A.P. Indy and from a classic female family, provides an additional boost.

— Nicole Russo



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

BEST  
BEVER  
99



Chestnut colt  
Foaled Feb. 11, 2016,  
in Kentucky



# Owendale

**Breeder:** Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings, LLC

**Trainer:** Brad Cox

**Owner:** Rupp Racing

**Jockey:** Florent Geroux

**Record:** 8-3-1-1

**STRENGTHS:** In winning the Grade 3 Lexington, he posted a 98 Beyer Speed Figure, a number that rates him as one of the fastest horses in the Preakness field. He also managed that figure despite a wide trip, covering 46 more feet than runner-up Anothertwistafate, though the latter appeared compromised by traffic. That 98 Beyer was his second quick race of the year. He also had posted a 91 in winning an allowance race Jan. 17 at Fair Grounds. Though his win in the Lexington came from well off the pace, this colt also has shown that he can adapt and sit close to the leaders, if necessary. It was in that manner that he scored Jan. 17, sitting in third – 1 1/2 lengths off the leader after a half-mile – before advancing.

**WEAKNESSES:** Though he defeated a legitimate foe in Anothertwistafate in the Lexington, an earlier stakes start did not inspire. Racing in the Feb. 16 Risen Star at Fair Grounds, he was soundly beaten by War of Will, the expected second favorite in the Preakness behind Improbable, and finished behind seven horses altogether in running eighth, beaten 10 lengths. That afternoon he seemed to bounce after what had been a breakthrough effort in an earlier allowance win in New Orleans. That raises a concern that he could be at risk for regression again after a lifetime fastest race in the Lexington.

**BETTING VALUE:** Those that believe this colt is ready for this step should be offered a price. His odds figure to fall around 10-1 on the jump into Grade 1 company.

– **Byron King**

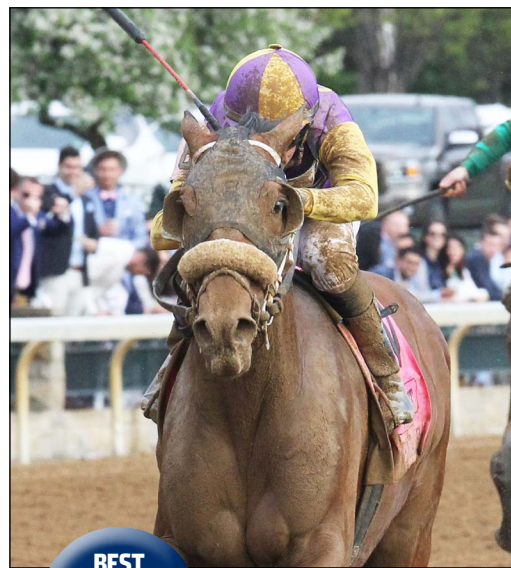


**SIRE:** Into Mischief has developed into a perennial leading juvenile sire. His best finish in the American classics came last year, when Audible checked in third behind champions Justify and Good Magic in the Kentucky Derby. Into Mischief's leading earner is two-time Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile winner Goldencents, who sired this year's Louisiana Derby winner, By My Standards, in his first crop.

**DAM:** The unraced Aspen Light is the dam of four winners from five starters, with all of those winning at a mile or longer. Aspen Light is a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Great Hunter, and this is the extended family of champion Stellar Wind and multiple Grade 1 winner Mor Spirit. Bernardini is the broodmare sire of this year's Kentucky Oaks winner, Serengeti Empress.

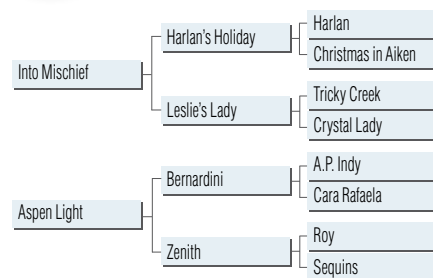
**OUTLOOK:** Into Mischief has sired both sprinters and routers, but with an outstanding female family backing him up, Owendale tends toward the latter.

– **Nicole Russo**



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

**BEST  
BEYER  
98**



Bay colt  
Foaled Feb. 23, 2016,  
in Kentucky

# Market King

# 12-1

**Breeder:** Flaxman Holdings Limited  
**Trainer:** D. Wayne Lukas  
**Owner:** Robert C. Baker and William L. Mack  
**Jockey:** Jon Court  
**Record:** 8-1-1-2



**STRENGTHS:** His trainer is one of Thoroughbred racing's living legends. Not only has D. Wayne Lukas won the Preakness six times, but his Bravazo finished a close second last year behind eventual Triple Crown champion Justify. Lukas will take shots with longer-priced chances, and he is showing confidence in Market King. He was hardly embarrassed when third behind Omaha Beach and Game Winner in the faster division of the Rebel, although he never threatened the top two. In that race, he finished ahead of Laughing Fox.

**WEAKNESSES:** Market King's career-best Beyer Speed Figure of 83 pales in comparison to those of the main contenders, especially when you consider that Improbable's lowest Beyer is an 85. While third in the Rebel, he was one-paced after a half-mile and couldn't finish with two of the better 3-year-olds. After finishing a dull 11th in the Blue Grass, Market King was scheduled to race in the Pat Day Mile on the Kentucky Derby undercard. He was scratched during the post parade and placed on the veterinarian's list. It can be argued that his Preakness preparation is less than ideal. He has yet to gain ground from the stretch to the wire in any of his races and is winless from seven starts on dry surfaces.

**BETTING VALUE:** Market King was 48-1 in the Rebel and 33-1 for the Blue Grass. He figures to go off between 30-1 and 50-1 in the Preakness and is hard to recommend.

— Dan Illman

**SIRE:** Into Mischief also is represented in this Preakness by Lexington Stakes winner Owendale. The stallion is a perennial leading juvenile sire. His best finish in the American classics to date came last year, when Audible checked in a creditable third behind champions Justify and Good Magic in the Kentucky Derby. Into Mischief's leading earner is two-time Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile winner Goldencents, who has this year's Louisiana Derby winner, By My Standards, in his first crop.

**DAM:** Divine Presence, a daughter of leading broodmare sire and stamina source A.P. Indy, has produced one other winner, El Cap, who won at a mile in England. The mare is out of Divine Proportions, a two-time European champion who won the French Oaks and French 1000 Guineas, plus three other Group 1 events. Divine Proportions is a half-sister to Group 1 winner Whipper, and this is the extended family of English Horse of the Year and Epsom Derby winner Shirley Heights.

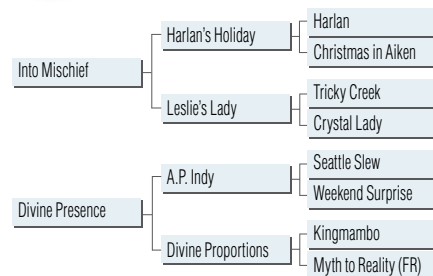
**OUTLOOK:** Market King comes from an outstanding female family, although that family has had most of its success on turf in Europe. The colt has been well beaten in his graded stakes tries on dirt to date.

— Nicole Russo



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

BEST  
BEYER  
83



Bay colt  
 Foaled Feb. 9, 2016,  
 in Kentucky

# Alwaysmining

8-1

**Breeder:** Avla Pitts  
**Trainer:** Kelly Rubley  
**Owner:** Runnymede Racing LLC  
**Jockey:** Daniel Centeno  
**Record:** 12-7-0-1



**STRENGTHS:** This local hopeful has apparently forgotten how to lose. He has won six straight, the last five stakes, all decisively. In fact, his win margins have only increased as he has gone longer distances. A 1 1/2-length victory going seven furlongs four starts back grew to a more than four-length win at a mile three back, increased to a near seven-length score in his first attempt going as far as 1 1/16 miles two starts back, and ballooned to an

11 1/2-length romp at 1 1/8 miles last time out. He also demonstrated in his runaway Federico Tesio victory most recently that he does not require control of the pace to be effective. He willingly rated off the early lead before sprinting away.

**WEAKNESSES:** Although Win Win Win and Gray Magician were two of his victims in his current win streak, he has yet to face, let alone beat, one of the better 3-year-olds. He has enjoyed easy trips in short fields lately, particularly in terms of pace. The paces in his three recent wins going longer were soft. All seven of his career wins came at Laurel Park. Only three of his starts came at other tracks, and they were the first three starts of his career. Nevertheless, he has yet to demonstrate that he can be as effective on a surface other than Laurel's main track.

**BETTING VALUE:** He is stepping way up, even in a year when the Preakness is not coming up that tough. Yet, as the local horse with flashy running lines, he is likely to be a shorter price than he really should be. For believers only.

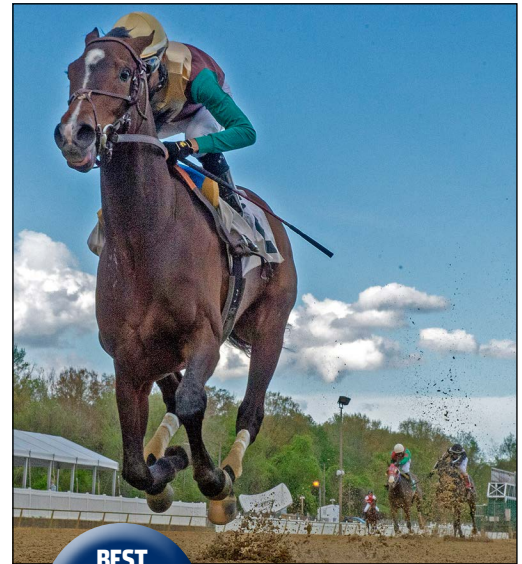
— Mike Watchmaker

**SIRE:** Stay Thirsty won the Travers Stakes at 1 1/4 miles, but also was a Grade 1-placed juvenile at seven furlongs and was a Grade 1-winning miler later in his career, taking the Cigar Mile over champion Groupie Doll. His best runners include Mind Control, winner of last year's Grade 1 Hopeful Stakes at seven furlongs, and Coal Front, who won this year's Group 2 Godolphin Mile.

**DAM:** What Will Be won at up to 1 1/8 miles, and her three winners in the United States have all won at a mile or longer. This is the extended family of a pair of Eclipse Award-winning sprinters in Benny the Bull and Dr. Patches, as well as a Canadian champion juvenile, Blue Finn. This also is the extended family of 2000 Belmont Stakes winner Commendable, Metropolitan Handicap winners Fappiano and Honour and Glory, NYRA Mile winner Quiet American, and Grade/Group 1 winners Clabber Girl, Dare and Go, Ogygian, Shotgun Gulch, Torrential, and Who's for Dinner.

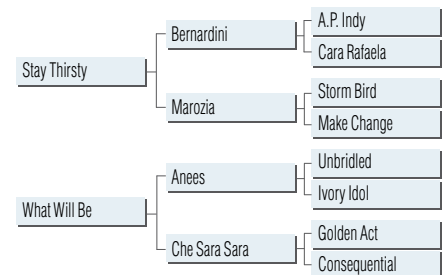
**OUTLOOK:** Maryland-bred Alwaysmining has thus far been able to stretch his speed as he has continued to run at longer distances. However, the presence of so many top-level milers on both the top and bottom of his pedigree raises some concern as he attempts to go 1 3/16 miles.

— Nicole Russo



**BEST  
BEYER  
96**

JERRY DZIERWINSKI/MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB



*Dark bay gelding  
Foaled March 10, 2016,  
in Maryland*

# Signalman

# 30-1

**Breeder:** Monticule

**Trainer:** Ken McPeck

**Owner:** Tommie M. Lewis, Steve Crabtree, Dean Demaree, David Bernsen, and Jim Chambers

**Jockey:** Brian Hernandez Jr.

**Record:** 7-2-2-2



**STRENGTHS:** He has finished off the board only once in seven career outings, all while making his last five starts in two Grade 1 events and three Grade 2 races. His big victory came in the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes last fall in which he beat 13 opponents, but he arguably ran better just before that when third of 13 to champion Game Winner in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. And while those two performances came at Churchill Downs, he does not need to carry his track with him. He has run well at three of the four tracks at which he has raced, getting his maiden victory at Saratoga and hitting the board in the Breeders' Futurity and Blue Grass at Keeneland.

**WEAKNESSES:** Even after seven career starts, he has yet to earn a Beyer Speed Figure higher than 88. That makes him one of only three members of this Preakness field to have not surpassed the 90 Beyer mark, which means he must get considerably faster right now if he has any hopes of contending. His form this year is iffy. He didn't move a muscle when seventh in the Fountain of Youth, despite a trouble-free trip and a fantastic pace setup. His third in the Blue Grass was better, though he was nailed for second by Win Win Win, who had trouble, is a question mark going long, and who closed on a speed track.

**BETTING VALUE:** He will be one of the longer shots in this field. At 20-1 or higher, you could use him deep underneath in vertical wagers for clunk-up insurance.

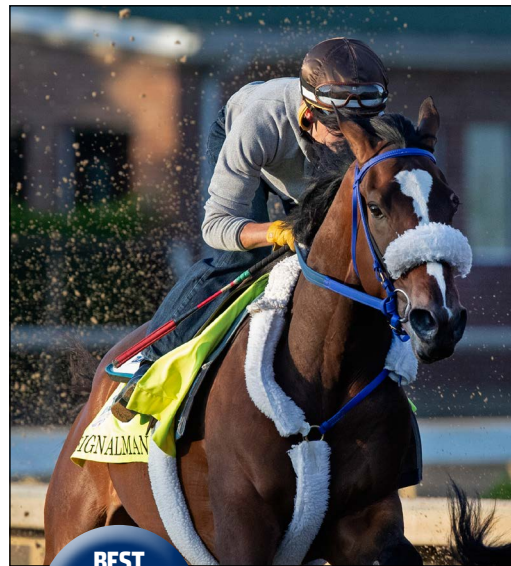
— **Mike Watchmaker**

**SIRE:** The versatile General Quarters, from the A.P. Indy sireline, was a Grade 3 winner on dirt, a Grade 2 winner on synthetic, and a Grade 1 winner on turf, all at route distances. Signalman is his first graded stakes winner in the United States.

**DAM:** The unraced Trip South is the dam of four winners from as many starters. Besides Signalman, however, her other two winners in the United States have not won beyond 7 1/2 furlongs. Despite being a speedball, Trippi has been the broodmare sire of some moderately successful route runners, including Liam's Map, winner the 2015 Woodward Stakes and Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile.

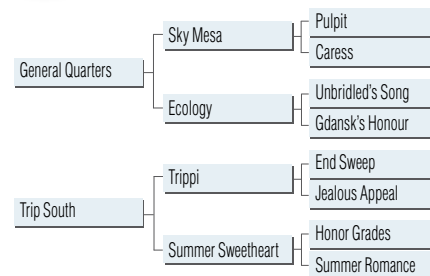
**OUTLOOK:** It is not outside the realm of possibility that General Quarters could sire a dirt-route horse. However, Trip South's other runners have done best going much shorter.

— **Nicole Russo**



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

**BEST  
BEYER  
88**



Bay colt  
Foaled March 21, 2016,  
in Kentucky

# Bodexpress

# 20-1

**Breeder:** Martha Jane Mulholland

**Trainer:** Gustavo Delgado

**Owner:** Top Racing LLC, Global Thoroughbred, and GDS Racing Stable

**Jockey:** Chris Landeros

**Record:** 6-M-3-0

**STRENGTHS:** Bodexpress enters the Preakness still in search of his first career victory, but on paper it doesn't seem as though he's hopelessly overmatched in a race like this. After finishing a solid second two starts back in the Florida Derby behind Maximum Security, Bodexpress was in a decent position rounding the far turn of the Kentucky Derby before being impeded by Maximum Security, forcing him to steady and lose all chance at a placing. A son of Bodemeister, Bodexpress has tactical speed that should allow him to obtain a solid position in the Preakness.

**WEAKNESSES:** As mentioned before, Bodexpress is still a maiden. It would seem highly unlikely that a horse would secure their first career victory in one of the American Triple Crown races, but if it's going to happen, perhaps an unpredictable Triple Crown season such as this is the time for it. It's also worth noting his second-place finish in the Florida Derby came via an ideal trip sitting off slow fractions, compromising the chances of any horses coming from off the pace.

**BETTING VALUE:** After going off at odds of 71-1 in the Kentucky Derby, Bodexpress is likely to be a fraction of that price in the Preakness – but will likely still be one of the longest shots on the board. His case for win honors seem rather slim, but at a giant price he's not out of the realm of possibilities to hit the board at odds somewhere between 20-1 and 30-1.

– Matt Bernier

**SIRE:** Bodemeister, winner of the 2012 Arkansas Derby, finished second in both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness. The son of Empire Maker, from the classic Unbridled line, then sired 2017 Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming from his first crop.

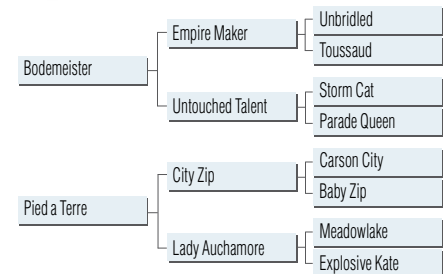
**DAM:** The unraced Pied a Terre, who has not produced a winner, is a half-sister to millionaire Stormy Lord, a Grade 2 winner at seven furlongs on turf but also Grade 2-placed at 1 1/4 miles, and to Incredicat, a stakes winner at 1 1/16 miles on synthetic. City Zip also is the sire of Preakness hopeful Improbable.

**OUTLOOK:** The maiden Bodexpress, who gave a creditable effort in the Kentucky Derby after being impacted by the chain-reaction bumping, comes from a prominent classic sire line. However, his female family, which is light on black type and perhaps oriented toward other surfaces, gives cause for concern.

– Nicole Russo



RONNIE BETOR



Bay colt  
Foaled April 23, 2016,  
in Kentucky





# Everfast

**Breeder:** Extern Developments

**Trainer:** Dale Romans

**Owner:** Calumet Farm

**Jockey:** Joel Rosario

**Record:** 10-1-1-1

**STRENGTHS:** Showed a bit more speed in the Pat Day Mile despite a decent pace up front, and that could be a sign that this late-kicker is rounding into form. Didn't seem to appreciate the kickback, but stayed on evenly in the stretch to finish fifth at long odds. When given a fast pace to work with, he is capable of rallying at giant prices as evidenced by his runner-up finish at 128-1 in the Grade 2 Holy Bull Stakes. Although his lone win came sprinting, there are plenty of stamina influences in his family. The Preakness distance shouldn't be a major issue.

**WEAKNESSES:** Everfast's best Beyer Speed Figure is an 83. Preakness contenders Improbable and Bourbon War have equaled or exceeded that number in all of their races. Everfast obviously has to run the fastest race of his life to contend. There is a fear that he's already been exposed after 10 lifetime starts. While he did run well when aided by the pace in the Holy Bull, he received a similar setup in the Fountain of Youth and really didn't fire. If he does revert to his usual late-running ways, he will need to work out a trip while getting an ideal pace situation. Signalman, Bourbon War, and Bodexpress have all finished in front of Everfast. He'll need them to regress a bit if he is to make up those beaten lengths.

**BETTING VALUE:** He was 66-1 in the Pat Day Mile and should be a similar price in the Preakness. Despite being trained by a master horseman in Dale Romans, he is hard to recommend.

— Dan Illman



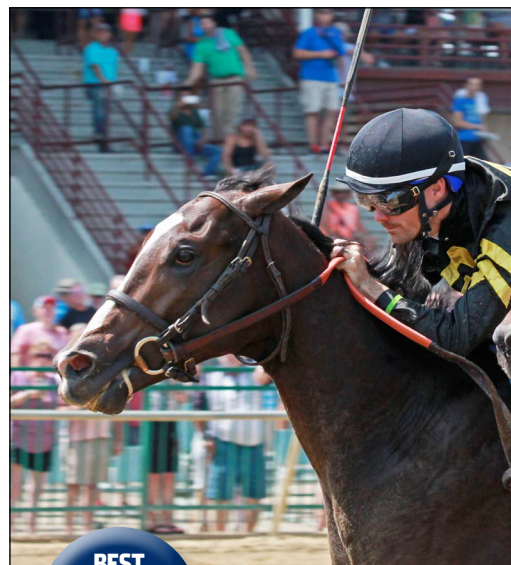
**SIRE:** Take Charge Indy won the 2012 Florida Derby, and from three crops also is the sire of last year's Louisiana Derby winner Noble Indy and Gulfstream Oaks winner Coach Rocks, and this year's Rebel Stakes divisional winner Long Range Toddy, who started in the Kentucky Derby. By legendary sire and sire-of-sires A.P. Indy, Take Charge Indy is out of Grade 1 winner and Broodmare of the Year Take Charge Lady. That makes him a half-brother to long-winded champion Will Take Charge and to Charming, dam of this year's Arkansas Derby winner, Omaha Beach.

**DAM:** Awesome Surprise posted her only win going 1 1/16 miles on the turf in England. She is the dam of four winners from five starters, but just one of those won at a mile. Awesome Surprise is a full sister to 2004 Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Wilko, who went on to finish third in the Santa Anita Derby and third in the Santa Anita Handicap. Awesome Again is the broodmare sire of Breeders' Cup Classic winner and Eclipse Award champion Accelerate.

**OUTLOOK:** Take Charge Indy's best runners have gone around two turns, and, at face value, crossing A.P. Indy's line over an Awesome Again mare offers plenty of stamina. However, the performances of Everfast's dam and siblings raise questions about his ability to go beyond middle distances.

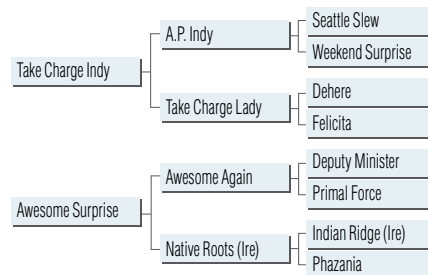
— Nicole Russo

# 50-1



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

BEST  
BEYER  
83



Bay colt  
Foaled Feb. 20, 2016,  
in Kentucky

# Laughing Fox

# 20-1

**Breeder:** Chester and Anne Prince

**Trainer:** Steve Asmussen

**Owner:** Alex and JoAnn Lieblong

**Jockey:** Ricardo Santana Jr.

**Record:** 7-3-0-0



**STRENGTHS:** Laughing Fox enters the 2019 Preakness on the heels of a victory in the inaugural Oaklawn Park Invitational for 3-year-olds, earning a 91 Beyer Speed Figure in the process. A son of Union Rags, this Steve Asmussen trainee should appreciate every inch of the 1 3/16-mile Preakness distance, and has already shown that he's relatively competitive against some of the better horses of his generation. His fourth-place finish in the Arkansas Derby two starts back looks rather strong, as third-place finisher Country House was declared the official winner of the Kentucky Derby and second-place Improbable returned to finish a solid fourth (via DQ) in Louisville.

**WEAKNESSES:** While distance should be Laughing Fox's friend, the pace scenario is likely to determine whether he has a chance to win the Preakness. A confirmed one-run closer, Laughing Fox will be dependent on a swift early pace in order to have a realistic chance of winning; a softer pace likely limits his chances of grabbing a minor award. From a speed-figure perspective, he'll need to take a step forward if he's to be considered a legitimate win contender as his career-best Beyer of 91 is simply too slow to win at this point.

**BETTING VALUE:** Pace makes the race, and pace will likely dictate whether Laughing Fox has a chance to win this year's Preakness. Given his running style, he seems much better suited underneath in exotic wagers at odds somewhere between 20-1 and 30-1, but if the pace is faster than anticipated, a victory isn't impossible.

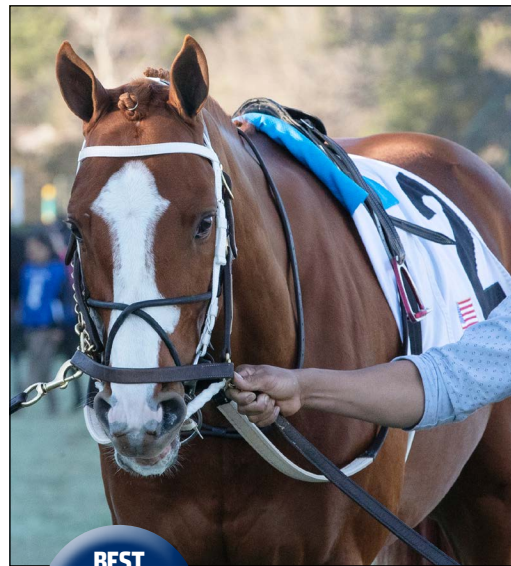
— Matt Bernier

**SIRE:** Union Rags, who won the 2014 Belmont Stakes, is the sire of Grade 1 winners Dancing Rags, Free Drop Billy, Paradise Woods, and Union Strike. All of those but Union Strike scored their major victories around two turns.

**DAM:** The multiple stakes winner Saskawea, who competed exclusively on synthetic and turf surfaces, won from six furlongs to 1 1/16 miles. She contested all three legs of Canada's Triple Tiara, finishing second in the Woodbine Oaks at 1 1/8 miles, fifth in the 1 1/16-mile Bison City Stakes, and then second to the series-sweeping champion Sealy Hill in the Wonder Where Stakes at 1 1/4 miles. After the series, she cut back to shorter distances for the remainder of her career, picking up four more stakes victories. Saskawea is a half-sister to the dam of Canadian champion sprinter Noholdingback Bear.

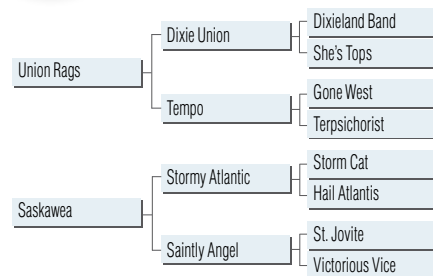
**OUTLOOK:** Saskawea was at her best sprinting and is closely related to a champion sprinter. However, a classic winner on top of this pedigree and Saskawea's own classic placings suggest that Laughing Fox can route.

— Nicole Russo



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

BEST  
BEYER  
91



*Chestnut colt  
Foaled May 16, 2016,  
in Kentucky*

# Another twist a fate

# 6-1

**Breeder:** Pursuit of Success, LLC  
**Trainer:** Blaine Wright  
**Owner:** Peter Redekop B. C. Ltd.  
**Jockey:** Jose Ortiz  
**Record:** 6-3-2-0



**STRENGTHS:** A perfect 3 for 3 on the synthetic surface at his home base of Golden Gate, where he won the El Camino Real Derby to earn a fees-paid Preakness berth, he traveled out of town to embark on a Derby campaign this spring, falling just short of qualifying after runner-up finishes in the Sunland Derby and Lexington Stakes. Although he lost those races, he handled dirt and in each case, he threatened despite trouble. This was most evident in the Lexington at Keeneland when he was boxed in for much of the running, which as a speed horse took away one of his assets – sustained pace. His runner-up finish in the Lexington earned him a 95 Beyer Speed Figure, one of his three mid-90s Beyers, consistent numbers that rank him as one of fastest new shooters in the Preakness.

**WEAKNESSES:** He is untested against the top 3-year-olds in the country. His El Camino Real victory was ungraded, and both the Sunland Derby and Lexington drew fields commensurate with their Grade 3 status. An illustration of the company he has kept is Cutting Humor, who beat him by a neck in the Sunland Derby and was ultimately 10th of 19 in the Kentucky Derby. Another potential weakness is his running style. All of his victories have come on the lead, but the presence of several other front-runners, including Triple Crown newcomer Warrior's Charge, may mean another off-the-pace trip is forthcoming in the Preakness.

**BETTING VALUE:** Opinions differ on his chances, with speed-figure players and trip handicappers fonder of him than players that focus on class. Anticipate odds of about 10-1.

– Byron King

**SIRE:** Another twist a fate is from the final crop by Scat Daddy, a stellar international sire who broke through in the American classics in a major way last year as the unbeaten Justify swept the Triple Crown. He also is the sire of the likes of Caravaggio, Lady Aurelia, No Nay Never, and other Group 1 winners.

**DAM:** Another twist a fate is the first winner out of Imprecation, whose dam is French Group 3 winner Media Nox. That makes Imprecation a half-sister to French Oaks winner and stakes producer Nebraska Tornado. As a broodmare sire, First Defence also is represented by this year's Wood Memorial winner, Tacitus, out of his champion daughter Close Hatches. That colt crossed the line fourth in the Kentucky Derby and was elevated to third by the disqualification of Maximum Security.

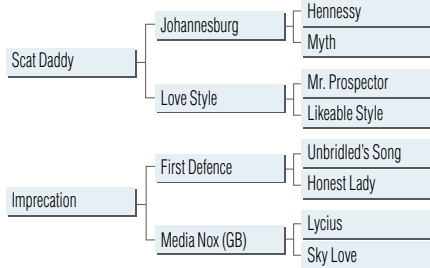
**OUTLOOK:** Another twist a fate comes from a versatile pedigree and showed his dirt ability with runner-up efforts in the Sunland Derby and Lexington Stakes. He has classic lineage on both the top and bottom of his page.

– Nicole Russo



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

**BEST BEYER 95**



Dark bay colt  
Foaled April 17, 2016,  
in Kentucky

# Win Win Win

15-1

**Breeder:** Live Oak Stud  
**Trainer:** Mike Trombetta  
**Owner:** Live Oak Plantation  
**Jockey:** Julian Pimentel  
**Record:** 7-3-2-1



**STRENGTHS:** Win and Win and Improbable have the fastest career Beyer Speed Figures in this field (99) and any race close to that number would make them very tough. Win Win Win's 99 Beyer came in a visually impressive Pasco Stakes, as he surged four wide to the lead turning into the stretch and really turned on the juice. He has excuses for his three routes. In the Tampa Bay Derby, he was pinched back and ended up very wide on the backstretch and into the lane. He steadied on the turn of the Blue Grass, but still managed to rally over a track that seemed speed-friendly. In the Derby, while not a victim of a bad trip, he might not have cared for the wet track. He has a nice burst of speed, plenty of natural ability, and might benefit if the pace is fast.

**WEAKNESSES:** Has trouble leaving the gate. Broke poorly in his final start at 2, then was off a beat slow in the Pasco, Tampa Bay Derby, and Blue Grass. By breaking tardily, he doesn't get into the early flow and is turned into a deep closer. That running style is susceptible to trip and pace dynamics. The Pasco was a sprint, and some believe he will eventually find his niche as a late-running sprinter or miler. The Preakness distance might be a bit long.

**BETTING VALUE:** He was 16-1 in the Derby and wasn't embarrassed, finishing ninth after Maximum Security's disqualification. Double-digit odds seem fair, and he shouldn't be overlooked.

— Dan Illman

**SIRE:** Hat Trick, one of the few sons of Sunday Silence to stand in North America, was a champion miler in Japan. Many of his top runners have trended toward turf, including European champion Dabirsim and Grade 1 winner King David.

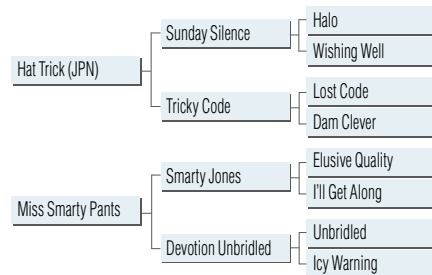
**DAM:** Miss Smarty Pants, a half-sister to Grade 3-winning turf router Unbridled Humor, earned her only win in three starts at seven furlongs. Her three starters are all winners, but none of her foals has won beyond seven furlongs, including Win Win Win. This is the extended family of Grade 1 Manhattan winner Ops Smile.

**OUTLOOK:** Win Win Win's family is slanted heavily toward turf, but he has won on dirt. The bigger concern may be his route ability, with a sire who is a champion miler crossed on top of a speed-oriented dam. Win Win Win's only stakes win came at seven furlongs in the Pasco.

— Nicole Russo



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY



Dark bay colt  
 Foaled March 20, 2016,  
 in Florida

## GRADED HANDICAP

### FIRST RACE Probable Post 10:30 EDT

5 Furlongs. Turf. 3-Year-Olds and Up. Maiden Claiming (\$25,000).  
Purse: \$37,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
6	Fernwood Drive	Whisman A <sup>10</sup>	116	7-2
2	Friendly Fire	Pimentel J	126	4-1
13	Creative Artist	McCarthy T	120	6-1
8	Turnstyle	Toledo J	126	8-1
4	No Worries Mate	Vargas J A Jr	126	10-1
9	Cyclobomb	Correa J <sup>5</sup>	121	10-1
16	Hay Boy	Vargas J A Jr	126	10-1
1	Shelly Island	Ruiz J	120	12-1
14	Eliav	Cedeno C	120	12-1
7	Second Encore	Karamanos H A	126	15-1
10	Top Hat Hustle	Rosales V <sup>7</sup>	113	15-1
11	Loudon's Song	Carrasco V R	120	15-1
5	Willie the Whale	Gomez K	120	20-1
15	Itshouldbefine	Pimentel J	126	20-1
3	Brooklyn Sardy	Cortez A C	126	30-1
12	Im the Game	Pinero F A <sup>7</sup>	119	50-1

### SECOND RACE Probable Post 11:05 EDT

1 1/16 Miles. Turf. 3-Year-Olds and Up. Starter Allowance. Purse: \$37,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
10	Minister's Strike	McCarthy T	126	7-2
5	Liquid Aloha	Ortiz I Jr	126	4-1
6	Sir Brahms	Centeno D E	126	9-2
7	Front Line Paige	Karamanos H A	123	6-1
8	Nigel's Destiny	Cruz A	123	6-1
3	Whirlin Curlin	Perez X	123	10-1
9	Roman Approval	Toledo J	123	10-1
4	He's One Wild Dude	Russell S	123	12-1
2	Blame the Kids	Hamilton W	123	15-1
1	Huyana	Montanez R	126	20-1

### THIRD RACE Probable Post 11:41 EDT

1 1/16 Miles. Turf. 3-Year-Olds. Restricted. Sir Barton Stakes. Purse: \$100,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
3	King for a Day	Velazquez J R	120	7-5
4	Top Line Growth	Pimentel J	120	9-5
5	Tone Broke	Santana R Jr	120	9-2
1	Trifor Gold	Vargas J A Jr	120	10-1
2	Pretty Good Year	Centeno D E	120	10-1
6	V. I. P. Ticket	Suarez A	120	12-1

### FOURTH RACE Probable Post 12:16 EDT

5 Furlongs. Turf. 3-Year-Olds and Up. Fillies and Mares. Allowance (N1X). Purse: \$52,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
5	Misty On Pointe	Santana R Jr	123	4-1
9	Hip Hop	Centeno D E	126	9-2
14	Kitty's Right	Ortiz I Jr	126	6-1
12	Salt Pond	Karamanos H A	123	8-1
1	Ying Yue	Whisman A <sup>10</sup>	107	10-1
2	Not Sure	Toledo J	123	10-1
4	Glittering Judy	Pimentel J	123	10-1
10	Elverson	Vargas J L	117	10-1
3	Margie Is Livid	McCarthy T	117	15-1

8	Sexyama	Castrenze A	117	15-1
6	Unbridled Escape	Betancourt J R	123	20-1
13	Umightbeanempress	Lyapustina T <sup>7</sup>	113	20-1
7	Roman Holiday	Rosales V <sup>7</sup>	119	30-1
11	River Gal	Cruz A	117	30-1
15	Ms Eileen	Latchman R	123	30-1
16	Veil Dance	Boyce F	123	30-1

### FIFTH RACE Probable Post 12:51 EDT

1 Mile. Turf. 3-Year-Olds. James W. Murphy Stakes. Purse: \$100,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
2	Current	Castellano J J	122	4-1
6	War Film	Santana R Jr	120	9-2
4	English Bee	Ortiz J L	120	5-1
5	Real News	Rosario J	120	5-1
3	Eons	Ortiz I Jr	120	6-1
8	Empire of War	Lezzano J	120	8-1
1	Shootin the Breeze	Velazquez J R	120	10-1
7	Thomas Shelby	Gaffalione T	120	12-1
9	Tybalt	Toledo J	120	15-1
10	Gearhead	McCarthy T	120	20-1

Blinkers On: Shootin the Breeze

### SIXTH RACE Probable Post 1:28 EDT

6 Furlongs. 3-Year-Olds and Up. MdSprint (Grade 3). Purse: \$150,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
4	Lewisfield	Bocachica A	122	9-5
7	Proforma	Ortiz J L	122	3-1
6	Wentz	Rosario J	122	4-1
5	Always Sunshine	Cedeno C	122	5-1
1	New York Central	Santana R Jr	122	6-1
2	Fellowship	Gaffalione T	122	15-1
3	Parade of Nations	McCarthy T	122	30-1

### SEVENTH RACE Probable Post 2:07 EDT

1 1/2 Miles. Turf. 3-Year-Olds and Up. Fillies and Mares. Searching Stakes. Purse: \$100,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
5	Ickymasho	Ortiz J L	124	8-5
2	Homeland Security	Ortiz I Jr	122	9-2
3	Osare	Castellano J J	122	5-1
9	Violet Blue	Gaffalione T	122	6-1
4	Coachwhip	Santana R Jr	122	8-1
6	Vevina	Saez L	122	12-1
8	Peach of a Gal	Vargas J A Jr	122	12-1
7	Layla Noor	Rosario J	122	15-1
1	So Innocent	Cruz A	122	30-1

### EIGHTH RACE Probable Post 2:45 EDT

6 Furlongs. 3-Year-Olds and Up. Allowance (N1X). Purse: \$52,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
1	Articulator	Ortiz I Jr	123	5-2
9	Overdeliver	Velazquez J R	117	3-1
8	I'm an Ocala Dude	Carrasco V R	126	4-1
5	Dirtyfoot	Boyce F	126	6-1
4	Bozzini	McCarthy T	117	10-1
6	Jefazo	Karamanos H A	126	10-1
2	Day the Music Died	Pimentel J	126	12-1
7	Passcode	Lezzano J	117	12-1
3	Maranatha	Gaffalione T	123	20-1

## GRADED HANDICAP

### NINTH RACE Probable Post 3:25 EDT

5 Furlongs. Turf. 3-Year-Olds and Up. Fillies and Mares. The Very One Stakes. Purse: \$100,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
6	Jo Jo Air	Velazquez J R	116	3-1
8	Misericordia	Toledo J	122	4-1
4	Souper Echo	Pimentel J	122	9-2
9	Wild About Star	Centeno D E	122	9-2
2	Dare to Be	Boyce F	122	6-1
3	Eye On Berlin	Cruz A	122	10-1
1	Not in Jeopardy	McCarthy T	122	12-1
7	Angel At War	Russell S	122	12-1
5	Bath And Tennis	Hamilton W	122	20-1

### TENTH RACE Probable Post 4:05 EDT

1 1/16 Miles. Turf. 3-Year-Olds and Up. Fillies and Mares. Galorett (Grade 3). Purse: \$150,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
2	Inflexibility	Castellano J J	122	3-1
1	I'm So Fancy	Geroux F	122	7-2
8	Viva Vegas	Ortiz J L	122	5-1
4	Mitchell Road	Rosario J	122	6-1
9	Barkaa	Ortiz I Jr	122	6-1
3	Thewayiam	McCarthy T	122	10-1
7	In the Lee	Velazquez J R	122	10-1
5	Dynatail	Saez L	122	12-1
6	Hogans Holiday	Gaffalione T	122	15-1

### ELEVENTH RACE Probable Post 4:42 EDT

6 Furlongs. 3-Year-Olds. ChickLng (Grade 3). Purse: \$200,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
8	Preamble	Geroux F	120	5-2
3	Malpais	Saez L	120	3-1
7	Pyron	Santana R Jr	122	7-2
6	Gladiator King	Reyes L	122	6-1
4	Admiral Lynch	Castellano J J	120	10-1
2	Still Dreaming	Hamilton W	120	12-1
1	Lexitonian	Ortiz J L	120	15-1
5	Cabot	Rosario J	120	15-1
9	Confessor	Carrasco V R	120	15-1

### TWELFTH RACE Probable Post 5:39 EDT

1 1/16 Miles. Turf. 3-Year-Olds and Up. Dixie (Grade 2). Purse: \$250,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
12	Catholic Boy	Castellano J J	122	3-1
11	Inspector Lynley	Lezcano J	122	7-2
5	Have At It	Ortiz J L	122	6-1
6	Flameaway	No Rider	122	8-1
2	Just Howard	McCarthy T	122	10-1
7	Real Story	Velazquez J R	122	10-1
3	Admission Office	Rosario J	122	12-1
8	Phlash Phelps	Carrasco V R	122	12-1
9	Something Awesome	Karamanos H A	122	15-1
10	O Dionysus	Toledo J	122	15-1
1	Twenty Four Seven	No Rider	122	20-1
4	Paret	Geroux F	122	20-1

Blinkers Off: Just Howard

### THIRTEENTH RACE Probable Post 6:48 EDT

1 3/16 Miles. 3-Year-Olds. Preaknes (Grade 1). Purse: \$1,500,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
4	Improbable	Smith M E	126	5-2
1	War of Will	Gaffalione T	126	4-1
12	Another twistafate	Ortiz J L	126	6-1
7	Alwaysmining	Centeno D E	126	8-1
5	Owendale	Geroux F	126	10-1
2	Bourbon War	Ortiz I Jr	126	12-1
3	Warrior's Charge	Castellano J J	126	12-1
13	Win Win Win	Pimentel J	126	15-1
9	Bodexpress	Velazquez J R	126	20-1
11	Laughing Fox	Santana R Jr	126	20-1
6	Market King	Court J K	126	30-1
8	Signalman	Hernandez B J Jr	126	30-1
10	Everfast	Rosario J	126	50-1

Blinkers On: Bourbon War, Win Win Win

### FOURTEENTH RACE Probable Post 7:35 EDT

6 Furlongs. 3-Year-Olds and Up. Maiden Special Weight. Purse: \$50,000

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	M.L.
3	Glory Song	McCarthy T	120	7-2
2	Enqueteur	Ortiz J L	126	4-1
8	Firecrow	Rosario J	120	4-1
4	Gnarly Mo	Carrasco V R	120	5-1
1	Shackled Romance	Cedeno C	120	6-1
7	Runforthemunnings	Vargas J A Jr	120	10-1
9	Kneesinthebreeze	Karamanos H A	120	10-1
5	Blessed Arion	Latchman R	120	12-1
6	Abazillion	Ortiz I Jr	120	20-1

Blinkers On: Blessed Arion

Blinkers Off: Firecrow

**SELECTIONS**

Consensus Totals Based on 5 points for First (7 for Best Bet), 2 for 2nd, 1 for 3rd. Best Bet in Bold Type.

	<b>Marcus Hersh 29-8 (18)</b>	<b>Kenny Peck</b>	<b>Chuck Kuehhas</b>	<b>Consensus 30-12 (23)</b>	
<b>1</b>	Shelly Island Creative Artist Friendly Fire	Top Hat Hustle Turnstyle Friendly Fire	Turnstyle Friendly Fire Creative Artist	Turnstyle Shelly Island Top Hat Hustle	7 5 5
<b>2</b>	Nigel's Destiny Liquid Aloha Whirlin Curlin	Nigel's Destiny Liquid Aloha Sir Brahms	Whirlin Curlin Liquid Aloha Sir Brahms	Nigel's Destiny Whirlin Curlin Liquid Aloha	10 6 6
<b>3</b>	Top Line Growth King for a Day Tone Broke	King for a Day Trifor Gold Pretty Good Year	King for a Day Pretty Good Year Trifor Gold	King for a Day Top Line Growth Pretty Good Year	12 5 3
<b>4</b>	Hip Hop Sexyama Not Sure	Misty On Pointe Glittering Judy Hip Hop	Not Sure Glittering Judy Hip Hop	Hip Hop Not Sure Misty On Pointe	7 6 5
<b>5</b>	Real News Empire of War War Film	War Film Eons Real News	English Bee Current Empire of War	Real News War Film English Bee	6 6 5
<b>6</b>	New York Central Proforma Lewisfield	Lewisfield New York Central Proforma	Lewisfield Proforma New York Central	Lewisfield New York Central Proforma	11 8 5
<b>7</b>	Osare Ickymasho Homeland Security	Homeland Security Violet Blue Peach of a Gal	Osare Layla Noor Homeland Security	Osare Homeland Security Ickymasho	10 7 2
<b>8</b>	Overdeliver Articulator I'm an Ocala Dude	Overdeliver Articulator I'm an Ocala Dude	Overdeliver Articulator Bozzini	<b>Overdeliver</b> Articulator I'm an Ocala Dude	15 6 2
<b>9</b>	Wild About Star Souper Echo Jo Jo Air	Dare to Be Wild About Star Jo Jo Air	Souper Echo Wild About Star Jo Jo Air	Wild About Star Souper Echo Dare to Be	9 7 5
<b>10</b>	Inflexibility I'm So Fancy Barkaa	I'm So Fancy Inflexibility Viva Vegas	Mitchell Road Barkaa I'm So Fancy	I'm So Fancy Inflexibility Mitchell Road	8 7 5
<b>11</b>	Preamble Pyron Malpais	Preamble Pyron Gladiator King	Pyron Gladiator King Preamble	Preamble Pyron Gladiator King	11 9 3
<b>12</b>	<b>Admission Office</b> Inspector Lynley O Dionysus	<b>Inspector Lynley</b> Catholic Boy Something Awesome	Have At It Real Story Catholic Boy	Inspector Lynley Admission Office Have At It	9 7 5
<b>13</b>	Owendale Improbable War of Will	Bourbon War War of Will Improbable	War of Will Improbable Warrior's Charge	War of Will Bourbon War Owendale	8 5 5
<b>14</b>	Gnarly Mo Enqueteur Glory Song	Enqueteur Glory Song Blessed Arion	<b>Enqueteur</b> Glory Song Firecrow	Enqueteur Gnarly Mo Glory Song	14 5 5

Analyst's statistics: Number of races picked, top pick winners and in parentheses, top pick finishes in the money.





**SELECTIONS**

**STEVE ANDERSEN**

Anotherwistafate  
 Improbable  
 War of Will  
 Owendale

**DAVID ARAGONA**

Anotherwistafate  
 Improbable  
 Owendale  
 War of Will

**ANDREW BEYER**

Owendale  
 Improbable  
 Bourbon War  
 War of Will

**JIM DUNLEAVY**

Alwaysmining  
 Win Win Win  
 War of Will  
 Improbable

**RON GIERKINK**

Win Win Win  
 Alwaysmining  
 Improbable  
 Anotherwistafate

**RANDY GOULDING**

Anotherwistafate  
 War of Will  
 Improbable  
 Alwaysmining

**DAVID GRENING**

Owendale  
 Improbable  
 Signalman  
 War of Will

**MICHAEL HAMMERSLY**

Owendale  
 Improbable  
 War of Will  
 Anotherwistafate

**MARCUS HERSH**

Owendale  
 Improbable  
 War of Will  
 Signalman

**JAY HOVDEY**

Anotherwistafate  
 Signalman  
 War of Will  
 Laughing Fox

**DAN ILLMAN**

Owendale  
 Win Win Win  
 Warrior's Charge  
 Improbable

**CHUCK KUEHHAS**

War of Will  
 Improbable  
 Warrior's Charge  
 Bourbon War

**MARTY MCGEE**

Anotherwistafate  
 Win Win Win  
 Bourbon War  
 War of

**CRAIG MILKOWSKI**

Warrior's Charge  
 Owendale  
 War of Will  
 Improbable

**KENNY PECK**

Bourbon War  
 War of Will  
 Improbable  
 Alwaysmining

**JAY PRIVMAN**

Bourbon War  
 Owendale  
 War of Will  
 Improbable

**MARY RAMPPELLINI**

Improbable  
 Anotherwistafate  
 War of Will  
 Warrior's Charge

**NICOLE RUSSO**

War of Will  
 Anotherwistafate  
 Improbable  
 Alwaysmining

**JOSEPH SWAVY**

Bourbon War  
 Improbable  
 Warrior's Charge  
 War of Will

**MIKE WATCHMAKER**

War of Will  
 Improbable  
 Bourbon War  
 Owendale

**CONSENSUS**

Improbable (42)  
 War of Will (34)  
 Owendale (32) TIE  
 Anotherwistafate (32) TIE

## ANALYSIS BY BYRON KING

### BEST BET: RACE 12, ADMISSION OFFICE

#### FIRST RACE

**SHELLY ISLAND** not only found a home on turf last time, improving by many lengths in grass debut, but he raced wide and was farther back than the top two finishers over a speed-favoring LRL course. Suspect betting public will remain more skeptical than they should leading to fair value. **CREATIVE ARTIST** has been gelded since a very modest career debut in the slop last fall, is bred on both sides for this move to grass, and has gotten in plenty of published work for comeback run. Thought Shelly Island ran the better 4/25 LRL turf sprint between he and **FRIENDLY FIRE**, yet FF is one-third the price on the morning line. Took him til April of 4yo season to make his debut.

#### SECOND RACE

**NIGEL'S DESTINY** finally got back on turf over the winter in Florida, and to positive effect. Seemingly just didn't stay 11 furlongs in his most recent start and since has been freshened for this starter-allowance he clearly fits with something close to his best. Front-running sort is not all that quick but if he doesn't lead it seems likely he sits second, outside and in clear, on a moderate pace. Suspect that **LIQUID ALOHA**, with two wins in last three starts and Irad Ortiz named to ride, will be roughly half the morning line. Rates a strong chance but I'm guessing Nigel offers better value. **WHIRLIN CURLIN** is in good form and fits the level, and his two grass races that predate the published past performances suggest he handles turf adequately.

#### THIRD RACE

Can't get pat **TOP LINE GROWTH** and **KING FOR A DAY** in a soft edition of the Sir Barton despite both being short prices and neither looking entirely trustworthy. **TOP LINE GROWTH**'s lone start came in a maiden race for \$40K claimers or MD-bred entered under maiden-special-weight conditions, which he was. On the one hand he got a clear lead versus just five foes, but on the other he set a legit pace, raced professionally, and crushed that field while well within himself. Obviously, **KING FOR A DAY** faced better horses in his most recent start, a pretty good fourth in the Kentucky Jockey Club, but it's taken him nearly six months to get back to the races and he's either a target for **TLG** or playing catch-up. Not much appeal as the favorite. **STONE BROKE** never got any traction on the Meydan dirt track and at least is better than his pair of Dubai races.

#### FOURTH RACE

Hard to see how this N1X turf sprint doesn't fall apart late given the layers upon layers of speed entered. **HIP HOP** can

get back off the pace just enough to pull a favorable trip and obviously can contend at the level having missed by a nose in her last such start. Just won a \$25K N3L starter at least as strong as this race and is a fresh 4yo who hasn't done much wrong on turf. **SEXYAMA** has the right running style if my pace assessment proves accurate and will be undervalued based on two poor performances to end her 2018 campaign, neither of which is directly applicable to these conditions. All but certain to be a fair price and is at least exotics fodder if not win-playable. **NOT SURE** probably is in trouble if she has to go to the lead like she did in two races at age 2, but maybe she's more tractable. Makes turf debut and is bred to really appreciate that.

#### FIFTH RACE

**REAL NEWS** is 3-3 in encouraging efforts to start his career and stepped into stakes competition last out at KEE with a better-than-it-looks second (questionable tactical choices around the quarter-pole) to the sharp Bulletin. Doubt he's ever going to be something like a 10f horse but also really believe he can get this one-mile trip in first two-turn try. Seemingly has all the upside at what ought to be a fair price. **TAP** has Current here as his presumed #1, but I've yet to see any evidence he's come forward since his fine Bourbon win last fall, and I'll guess the other **TAP** entrant, **EMPIRE OF WAR**, could do something at a price. 2-2 on grass at age 2 and in the Awad he beat A Thread of Blue, who has turned out to be a really fine 3yo grass miler this year. Will forgive the wet-course Woodhaven and look for considerable improvement in season's second start. **WAR FILM** is back on short rest after a very solid fifth in what I thought was a strong renewal of the American Turf. This is easier.

#### SIXTH RACE

Going to take the approach that all the 3yo middle-distance races from **NEW YORK CENTRAL** have to be seen through the lens of his distance preference - sprints. Thought he ran a good race at KEE in a deep edition of the Commonwealth, and the one-furlong cut-back to a straight six looks like a good thing. Set for his best third start back from the long break and, hopefully, will fly a little under the radar. **PROFORMA** ran into the very good dirt sprinter Wynn Time two back in an above-par renewal of the Thanksgiving 'Cap and turned in a strong turf run last out at LRL, potentially setting him up for the best dirt race of his career here. **LEWISFIELD** has the big figs but I'm skeptical he can sustain that form and despite running fast was run over late in last by Laki, who has never been anything like a solid graded-stakes class sprinter.

#### SEVENTH RACE

Gotta respect all the good work young trainer Jonathan

## ANALYSIS

Thomas did last year, and he's someone I trust to have a horse ready to run 12 furlongs after a long layoff, as **OSARE** is asked to do here. 4yo filly with just four starts and plenty of upside who will be positioned forwardly and is a better-priced alternative to **ICKYMASHO**. The latter is a deserving favorite but one who comes off the three best races of her 39-start career and is a 7yo. Much easier to see her running worse than better and all the value is evaporating this time around. **HOMELAND SECURITY** has nine starts and eight layoff lines. She could come forward off her seasonal debut but is a 5yo whose ceiling probably either has been established or isn't much higher than what she's previously hit.

## EIGHTH RACE

**OVERDELIVER** is the trip horse of the millennium coming out of the Wood, where he was treated like a punching bag the first furlong. Rail at TAM and no great shame in losing to Win Win Win there, and don't at all mind the cut back all the way to 6f here. Obviously the drop top N1X alw company makes him tough. **ARTICULATOR** is 0-8 in attempts to win a first-level allowance race, so it's hard, figs and super-trainer aside, taking a short price on rail-drawn pace horse likely to get pressure. **I'M AN OCALA DUDE** has raced for as little as a \$14K tag but recently found good enough form that shrewd outfit tries again at the N1X allowance level. Morning-line odds feel a lit light in the value department.

## NINTH RACE

A very weak renewal of The Very One, and I won't accept a short price on 3yo Jo Jo Air, even if she did beat males last out. **WILD ABOUT STAR** had bad trips in all three of her Fair Grounds races this winter and her best turf sprints make her competitive. **SOUPER ECHO** looked much more confident back on turf last out at LRL than during her maiden days at SAR, but I doubt she'll run significantly better here than in that N3X allowance. **JO JO AIR** was involved in a soft pace when she upset the age-restricted Walker last time and never had run that well before. The 14-1 there was juicy, but her win price here is shriveling.

## TENTH RACE

Puzzled over the Gallorette for a good long while in the end landing on **INFLEXIBILITY**, even at a short-ish price. Graded-stakes placed but not a graded-stakes winner and with that in mind I really suspect the C Brown team has her cranked for a forward performance in this winnable G3. She's more of a grinding type but also doesn't stay that far - which is why it's been tough to find the right race to win. For instance, A Raving Beauty just outfooted her to the wire going this trip in the Beaugay, but unless **I'M SO FANCY** and **BARKAA** surprise me,

there is nothing close to A Raving Beauty in this race. Inflex should slot in not far behind pace-players Mitchell Road and Dynatail and get a good trip. Euro import I'm So Fancy looks pretty exposed. This is about the right class and distance, and she's been competitive over a range of course conditions and configurations. Barkaa's French form in the end is kind of flimsy, though she did run in two G1s. Can forgive her US debut last fall. Was a little too keen in two works I saw from PMM but did hold her own with Homerique on April 13.

## ELEVENTH RACE

Low-confidence selection of **PREAMBLE** in the Chick Lang Stakes. Undeclared after three starts, but that's just window dressing in the end. What I like more is his outside draw and proven stalking tactics while cutting back from a good 7f comeback win to 6f with plenty of pace in front of him. Was tough to pick against **PYRON**, a horse I think has a lot of ability. Has been pointed here for a long time by Asmussen, who won this last year, two of the last four years, and three times overall. A little green in stretch last time and probably still has room to improve. **MALPAIS** might have been the top pick had he drawn outside the other speed, but it's just the opposite as he breaks from post 3. Can he take a hold and come around? Very good wins, regardless of pace last time and short field two back, and is a pretty serious horse.

## TWELFTH RACE

The two favorites are stuck way on the outside, and the morning-line favorite, for me, is very much worth playing against in the Dixie. The local contingent coming out of the Henry Clark is limited, leaving **ADMISSION OFFICE** as an appealing play at a good price. 4yo with five starts has done little wrong and ran winning races even in his two second-place finishes. Came home full of run in KEE comebacker last out and, importantly, showed enough tactical pace to get a good position from a wide draw. Runner-up returned with flat dirt run in Alysheba but previously was G1-placed on turf. Think he'll prove to fit with these today. **INSPECTOR LYNLEY** deserves to be favored and stands a strong chance of getting into the exacta. Easy to forgive the ridiculously paceless Muniz. Post 11 and short-ish price the two drawbacks. **O DIONYSUS** continues to show he's a solid listed / G3 class turf horse, though his price probably won't reflect it. **CATHOLIC BOY** stuck in 12, has raced just once since August, needs more distance for his best, and is prepping here. His best race is formidable but I'll try to beat him this time.

## THIRTEENTH RACE

If **OWENDALE** and **IMPROBABLE** were the same price, I'd side with Improbable to win the Preakness, but this is a value

## ANALYSIS

game and Owendale at more than twice Improbable's win odds gets the nod. All the arrows were pointing up until is poor Risen Star, but he definitely got back on track in the Lexington, a short-stretch 1 1/16 miles that often requires a big turn move - which he provided. By into Mischief, yes, but the guess is the added ground only helps him. With luck, he gets a great trip at a fair price. I'm still on the emptying Improbable bandwagon to some extent and do believe he has struggled to find his best stride over sloppy tracks in last two. The Rebel defeat remains of some concern, even though he was probably short and LR Toddy got such a great trip. All things being equal, this should be his big chance at a Classic. Poor **WAR OF WILL** really hated being stuck inside and behind horses in the Derby. As I suspected, he wasn't fast enough to clear that day, and don't think he's making the front here, which could turn the trip messy again.

## FOURTEENTH RACE

Pricey auction buy **GNARLY MO** has posted a series of encouraging morning drills and it'd be no surprise if capable local connections have held back a horse who can win first out for the biggest day in Maryland racing. **ENQUETEUR** got in an upper- and middle-stretch brawl making his career debut last fall at KEE and paid the price late, but that performance was more than good enough to make him a major player, and anything close to the morning-line would be value. **GLORY SONG** a pair of solid front-end performances to start his career, but nothing spectacular and that running style could plop him squarely in a speed duel.

ANALYSIS



MIKE BEER

With the first four horses under the wire in the Kentucky Derby bypassing the second leg of the Triple Crown, the best finishers from that race returning in the Preakness are Improbable, a grinding fifth (promoted to fourth) as the favorite in Kentucky after an overall good trip, and War of Will, eventually fading to eighth after being part of the trouble at the five-sixteenths pole that led to the disqualification of Maximum Security. While either of those two would be a logical winner Saturday, the reality is that they do not exactly hold any kind of edge over many of the new shooters in the Preakness field.

BOURBON WAR did not make the cutoff for points needed to participate in the Derby after finishing fourth in the Grade 1 Florida Derby, a race that was run at a moderate tempo that did not suit his closing style. He had a better setup in the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth one start prior and earned a new top Beyer Speed Figure in that race while rallying to finish a close second to Code of Honor, who was third under the wire in Kentucky before being promoted to second. Bourbon War is a well-bred colt who appears to still be heading the right way, and with no shortage of speed signed on to the Preakness, he projects to have the right kind of setup in front of him at a square price.

IMPROBABLE is the horse to beat Saturday, despite his 0-for-3 record as a 3-year-old. It isn't quite fair to say that he was adversely affected by the sloppy tracks he has been forced to run over in his last two starts, but he is a colt who may simply be better over fast dirt. His best race clearly makes him a strong contender in the Preakness. There are still some lingering distance concerns with him, but there is no denying his inherent talent.

ANOTHERWISTAFATE is a maiden on dirt to this point, but his last two starts – seconds in both the Grade 3 Sunland Derby and the Grade 3 Lexington with competitive figures – confirm that he is just fine over this surface. He does not appear to have distance limitations, and he owns the kind of tactical speed that can lead to a nice trip tracking the pace in this race.

ALWAYSMINING is the local hope, and he is streaking into the Preakness on the back of six straight wins dating back to October. He is going to be tested for class in this race, and he will have to prove that he can handle pace pressure from some better horses, but he has been impressive in dominating lower-level 3-year-olds on his way here. He showed a nice tactical gear when stretched out to nine furlongs in the Tesio last month.

**BOURBON WAR**  
**IMPROBABLE**  
**ANOTHERWISTAFATE**  
**ALWAYSMINING**



MATT BERNIER

Despite being stuck inside for a second consecutive leg of the Triple Crown, WAR OF WILL should be viewed as one of the major threats, if not the most likely winner, of this year's Preakness Stakes. War of Will made his first start since a disastrous trip in the Louisiana Derby in the Kentucky Derby two weeks ago, breaking from the dreaded inside post. Once urged from the gate, he became difficult to rate, sitting the pocket trip before becoming involved in the Derby controversy, ultimately leading to a seventh-place finish via disqualification.

In my opinion, the Louisiana Derby should essentially be thrown out given the issue War of Will had during the running. I'm viewing the Preakness as War of Will's second start since the Feb. 16 Risen Star at Fair Grounds, a race he won impressively. He may not have any real edge on paper entering the Preakness, but I'm expecting a career-best effort, regardless of the inside post position.

BOURBON WAR was compromised in the Florida Derby on March 30 by a slow pace and a main track at Gulfstream Park that was intensely speed friendly. A son of Tapit, this Mark Hennig trainee will sport blinkers for the first time Saturday, hopefully resulting in a more focused effort. On paper, the pace appears to be honest, and that should accentuate the strong finish Bourbon War possesses. He should be doing his best running down the lane.

IMPROBABLE hasn't quite lived up to expectations in 2019, entering the Preakness winless in three starts this year. Trained by Bob Baffert, Improbable has been rated off the pace for most of his career. Depending on the pace situation Saturday, it wouldn't be a shocker to see new rider Mike Smith position this son of City Zip closer to the front throughout. Improbable is a logical contender.

WIN WIN WIN was passively handled at the rear of the field in Louisville two weeks ago, waiting to commence his bid beginning at the quarter pole. One of the local hopes in this year's Preakness, Win Win Win had the fifth-fastest final quarter-mile in the Kentucky Derby; a swift early pace would benefit this Michael Trombetta trainee. He still may be best going one turn, but he's one to consider underneath at a big price.

**WAR OF WILL**  
**BOURBON WAR**  
**IMPROBABLE**  
**WIN WIN WIN**

**ANALYSIS**



**BRAD FREE**

BOURBON WAR is positioned for a mild upset over Preakness favorite IMPROBABLE, who benefited from an uneventful trip in finishing fifth (placed fourth) as the Kentucky Derby favorite. Improbable is good, but he inherits repeat favoritism partly by default. The original top four Derby finishers all skipped the Preakness.

Bourbon War did not run in the Derby. However, his form was validated by third-across-the-wire Code of Honor. Twice this year, Code of Honor finished three-quarters of a length in front of Bourbon War. In the Derby, Code of Honor finished three-quarters and a head in front of Improbable.

By comparison, and risking oversimplification, Bourbon War and Improbable are virtually equal in ability because both finished three-quarters behind Code of Honor. Bourbon War is listed at 12-1, Improbable is 5-2. One overlay, one underlay.

Bourbon War, a late runner, was compromised last out, finishing fourth in the Florida Derby, a slow-paced parade controlled by front-runners. Also, as it turns out, Florida Derby winner Maximum Security is very good. The Preakness pace should be sufficient to flatter the rally of Bourbon War, who adds blinkers.

In the Preakness, Bourbon War will make his first start in seven weeks. The last time he returned from a seven-week layoff, he scored a convincing allowance victory. Bourbon War can post a Preakness upset unless Improbable is simply a better horse. He might be.

Improbable is the most accomplished entrant but is favored following a no-excuse defeat as the Derby favorite. His trainer has won the Preakness seven times, including with beaten Derby favorites Lookin At Lucky and Point Given, both of whom had Derby excuses (post, pace). It is uncertain if Improbable is in their league.

After the top pair, it gets tricky. The choices to fill out the super are longshot closers who need pace. They might get it. LAUGHING FOX rallied to a highly rated stakes victory last out at Oaklawn Park, OWENDALE won a Grade 3 at Keeneland from far back. The gradually improving SIGNALMAN also will finish.

WAR OF WILL may deserve a higher ranking, though he drew the rail again. His early-season races at Fair Grounds were impressive; he had an excuse (minor injury) in his final prep and ran okay in the Derby. The significance of his "trouble" is a matter of opinion.

WARRIOR'S CHARGE, supplemented for \$150,000, got an easy lead and trounced N1X foes at Oaklawn with a big figure. He is fast and likely to set the pace from post 3. Come catch him.

**BOURBON WAR**  
**IMPROBABLE**  
**LAUGHING FOX**  
**OWENDALE**



**BYRON KING**

Hall of Famer trainer Bob Baffert has won the Preakness seven times and looks poised to add a record eighth with IMPROBABLE in Saturday's race. Although the colt's trouble-free Kentucky Derby finish might have been somewhat disappointing – he was fifth past the wire before being elevated to fourth upon the disqualification of Maximum Security. He does not need to close the gap on the rivals that beat him in Louisville. They simply aren't here. This year's Preakness not only lacks a Derby winner, it lacks a disqualified Derby winner, a runner-up, or even a third-place finisher.

Look through the race records of the 13 starters in the Preakness and Improbable rates on top in key statistical categories. He leads the field in earnings with \$769,520. He is the race's only Grade 1 winner, having won the Los Alamitos Futurity last year. And he owns consistently the highest Beyer Speed Figures, having posted Beyers of between 96 and 99 in all four of his two-turn races, while other leading contenders sport only one or two figures in that vicinity.

He has had limited rest heading into the Preakness, like the three other Derby competitors that continue onto Baltimore, but no one in modern times has been better than Baffert in having horses ready for the two-week Derby-to-Preakness turnaround.

Preakness newcomers ANOTHERTWISTAFATE and OWENDALE, second and first in the Grade 3 Lexington on April 13 at Keeneland, have the number power to suggest they are threats. Anothertwistafate ran a 95 Beyer in the Lexington, topped by a 98 by Owendale, figures that, if repeated, give them a fighting chance versus Improbable.

Although Anothertwistafate was beaten by Owendale in the Lexington, he performed honorably in defeat. A speed horse in a race filled with front-runners, he was rated, which proved detrimental when his opponents quickly surrounded him in traffic. This resulted in him being boxed in until early stretch, at which point hard-charging Owendale had already come swooping past on his way to victory.

Regardless of the traffic Anothertwistafate experienced, Owendale acts legit. He improved his route record to 3 for 6 in taking the Lexington, doing so with a speed figure more commonly seen from a spring 3-year-old winner at the Grade 2 or Grade 1 level.

Two-time stakes winner WAR OF WILL also is a Preakness contender, though he seems likely to be an overbet second favorite behind Improbable, with the public likely to pounce on him.

**IMPROBABLE**  
**ANOTHERTWISTAFATE**  
**OWENDALE**  
**WAR OF WILL**

ANALYSIS



MIKE WELSCH

Like trainer Mark Casse, I was hoping War of Will did not draw the rail again for the Preakness, although obviously not for the same reasons. The prevailing thought was that War of Will and IMPROBABLE are the two best horses in this field, with the former likely to offer a little more betting value and with a very legitimate chance of defeating the likely favorite – if he did not draw down inside again.

Unfortunately, he did, leaving Improbable as the preferred choice. Although he did not have as much excuse as many others in the Derby, Improbable didn't have a perfectly clean run either, and the slight turnback in distance should be to his advantage Saturday. I believed he was the best horse heading into the Derby, following the scratch of Omaha Beach, and feel he is the best of this bunch as well.

WAR OF WILL's troubles in the Derby were there for all to see, and his final price may reflect all that on Saturday. I had the notion prior to the Derby that he might be in need of a race, on the assumption he got very little in the way of conditioning from the Louisiana Derby and was essentially running 1 1/4 miles off an 11-week layoff. Thus, he should be sitting on an improved try on Preakness Day. But after watching the Derby, it also appeared War of Will might just not be comfortable running down inside and behind horses, hence the wish for an outside draw on Saturday. It will be interesting to see what strategy Casse and jockey Tyler Gaffalione employ from the rail if they agree with that notion.

OWENDALE may have benefited from an outside flow to the racetrack at Keeneland when he won the Lexington, but it's hard to discount his big effort that day too much, and he appears to have come out of the race as good as, if not better, than off that latest work at Churchill Downs. Looks best of the new faces and a very live longshot in this field.

BOURBON WAR did not train into the Florida Derby nearly as well as he had prior to the Fountain of Youth, and then he had little chance anyway considering the flow of a race that has proven to be a key one to this point. Adds blinkers to the equipment, and from the looks of some of his latest breezes, he seems ready to step forward with a much-improved performance.

Signalman trained very well at Churchill Downs in the weeks leading up to the Derby and seems to be doing just as well since then. Another who might be worth tossing in for at least a minor share at a decent price.

IMPROBABLE  
WAR OF WILL  
OWENDALE  
BOURBON WAR



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