







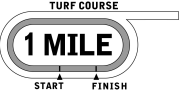

# BETTING WINDOW

EVERY WIZARD PRODUCT IS A HANDICAPPING AND BETTING LESSON



WIZARD  
RACE & SPORTS

## CHURCHILL DOWNS Saturday 05/03/2025 UPDATED

<p>Post: 11:00 AM</p> <p><b>1</b></p>  <p><b>Selections 8 - 3 - 11 - 12 - 4 - 9</b></p>	<p><b>WAGERS:</b> &gt; I have handicapped today's 14 race Kentucky Derby card aware that the main track could be wet at some point during the day and the turf course is downgraded to good or even yielding. Regardless of track and course conditions, wet or dry, my selections and wagers remain the same. If any late scratches change the complexion of any race, my wagers will be updated, which is the beauty of the Betting Window product. Visit my web site at: <a href="http://wizardraceandsports.com">wizardraceandsports.com</a> to read about my racing stable and other valuable handicapping information for both horse racing and sports.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>&gt; I want to keep this wager simple. Very competitive race.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Win bet on (8) SANSONE (6-1 on morning line)</li> <li>* Smaller win bet on (3) FOUNTAIN LAKE (12-1 on morning line)</li> </ul>
<p>Post: 11:32 AM</p> <p><b>2</b></p>  <p><b>Selections 10 - 7 - 1</b></p>	<p><b>WAGERS:</b> * Trifecta 7-10 over 7-10 over ALL = \$18 for a \$1 wager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Trifecta 7-10 over ALL over 7-10 = \$9 for a \$0.50 wager</li> </ul>
<p>Post: 12:05 PM</p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>UPDATED</p>  <p><b>Selections 5 - 3 - 6 - 9 - 7</b></p>	<p><b>WAGERS:</b> * Win bet on (5) GOAL ORIENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Trifecta 5 over 3-6-7-9 over ALL = \$32 for a \$1 wager</li> <li>* Trifecta 3-6-7-9 over 5 over ALL = \$16 for a \$0.50 wager</li> </ul>
<p>Post: 12:38 PM</p> <p><b>4</b></p>  <p><b>Selections 13 - 12 - 4 - 9 - 6</b></p>	<p><b>WAGERS:</b> &gt; Competitive &amp; tricky race so I'm keeping wager simple and small bet.</p> <p>*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Win &amp; Place bet on (13) NEW KING</li> <li>* Exacta box 4-9-12-13 = \$12 for a \$1 wager</li> <li>* Trifecta box 4-9-12-13 = \$12 for a \$0.50 wager</li> </ul>
<p>Post: 1:12 PM</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>UPDATED</p>  <p><b>Selections 6 - 2 - 7 - 5</b></p>	<p><b>WAGERS:</b> * Trifecta 2-6 over 2-3-5-6-7 over ALL = \$24 for a \$0.50 wager</p>
<p>Post: 1:53 PM</p> <p><b>6</b></p>  <p><b>Selections 6 - 2 - 1 - 5</b></p>	<p><b>The Wizard's Crystal Ball Best Bet</b></p> <p><b>WAGERS:</b> * Win bet on (6) GAMING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Exactas 6 over 1-2-5, reverse for 1/2 as much</li> </ul> <p>*****</p> <p>Bob Baffert has two entered in the Pat Day Mile. Gaming is the one I prefer, and he will be the bigger price as well. Despite a 2nd place finish last time out in a stakes race at Oaklawn as the even-money favorite, his effort was "better than it looks". He was forced to chase the wire-to-wire winner, who benefitted by setting a slow pace. Even in defeat, he was able to run a figure similar to his best race as a 2-year-old, which was a solid 2nd place finish to Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Citizen Bull, who he also chased around the track. I like him at the 1-turn mile breaking from a perfect post. His 3 works at Santa Anita for this have all been outstanding.</p>



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RACE & SPORTS

## CHURCHILL DOWNS Saturday 05/03/2025 UPDATED

Post: 2:38 PM

# 7

UPDATED

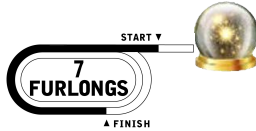


Selections 7 - 8 - 6

**WAGERS:** \* Exactas 7 over 6-8, reverse for 1/2 as much  
 \* Exacta box 6-7-8 = \$12 for a \$2 wager

Post: 3:23 PM

# 8



Selections 10 - 7 - 11 - 4

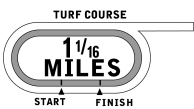
### The Wizard's Crystal Ball Best Bet

**WAGERS:** \* Exactas 10 over 7-11, reverse for 1/3 as much  
 \* Smaller exacta 10 over 4, reverse for 1/4 as much  
 \* Trifecta 10 over 4-7-11 over ALL = \$13.50 for a \$0.50 wager  
 \* Trifecta 10 over 7-11 over 2-3-4-6-7-11 = \$10 for a \$1 wager  
 \* Trifecta 10 over 2-3-4-6-7-11 over 2-3-4-6-7-11 = \$15 for a \$0.50 wager  
 \* Trifecta 7-11 over 10 over 2-3-4-6-7-11 = \$10 for a \$1 wager  
 TOTAL TRIFECTA WAGER = \$48.50  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Before being put on the shelf following his win in a G3 stake at Santa Anita back in February 2024, Nysos had shown brilliance in all 3 of his starts. His debut win was breathtaking. He repeated that with another tour de force, stepping up in class and stretching out to 7F in a G3 stake at Del Mar. He saved his best for last before being sidelined when earning a 7.5-length win stretching out to 2 turns in another G3 race back at Santa Anita. In that victory, Nysos drifted in upper stretch, so something may have gone amiss during the race. Trainer Bob Baffert showcases Nysos today in his first start as a 4-year-old. The question is whether or not he's fit enough to take on these classy sprinters off such a long break. If his workouts at Santa Anita are any indication, the answer is a resounding YES. Several of the published works have been in company, which I've watched, and I've been impressed. Nysos is very tactical, draws a perfect post going 7F, and has world-class rider Flavien Prat back aboard for the third straight time. One of the highlights on the Derby Day card will be watching this race that features this potential superstar.

Post: 4:06 PM

# 9



Selections 2 - 7 - 5 - 10 - 3

**WAGERS:** \* Win & Place bet on (2) SCIPPIO  
 \* Exacta box 2-5-7 = \$12 for a \$2 wager  
 \* Trifecta box 2-3-5-7-10 = \$30 for a \$0.50 wager

Post: 4:50 PM

# 10

UPDATED



Selections 7 - 9 - 8 - 2 - 1

**WAGERS:** \* Win bet on (7) VAHVA  
 \* Trifecta 7-9 over 1-2-7-8-9-11-15 over ALL = \$40 for a \$0.50 wager



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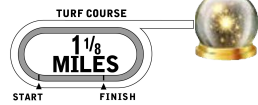
WIZARD  
RACE & SPORTS

## CHURCHILL DOWNS Saturday 05/03/2025 UPDATED

Post: 5:39 PM

# 11

UPDATED



Selections 1 - 7 - 10 - 8 - 6

### The Wizard's Crystal Ball Best Bet

**WAGERS:** > This is the only Pick 4 play on the 14 horse card that I want to play. I've mapped out 3 tickets. You can wager on any combination of these 3 depending on your bankroll.

\* Begin a PICK 4 play, 3 suggested tickets = \$136.50

Ticket 1: 1-4-6-7-8-10 / 7-8-9-14-17-18 / 7-11-14 / 12-14 = \$108 for a \$0.50 wager

Ticket 2: 1 / 7-8-9-14-18 / 7-11-14 / 12-14 = \$15 for a \$0.50 wager

Ticket 3: 1-7-10 / 7-8-18 / 7-11-14 / 12 = \$13.50 for a \$0.50 wager

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Win bet on (1) INTEGRATION

\* Exactas 1 over 7-10, reverse each for 1/2 as much

\* Smaller exactas 1 over 6-8, reverse each for 1/4 as much

\*\*\*\*\*

He's been a gem of consistency throughout his career while hitting the board in 9 of his 12 starts, winning 5 races. Integration has two G2 wins to his credit and three 2nds in G1 company. Even in defeat, he's run very well. Today could be the day this 5-year-old gets his well-deserved G1 victory. After losing by a neck to today's rival, Spirit of St. Louis, Hall of Fame trainer Shug McGaughey freshened Integration up for 76 days. He returned in the G1 Makers Mark Mile, which clearly served as a sharpener for this stake. Integration was easily handled by the top-class Carl Spackler, who is likely the best turf miler in the country. Jockey Frankie Dettori was content to get the place money without hard using the 5-year-old. A mile is clearly too short for him, but the race set him up perfectly for today's stretch out back to 1-1/8 miles, a distance where he's won 3 times. I love the fact that he's being wheeled back on just 3 weeks rest. The race sets up is perfectly for him because there's not much early speed, and he gets the right horse to track in Mercante, who will likely have the early lead. Dettori is expected to be aggressive right from the start, saving valuable ground from post 1. McGaughey also worked him over a very soft turf course 7 days ago to have him fully fit for this.

Post: 6:57 PM

# 12

UPDATED



Selections 7 - 8 - 18 - 14 - 9 - 17

**WAGERS:** > I'm putting my emphasis on trifecta wagers. I feel the risk-reward is far better. I have included two trifecta plays, thereby giving two options based on what your budget allows. If my main ticket is too large for your bankroll, you can play the secondary ticket, but it leaves you open to one of the other 2 horses on the main ticket winning, which would guarantee a far bigger return on your investment. If your budget is large, you might want to play both.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Win & Place bet on (7) LUXOR CAFE

\* Exacta box 7-8

\* Trifecta 7-8-9-14-18 over 7-8-9-14-17-18-19 over

1-3-6-7-8-9-13-14-17-18-19-21 = \$150 for a \$0.50 wager

ALTERNATIVE TRIFECTA TICKET IF \$150 is beyond your budget.

\* Trifecta 7-8-18 over 7-8-9-14-17-18-19 over

1-3-6-8-9-13-14-17-18-19-21 = \$90 for a \$0.50 wager



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WIZARD  
RACE & SPORTS

## CHURCHILL DOWNS Saturday 05/03/2025 **UPDATED**

Post: 8:00 PM

# 13

UPDATED



Selections 11 - 7 - 14 - 9 - 3

**WAGERS:** \* Exactas 11 over 7-9-14, reverse for 1/3 as much  
\* Trifecta 11 over 3-7-9-14 over ALL = \$16 for a \$0.50 wager

Post: 8:33 PM

# 14

UPDATED



Selections 12 - 14 - 10 - 13

**WAGERS:** \* Win bet on (12) PURSUITNEVERSLEEPS (Only if not alive in the Pick 4 or if you passed the play)



# CHURCHILL DOWNS

## Saturday 05/03/2025

Forecast High 68 F Rain Showers Likely  
Low 48 F Precip: 63%



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### THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL

#### # 6 GAMING (Race 6)

Bob Baffert has two entered in the Pat Day Mile. Gaming is the one I prefer, and he will be the bigger price as well. Despite a 2nd place finish last time out in a stakes race at Oaklawn as the even-money favorite, his effort was "better than it looks". He was forced to chase the wire-to-wire winner, who benefitted by setting a slow pace. Even in defeat, he was able to run a figure similar to his best race as a 2-year-old, which was a solid 2nd place finish to Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Citizen Bull, who he also chased around the track. I like him at the 1-turn mile breaking from a perfect post. His 3 works at Santa Anita for this have all been outstanding.

#### #10 NYSOS (Race 8)

Before being put on the shelf following his win in a G3 stake at Santa Anita back in February 2024, Nysos had shown brilliance in all 3 of his starts. His debut win was breathtaking. He repeated that with another tour de force, stepping up in class and stretching out to 7F in a G3 stake at Del Mar. He saved his best for last before being sidelined when earning a 7.5-length win stretching out to 2 turns in another G3 race back at Santa Anita. In that victory, Nysos drifted in upper stretch, so something may have gone amiss during the race. Trainer Bob Baffert showcases Nysos today in his first start as a 4-year-old. The question is whether or not he's fit enough to take on these classy sprinters off such a long break. If his workouts at Santa Anita are any indication, the answer is a resounding YES. Several of the published works have been in company, which I've watched, and I've been impressed. Nysos is very tactical, draws a perfect post going 7F, and has world-class rider Flavien Prat back aboard for the third straight time. One of the highlights on the Derby Day card will be watching this race that features this potential superstar.

#### # 1 INTEGRATION (Race 11)

He's been a gem of consistency throughout his career while hitting the board in 9 of his 12 starts, winning 5 races. Integration has two G2 wins to his credit and three 2nds in G1 company. Even in defeat, he's run very well. Today could be the day this 5-year-old gets his well-deserved G1 victory. After losing by a neck to today's rival, Spirit of St. Louis, Hall of Fame trainer Shug McGaughey freshened Integration up for 76 days. He returned in the G1 Makers Mark Mile, which clearly served as a sharpener for this stake. Integration was easily handled by the top-class Carl Spackler, who is likely the best turf miler in the country. Jockey Frankie Dettori was content to get the place money without hard using the 5-year-old. A mile is clearly too short for him, but the race set him up perfectly for today's stretch out back to 1-1/8 miles, a distance where he's won 3 times. I love the fact that he's being wheeled back on just 3 weeks rest. The race sets up is perfectly for him because there's not much early speed, and he gets the right horse to track in Mercante, who will likely have the early lead. Dettori is expected to be aggressive right from the start, saving valuable ground from post 1. McGaughey also worked him over a very soft turf course 7 days ago to have him fully fit for this.

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

**RACE 1** Post Time 11:00 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up |  
Maiden Special Weight | Purse: \$120,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 1-2-3) Pick 5 (Races 1-5) / Super Hi-5



<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
8	SANSONE	6-1	ROSARIO J	MCGAUGHEY III C

\$1.3 million dollar yearling purchase was eased in his well-bet debut at Saratoga. He was put on the bench until resurfacing 8 months later, finishing a vastly-improved 2nd to a colt who returned to wire the field impressively in allowance company on Tuesday at Churchill. Sansone clearly responded well to the time off and the addition of Lasix, showing much more early speed. His last 3 workouts at Keeneland have been very good. Gets a rider change to Rosario while stretching out to 2 turns for the first time for trainer Shug McGaughey, who does well with horses going sprint-to-route.

3	FOUNTAIN LAKE	12-1	LEPAROUX J	ORTIZ J
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Has shown considerable improvement in his last 2 starts while stretching out to today's distance of 1-1/16 miles. Exits a career-best race April 8 despite drawing post 11 in a 12-horse field. Made a strong, sustained wide rally from well back to finish 3rd at 59-1. Draws a much better inside post today and will once again be a nice price. Sharp 4F work April 27 at Churchill.

11	COFFEE TALK	4-1	SAEZ L	COX B
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Showed a lot of improvement in his second start at the Fairgrounds for top trainer Brad Cox. Made a strong middle-move to take a narrow lead into the stretch and continued to fight on gamely to the wire to miss by less than a length. Gets reunited with the hot riding Luis Saez, who must avoid a wide trip breaking from post 11. Shows 4 solid workouts at Churchill since his last start.

12	CHILLAX	5-1	ALVARADO J	MOTT W
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Showed huge improvement in his second start stretching out to this distance following a troubled start sprinting in his debut. Sat a perfect rail trip to finishing 2nd, beaten just a half-length. Draws a much tougher outside post today where a wide trip is likely and reunites with Junior Alvarado.

4	STURDY	6-1	CASTELLANO J	WEAVER G
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Steady improvement in his last 2 starts since returning from a long layoff as a new gelding. Responded well to the addition of blinkers last time out while reuniting with Castellano going a 1-turn mile at Aqueduct. Stretches back out to 2 turns today, which he's shown he can handle successfully.

9	BOURBON SOCIETY	5-1	LANDEROS C	WILKES I
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He's had 9 chances to break his maiden without success, even though he's run well on several occasions. I must respect his early speed in a race which does not feature that commodity, but he appears more reliable as a horse to use underneath in exotic wagers.

**RACE 2** Post Time 11:32 1 Mile | Fillies and Mares | 3 Year Olds  
And Up | Allowance Optional Claiming(\$80,000) | Purse:  
\$134,000



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

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
10	GENEROUS LOVER	7-2	ORTIZ J	SHARP J

Returns from a 6-month layoff for trainer Joe Sharp, who is having an outstanding year, winning at a huge 27% rate. Since being claimed for \$50,000 by Sharp a year ago, the 5-year-old has won 4 races in 6 starts for the barn. In 3 starts at Churchill, she's won 2 races. Her sharp workouts at the Fairgrounds and Keeneland indicate she's ready to fire a big shot off the bench. Gets reunited with Jose Ortiz, who's won at a 32% rate for this barn in 2024-25. Has good tactical speed from a perfect outside post at this 1-turn mile.

7	NORMANDY QUEEN	9-2	PRAT F	MOQUETT R
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Exits a career-best race March 7 at Oaklawn following the trainer change to Moquette, switching back to the dirt, and stretching out to 2 turns. Cuts back to one mile today, the same distance as her 2 wins. Gets a big rider change to Flavien Prat, who will

utilize her good tactical speed from a perfect post where she can be on or near the lead from the start. The barn has had a very good year so far.

**1 SECRET STATEMENT**

**12-1 MACHADO L**

**BAKER J**

Returns from a 9-month layoff stretching back to one mile, which is her best distance, as she returns to Churchill, where she's earned both wins. She ran a career-best race on this same day last year returning from a layoff, finishing a good 2nd to a quality rival at 11-1. Expect new rider Machado to hustle her from the rail to be on or near the lead early on. Will be a big price.

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**RACE 3**

Post Time 12:05 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds |  
Allowance Optional Claiming(\$125,000) | Purse: \$127,000



**Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 3-4-5) Pick 5 (Races 3-7) / Super Hi-5**

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
5	GOAL ORIENTED	4-1	PRAT F	BAFFERT B

Did not disappoint for trainer Bob Baffert and his backers, who sent him off the 6-5 favorite in his debut. Despite racing greenly, he sustained a strong wide rally to draw off easily from his 6 rivals going 6F. Today he steps up in class stretching out to 2 turns, which he's bred very well to handle. Baffert wins a high percentage of races with his second time starters going sprint-to-route. Gets an upgrade in riders to Prat and a lively pace to rate behind and close into. Worked a strong 5F over this track April 7 after shipping in from Santa Anita. All signs point to a big effort for his high-profile owners.

3	VALENTINIAN	6-1	VELAZQUEZ J	PLETCHER T
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\$1.5 million yearling purchase with outstanding pedigree was sent to Tampa by Todd Pletcher to break his maiden easily at this 1-1/16 mile distance. He improved in his second start, finishing a good 3rd from a tough outside post after racing very wide a good part off the way. Draws a much better inside post today and gets an expected lively pace to close into.

6	RAPTURE	7-2	GEROUX F	COX B
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Found the competition too tough March 15 at Colonial Downs stepping up into a stake and coming off of Lasix. Cuts back to today's distance and returns on Lasix, which he raced on 2 starts back in his impressive 8-1/2 length maiden win at Oaklawn. Gets a rider change to Geroux, who is trainer Brad Cox's main go-to rider, and they're expected to sit a perfect stalking trip. Shows 5 works since his last start, 4 at Payson Park, capped off by a sharp 5F stamina breeze April 26 at Churchill.

9	TIZ SECURE	5-1	HERNANDEZ J	BAFFERT B
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Stablemate of top selection Goal Oriented, both trained by Bob Baffert, switches back to the dirt following a 4th place finish March 9 in a stakes race at Santa Anita. Blinkers came off that day as well as racing without Lasix. He broke his maiden first time out in his prior start after sitting a perfect stalking trip, easily disposing of his 8 rivals in the stretch while drawing off to a 4-3/4 length victory. Gets blinkers back on as well as returning with Lasix.

7	HYPNUS	6-1	HERNANDEZ, JR. B	MCPEEK K
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Improvement is expected dropping in class after running in two G2 stakes and a G3 event while racing without Lasix each time. The only time he raced on it, the result was an impressive off the pace debut win at today's distance. Trainer Ken McPeek goes back to his main man Brian Hernandez, who was aboard in that maiden win.

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**RACE 4**

Post Time 12:38 1 Mile | Open | 4 Year Olds And Up |  
Knicks Go Overnight S. Presented By L&n Federal Credit  
Union | Purse: \$200,000



**Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 4-5-6) Pick 4 (Races 4-5-6-7) / All Stakes, All Dirt Pick 5 (Races 4, 6, 8, 10, 12) Super Hi-5**

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
13	<b>NEW KING</b>	12-1	<b>ORTIZ, JR. I</b>	<b>RUSSELL B</b>

It's not unusual for a horse to improve when making their first start for Brittany Russell, who's won at a great 30% rate this year. That win rate is with 155 starters, making it even more impressive. New King was making his first start for Russell April 12 at Laurel after being in the Bob Baffert barn in his prior 6 starts. He finished a very good 3rd over a muddy, sealed track at Laurel despite the rider making a premature move to the lead. The winner was also trained by Russell. Today he stretches back out to a mile, a distance where he's won in the past. Gets a major upgrade in riders as well to Irad Ortiz Jr. and has enough tactical speed to overcome his outside post in this 1-turn mile.

12	<b>PATRIOT SPIRIT</b>	8-1	<b>ALVARADO J</b>	<b>CAMPBELL M</b>
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There's not much early speed in this field, which makes Patriot Spirit very dangerous if able to establish the front end and relax a bit. He was dueled into defeat last time out as the 2-1 second choice going 2 turns in a G3 stakes event at Oaklawn, but still managed to finish a credible 4th. Cuts back to 1-mile today, the distance of his neck defeat two starts back. It was a career-best race for the 4-year-old, who now gets a rider change to Alvarado, who has a win for trainer Michael Campbell, who does a good job winning with his very small stable.

4	<b>CASTLE CHAOS</b>	20-1	<b>RISPOLI U</b>	<b>FALCONE, JR. R</b>
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New York invader arrives at Churchill following a half-length defeat at this same 1-turn mile at Aqueduct back on Lasix. Apprentice rider made a premature wide move to the lead before being nailed in the "shadow of the wire". In his prior 3 starts, Castle Chaos was compromised by troubled starts. Gets off Lasix in this stakes race, but has shown in the past that he can run well without it. Gets a huge upgrade in riders to Rispoli. Impressive 4F work April 27 at Keeneland.

9	<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	3-1	<b>SAEZ L</b>	<b>COX B</b>
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Lost all chance when he was rank early, quickly finding himself last of 9 and well behind the leaders, in the early going of the race. Made up ground to finish a non-threatening 4th, but was not persevered with much when beaten. Cuts back to 1-mile and is reunited with the red-hot jockey Luis Saez, who was aboard for his win last November over this track. His last 3 works at Churchill have been solid for top trainer Brad Cox.

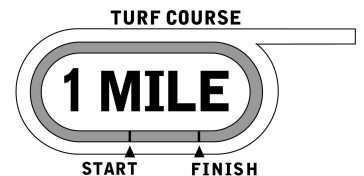
6	<b>KUPUNA</b>	5-1	<b>HERNANDEZ, JR. B</b>	<b>CALHOUN W</b>
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Appears to be set for a peak effort making his third start off a 7.5-month layoff. Was narrowly defeated as the odds-on favorite in a stakes race at Evangeline April 5 stretching out to today's distance. In 8 starts at Churchill, he's hit the board 7 times despite not winning, and 5 were 2nd place finishes. Gets an upgrade in riders to Brian Hernandez for very good trainer Bret Calhoun. Projects to sit a good stalk and pounce trip.

10	<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>	6-1	<b>FRANCO M</b>	<b>JOSEPH, JR. S</b>
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Ships in from south Florida for the always dangerous Saffie Joseph Jr. barn. Got a quick pace and a good trip to win his last start going 7F at Gulfstream. The 6-year-old was making his first start with jockey Manny Franco, who is back aboard today. Draws a good outside post at this 1-turn mile and should get another good set up.

**RACE 5** Post Time 1:12 1 Mile | Fillies and Mares | 4 Year Olds  
 And Up | G2 Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile S. | Purse:  
 \$750,000



**Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 5-6-7) Pick 5 (Races 5-9) / Super Hi-5**

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
6	<b>SACRED WISH</b>	3-1	<b>VELAZQUEZ J</b>	<b>WEAVER G</b>

She's been facing tougher rivals in many of her races, all in graded stakes, including a couple of G1 events. Finished 4th last time out off layoff in a G1 at Keeneland where she was forced to race wide throughout and seemed a bit uncomfortable racing



between horses through the stretch. Ran two very good races in her prior three outings, which, if replicated today, would make her very tough to beat. Cuts back to 1-mile, a distance she's won at twice in the past, and she would benefit from a lively pace, which I'm not certain she will get.

**2 MOVIN' ON UP**

**5-1 ORTIZ J**

**JOSEPH, JR. S**

Has won 5 races in 10 starts and is 1 for 1 over the Churchill Downs turf course. Goes for her third straight win shipping in from Gulfstream for that circuit's top trainer, Saffie Joseph Jr. In both races she had a target to run at, sitting a stalk and pounce trip both times. There's not much early speed in this 1-mile G2 stakes race, so new rider Jose Ortiz could be aggressive early from post 2 while establishing the early lead. Ortiz wins at very strong 29% when riding for the barn. Movin' On Top has clearly improved from 3 to 4 years of age.

**10 SPECIAL WAN (IRE)**

**5-2 SAEZ L**

**WALSH B**

The question is what Saez will do on the break from post 10. Will he be content to stalk Movin' On Up or will he be aggressive right from the start to take command of the early pace. She's won 2 of her 3 U.S. starts since shipping in from Ireland. Saez rode her for the first time in her win last time out in a G3 stake at today's distance. She's certainly a major danger today to repeat, but as the 5-2 mounting line favorite, I'm taking shot against her from the challenging outermost post.

**7 TAX IMPLICATIONS (GB)**

**5-1 PRAT F**

**BROWN C**

Finished behind Sacred Wish in her last 2 starts when she had to close from far back following troubled starts both times. She gets reunited with Flavien Prat for world class trainer Chad Brown. The two times Prat was aboard the 5-year-old, the results were a win and a neck defeat. She could be pace compromised today, but you must always respect this trainer and rider tandem in marquee turf events.

**5 FIVE TOWNS (GB)**

**10-1 ORTIZ, JR. I**

**MOTION H**

Cuts back to 1-mile following a good 2nd in a stakes race at Gulfstream when returning from a 6-month layoff. Was soundly defeated by Movin' Up in that race. There's not much pace in here, so the fractions might not be conducive to helping set up her late run. In her favor is that Five Towns gets a major upgrade in riders to Irad Ortiz Jr.

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**RACE 6**

Post Time 1:53 1 Mile | Open | 3 Year Olds | G2 Pat Day  
Mile S. Presented By Sap | Purse: \$600,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 6-7-8) Pick 4 (Races 6-7-8-9) / 3 Year Old  
Pick 3 (Races 6, 9, 12) / Super Hi-5

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
6	<b>GAMING (Best Bet)</b>	3-1	<b>VELAZQUEZ J</b>	<b>BAFFERT B</b>



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

**2 BUILT**

**7-2 RISPOLI U**

**CATALANO W**

Built found the distances too far and the competition a bit too tough in his last 3 starts, all in graded stakes. He makes his second start wearing blinkers and cutting back to a 1-turn mile, which I feel he will handle very well. He has very good tactical speed and I like the rider change to Rispoli for good trainer Wayne Catalano. Shows a bullet 5F stamina workout April 24 at Churchill. Expect noticeable improvement today.

**1 MADAKET ROAD**

**2-1 ORTIZ, JR. I**

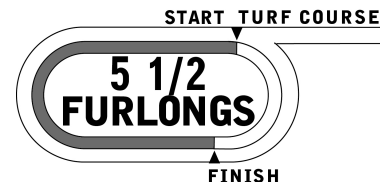
**BAFFERT B**

Bob Baffert decided to reroute him from the Derby into the Pat Day Mile, which was the correct move. Cuts back to a 1-turn mile after fading to 4th in the Florida Derby. 2nd place finish in the Rebel at Oaklawn was a solid effort, and the one time he attempted this distance, it resulted in well-beaten 3rd place finish. Must overcome a tricky rail slot as the likely favorite while reuniting with Irad Ortiz Jr., which helps.

Since switching to dirt in his last 2 starts, Gate to Wire has showing huge improvement. In his dirt debut two starts back he was an easy winner of the Swale Stakes at Gulfstream. He was set up beautifully by closing into a torrid pace in that one, then last time out in the Fountain of Youth he encountered some minor trouble, but ended up a non-threatening 5th. I expect him to improve on the cut back while getting a rider change to Prat.

**RACE 7**

Post Time 2:38 5 1/2 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | G2 Twin Spires Turf Sprint S. Presented By Accenture | Purse: \$600,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 7-8-9) \$.20 Derby City-6 / Super Hi-5

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
3	NOBALS	6-1	CORRALES G	RIVELLI L

Nobals has been a gem of consistency throughout his career. In 24 starts he's won 11 races, highlighted by a gritty win in the 2023 G1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. Earlier that year, he won this stakes race on Derby day after finishing 9th in his prior start. He's run twice this year off a layoff, and in both races he was defeated. Nobals had a tough trip in his return from the layoff, and last time out was beaten a half-length following a cutthroat duel from start to finish. He's a perfect 2 for 2 over the Churchill Downs turf course and loves this distance. In order for him to win today, he will have to run down the flatfooted Coppola and hold off the closers.

7	THINK BIG	4-1	CURTIS B	STIDHAM M
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He's won 3 of his last 4 starts, all on turf at today's distance. Upset 9 rivals last time out to win a G2 stake at Keeneland racing off Lasix for the first time in 8 career starts. The fractions will no doubt be faster than what he encountered in the Shakertown, which will place him farther back than where he was positioned in that race. His late kick, and a possible pace meltdown, make him a major player once again.

8	ROGUE LIGHTNING (IRE)	7-2	PRAT F	CLOVER T
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Lost by a half-length to Think Big in the Shakertown when making his first start in the U.S. He was forced to chase in 2nd throughout and never stopped digging in. The money clearly showed at 3-1 for him, and the 5-year-old nearly got the job done for his connections and backers. The question is how he will deal with the faster pace today. He's also been prone to breaking slowly on occasion, which did not happen in the Shakertown.

6	RUN CARSON	6-1	VELAZQUEZ J	DANNER K
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I must toss out his 6th place finish last time out in a G2 stake. He had some minor trouble, but was flat in the stretch. If he returns to the form of several of his previous races, his tactical speed and fondness for this distance could very well result in a turnaround at a price. His career-best race came over this course and distance last November. Bullet 3F speed work April 24 for this.

**RACE 8**

Post Time 3:23 7 Furlongs | Open | 4 Year Olds And Up | G1 Churchill Downs S. Presented By Ford | Purse: \$1,000,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 8-9-10) Pick 5 (Races 8-12) /Super Hi-5

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
10	NYSOS (Best Bet)	4-1	PRAT F	BAFFERT B



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

**7 MINDFRAME****3-1 ORTIZ, JR. I****PLETCHER T**

This talented 4-year-old has raced 5 times, with 3 wins and a pair of 2nds. Mindframe was so impressive winning his first 2 starts that he was bet down to 5-1 breaking from post 10 in the G1 Belmont Stakes. He was beaten a half-length that day by Dornach, and then was defeated once again by that rival in the G1 Haskell. As a result of an injury, trainer Todd Pletcher put him on the shelf until resurfacing March 1 at Gulfstream in a G2 stake going a 1-turn mile. He got the job done at odds of 1-9 in what was a measured win that sets him nicely for today's cut back to 7F, a distance at which he's 1 for 1. Mindframe is 1 for 1 at Churchill Downs, and clearly has tremendous talent. Irad Ortiz Jr., who has been aboard in all 5 starts, is back on today.

**11 MULLIKIN****7-2 SAEZ L****BRISSET R**

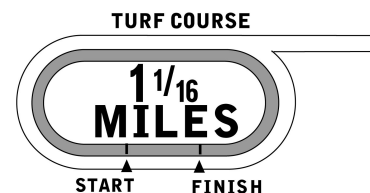
In 11 starts, Mullikin has finished off the board only once while earning 5 wins and 4 2nds. He returns today off a 5-month layoff cutting back to 7F, a distance he loves, and he's also a perfect 2 for 2 on this track. Mullikin has proven he can fire a big shot off the bench. The 5-year-old has excellent tactical speed breaking from an outside post, which won't hurt his chances, and Mullikin's works have been outstanding. Flavien Prat, who has been aboard in his last 4 starts, not unexpectedly rides Nysos back. The hottest rider in the country, Luis Saez, jumps aboard Mullikin, and Saez has won at a huge 38% rate in 2024-25 for good trainer Rodolphe Brisset.

**4 GIANT MISCHIEF****8-1 FRANCO M****COX B**

Stretches back out to 7F following a career-best race March 15 in a G3 stake at Oaklawn. Chased lively fractions throughout that day but was unable to run down the wire-to-wire winner Booth, who returned next time but to win another G3 event. He's raced twice at Churchill, with a win and 2nd, and in 10 starts Giant Mischief has only finished off the board once, and that came in the slop going 1-1/16 miles, which is clearly too far for him. Expect him to sit a good stalking trip while reuniting with Manny Franco, who was aboard for his win 2 starts back at Aqueduct.

**RACE 9**

**Post Time 4:06 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds | G1  
American Turf S. Presented By Ford | Purse: \$1,000,000**



**Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 9-10-11) Pick 4 (Races 9-10-11-12) / Super Hi-5**

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
2	SCIPIO	12-1	RISPOLI U	BALTAS R

Continues to show steady improvement in all 7 starts for trainer Richard Baltas. Following two wins, including a stakes victory at Santa Anita, Scipio shipped to Keeneland, finishing a very good 2nd in a G3 stake. Despite being bumped early and racing very wide most of the way, the 3-year-old was finishing fastest of all. He was beaten only 1-1/4 lengths, and would almost certainly have won with a cleaner trip. Draws a much better post today and gets a rider change to Rispoli. 12-1 is a very generous morning line.

**7 ZULU KINGDOM (IRE)****4-1 PRAT F****BROWN C**

He's won 4 of his 5 starts, with his lone defeat in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf when his rider lost his whip in the stretch. Exits a game win at Tampa going a mile and now stretches back out to 1-1/16 miles today, a distance where he's 2 for 2. Versatile 3-year-old is expected to sit a perfect stalking trip with Prat back aboard. Clearly a horse with upside for world class trainer Chad Brown.

**5 TEST SCORE****10-1 FRANCO M****MOTION H**

Defeated Scipio last time out at Keeneland, but he did have the better trip. It was a career-best effort for trainer Graham Motion, who is a master at developing lightly-raced turf horses. A repeat of that race, or any further improvement, makes him a major player again. Jockey Manny Franco has ridden him 3 times, winning twice while losing once by a neck.

**10 IRON MAN CAL****9-2 FRESU A****D'AMATO P**

Has a win and a pair of narrow defeats in all 3 turf starts stretching out to 1-mile. Nearly pulled off a 29-1 upset in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf when closing with a rush just a little too late. The winner, Henri Matisse, is a top class European 3-year-old who came back to win next time out. Versatile colt has tactical speed but draws a tough outside post in his return.

Gets a trainer change to the hot Brendan Walsh while shipping back to the U.S. after last being seen just 16 days ago in a G3 stake at Newmarket. He raced towards the rear, but when asked for his best, he had no punch. You could give him a pass for that race because it came off a 5-1/2 month layoff. He won a G1 race at Woodbine last September and finished a respectable 4th in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. The quick turnaround while shipping back to the states gives me pause to pick him any higher as the 3-1 morning line favorite.

**RACE 10** Post Time 4:50 7 Furlongs | Fillies and Mares | 4 Year Olds  
And Up | G1 Derby City Distaff S. Presented By Kendall-  
jackson Winery | Purse: \$1,000,000



**Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 10-11-12) Pick 5 (Races 10-14) / Super Hi-5**

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
7	VAHVA	6-1	ORTIZ, JR. I	DEVAUX C

The connections of this mare have decided to bring her back to the races as a 5-year-old instead of breeding her, even though she got her valuable Grade 1 win last year. That's a sign of confidence that she could redeem herself for her 8th place finish in last year's G1 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint. I could make a case that she was "over the top" at that point in the year after showing some cracks in the G1 Ballerina in her previous start as the favorite when she finished a no-excuse 3rd. She returns today off a 6-month layoff and has been working brilliantly at Keeneland for trainer Cherie Devaux. Vahva is undefeated in 4 starts at Churchill. In 9 starts at this 7F distance, she's hit the board 8 times, with 5 wins. I love her post draw and her tactical speed with Irad Ortiz Jr. back in the irons.

9	EMERY	6-1	FRANCO M	COX B
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Her 2nd place finish April 8 at Keeneland was "better than it looks on paper". She was caught up in a vicious duel right from the start while racing on a bad rail and on a track which favored outside closers. Despite this double bias she had to overcome, Emery was beaten by just a neck. In 9 career starts, she finished off the board just once, winning 5 races and placing 3 times. Her 4th place finish was at a mile over a sloppy track at Aqueduct in a G1 stake following her maiden win. She's 1 for 1 at Churchill and loves 7 furlongs. Draws a perfect outside post today for her running style and gets reunited with Manny Franco.

8	WAYS AND MEANS	3-1	PRAT F	BROWN C
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In 7 of her 8 starts she's gone off the clear favorite, and in 6 of those races she's been odds-on. Returns today off a 6-month layoff after being defeated in the G1 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint. Ways and Means had reeled off 3 straight dominant wins in her prior 3 outings. She has very good tactical speed and has been working lights-out at Payson Park, with a bullet 5F stamina drill at Churchill recently as well. Trained by Chad Brown and ridden by Flavien Prat, there's no doubt that if she brings her "A" game to this stake, a winning effort is very possible.

2	KOPION	8-1	KIMURA K	MANDELLA R
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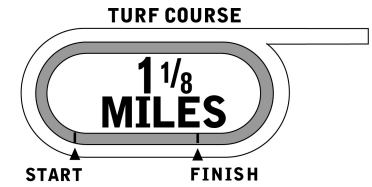
Ran a "hole in the wind" last time out at this distance at Santa Anita. The final time was extremely fast, which could be legit, considering she had improved dramatically in her prior start returning from an 8.5-month layoff. Both were dominate victories showing good speed throughout. This lightly-raced 4-year-old has plenty of upside for Hall of Fame trainer Dick Mandella. The waters get much deeper here facing a large field and breaking from a tough inside post. This is her first start outside of California, which is also an obstacle she will have to overcome.

1	SCYLLA	4-1	ROSARIO J	MOTT W
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Scylla was last seen finishing a good 4th in last year's G1 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint. She's been a gem of consistency throughout her 10-race career, showing great versatility and the will to win while scoring 5 times, twice in graded stakes. The fact that she's a perfect 4 for 4 at Churchill, and has been working very well for her return, makes Scylla a major player. My main concern is that her best races have come going longer, and she draws the tricky rail slot.

This NY bred is as genuine a filly as they come. She's won 6 of 14 starts, including a pair of graded stakes, and has put in some solid efforts against G1 competition. She will have to improve to contend for win honors today, but she exits a career-best race last time out in a G1 at Keeneland when returning from a layoff. The Mike Maker barn has started to heat up, and while she may not upset this field, she can certainly be a danger to hit the board at a big price.

**RACE 11** Post Time 5:39 1 1/8 Miles | Open | 4 Year Olds And Up | G1  
Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic S. | Purse: \$1,000,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 11-12-13) Pick 4 (Races 11-12-13-14) / Super Hi-5

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
1	INTEGRATION (Best Bet)	4-1	DETTORI L	MCGAUGHEY III C



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

7	RUNNING BEE	5-1	PRAT F	BROWN C
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Chad Brown has two entered in this stake and both have the credentials to win, with no real edge to either horse. Running Bee has won 8 of his 16 starts, and like his stablemate, he has very good tactical speed and draws a better post. Last time out he rallied from far back to win as the even-money favorite in a lesser G3 stake at Tampa. It was a career-best performance returning from a 3-month layoff and making his first start with Prat aboard, who is back on today. The 6-year-old gets another 3-month freshening, which is what Chad Brown does to have an older horse ready for another peak performance.

10	SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS	9-2	FRANCO M	BROWN C
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This NY bred has a remarkable record of 10 victories in 15 starts, including a G1 victory two starts back at Gulfstream. Most of his career starts have come in races at shorter distances than this, but he has won twice in 3 starts at 1-1/8 miles. Spirit of St Louis is versatile, which will help him overcome his outside post, and he will also reunite with Manny Franco, who has been aboard in 7 of his wins for world class trainer Chad Brown.

8	CAMEO PERFORMANCE	20-1	SAEZ L	WALSH B
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His 3rd place finish at the Fair Grounds was "better than it looks". He was severely compromised by a turf course that strongly favored speed, a slow pace, and a very wide trip in a field of 12. This lightly-raced 4-year-old doesn't have to improve much to be a danger at huge odds today. Trainer Brendan Walsh and jockey Luis Saez have both been on fire of late and have teamed up for several winners at the recently concluded Keeneland meet.

6	TAKING CANDY	8-1	ORTIZ J	DEVAUX C
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His consistency and good tactical speed always give him a chance for victory. This will be his toughest test to date, but he's lightly raced as a 5-year-old and has been working brilliantly for this. Taking Candy has a win over this course and is 1 for 1 at today's distance. Gets a rider change to Jose Ortiz, who has had a lot off success for trainer Cherie Devaux.

**RACE 12** Post Time 6:57 1 1/4 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds | G1  
Kentucky Derby Presented By Woodford Reserve | Purse:  
\$5,000,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 12-13-14) Super Hi-5

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
<b>7</b>	<b>LUXOR CAFE</b>	<b>15-1</b>	<b>MOREIRA J</b>	<b>HORI N</b>

Japan, Japan, Japan...last year the contingent of Forever Young and T O Password appeared to be the strongest team that Japanese connections have sent to the Kentucky Derby. Both runners ran well, with Forever Young experiencing a rough trip in his good 3rd behind perfect inside trip winner Mystik Dan and the drifting in Sierra Leone. Luxor Café has the credentials to generate serious noise today.

Luxor Café has a strong American dirt pedigree. Dam Mary's Follies campaigned on the NYRA circuit for the late Paul Pompa and trainer Richard Dutrow, Jr. She won on dry and wet dirt, and also earned two wins over turf. Luxor Café is a full brother to her first foal, Café Pharoah. He was 14-7-0-1 over the main track, winning two Group1 races and two Group 2 races over dirt in a four-year racing career, including a race at 1-3/16 miles. Luxor Café is also a half-brother to \$2.6 million multiple G1 turf winner Regal Glory. Damsire More Than Ready was best at going short and passed his speed to Luxor Café. Sire American Pharoah won the Triple Crown, the Haskell Invitational, suffered a narrow defeat in the Travers, and crushed rivals in the Breeders Cup Classic. All but the Haskell were at today's 10-furlong distance or longer.

Luxor Café has gone to post as the betting favorite in all six career starts. He was 2-5 when defeated on debut breaking inside and unhappily "introduced" to kickback he resented. Returning to the races off short rest of seven days, Luxor Café stretched out to a longer distance, received a more comfortable, cleaner trip, and finished full of run in a sharp but non-winning effort. Following a three-month freshening, Luxor Café hooked rival Admire Daytona when cutting back to about 8-furlongs, earning a narrow neck maiden victory over that rival while setting a record for Japanese juveniles at the distance. The connections gave him seven weeks rest before stepping up into stakes company in the Kurochiku Sho Stakes at 9-furlongs. That day, under top international rider Rachel King, Luxor Café raced closer to the front than in the past and crushed his 13 rivals. Next out in the Hyacinth Stakes, Luxor Café broke well, settled along the outside taking mild kickback, remained wide into the lane, then kicked on easily to reel in the leaders. In his final prep, Luxor Café enjoyed a class edge as a listed stakes winner eligible for and entered in allowance company. Breaking from post 11, new rider Joao Moreira, nicknamed "Magic Man", allowed him to settle 7th or 8th outside in the clear in mid-pack. Moreira made no effort to save ground, keeping him widest throughout in this "about" 9-furlongs heat, allowing him the gain position from outside on his own without urging. Luxor Café moved on the leaders leaving the back side and into the far turn, gaining position while six-wide at the top of the stretch. Moreira pushed on Luxor Café's reins several times, and the horse quickened, spurted clear, and drew far clear from the field. That move was visually impressive despite the question of the quality of the field he crushed. Note earlier he reeled in Admire Daytona, who went on to win the win the UAE Derby.

Luxor Café brings pedigree, tactical speed, and quickness to his debut in America's most chaotic race. Post 7 is a good draw. However, this colt has never broken from a middle post in a large field. Luxor Café has never raced in traffic amongst horses, which is commonplace in the Derby run from the break to the clubhouse turn. Horses inherently move into open space when the gate opens. Luxor Café should have open space at the break, with decent gate horses in speedster Admire Daytona to his inside and Journalism to his outside. With no mishap, he should track behind those rivals early while "Magic Man" negotiates for clear space outside horses. Despite these questions, Luxor Café has demonstrated he clearly belongs in this field, and with a decent trip, he's expected to be running on in the lane, seeking to reel in or hold off rivals.

Last year my Kentucky Derby selection was Forever Young who just fell short of giving Japan their first Derby winner. The Japanese have already proven they know how to win marquee races all over the globe. They are getting very close to figuring out what type of horse to take to Churchill to win the Derby the first Saturday in May. Even though this will be the first horse his trainer Noriyuki Hori saddles in the Derby, he's no stranger to the winner's circle in big stakes races in Japan and elsewhere around the globe. Even though Luxor Cafe has spent his career racing in Japan, he clearly has an impeccably bred American pedigree who was shipped to Japan to point for this race. At 15-1 on the morning line and expected to go off around 12-1 in my opinion, I'm willing to accept the risk reward that what we will see is a 3 year old who is very special. How ironic would it be if Luxor Cafe wins the Kentucky Derby on the 10th anniversary of his sire American Pharoah, who we all know went on to win the 2015 Triple Crown for trainer Bob Baffert. If the Wizard is right at around 7 ET, we will be rewarded in spades.

<b>8</b>	<b>JOURNALISM</b>	<b>3-1</b>	<b>RISPOLI U</b>	<b>MCCARTHY M</b>
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Journalism, a son of the great Curlin, is the first foal out of the non-winning mare, Mopotism, a daughter of Uncle Mo, out of the non-winning second dam Peppy Rafaela, a daughter of Bernardini. Bernardini won three G1 races as a 3-year-old, The Preakness, Travers, and Jockey Gold Cup. Sire Uncle Mo won the G1 Breeders Cup Juvenile and was named Champion 2-year-old male.

On debut, while travelling six furlongs against four rivals, Journalism dropped back to be outrun early, then made steady progress to finish with interest while never changing leads in the run through the lane. After three weeks rest, trainer Michael McCarthy asked him to stretch to eight furlongs. Journalism bobbed at the start and moved to secure position in fifth along the rail behind an honest, contested pace. He was urged on into the turn, angling out while passing a tiring rival with dead aim on the two leaders. Journalism changed leads more efficiently after several strides into the lane and forged ahead. Given nearly four weeks' rest,



McCarthy opted to enter the G2 1-1/16 miles Los Alamitos Futurity. Facing another short field of four rivals, Journalism broke alertly, assumed a stalking position outside the speed horses, continued widest down the back side, had dead aim again, and showed marked improvement while efficiently changing to his proper lead and putting the field away. That day he defeated a heavy favorite and promising runner in Getaway Car, who emerged to win the Sunland Derby next time out at the same distance, then was soundly defeated by American Promise in the Virginia Derby. Journalism made steady improvement in each race at longer distances.

Eleven weeks later, Journalism made his three-year old return in the G2 San Felipe, again at 1-1/16 miles. This would be his toughest spot, facing the impressive Bob Baffert duo of Barnes and Rodriguez. Barnes made all the pace, Rodriguez moved to press his stable mate throughout; Journalism sat chilly along the inside. Racing four lengths back, Journalism was angled to the outside through the turn and to the top of the stretch. Rodriguez folded from his efforts, Barnes cleared off, and a determined Journalism impressively collared Barnes just outside the sixteenth pole to forge ahead. After seven weeks' rest, The G1 Santa Anita Derby would again feature a short but interesting field of five. Barnes returned and Bob Baffert chose the 9-furlong Derby as a return race for Champion Juvenile Citizen Bull. Behind a moderate pace set by outsider Westwood and Citizen Bull, Journalism sat inside against the rail. Down the backside, Journalism was caught behind leader Westwood, and at the same time, leaned on and bumped by Barnes. Jockey Umberto Rispoli lost momentum and dropped back to last. As the field entered the far turn, announcer Frank Mirahmadi called Journalism as "being hard ridden at the back of the field," as if he had lost action and was dropping out of the race. Far from that, Journalism was angled out off the rail, took the far turn widest, and with dead aim on emerging leader Baeza, reeled that improving rival in for the victory, establishing himself as the likely 2025 Kentucky Derby favorite.

His body of work on track has earned Journalism his 2025 Kentucky Derby favoritism. He is a big, growthy colt nicknamed King Kong. Journalism breaks well and has tactical speed to secure front half stalking position. He is not a push-button horse capable of a quick burst of speed, but once clear and with a target in sight, Journalism grinds with great determination. A knock, of course, is the fact that in 4 out of 5 career starts he has faced twelve rivals. His recovery when encountering trouble in the Santa Anita Derby, however, is a good sign. Few, if any, entrants in this year's Derby have encountered the trouble we know awaits the field in the running of the Derby. Journalism draws well in post eight, with slow breaking Burnham Square to his outside, the Japanese duo to his immediate inside, and four speed horses down along the inside. With an alert break, Jockey Umberto Rispoli should be able to secure excellent stalking position in the clear among the front part of the field.

Journalism is clearly the horse to beat, but as the clear cut favorite, and having to race outside of California for the first time facing 19 rivals instead of 4, I'm willing to take my chances picking a horse like Luxor Cafe who will be a far better price and one that I have plenty of reasons to make my top selection. Journalism gets a great pace set to track and will get first run on the closers.

## **18 SOVEREIGNTY**

### **5-1 ALVARADO J**

### **MOTT W**

Sovereignty is out of the unraced mare, Crowned, a daughter of three-time G1 and two-time 10-furlong winner, Bernardini. He is a full brother to two siblings also trained by Hall of Famer Bill Mott, the best of which was Jane Grey. She won on debut, suffered an injury, raced at age three, but never achieved the promise of her pedigree. Second dam Mushka, a daughter of Empire Maker, broke her maiden going a mile over a wet track, won at 9-furlongs on the main track, then compiled a 14-4-3-2 record going long over turf and synthetics. She won the G3 Glens Falls Handicap at Saratoga, carrying her speed 1-3/8 miles over turf. Her sire Empire Maker won the G1 Wood Memorial, finished 2nd in the G1 Kentucky Derby, and won the G1 Belmont Stakes at 1-1/2 miles. Sovereignty's sire, the prolific six-time leading sire Into Mischief, was a synthetic speedster able to carry his speed 1-1/16 miles.

Like many Bill Mott juveniles debuting at Saratoga, Sovereignty took little money (nearly 12-1) when breaking from post 10 going 6-furlongs in his debut in late August. It's not that Mott doesn't win with juveniles, because he does win his fair share, but Sovereignty's pedigree screamed routes. Mott immediately stretched him out to 8-furlongs in his next start at Aqueduct. Sovereignty stalked the mild pace set by favored Praetor along the inside in third position. The front two kicked clear by 2 to 3 lengths when jockey Alvarado tipped Sovereignty out to the 3-4 path leaving the far turn. Sovereignty lost ground as leader Praetor cut the corner, but had dead aim while gaining in the lane, only to miss by a long neck. Praetor won next out, but proved to be distance challenged when finishing third in the April 12 G3 Lexington Stakes. Thirty days later, Mott's Derby trek began when he entered Sovereignty in the G3 Street Sense going 1-1/16 miles over the main track at Churchill Downs. Sent to post as the favorite in a field loaded with the likes of today's rivals Tiztastic and Sandman, Sovereignty broke from the 10-hole and was judiciously taken to the rail to trail the field around the clubhouse turn to the backstretch. Three outsiders forced the early pace, with rivals Tiztastic, Sandman, and Sovereignty, respectively, at the rear. Tiztastic moved first, picking off rivals, and Sandman moved to follow him, while Junior Alvarado sat chilly on Sovereignty. Junior asked into the far turn with 2.5 furlongs to go. Sovereignty rallied stoutly, rolling past Sandman and Tiztastic to an impressive victory. It's worth noting that the pace was not strong, and the longshot speedsters fell apart up front. But Sovereignty dominated Sandman, who failed to change leads, and a Tiztastic, who passed tiring leaders but had no resistance for the winner.

Mott's barn winters in Florida. It is logical, then, that he would use the two Florida preps as his route to Louisville. Sovereignty received a 125-day freshening before his return to face five rivals in the G2 Fountain of Youth. There he would meet two more of

today's rivals, speedy Neoequos and closer Burnham Square. Sovereignty broke well and again settled at the rear, maintaining that position while saving ground inside. Lengths off the field, Alvarado asked for his charge to run into and rounding the far turn, cruising past Burnham Square with sights on the leader, River Thames. In mid-stretch, Sovereignty drifted in on his wrong lead from the effort, eventually switched to his correct lead, kicked on, and caught the tiring leader. This was a strong effort in a race he surely needed. It's worth noting here that Burnham Square re-rallied late and galloped out quite well. Burnham Square would return next out to win the G1 Blue Grass.

The G1 Florida Derby drew a full field of 10, with six hopeless rivals at post time odds ranging from 25-1 to 112-1. Sovereignty, as in the G3 Street Sense, broke widest in post 10. In what I believe to be an intentional education experience for Sovereignty, jockey Manny Franco, filling in for the injured Alvarado, pushed Sovereignty forward from the gate, making no effort to save ground, kept him out of last and five-wide around the clubhouse turn, and then settled the colt in the rear half, between rivals, for the run down the back side. Jockey Luis Saez, on the now scratched Tappan Street, made first run. Sovereignty was asked into the turn, was again slow to change leads, but kicked in late when doing so to chase Tappan Street home. He was not going to win, but finished strongly and galloped out well.

Bill Mott's plan is clear. "Proof of life" and class in the G3 Street Sense. Two solid preps while not needing to be fully cranked to earn Derby qualifying points. A steady series of five furlong works over the Churchill main course, over which Sovereignty owns a win, and strong gallop outs. The education gained racing in and amongst rivals last time out should serve Sovereignty well in the chaos that is the Kentucky Derby.

Sovereignty ranks very close to my top 2 selections. My hesitation picking him higher than third is drawing post 18. I'm not too concerned that draw diminishes his chances much, because Alvarado will drop him back far off the leaders in the early stages of the race. My concern is if he will be too far back turning for home and have to make up a lot of ground on the horses who moved before him. When a horse has to sustain a long run going 1 1/4 miles, a rider has to time his move to perfection and avoid traffic issues. If Alvarado can do both, Sovereignty is a major danger to win the Derby.

## **14 TIZTASTIC**

## **20-1 ROSARIO J**

## **ASMUSSEN S**

Tiztastic, trained by Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen, has never been favored in eight career starts. He broke his maiden second out sprinting over turf and followed that with a win over the quirky Kentucky Downs turf strip to take the Juvenile Mile. Asmussen switched him back to dirt in the G3 Street Sense at Churchill Downs. There he finished a distant second to today's rival Sovereignty and a neck ahead of Derby hopeful Sandman. A dawdling pace set by longshot Dapper Moon in the G2 Kentucky Jockey Club Juvenile favored front runners, but Tiztastic, racing up close to that pace, had nothing late. Under new jockey Keith Asmussen and ignored by punters at 16-1, Tiztastic broke well to be racing 5th in the clear down the back side. Thereafter, he found himself surrounded in traffic by gaining rear runners, looked uncomfortable while keeping on to the wire without competing late. Rival Sandman was off poorly in that race but rallied stoutly. Breaking wide from post 12 in the G2 Rebel, Tiztastic was urged from the gate, wide into the back side, secured a decent position among the front half, again racing in and amongst rivals. He looked uncomfortable again, and, as before, kept on one-paced through the lane. Tiztastic would enjoy a perfect trip in the one and 3/16 mile Louisiana Derby. He enjoyed clear sailing throughout, hesitated behind a slowing horse before angling out around and finishing full of run...an improved effort on its face but under near perfect conditions.

Tiztastic deserves to be considered a win candidate for having successfully negotiated the distance of the Louisiana Derby and the additional rest that many others have not had. However, given how he seems to idle when in traffic, I'm not sure how he will respond to the dynamics of this 20-horse field. Like Sovereignty, Burnham Square and Sandman, all of these closers need to avoid traffic and their riders have to time their moves perfectly. Whomever of these 4 deep closers gets a perfect trip, could win the roses at very generous odds.

## **9 BURNHAM SQUARE**

## **12-1 HERNANDEZ, JR. B**

## **WILKES I**

Burnham Square is a gelded son of Liam's Map, a Todd Pletcher trainee who amassed an 8-6-2-0 career record while never trying the Derby distance of 10-furlongs. Liam's Map, however, sired two true stayers in Colonel Liam and Churn N Burn. Dam Linda was winless on the main track but 10-3-2-4 over turf. Second dam Beautiful Noise won two times around two-turns on dirt but earned over \$400,000 in graded stakes routes over turf for top trainer Ron McAnally. Grand sire Scat Daddy was all dirt, winning the G2 Fountain of Youth and the G1 Florida Derby. He suffered a rough trip in the Kentucky Derby that ended his racing career.

Burnham Square debuted at Keeneland going 6-furlongs in a mediocre field of \$150k Maiden Claimers. Off at 30-1, he rallied stoutly from the back, missing by a nose to a 15-1 shot. Given 33 days rest, Burnham Square tried 1-1/16 miles at Churchill. He once again rallied from 10th at the half, reeling in today's rival American Promise to finish 3rd by a half-length. Trainer Ian Wilkes shipped to Florida for the winter, and Burnham Square easily broke his maiden next out over a soft group. Breaking from post 1 with the short run to the clubhouse turn, new rider Edgard Zayas urged him on early, securing good position third along the rail

around the turn. Handling this change of tactics, Burnham Square made steady progress early down the back side, pulled ahead of the leader, and drew off to an easy victory over weak rivals. Next out in the G2 Fountain of Youth, the field, including today's rival Sovereignty, broke and ran away from the favored Burnham Square, last and wide around the first turn. Sovereignty, also near the rear, made the first move on the leaders late on the back side, with Burnham Square angling widest for the run down the lane. Sovereignty proved much the best, but Burnham Square appeared to re-engage late and continued to a strong gallop out through the wire. That 3rd place effort set him up well for the G1 Blue Grass going 9-furlongs. That day, East Avenue was hell bent to take the field gate-to-wire. He bottomed out the other speed horses while setting the table for Burnham Square's widest sweeping last-to-first move, nailing East Avenue at the wire.

Burnham Square won his last race with the benefit of a strong pace set by a loose leader, firing on all cylinders. I think it was a visually impressive feat, but given the pace, perhaps he might have won with more authority. To say there is ample speed in this edition of the Derby is an understatement. Burnham Square should indeed get another strong pace to rate behind and rally into. As with all closers, the trip will determine the outcome. I do, however, wonder if Wilkes might instruct jockey Brian Hernandez to read the break and put Burnham Square into the race earlier than in the maiden race when Burnham Square broke his maiden. That would be interesting.

## 17 SANDMAN

6-1 ORTIZ J

CASSE M

Sandman was a \$1.2 million purchase by a multiple set of well-heeled partners, including D. J. Stable, St. Elias Stable, and mighty West Point Thoroughbreds. This son of Tapit, out of the Distorted Humor mare Distorted Music, has done little wrong in his 8-race career. Trainer Mark Casse is not in the Hall of Fame for rushing juveniles. Sandman started in a 6-furlong sprint unsuited to his pedigree. Breaking widest in a field of seven, Sandman broke alertly to press the pace of a superior speed rival in Keep it Easy, fading from up close to a fifth-place finish. Casse waited six weeks before sending him around 7-furlongs at Saratoga. Sandman broke well to assume a stalking position fourth along the rail behind loose-on-the lead favorite Innovator. Sandman cut the corner and steadily wore down the leader for his maiden victory.

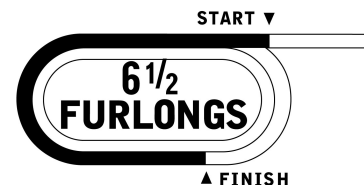
It was back to Churchill Downs for the 8-furlong one-turn G3 Iroquois. The once sharp breaking Sandman was no longer. Off a step slow and bumped by a rival, Sandman raced at the rear behind a confident front running favorite in Phil Bauer's Jonathan's Way, a gate-to wire winner. That day, Sandman took plenty of kickback and gained some position on his own with little urging from regular rider Jose Ortiz. Sandman met today's rivals Sovereignty and Tiztastic next out in the G3 Street Sense, a race dominated by the Sovereignty. Bumped again and positioned nearer the rear, Sandman ran a race like his last, gaining position late without gaining lengths. In the four efforts since that win, Sandman has shown more effort in the lane and stronger finishes, winning two of his last four including a strong finish in the G3 Rebel Stakes and a suicidal pace aided finish in winning the G1 Arkansas Derby.

The decent breaking front half runner of Sandman's early races in no more...unless Casse instructs Ortiz to change tactics. A sharp breaker in Coal Battle to his inside, and non-breaker Sovereignty to his outside should negate previous start issues. Sandman is one of several closers and deep closers in this Derby field. His best efforts thus far have been from the rear with clear space ahead of him. As with many here, trips are key. He will likely get over bet and for that reason and what he must overcome, I like him least of my top 5 even though it would not be a total shock if he were to win. He's the horse I'm including underneath in my wagers, but not as a top selection.

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## RACE 13

Post Time 8:00 6 1/2 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds |  
Allowance Optional Claiming(\$125,000) | Purse: \$127,000



**Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Super Hi-5**

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
11	PATCH ADAMS	5-2	PRAT F	COX B

Top trainer Brad Cox tried this 3 year old colt a distance of ground in his last 2 starts, both in Gr. 3 stakes. He was bet down to the heavy favorite in both races and clearly disappointed his connections and backers. Today Patch Adams is back sprinting, which is clearly his best game, and adds lasix for the first time. He will also benefit by from the drop in class and being reunited with Prat. Cox wins a high % of races going route to sprint and with horses adding lasix for the first time. Should sit a good stalking trip breaking from an outside post which he like.

7	MULTIVERSE	12-1	ORTIZ, JR. I	MOTT R
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Shown steady improvement in all 5 of his starts. Broke his maiden impressively 2 starts back at Gulfstream and then followed that up with a career best effort losing by a neck after making a strong wide middle move into the fastest part of the pace stepping up into a stakes race. Stretches back out to 7f today and gets an upgrade in riders to Irad Ortiz Jr. Has worked twice since that race, including a bullet 4f breeze over this track just 5 days ago.

14	BIG TRUZZ	9-2	SAEZ L	LYNCH B
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He was the "buzz" horse when he made his debut April 12 at Keeneland after several impressive workouts at Palm Meadows leading up to the race. At post time his odds drifted up to 7-2 against 10 rivals. He did not disappoint, scoring by 4 lengths under a hand ride late by Luis Saez. Faces far tougher and more seasoned foes today and must overcome post 14. Based on what Big Truzz showed that day, he could be this good.

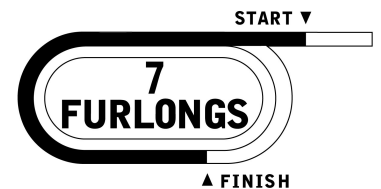
9	ROMANESQUE	5-1	HERNANDEZ J	BAFFERT B
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Returns from a 4 month layoff for the always dangerous Bob Baffert. Broke his maiden first time out at Del Mar. He was boosted in class into a Gr. 2 stake and stretched out to today's 7f distance 42 days later, but had the misfortune running into a far better horse Barnes, also trained by Baffert. Still managed to run 2nd chasing throughout. Today Romanesque returns on lasix for the first time and is reunited with J J Hernandez who was aboard in his maiden victory.

3	FURIO	10-1	ORTIZ J	SHARP J
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I'm tossing out his last race in the Louisiana Derby when he was eased after chasing quick fractions early. He was also off lasix and may have bled that day. His 2 prior starts he had raced on it and the result was an easy maiden win and a 2nd stretching out to 2 turns for the first time. Furio drops in class today, cuts back to a sprint, back on lasix and blinkers come off for trainer Joe Sharp who is having an outstanding year.

**RACE 14** Post Time 8:33 7 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up |  
Maiden Special Weight | Purse: \$120,000

**Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Super Hi-5**

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
12	PURSUITNEVERSLEEPS	3-1	ALVARADO J	ROMANS D

Exits a solid 2nd in his debut at Gulfstream chasing a high quality colt and fast fractions throughout. The winner came back to repeat in his next start by 5 lengths, as well as the 4th place finisher who scored by 10, both in fast time. Today Pursuitneversleeps must stretch out to 7f and withstand some early pressure if he is to break his maiden against this deep and large field. Draws an outside post which is a benefit. Trainer Dale Romans has had an outstanding 2025. He was born and raised in Louisville Kentucky and stabled throughout his career at Churchill Downs. You know he will have this colt primed for a top afternoon to conclude this 14 race Derby Day card.

14	MAINSTREAM	7-2	SAEZ L	COX B
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Solid 3rd place finish at today's distance in his well bet debut at Gulfstream for top trainer Brad Cox. Rushed up to contend for the lead following a troubled start. Put away the pacesetter turning for home, but was unable to fend off the winner, who had run

in a much weaker maiden claimer in his prior start. Cox wins a high % of races with his 2nd time starters. Drilled a bullet 4f April 27 at Keeneland, which was the fastest of 102 workers that morning. Must overcome post 14 with plenty of speed to his inside.

**10 EXCITE**

**12-1 ROSARIO J**

**MOTT W**

I'm not sure what to make of Excite who was bred and owned by a very high profile outfit. He has a tremendous dirt pedigree, sired by Speightstown out of the dam Elate, who was a multiple grades stakes winner on dirt. All 3 of Excite's races have come on turf with moderate success. Did trainer Bill Mott feel his works indicated he's not a dirt horse, or was dirt always on his mind and today he finds out if this is her future?

**13 LAMBO**

**5-1 ORTIZ J**

**ASMUSSEN S**

He been a beaten favorite in 4 of his 5 starts and is still a maiden, losing ground in the stretch each time. Lambo is another with good early speed. I like the turn back to 7f after going 2 turns in his last 2 starts. Gets a huge upgrade in riders to Jose Ortiz, who wins at 30 % hooking up with trainer Steve Asmussen.

**Any questions or comments can be sent to: [wiz@wizardraceandsports.com](mailto:wiz@wizardraceandsports.com)**

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