



KENTUCKY
DERBY 143rd
CHURCHILL DOWNS
MAY 6, 2017

KENTUCKY DERBY BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires**[™]





twinspires™

KENTUCKY DERBY BETTING GUIDE

CONTENTS

- 3 Betting Guide Overview
- 4 How to Read a Past Performance
- 5 Expert Picks
- 6 Kentucky Derby Leaderboard
- 7 Kentucky Derby Top Horses
- 8 Kentucky Derby Superfecta Payout
- 9 Three-Year-Old Debuts
- 10 Kentucky Oaks Tipsheet
- 11 Kentucky Derby Tipsheet
- 12 How to Bet a Superfecta



BETTING GUIDE OVERVIEW

by Alastair Bull

In most years, Kentucky Derby preps establishes a pecking order heading into the big race. They may not tell you everything, but often there's a clear favorite.

This year, the preps have told us ... well, that anything's possible.

Form reversals and injuries are part of every Derby prep season, but 2017 has produced enough of them for a decade of Derbies.

It hasn't helped that the three favorites in the Kentucky Derby Future Wager at the start of 2017 – Classic Empire, McCracken, and Mastery – have all had injury setbacks. In addition, many of the leading chances have thrown in at least one shockingly bad run.

The preps were summed up to some degree when Hence bounced back from a Southwest Stakes failure to win the Sunland Derby, relegating into fourth place a maiden named Irap, who then won the Blue Grass at 33-1.

What the preps told us most clearly is that horses are not machines. At any time, they can be set back by injury, suffer bad luck in running, or produce an unexplainable form reversal.

Perhaps the most important lesson from the preps is that good horses can often be excused one bad run. What we should note about the heavy defeats suffered by Classic Empire, Irish War Cry, and Hence in the preps is that they all came back to win their following start.

That suggests Gunnevera, McCracken, J Boys Echo, and Tapwrit, all well beaten in their most recent prep, could well improve and figure in the Derby finish. McCracken in particular should be better for the Blue Grass outing after his injury issue.

So, perhaps the best thing to do is ignore any one-off failures when trying to pick your Derby winner, and look for the horses that have shown the most talent and stamina.

The most eye-catching Derby prep win was arguably Always Dreaming's Florida Derby victory, which produced a 102 BRIS Speed figure. He deserves the utmost respect.

The top BRIS Speed rating this year (104) went to J Boys Echo in the Gotham Stakes, though this form may be slightly suspect. Irish War Cry (102 in the Holy Bull and Wood Memorial) is the only contender to produce two triple-figure BRIS Speed ratings. Gunnevera looked when winning the Fountain of Youth (102 rating), and Girvin looked stylish in his two Louisiana victories.

The most interesting outsider is arguably Sunland Derby winner Hence (103 rating), given that he clearly beat Blue Grass winner Irap and Arkansas Derby runner-up Conquest Mo Money that day.

And then there's Classic Empire. His winning Arkansas Derby Speed Figure (96) wasn't spectacular, but merely winning after his troubled start to the year was a great sign, and his 108 speed rating in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile is the best of any contender. Somehow, it wouldn't seem out of place that after all the chaos, the best horse at the start of the preps ended up winning on Derby day.

Or, it could be another complete shock. It's been that kind of year.



KENTUCKY DERBY BETTING GUIDE OVERVIEW

TWINSPIRES CUSTOMERS GET FREE BRISNET PP's FOR TRACKS THEY WAGER ON

The Brisnet.com Ultimate PP's are the most detailed past performance product on the market and include speed ratings, pace figures, exclusive Prime Power and Class ratings, detailed jockey and trainer statistics, and pedigree information. Start using Ultimate PP's and discover why Brisnet.com is the handicapper's edge.

12

Cathryn Sophia (E/P 5)

Own: Cash Is King Llc

Green, Multi-colored Crown, Green Shamrocks On White

CASTELLANO JAVIER (0 0-0-0 0%)

+2016

494

22%

54%

-0.54

+JKYw/EP types

591

26%

57%

-0.15

+JKYw/ Trn L60

2

50%

100%

+10.60

+JKYw/ Routes

107

22%

54%

-0.28

7

B. f. 3 FTMSEP 2014 \$30k

Sire: Street Boss (Street Cry (IRE)) \$12,500

Dam: Sheave (Mineshaft)

Brdr: Robert T Manfuso (MD)

Trnr: Servis John C (0 0-0-0 0%)

3

+2016

69

33%

57%

+0.92

Graded Stakes

28

7%

36%

-1.84

+Btn favorite

74

30%

54%

+0.13

+Routes

482

18%

43%

-0.05

8

Prime Power: 147.1 (1st)

Life: 5 4- 0- 1 \$385,520 102

2016 3 2- 0- 1 \$295,520 99

2015 2 2- 0- 0 \$90,000 102

CD 0 0- 0- 0 \$0 0

Fst (109)

5 4- 0- 1 \$385,520 102

Off (109)

0 0- 0- 0 \$0

Dis (108)

0 0- 0- 0 \$0

Trf (110)

0 0- 0- 0 \$0

AW

0 0- 0- 0 \$0

13

L 121

Sire Stats: AWD 6.7

15%Mud

241MudSts

1.57spi

Dam'sSire: AWD 7.3

15%Mud

820MudSts

2.23spi

Dam'sStats: Unraced

100%2yo

1str

1w

1sw

18.02dpi

SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014

\$30.0k (27/47)

SireAvg: \$53.3k

StudFee: \$15,000

14

★ Finished 3rd in last race

★ Best Dirt Speed is fastest among today's starters

★ Hot Jockey in last 7 days (13 4-5-1)

● Failed as favorite in last race

● Poor 'Graded Stakes' trainer record: 7% wins 28 sts

15

DATE TRK

16

DIST

17

RR

RACETYPE

18

CR

E1

E2

LP

1c

2c

SPD

PP

ST

1C

2C

STR

FIN

22

JOCKEY

23

ODDS

Top Finishers

Comment

09Apr16Kee6

1¹⁶

ft

:24

:47¹1:11

1:43²

117

©Ashland-G1

118

92

106/

80

+7

+13

94

3

3¹¹₂

3²₂

3¹

1^{hd}

3¹₂

CastellanoJJ¹²¹

L

*0.50

WpNMmrnkRclsVlntnnkCtnSp²

Bold bid 4w; hung

5

27Feb16GP5

1m

ft

:24

:47

1:11⁴

1:36³

117

©DvonaDal-G2¹²²

83

88/

103

-4

-7

96

4

3¹₂

4¹₁

3¹₂

1²₂

1⁷

CastellanoJJ¹²²

Lf

*0.20

CthrynSph⁷LwsBy³Drst¹³₁

Pressed3w;bid1/4;handy

6

30Jan16GP3

7f

ft

:22³

:45²1:09⁴

1:22

116

©FrwrldGal-G2¹²¹

84

91/

104

-5

-11

99

1

6

4⁴

3¹₂

1¹₂

1⁵₂

RosarioJ¹²⁰

Lf

*0.10

CthrynSph⁷IslndSnt⁴BaltDiva³

Off step slow in hand

6

05Dec15LH5

7f

ft

:23

:46³1:11

1:23

114

©GinTalkingB 100k¹²¹

97

101/

98

-1

-6

102

5

1

1¹₂

1²₂

1⁸

116

RosadoRJ¹¹⁹

Lf

*0.10

CthrynSph¹⁶Prgnss⁵ThndrngSk¹₂

On left lead; handily

6

30Oct15Prx5

6f

ft

:22²

:46³:58³

1:11¹

112

©Mdn 50k

119

94

94/

102

-3

-11

99

2

3

1¹₂

1²₂

1⁵

112

RosadoRJ¹²²

L

*2.40

CtrnSp¹²AWnndSn⁵WrblbrsFl²₁

Sharp; handy fashion

9

23

23Apr Kee 5f ft :59³ B 1/36

03Apr Kee 4f ft :48¹ B 5/37

26Mar Pmm 6f ft 1:13 B 1/1

13Mar Pmm 4f ft :48² B 2/42

20Feb Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/66

24Jan Pmm 4f ft :50² B 89/103

16Jan Pmm 5f ft :59³ B 1/13

08Jan Pmm 5f ft 1:00³ B 2/23

31Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/76

20Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48¹ B 1/37

25Nov15 Prx 5f ft 1:00³ B 1/14

16Nov15 Prx 5f ft :59³ B 1/13

13

Land Over Sea (S 1)

Own: Reddam Racing Llc

White, Purple Belt, White Band On Purple Sleeves, Purple

GUTIERREZ MARIO (0 0-0-0 0%)

Ch. f. 3 OBSAPR 2015 \$130k

Sire: Bellamy Road (Concerto) \$7,500

Dam: Belle Watling (Pulpit)

Brdr: Jack Swain III (KY)

Trnr: O'Neill Doug F (0 0-0-0 0%)

2016

214

14%

45%

-0.40

JKYw/ S types

114

11%

44%

-0.20

Shipper

135

20%

38%

-0.25

+2016

228

19%

45%

-0.13

+Shipper

135

20%

38%

-0.25

+Routes

482

18%

43%

-0.05

Life: 8 2- 4- 1

\$472,000 97

Fst (107)

7 1- 4- 1

\$430,000 97

2016 3 1- 2- 0

\$324,000 93

Off (106)

0 0- 0- 0

\$0

2015 5 1- 2- 1

\$148,000 97

Dis (107)

0 0- 0- 0

\$0

CD 0 0- 0- 0

\$0 0

Trf (108)

1 1- 0- 0

\$42,000 82

Sire Stats: AWD 7.2

20%Mud

492MudSts

1.22spi

Dam'sSire: AWD 7.6

17%Mud

1422MudSts

2.26spi

Dam'sStats: Unraced

100%2yo

1str

1w

1sw

18.02dpi

SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014

\$30.0k (27/47)

SireAvg: \$53.3k

StudFee: \$15,000

1

BRIS Pace and Speed Pars

2

Jockey Stats

3

Trainer Stats

4

Dam Stats

5

Sire Stats

6

Sales Stats

7

Horse's Pedigree, Sales & Breeding Information

8

BRIS Prime Power Rating

9

Run Style Stats

10

BRIS Pedigree Rating

11

Medication, Equipment, and Weight the Horse Will Carry

12

Horse's Lifetime Start Information

13

Owner & Jockey Silks

14

Positive and Negative Comments

15

Date of Race, Track, and Race Number

16

Surface, Distance, and Track Conditions

17

Fractional Times of Leader, Final Time, and Age Designation

18

BRIS Race Rating and Class Rating

19

Race Type

20

BRIS Pace and Speed Ratings

21

Post Position, Placement Throughout Race, and Finish

22

Jockey and Weight

23

Medication, Equipment, and Odds

24

Top Finishers, Comment, and Number of Starters

25

Workouts

26

BRIS Race Shapes

EXPERT PICKS FOR KENTUCKY DERBY WEEKEND

We've assembled an expert team of handicappers to give their top picks for each graded stakes race for both Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby days.

FRIDAY, MAY 5 Churchill Downs



LA TROIENNE (G1)

8	Finest City	8	Finest City	4	Paid Up Subscriber	4	Paid Up Subscriber	4	Paid Up Subscriber
6	Streamline	4	Paid Up Subscriber	8	Finest City	8	Finest City	3	Big World
3	Big World	9	Go Maggie Go	9	Go Maggie Go	9	Go Maggie Go	8	Finest City

ALYSHEBA (G2)

3	El Huerfano	9	American Freedom	6	International Star	9	American Freedom	2	Breaking Lucky
2	Breaking Lucky	2	Breaking Lucky	4	Honorable Duty	2	Breaking Lucky	5	December Seven
9	American Freedom	4	Honorable Duty	9	American Freedom	5	December Seven	4	Honorable Duty

LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS (G1)

4	Paradise Woods	4	Paradise Woods	7	Farrell	7	Farrell	4	Paradise Woods
13	Abel Tasman	7	Farrell	4	Paradise Woods	4	Paradise Woods	13	Abel Tasman
12	Daddys Lil Darling	14	Salty	10	Miss Sky Warrior	13	Abel Tasman	14	Salty

SATURDAY, MAY 6 Churchill Downs



HUMANA DISTAFF (G1)

5	Finest City	5	Finest City	2	Paulassilverlining	7	Carina Mia	7	Carina Mia
2	Paulassilverlining	7	Carina Mia	6	Lightstream	5	Finest City	2	Paulassilverlining
4	Sweetgrass	6	Lightstream	7	Carina Mia	2	Paulassilverlining	5	Finest City

CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE (G2)

4	Believe in Bertie	1	Linda	6	Roca Rojo	4	Believe in Bertie	1	Linda
8	Prize Exhibit	6	Roca Rojo	2	Miss Temple City	2	Miss Temple City	7	Harmonize
6	Roca Rojo	2	Miss Temple City	4	Believe in Bertie	6	Roca Rojo	4	Believe in Bertie

PAT DAY MILE (G3)

9	Excitations	12	Bobby On Fleek	11	Sonic Mule	9	Excitations	5	No Dozing
6	Greeley and Ben	8	Wild Shot	4	Uncontested	2	Bitumen	1	Local Hero
1	Local Hero	9	Excitations	1	Local Hero	4	Uncontested	4	Uncontested

WOODFORD RESERVE TURF CLASSIC (G1)

7	World Approval	8	Beach Patrol	7	World Approval	7	World Approval	1	Kasaqui
12	Ballagh Rocks	2	Divisidero	8	Beach Patrol	6	Bal a Bali	12	Ballagh Rocks
3	Oscar Nominated	1	Kasaqui	2	Divisidero	8	Beach Patrol	3	Oscar Nominated

KENTUCKY DERBY (G1)

14	Classic Empire	2	McCraken	17	Irish War Cry	15	McCraken	5	Always Dreaming
17	Irish War Cry	17	Irish War Cry	10	Gunnevera	17	Irish War Cry	19	Practical Joke
8	Hence	14	Classic Empire	14	Classic Empire	14	Classic Empire	15	McCraken



KENTUCKY DERBY LEADERBOARD

Updated: Sunday, April 15, 2017

HOW TO GET INTO THE KENTUCKY DERBY STARTING GATE

The Road to the Kentucky Derby Presented by TwinSpires.com is a 35-race series that awards points to the Top 4 finishers in each race. The Top 20 point earners will earn a spot in the starting gate for the 143rd running of the \$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (Grade I) on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The Kentucky Derby field has been limited to 20 starters since 1975. At least 20 horses have entered the 1 ¼-mile race for 3-year-olds every year since 2004, and 14 of the last 16 years.

RANK	HORSE	POINTS	OWNER(s)	TRAINER	Non-Restricted Stakes Earnings
1	Girvin	150	Brad Grady	Joe Sharp	\$849,800
2	Classic Empire	132	John C. Oxley	Mark E. Casse	\$2,093,820
3	Gormley	125	Mr. and Mrs. Jerome S. Moss	John A. Shirreffs	\$844,000
4	Irap	113	Reddam Racing, LLC	Doug F. O'Neill	\$760,000
5	Irish War Cry	110	Isabelle de Tomaso	H. Graham Motion	\$676,660
6	Thunder Snow (IRE)	100	Godolphin	Saeed bin Suroor	\$1,621,063
7	Always Dreaming	100	Brooklyn Boyz Stables	Todd A. Pletcher	\$589,000
8	Gunnevera	84	Peacock Stables, LLC	Antonio Sano	\$1,137,800
9	Practical Joke	74	Klaravich Stables, Inc. and William H. Lawrence	Chad C. Brown	\$966,000
10	J Boys Echo	63	Albaugh Family Stables LLC	Dale C. Romans	\$305,000
11	State of Honor	62	Conrad Farms	Mark E. Casse	\$310,364
12	Tapwrit	54	Bridlewood Farm, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Robert V. LaPenta	Todd A. Pletcher	\$325,570
13	Malagacy	50	Sumaya U.S. Stable	Todd A. Pletcher	\$570,000
14	Hence	50	Calumet Farm	Steven M. Asmussen	\$401,429
15	Fast and Accurate	50	Kendall E. Hansen	Michael J. Maker	\$320,712
16	McCraken	40	Whitham Thoroughbreds LLC	Ian R. Wilkes	\$385,048
17	Battle of Midway	40	Fox Hill Farms, Inc.	Jerry Hollendorfer	\$224,000
18	Patch	40	Calumet Farm	Todd A. Pletcher	\$200,000
19	Battalion Runner	40	St. Ellas Stable	Todd A. Pletcher	\$140,000
20	Untrapped	34	Michael Langford	Steven M. Asmussen	\$212,858
21	Lookin at Lee	32	L and N Racing, LLC	Steven M. Asmussen	\$428,600
22	Sonneteer	30	Calumet Farm	J. Keith Desormeaux	\$236,000
23	Royal Mo	30	Mr. & Mrs. Jerome S. Moss	John A. Shirreffs	\$213,000
24	Local Hero	30	e Five Racing Thoroughbreds	Steven M. Asmussen	\$140,000
25	Iliad	20	Kaleem Shah, Inc.	Doug F. O'Neill	\$220,000
26	Master Plan	20	Al Shaqab Racing, WinStar Farm LLC and China Horse Club	Todd A. Pletcher	\$214,700

KENTUCKY DERBY TOP HORSES



GIRVIN

Owner: Brad Grady Trainer: Joe Sharp Jockey: Mike Smith

Trained by Joe Sharp, Girvin has been mightily impressive on the Derby trail. At 3-1-0 in four starts, the Tale of Ekati offspring has picked up plenty of momentum with wins in the Risen Star and Louisiana Derby out of Fair Grounds. In both efforts, Girvin showed some strong confidence down the stretch invigorating the betting faithful stockpiling behind him. His time of 1:49.77 in the Louisiana Derby on April 1 afforded him a BRIS Speed rating of 99. He is not shy of competition, and has a late charge in the tank that could provide him an upset win. He has been the dominant force in the Louisiana circuit so far.



CLASSIC EMPIRE

Owner: John C. Oxley Trainer: Mark E. Casse Jockey: Julien Leparoux

The early choice for the 2017 Kentucky Derby has had a turbulent season since winning the 2016 Breeders' Cup Juvenile. The colt first ran in the 2017 Holy Bull, but was upset by Irish War Cry and Gunnevera to finish third overall. Rebounding well in the Arkansas Derby on April 15, Classic Empire looked completely unfazed on the Oaklawn Park track. The champion chased down Conquest Mo Money and Malagacy with a furious rally, covering the 1 1/8-mile distance in 1:48.93 with a BRIS Speed rating of 96, which might worry some bettors. It shouldn't. Classic Empire has always been top of the class, and regained his championship form at the perfect time. He will be the rightful favorite on the first weekend in May.



GORMLEY

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Jerome S. Moss Trainer: John A. Shirreffs Jockey: Victor Espinoza

This son of Malibu Moon has stood as a bit of a mystery for much of the Derby prep race season. Gormley scored in the 2016 FrontRunner Stakes but fell to 7th in the 2016 Breeders' Cup Juvenile. He won the 2017 Sham Stakes, then finished fourth in the San Felipe Stakes. The inconsistency was maddening, but Gormley proved doubters wrong with a mature effort in the 2017 Santa Anita Derby where he loomed behind the leaders the entire way before surging in the stretch to win. His time of 1:51.16 over the 1 1/8-mile track at Santa Anita belied a respectable speed rating of 99. Gormley will enter as an outside shot in the 2017 Kentucky Derby, and is simply the type of closer that can show up to steal one on any given Saturday.



IRAP

Owner: Reddam Racing, LLC Trainer: Doug F. O'Neill Jockey: Mario Gutierrez

Doug O'Neill's Irap is one of the most tempting takes in the 2017 Kentucky Derby. The three-year-old son of Tiznow scored one of the biggest upsets of the prep race circuit when he defeated a stacked field in the Blue Grass Stakes that was highlighted by McCracken, Tapwrit and Practical Joke. Irap stayed on determinedly over the Keeneland track, and his final time of 1:50.39 provided him a BRIS Speed rating of 100. The concern, of course, is that this was an anomaly. The Blue Grass Stakes win was his maiden victory. It's uncertain how handicappers and horse players will respond to Irap's sudden rise. He was not a feature throughout any pool of the Kentucky Derby Futures Wager, and is perhaps the lead horse in the "all others" option.



IRISH WAR CRY

Owner: Isabelle de Tomaso Trainer: H. Graham Motion Jockey: Rajiv Maragh

No other horse really encapsulates the roller coaster ride of the Kentucky Derby trail better than Irish War Cry. This Curlin colt thundered to prominence with an outstanding upset at the Holy Bull, where he defeated 1-2 favorite Classic Empire. The problem was his follow-up effort in the Fountain of Youth where he trailed to seventh. Graham Motion made the call to switch gears, and shipped north to compete in the Wood Memorial where the trainer saw the performance he wanted. Irish War Cry outlasted Battalion Runner to claim the win, showing good tractability for new rider Rajiv Maragh. His 102 Speed rating is one of the fastest out of the recent tests, but his style is divisive. Some will love his willingness to lead early, and others will not.

KENTUCKY DERBY SUPERFECTA PAYOUT

by Ed DeRosa

It was hardly a surprise when Orb won the 2013 Kentucky Derby.

Based on the odds, he was the most likely winner of America's most famous race, and he returned \$12.80 for a \$2 bet, but that was only the beginning of some nice payouts.

In addition to favored Orb, the top four finishers included second-choice Revolutionary with crowd favorite Calvin Borel aboard. The two horses fans most expected to be in the top four were and yet the superfecta paid \$28,542 for \$1.

With March Madness come and gone, imagine picking the Final Four and getting that kind of payday. You can't, but the Kentucky Derby almost always produces big payouts on \$1 bets.

What is the most your office brackets pool pays? Maybe a few thousand bucks to one person if it's a big one? In 2013, 318 people hit that \$28,542 Kentucky Derby superfecta!

And while a lot of the action is on track at Churchill Downs that day, plenty of people experienced the thrill of victory from their home, office, party, or on the go via TwinSpires.com and its mobile apps available for Apple and Android devices.

So what to make of the 2017 Kentucky Derby superfecta? Orb began a string of four consecutive favorites, and since Fusaichi Pegasus snapped a 20-year drought for favorites, the public's wagering choice has won 8 of the past 17 Derbys.

However, the favorite overall has not done so well getting into the superfecta. I.e., if you think the favorite can't win, it might be best to play against him altogether.

Of the nine losing favorites, only 2—Empire Maker in 2002 and his son Bodemeister in 2012—were in the superfecta with both finishing second. A 17-8-2-0-0 line looks impressive on the win end, but seven favorites out of the super from 17 races is a pretty juicy stat.

To me, this is the perfect spot for the either/or approach. Either the favorite will run well or he won't, and you should have a strong opinion about that when placing your superfecta wagers.

I.e., don't hedge with the favorite "just in case". Use your capital to go for the big score if you don't like him. Conversely, if you like the favorite make sure you hit if he runs well. Key instead of spread.

To review, if you like the favorite, key him; if you don't, spread without him.



Download our apps, visit TwinSpires.com, or call 1-877-Spires1 to set up an account today, and Follow @TwinSpires and @Brisnet on Twitter for up-to-the-minute news, handicapping insights, and racing discussion on the Triple Crown trail and year-round.

THREE-YEAR-OLD DEBUTS

by Ed DeRosa

We hear every year how three-year-olds are still developing, and “anything can happen” as they improve form, but a study of the past 19 Kentucky Derbys indicates that we can learn a lot by how a three-year-old begins his season.

Indeed, the last five winners and eight of the last 11 won their three-year-old debut, and 12 of the past 15 made their seasonal bow in a stakes race, and all 15 of those horses either won or within a length of the winner in an allowance or stakes race. Those eligible off that stat this year are Fast And Accurate, Girvin, Gormley, Irish War Cry, McCracken, State of Honor, and Thunder Snow.

The last horse to begin his three-year-old season in a maiden race and go on to win the Kentucky Derby was Monarchos in 2001. Four horses fit that bill this year, but interestingly enough, the field’s maiden—Sonneteer—made his three-year-old debut in a stakes race.

The wagering public appears to have a good handle on who the good three-year-olds are, too, as nine of the 19 winners were favored with 14 of the 19 Derby winners making their seasonal debut at odds of less than 4-to-1.

This year, only Always Dreaming, Classic Empire, Hence, and McCracken were favored with only McCracken winning a stakes among those four (Classic Empire lost in a stakes while the other two won maiden races).



Classic Empire wins the Arkansas Derby.

THREE-YEAR-OLD DEBUTS - PREVIOUS KY DERBY WINNERS

Year	Derby Winner	Class	Finish	Lengths	Odds
2016	Nyquist	Grade 2	1	1.50	0.40
2015	American Pharoah	Grade 2	1	6.25	0.40
2014	California Chrome	stakes	1	5.50	2.50
2013	Orb	allowance	1	1.00	2.40
2012	I'll Have Another	Grade 2	1	2.75	43.30
2011	Animal Kingdom	allowance	2	-0.10	2.80
2010	Super Saver	Grade 3	3	-0.50	1.50
2009	Mine That Bird	stakes	2	-0.20	3.60
2008	Big Brown	allowance	1	12.75	1.30
2007	Street Sense	Grade 3	1	0.05	1.20
2006	Barbaro	Grade 3	1	3.75	0.40
2005	Giacomo	stakes	3	-1.25	1.40
2004	Smarty Jones	stakes	1	5.00	0.40
2003	Funny Cide	Grade 3	5	-6.50	5.30
2002	War Emblem	stakes	5	-2.25	12.40
2001	Monarchos	maiden	1	6.00	5.50
2000	Fusaichi Pegasus	maiden	1	2.00	0.20
1999	Charismatic	allowance	5	-4.00	17.90
1998	Real Quiet	stakes	8	-22.50	1.10
AVERAGE:			2.32	0.49	5.47
MEDIAN:			1	1	1.5

THREE-YEAR-OLD DEBUTS OF THIS YEAR'S DERBY RUNNERS

Entrant	Class	Finish	Lengths	Odds
Girvin	stakes	2	-0.75	1.7
Classic Empire	Grade 2	3	-8.75	0.5
Gormley	Grade 3	1	0.1	1.6
Irap	Grade 3	2	-3.5	4.2
Irish War Cry	Grade 2	1	3.75	4.4
Thunder Snow	Grade 3	1	5.75	
Always Dreaming	maiden	1	11	0.2
Gunnevera	Grade 2	2	-3.75	3.3
Practical Joke	Grade 2	2	-5.75	3.4
J Boys Echo	Grade 3	3	-4.75	6.8
State of Honor	stakes	2	-0.1	13.4
Tapwrit	Grade 3	2	-1.5	9.8
Hence	maiden	1	0.75	0.5
Fast And Accurate	stakes	1	2.75	3.9
McCracken	Grade 3	1	1.5	1.5
Battle of Midway	maiden	1	3.25	3.4
Patch	maiden	2	-4.75	6.8
Untrapped	Grade 3	2	-1.25	5.2
Lookin At Lee	Grade 3	3	-11	5.1
Sonneteer	stakes	4	-4	11.8

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



143RD RUNNING OF THE KENTUCKY OAKS

The Kentucky Oaks (Gr 1)

1 1/8-Miles

PURSE \$1,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Ever So Clever	20-1
2	Lockdown	20-1
3	Mopotism	20-1
4	Paradise Woods	5-2
5	Jordan's Henny	30-1
6	Vexatious	20-1
7	Farrell	5-1
8	Sailor's Valentine	30-1
9	Wicked Lick	30-1
10	Miss Sky Warrior	9-2
11	Tequilita	20-1
12	Daddy's Lil Darling	20-1
13	Abel Tasman	5-1
14	Salty	6-1

TOP PICKS	
4	Paradise Woods
13	Abel Tasman
14	Salty
LONGSHOT	
2	Lockdown
\$10 EXACTAS	
4 over 2,13,14 (\$30)	
\$1 TRIFECTA PART-WHEEL	
4 over 2,13,14 over all (\$24)	
4 over all over 2,13,14 (\$24)	
\$1 SUPERFECTA PART-WHEEL	
4 over 2,13,14 over 2,13,14 over all (\$66)	

powered by **brisnet.com**

Paradise Woods has been installed as the 5-2 morning line favorite in the Kentucky Oaks and the imposing California shipper rates top billing in the 1 1/8-mile race. She exits a sensational victory in the Santa Anita Oaks, registering a whopping 110 BRIS Speed rating for the 11-length decision, and inexperience is the only concern in her fourth career start. Her versatility is an asset, with Paradise Woods winning races on the lead and from off the pace, and the up-and-coming filly can prove too good for her 13 rivals on Friday.

Abel Tasman was no match for Paradise Woods when second in the Santa Anita Oaks but the filly is capable of better in her third start off the layoff for two-time Kentucky Oaks winner Bob Baffert. I like the closing kick she's displayed, posting BRIS Late Pace Ratings as high as 101 and with plenty of speed entered, Abel Tasman should be rolling in the latter stages.

Salty will be facing a class check in her second stakes appearance but it's easy to appreciate her improving form. The confirmed closer overcame trouble in her last two appearances, easily breaking her maiden prior to a 4 1/4-length decision in the Gulfstream Park Oaks, and Salty is eligible to make her presence felt in the stretch drive.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



143RD RUNNING OF THE KENTUCKY DERBY

The Kentucky Derby (Gr 1)

1-1/4 Miles

PURSE \$2,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Lookin at Lee	20-1
2	Thunder Snow	20-1
3	Fast and Accurate	50-1
4	Untrapped	30-1
5	Always Dreaming	5-1
6	State of Honor	30-1
7	Girvin	15-1
8	Hence	15-1
9	Irap	20-1
10	Gunnevera	15-1
11	Battle of Midway	30-1
12	Sonneteer	50-1
13	J Boys Echo	20-1
14	Classic Empire	4-1
15	McCraken	5-1
16	Tapwrit	20-1
17	Irish War Cry	6-1
18	Gormley	15-1
19	Practical Joke	20-1
20	Patch	30-1

TOP PICKS	
14	Classic Empire
17	Irish War Cry
8	Hence

\$1 EXACTA BOX	
14 - 17 - 8 (\$6)	
14 - 17 - 8 - 19 (\$12)	
14 - 17 - 8 - 19 - 6 (\$20)	

\$0.50 TRIFECTA BOX	
14 - 17 - 8 (\$3)	
14 - 17 - 8 - 19 (\$12)	
14 - 17 - 8 - 19 - 6 (\$30)	

powered by **brisnet.com**

The only consistency among this year's Kentucky Derby entrants is that they all have knocks against them. All three of my top picks threw in what can charitably be called clunkers—getting beat at least 8 lengths at various points this season. But more importantly, they all have impressive races on their resume—races that if repeated would win the Kentucky Derby, and that's what I'm betting on especially with my top pick Classic Empire whose Breeders' Cup Juvenile was the best race any horse has run this year and who rebounded from his poor three-year-old debut with a gritty effort in the Arkansas Derby.

As bad as Classic Empire was in the Holy Bull Stakes, Irish War Cry was worse in the Fountain of Youth, getting beat 21 lengths at 11-to-10. However, it's his only loss, and he's as likely a winner as any based on his four wins in the other four starts (including beating Classic Empire in the aforementioned Holy Bull).

Classic Empire and Irish War Cry will be among the top four betting choices, so we'll look to spice our payouts with Hence, who I like better than wither McCracken or Always Dreaming. In winning the Sunland Derby, Hence earned the highest Brisnet.com Speed Rating in the final preps, a number supported by also rans Irap and Conquest Mo Money running well in the Blue Grass and Arkansas Derby, respectively.

WIN A RAM 3500 LIMITED

GO TO



DERBYTRUCK.COM



HOW TO BET A SUPERFECTA IN THE KENTUCKY DERBY

Want to win a really big prize betting on the Kentucky Derby? Your best bet may be a superfecta. It's tough, but the rewards are potentially great.

To win a superfecta, a punter needs to successfully pick the first, second, third, and fourth horses, in correct order. It's a tough task in a normal race, where there are often between seven and 10 runners. But it can be very difficult indeed in the Run for the Roses, where up to 20 horses can start.

The returns depend on how strongly favored the horses are that finish in the top four. In 2016, the four most favored runners – Nyquist, Exaggerator, Gun Runner, and Mohaymen – finished in that order, returning a relatively meager \$1,084.20 for a \$2 bet. But in 2009, the year 50-1 shot Mine That Bird won, the return on a \$2 bet was \$557,006.40.

Returns like 2009 are very unlikely as 50-1 shots rarely win. But returns can still be good when a well-fancied favorite wins. In 2014, when California Chrome won as the 2.50-1 favorite, the superfecta was \$15,383.80 for a \$2 bet because the 37.8-1 outsider Commanding Curve finished second. In 2008, when 2.4-1 favorite Big Brown won, the superfecta was \$58,737.80.

So what is the best betting strategy? Well, it depends how you want to spread your options.

One popular bet is to select the four horses you like most, and then place a box bet. This covers all possible

permutations – this is a good option as it can be frustrating to select the correct horses but not have them in the correct order. For a \$1 betting unit, a four horse box superfecta would cost \$24. If you placed this bet last year, your return would be \$542.10.

If you wanted to include five horses in a box superfecta, the cost would be \$120; for a six horse box superfecta, it would be \$360.

Perhaps the best chance of getting a large return for a lesser outlay comes if you really fancy one horse as the likely winner. The way to get a big return in the California Chrome or Big Brown examples above would have been to bank on them winning and then include many more horses to finish second, third, or fourth.

Betting this way, if you banked on one horse winning, and then boxed four other horses to finish second, third, or fourth (this is often called a key superfecta), it would cost \$24 for a \$1c betting unit. If you banked on one horse winning and included five other horses to finish second, it costs \$60.

There's obviously risks here – you can still miss out even if your "banker" wins if any horse you haven't included finishes second, third, or fourth – and the costs pile up if you want to include more horses.

Superfectas are tough. But if you're up for the challenge, they can be great fun – especially if you win!

– by Alastair Bull