



# 142<sup>nd</sup> KENTUCKY DERBY

CHURCHILL DOWNS  MAY 7, 2016



## NEW 'TRIBE' ON THE DERBY SCENE



Big Chief Racing: Matt Bryan (top right, sunglasses) & family

by Steve Sherack

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - After signing the ticket on a son of Curlin for \$110,000 on day six of the 2014 Keeneland September Yearling sale ([catalogue page](#)), trainer Keith Desormeaux could hardly contain his enthusiasm when dialing up owner Matt Bryan of Big Chief Racing.

"He called me and said, 'This is the one,'" Bryan revealed.

The 46-year-old continued with a laugh, "He was hyperventilating at the time and left this really long message. I'd give anything to hear it again today."

Subsequently named **Exaggerator**, "the one" heads to the GI Kentucky Derby as a major player off a jaw-dropping score in the GI Santa Anita Derby Apr. 9 ([video](#)), good for a co-division leading 103 Beyer Speed Figure. In addition to that runaway tally in the slop, he was previously a strong second behind the unbeaten champion Nyquist (Uncle Mo) in the GII San Vicente S. Feb. 15 and a close third after making an aggressive middle move in the GII San Felipe S. Mar. 12. **Cont. p2**



## CLASSIC CONTENDERS

### KY DERBY STARTERS

- Nyquist
- Mor Spirit
- Tom's Ready

### KY OAKS STARTERS

- Cathryn Sophia
- Royal Obsession
- Dream Dance



**Fasig-Tipton**  
Bids good luck to our graduates!



**Big Chief Racing cont. from p1**

The dark bay also boasts a solid foundation at two, including a win in the GIII Delta Downs Jackpot S., a runner-up finish in the GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity and a respectable fourth in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

Produced by a stakes-placed half-sister to Canadian champion Embur's Song (Unbridled's Song), Exaggerator, bred in Kentucky by Joseph B. Murphy, will head to stud at WinStar Farm upon the conclusion of his racing career.

"Just to have this quality of a horse is really exciting and I give all the credit to Keith Desormeaux," Bryan, a married father of two, commented. "It's a dream come true. Owners, trainers and jockeys--this is what we all strive for. This is a storybook tale."

Bryan, the chief executive officer of M.G. Bryan Equipment Co., a Grand Prairie, Texas-based engine and generator distribution company founded by his father 30 years ago, campaigns Exaggerator in partnership with Ronnie Ortowski of Rocker O Ranch LLC, Desormeaux and Sol Kumin's Head of Plains Partners.

"For my family to be a part of it with Keith and [jockey] Kent Desormeaux and Ronnie Ortowski and his family is just phenomenal," Bryan said. "Are we excited? We're so excited that we're pinching ourselves. Ronnie and I talk about it every night. And he's only been involved [in horse ownership] for 18 months. He's been a good friend of mine for a long time... Sol's guys just bought in recently [after the San Vicente]."

He continued, "Everybody's excited. My wife and two daughters are trying to figure out which hats and dresses to wear. The family enjoys it and it's something we as a family have enjoyed doing together. It's been a lot of fun."



Exaggerator | Sherackatthetrack

If it feels like Bryan and Desormeaux have been down this path before, well, they have. Sort of. The very first horse that the trainer purchased on behalf of Bryan's operation at public auction was the 2013 GII Risen Star S. upsetter I've Struck a Nerve (Yankee Gentleman). The \$82,000 OBSAPR acquisition never made it to Louisville, however, and was subsequently retired following that 135-1 shocker with a career-ending ankle injury.

Big Chief Racing also campaigns last term's sidelined Breeders' Cup Juvenile runner-up Swipe (Birdstone) (\$5,000 KEESSEP); and recent impressive GIII Providencia S. heroine Decked Out (Street



Exaggerator | Benoit

Boss) (\$75,000 KEESSEP), who contests Saturday's GIII Senorita S. at Santa Anita. Other standouts to carry Bryan's green-and-white silks include: GIII San Juan Capistrano S. winner Crucero (Admiral's Cruise) (\$40,000 claim); Cinderella S. heroine

and GII Sorrento S. runner-up La Grange (Curlin) (\$17,000 KEESSEP); Pike Place Dancer S. victress Miss Machiavelli (Artie Schiller) (\$20,000 KEESSEP); and Landaluce S. winner and GI Chandelier S. third Right There (Eskendereya) (\$55,000 KEESSEP).

"Keith has an incredible eye for a horse and we've been really blessed with some great ones," Bryan said. "We're making this a business. I call Keith the Warren Buffett of horseracing. He's a value investor. We don't have an unlimited budget like some of these guys that we're competing against. Our strategy is to buy 10-12 yearlings at the Keeneland September Sale and we might also buy a few at the OBS 2-year-old sales, too. I don't want to have a gigantic stable of 50 or 60 horses. I don't know the right number yet, we're still working through that. Our goal is to race higher quality, whether it's claimers, allowance, stakes or graded stakes horses."

A fan of the sport since a youngster--he describes watching Seattle Slew's Triple Crown run on a small television at the age of eight as "the coolest thing"--Bryan was left with a lasting impression after experiencing his first horse race in person on a family vacation two years later.

"My parents were really good about taking us traveling to different places," Bryan explained. "They took us to San Diego one summer and over the weekend, we went to a racetrack in Tijuana. My parents let us walk down to the rail and we watched them break and come back around. Just to be able to feel the thunder of those horses was just so thrilling." **Cont. p3**



**Big Chief Racing cont.**

He continued, “I had a great uncle that had a Thoroughbred farm in Texas. I would watch the horses train—he’d race at Ruidoso—but I never went to the races again besides the one I saw in Tijuana until attending college at the University of Oklahoma. Remington Park had just opened and I started to



**Matt Bryan with the Desormeaux brothers**

learn how to read the *Racing Form* and just loved it. Then Lone Star Park opened and that was exciting and we’d go out there with friends, too.” Bryan first delved into horse ownership through the Texas-based partnership group Don’t Tell My Wife Stables. After meeting Desormeaux at a 2-year-old sale in Texas through the group’s co-managing partner Kirk Godby, Bryan was quickly on his way. All he needed? A name for his fledgling stable.

“Keith would always call me chief,” he explained. “Hello chief. How you doing chief? How’s it going chief?” He’d ‘chief’ me all the time! I’m a pretty good-sized guy--6’ 4” and 230 pounds. I didn’t really want to run under Matthew Bryan, so I came up with Big Chief Racing.”

Represented by a pair of runners in the top four during last year’s Breeders’ Cup Juvenile as well as the morning-line second choice in the Run for the Roses, the ‘Big Chief’ is certainly off to a pretty promising start.

“To have this kind of success in this quick of time is just truly amazing,” Bryan concluded.

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Bryan first delved into horse ownership through the Texas-based



**#1 TROJAN NATION - 50-1**  
(Street Cry {Ire}--Storm Song, by Summer Squall})  
O-Julie Gilbert & Aaron Sones; B-Dr. Aaron Sones (KY); T-Patrick Gallagher; J-Aaron T. Gryder. DI: 3.44.  
Lifetime Record: 6-0-1-3, \$213,290

**PROS:** Despite his maiden status, Trojan Nation has run with credit behind horses of the quality of future GII Rebel S. hero Cupid (Tapit), when third to that Bob Baffert representative at Santa Anita Feb. 7... His determined closing effort in the GI Wood Memorial S.--his first over a surface not rated fast--was full of merit and answered the off-track question, especially as he showed his dogfighting capabilities all the way to the line with the victorious Outwork (Uncle Mo)... **CONS:** Racing experience counts, and, granted that the



**Trojan Nation (r) | Chelsea Durand**

GI Kentucky Derby will be Trojan Nation’s seventh start, he has yet to show he knows how to win...The confirmed closer would be the fourth horse to break his maiden in the Derby and the first since Brokers Tip (1933)... It remains to be seen if he can duplicate his Wood effort over a fast track... Trojan Nation also drew the much-maligned gate one at the Derby post position draw... **PEDIGREE:** By G1 Dubai World Cup winner Street Cry, a sire known for 10-furlong champions like Street Sense, who won the GI Kentucky Derby and Zenyatta and Winx (Aus) among others, Trojan Nation should have no problem with the distance--he was produced by champion juvenile filly and MGISW Storm Song (Summer Squall), who completed the trifecta in the 1997 GI Kentucky Oaks. His Gone West half-sister has already foaled G1 Irish St. Leger hero Order of St George (Ire) (Galileo {Ire})...

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Trojan Nation cont.

**VERDICT:** Trojan Nation should stay better than most of the field and with his running style, the draw, while unwelcome, isn't as big of a disadvantage as it first appears. This colt has a lot of hurdles to overcome, but stranger things have happened in Louisville on Derby Day.

Trojan Nation's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/09/16	<a href="#">GI Wood Memorial S.</a>	2nd
3/06/16	<a href="#">SA Msw</a>	3rd
2/07/16	<a href="#">SA Msw</a>	3rd



**#2 SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS - 20-1**  
 (g, [Mineshaft](#)-Uchitel, by Afleet Alex)  
 (\$72,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP)  
 O-Samuel F. Henderson;  
 B-Branch Equine LLC (Ky); T-Donnie Von Hemel; J-Luis Quinonez. DI: 4.20.  
 Lifetime Record: 8-3-4-0, \$670,032

**PROS:** Has demonstrated consistency since day one, only missing the exacta once from eight appearances--a troubled fifth-place finish in the Gil Rebel S. Mar. 19... Long-striding colt finishes with a powerful late kick, a running style that often excels in races with contested early paces... Has taken a quantifiable step forward from his 2-year-old season to date, culminating in a career top Beyer Speed Figure (94) and Thoro-Graph number (1 1/4) in the GI Arkansas Derby last out... Broke his maiden forcing a slower pace and has encountered far faster early tempos in every subsequent start, suggesting that he may be marginally more adaptable to a wide variety of pace scenarios when compared to other deep closers... **Cont. p5**



Suddenbreakingnews | Coady photography

*Best of luck to all the connections of our sales graduates in the Kentucky Derby!*

**EXAGGERATOR**

Santa Anita Derby (G1) winner

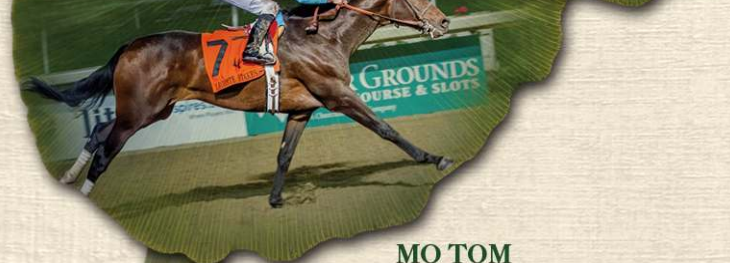
Breeder: Joseph B. Murphy  
 Trainer: J. Keith Desormeaux  
 Owner: Big Chief Racing, LLC,  
 Head of Plains Partners LLC,  
 Rocker O Ranch, LLC et al



**MO TOM**

LeComte Stakes (G3) winner

Breeder: Hargus & Sandra Sexton & Silver Fern Farm  
 Trainer: Thomas M. Amoss  
 Owner: G M B Racing



**SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS**

Southwest Stakes (G3) winner

Breeder: Branch Equine, LLC  
 Trainer: Donnie K. Von Hemel  
 Owner: Samuel F. Henderson

...and to **CARINA MIA** in the Eight Belles S. (G2) and **CATCH A GLIMPSE** in the Edgewood S. (G3).

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**Suddenbreakingnews cont.**

**CONS:** Finished over a length behind Creator (Tapit) in both the Rebel and Arkansas Derby... Has given up first run to the aforementioned gray rival in both races and must find a way to stay engaged in the middle part of the race... Will be ridden by Midwestern mainstay Luis Quinonez, who concedes valuable experience to others while riding in his first Kentucky Derby...  
**PEDIGREE:** Sired by GI Jockey Club Gold Cup winner Mineshaft out of a dam sired by GI Preakness S. and GI Belmont S. hero Afleet Alex, he has significant stamina influences on both sides of his pedigree... His second dam, GSW & MGISP Party Cited (Alleged), won at 10 furlongs and produced MGISW Composure (Touch Gold)... Party Cited's sire, Alleged, won the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe twice... **VERDICT:** In a race where 19 of the 20 competitors are navigating 10 furlongs for the first time in their careers, the late-running bay's performances on the track, as well as his bloodlines, indicate the Classic distance should pose no problem... Looms as a live longshot if he can work out a clean trip.

Suddenbreakingnews's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/16/16	<a href="#">GI Arkansas Derby</a>	2nd
3/19/16	<a href="#">GII Rebel S.</a>	5th
2/15/16	<a href="#">GIII Southwest S.</a>	1st

KENTUCKY DERBY WINNING BEYER SPEED FIGURES			
Horse	Beyer	Time	Yr
American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile)	105	2:03.02	'15
California Chrome (Lucky Pulpit)	97	2:03.66	'14
Orb (Malibu Moon)	104	2:02.89	'13
I'll Have Another (Flower Alley)	101	2:01.83	'12
Animal Kingdom (Leroidesanimaux)	103	2:02.04	'11
Super Saver (Maria's Mon)	104	2:04.45	'10
Mine That Bird (Birdstone)	105	2:02.66	'09
Big Brown (Boundary)	109	2:01.82	'08
Street Sense (Street Cry)	110	2:02.17	'07
Barbaro (Dynaformer)	111	2:01.36	'06
Giacomo (Holy Bull)	100	2:02.75	'05
Smarty Jones (Elusive Quality)	107	2:04.06	'04
Funny Cide (Distorted Humor)	109	2:01.19	'03
War Emblem (Our Emblem)	114	2:01.13	'02
Monarchos (Maria's Mon)	116	1:59.97	'01
Fusaichi Pegasus (Mr. Prospector)	108	2:01.12	'00
Charismatic (Summer Squall)	108	2:03.29	'99
Real Quiet (Quiet American)	107	2:02.38	'98
Silver Charm (Silver Buck)	115	2:02.44	'97
Grindstone (Unbridled)	112	2:01.06	'96
Thunder Gulch (Gulch)	108	2:01.27	'95



#3 CREATOR - 10-1  
 (Tapit--Morena {Per},  
 by Privately Held)  
 (\$440,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP)  
 O-WinStar Farm; B-Mt. Brilliant  
 Broodmares I LLC (KY); T-Steve  
 Asmussen; J-Ricardo Santana Jr.  
 DI: 4.10. Lifetime Record:  
 8-2-4-1, \$768,320

**PROS:** Creator enters his biggest test yet off a career-best effort, having taken a huge step forward when winning the GI Arkansas Derby--which American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile) won last year prior to his Derby victory--last time out over more accomplished rivals... He made a very respectable stakes debut one start prior when

uncorking a five-wide rally to finish third behind Cupid (Tapit) in the GII Rebel S... Though soon-to-be Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen has not won a Derby, he has trained two runner-ups and knows how to train a Classic winner...

**CONS:** The gray may have run eight times, but five of those were against maidens, making him much less experienced in stakes company than many of his competitors... His late

running style requires a hot pace that is not guaranteed in this field... **PEDIGREE:** Creator's GI Wood Memorial-winning sire Tapit may be North America's leading stallion, but he has never produced a Derby winner and only has one Classic-winning son in Tonalist...His dam on the other hand was a three-time champion in her native Peru and won at distances from 10 to 12 furlongs... **VERDICT:** Creator may be improving at just the right time and if the pace plays to his favor, he is very likely to be making a strong run for it late. However, the question is can he outfinish the likes of fellow deep closers Brody's Cause and My Man Sam (Trappe Shot)?



**Creator**  
Coady photography

Creator's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/16/16	<a href="#">GI Arkansas Derby</a>	1st
3/19/16	<a href="#">GII Rebel S.</a>	3rd
2/27/16	<a href="#">OP Msw</a>	1st



#4 MO TOM - 20-1  
 (Uncle Mo--Caroni, by Rubiano)  
 (\$150,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP)  
 O-G M B Racing LLC; B-Hargus &  
 Sandra Sexton & Silver Fern Farm (KY);  
 T-Thomas Amoss; J-Corey Lanerie.  
 DI: 1.55. Lifetime Record:  
 7-3-0-3, \$291,526

**PROS:** One of five in the Derby field to show a win over the local strip, having defeated fellow G M B runner **Tom's Ready** (More Than Ready) in the Street Sense S. last November... Has fired, without fail, in each of his starts. Win or lose, he is always finishing, always galloping out full of energy and most times well past his rivals... Switches off in the run and that should assist



Mo Tom | Hodges Photography

him in staying the Derby distance... Having run well in New Orleans over the winter, he should appreciate the Churchill stretch, similar in length to the Fair Grounds...  
**CONS:** Has gained a reputation as a horse that finds trouble, or

conversely, a horse that trouble seems to find... Given his ill-fated decision to try to make a run up the fence when fourth to **Gun Runner** (Candy Ride {Arg}) in the GII Louisiana Derby last time, it can be argued that Corey Lanerie is a liability... His sire, brilliant though he was, seemed most adept at distances up to a mile, while his dam sire was a champion sprinter... Has failed to register a Beyer Speed Figure north of 88 and will need to find several lengths to be a factor... **PEDIGREE:** Mo Tom is a half-brother to SW & MGISP Beautician (Dehere) who, like her sibling, was by a champion juvenile, but was arguably best at one turn... The major name under his second dam is Kashatreya, an accomplished New York-bred sprinter, while further down his page was the talented turf mare Lady At Peace (Lord At War {Arg})... **VERDICT:** The vast majority are going to be willing to oppose, given the fact that Mo Tom hasn't run particularly fast, notwithstanding the trouble he's encountered in his last two runs... On the plus side, his trackwork has been consistently strong and he has trained with renewed vigor since returning to Churchill a few weeks ago... IF he can stay out of harm's way, he looms a very intriguing longshot play.

Mo Tom's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
3/26/16	<a href="#">GII Louisiana Derby</a>	4th
2/20/16	<a href="#">GII Risen Star S.</a>	3rd
1/16/16	<a href="#">GIII LeComte S.</a>	1st
11/28/15	<a href="#">GII Kentucky Jockey Club S.</a>	3rd

*Best of racing luck to*  
**GUN RUNNER**  
*and all his connections*

Steven M. Asmussen  
 Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC  
 Three Chimneys Farm  
 Besilu Stables, LLC  
 Florent Geroux

GUN RUNNER wins  
 the G2 Risen Star S.  
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#5 GUN RUNNER - 10-1  
 (Candy Ride {Arg})--Quiet Giant,  
 by Giant's Causeway)  
 O-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC &  
 Three Chimneys Farm LLC & Besilu  
 Stable; B-Besilu Stables LLC (Ky);  
 T-Steven M Asmussen; J-Florent  
 Geroux. DI: 1.25. Lifetime Record:  
 5-4-0-0, \$906,920

**PROS:** Done little wrong in five career starts, with his only defeat coming in a creditable fourth-place effort over a sloppy Churchill strip in the Nov. 28 GII Kentucky Jockey Club S... His inherent tactical speed increases the likelihood of him working out an ideal stalking trip, regardless of the pace scenario, as evidenced by his wins in the GII Risen Star S. and GII Louisiana Derby... Already owns a win over the local surface, and with ample time between his final prep and Derby day, he has had plenty of time to get acquainted with the ins and outs of the historical oval...



Gun Runner | Coady photography



**Gun Runner cont.**

**CONS:** Defeated questionable competition at the Fair Grounds, as chief rivals Airoforce (Colonel John) and Greenpointcrusader (Bernardini) both failed to fire in the Risen Star and Louisiana Derby, respectively, while Mo Tom (Uncle Mo) encountered traffic trouble that hampered him from making his typical sustained run... Although his flawless trips in New Orleans were undoubtedly made possible by his handy running style, it is more likely that he will encounter additional adversity in the 20-horse Derby field... **PEDIGREE:** Candy Ride's progeny have had no trouble navigating Classic distances, as he is notably the sire of GI Santa Anita H. winners Shared Belief and Misremembered... Out of GII Molly Pitcher S. winner Quiet Giant--a half-sister to Horse of the Year, champion older horse and GI Breeders' Cup Classic winner Saint Liam (Saint Ballado)-- Gun Runner draws plenty of stamina from the bottom side of his pedigree as well... Given the history of his extended family, 10 furlongs should be well within his purview... **VERDICT:** The chestnut is difficult to knock based on a surface-level assessment of his achievements, but he will almost certainly face more adversity than he's ever seen before on the heels of two relatively stress-free trips... Will need to take his game to another level to wear the roses.

but the Derby tempo is something of a question mark... Given his closing style, may require some racing luck... Though a son of Tapit, his sire was clearly more brilliant when asked to negotiate only one turn... **PEDIGREE:** Trappe Shot was desperately unlucky to lose the GI A.G. Vanderbilt H., but showed enough brilliance as a 3-year-old to win Monmouth's Long Branch S. and finish runner-up in the GI Haskell Invitational S. going long... My Man Sam's dam is a half-sister to Hudson Steele (Johannesburg), who stayed nine furlongs well enough to win the GII Dixie S. on the turf... **VERDICT:** Seems a horse that is going in the right direction and looks the sort that can outrun his odds... If the pace is on, he'll be finishing strongly... While this could be a case of "too much, too soon," he looks a colt with considerable promise... He's an unlikely winner, but would not surprise if he crashed the top five.

My Man Sam's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/9/16	<a href="#">GI Toyota Blue Grass S.</a>	2nd
3/6/16	<a href="#">Aqu Alw</a>	2nd
1/31/16	<a href="#">Aqu Msw</a>	1st

Gun Runner's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
3/26/16	<a href="#">GII Twinpires.com Louisiana Derby</a>	1st
2/20/16	<a href="#">GII Veterans Ford Risen Star S.</a>	1st
11/28/15	<a href="#">GII Kentucky Jockey Club S.</a>	4th



My Man Sam | Coady photography



**#6 MY MAN SAM - 20-1**  
**(Trappe Shot--Lauren Byrd, by Arch)**  
 O-Sheep Pond Partners, Newport Stables LLC & Jay W Bligh; B-Jay W Bligh (KY); T-Chad Brown; J-Irad Ortiz Jr. DI: 3.00. Lifetime Record: 4-1-2-0, \$251,200

**PROS:** Excepting his six-furlong debut last December in which he effectively lost all chance when he took a bump at the break, his three starts going long have been outstanding... His two-turn boy was nothing short of spectacular, as he sustained a giant run for the best part of three-quarters of a mile, reeled in a loose leader and scampered home to score by eight lengths to become a richly deserved 'TDN Rising Star'... He finished with a steady gain behind Matt King Coal (Cool Coal Man) in a Mar. 6 allowance and, saddled with the 14 hole for the GI Toyota Blue Grass S. Apr. 9, closed off best of all to book his ticket to Louisville... **CONS:** Will be having just the fifth start of his career in the Derby, an obvious negative... Wants to do his running from the back of the pack and a strong pace would aid his cause,





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#7 OSCAR NOMINATED - 50-1  
 ([Kitten's Joy](#)—Devine Actress,  
 by Theatrical {Ire})  
 O-Kenneth L & Sarah K Ramsey;  
 B-Mrs Jerry Amerman (KY);  
 T-Michael Maker; J-Julien Leparoux  
 DI: 2.53. Lifetime Record:  
 7-3-2-0, \$371,860

**PROS:** Oscar Nominated is a colt on the improve, coming in off a career-best performance in his 23-1 upset of the Gill Spiral S... Has clearly responded to this barn--he's a head and a neck shy of being 4-for-4 since he was claimed for \$75,000 from Bill Mott in October... Has a late-running style that suggests he won't be hurt by an additional furlong... Was supplemented to this race for \$200,000... Showed grit in rallying between horses to win the Spiral... **CONS:** Has never run over a dirt track and is bred both sides for turf/synthetic... He hasn't run a race fast enough to suggest he can win a race of this quality... Spiral field did not contain any top 3-year-olds... **PEDIGREE:** Oscar Nominated's sire is champion grass horse Kitten's Joy, who has become a top



Oscar Nominated  
 Coady photography

stallion, but mainly of turf and synthetic runners... Oscar Nominated's dam won the Santa Lucia H. going 1 1/16 miles on the Santa Anita dirt, took three of six starts and earned \$107,300... His dam sire, Theatrical, was champion older horse in Ireland and

champion grass male in the United States and has been a foundational turf influence as a sire... **VERDICT:** It would be a great story to see the Ramseys, perennial leading owners in Kentucky, take home the roses, but Oscar Nominated appears to be too slow to get it done. More importantly, the Derby will be his first try on dirt and his pedigree mainly suggests he will regress over it, rather than improve.

Oscar Nominated's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/2/16	<a href="#">Gill Spiral S.</a>	1st
2/27/16	<a href="#">Black Gold S.</a>	1st
1/31/16	<a href="#">Keith Gee Memorial S.</a>	2nd



#8 LANI - 30-1  
 ([Tapit](#)--Heavenly Romance (Jpn),  
 by Sunday Silence)  
 O-Koji Maeda; B-North Hills Co Ltd  
 (Ky); T-Mikio Matsunaga; J-Yutaka  
 Take. DI: 1.92. Lifetime Record:  
 6-3-1-0, \$1,366,618.

**PROS:** Nearly fell to his nose at the start of Meydan's G2 UAE Derby, and made a very wide, premature move to challenge mid-race. The quirky gray seemed to idle in midstretch, but found more late to defeat favored filly and 'TDN Rising Star' Polar River (Congrats)... He is the lone runner in the field to have raced at close to this distance (when fourth on turf first out in Japan), and his win in

Dubai at about 1 3/16 miles represents the second-longest race any of these sophomores have attempted...

Japanese horses have continued to succeed on the international stage in

recent years... **CONS:** The general consensus is that the UAE Derby field was very weak... UAE Derby runners have not fared well in the Kentucky Derby, but the race was held over a synthetic track from 2010 to 2014... Lani has appeared very immature in his morning work at Churchill, and as rider Yutaka Take put it last week, "His temperament is that he is not willing to run always..." **PEDIGREE:** Sire Tapit needs no introduction. Lani's dam Heavenly Romance upset the 2005 Tenno Sho Autumn at 78-1 over 10 grassy furlongs. MGSW half-brother Awardee (Jungle Pocket {Jpn}) scored at up to 1 3/8 miles in Japan, and half-brother Amour Briller (Smart Strike) is a stakes winner at up to 12 panels.... **VERDICT:** Lani clearly has some talent, but seems to be his own worst enemy. His quirks don't inspire confidence in a field of 20 and a packed house at Churchill Downs.



Lani | Coady Photography

Lani's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
3/26/16	<a href="#">G2 UAE Derby</a>	1st





## Kitten's Joy is everywhere you want to be.

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#9 DESTIN - 15-1  
 (Giant's Causeway--Dream of Summer, by Siberian Summer)  
 (\$400,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP)  
 O-Twin Creeks Racing Stables LLC;  
 B-James C Weigel & Taylor Made Stallions Inc (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher  
 DI: 1.43. Lifetime Record: 5-3-1-0,  
 \$390,700

**PROS:** Destin comes into the Derby off a very impressive victory in the GII Tampa Bay Derby, winning despite going four wide around both turns and beating stablemate and subsequent GI Wood Memorial S. winner Outwork (Uncle Mo)... Holds a speed figure edge--owns one of only three triple-digit Beyers in Derby preps and has the lone negative Thoro-Graph figure of any Derby contender...




Destin | Horsephotos

Is tactically versatile, which can help him adjust based on pace scenario in the Derby... Relatively lightly raced, so could have more improvement in him... Goes out for a top barn, albeit one that has had limited Derby success... **CONS:**

Would have to win off of an unprecedented eight-week layoff, having not raced since Mar. 12, so he gives up conditioning to every rival... Showed some greenness in winning GIII Sam F. Davis, may not be far enough along mentally to deal with this environment or field size... Ran far better in his last race than he ever had before, possibility of regression looms... **PEDIGREE:** Is by European Horse of the Year, champion sire and substantial distance influence Giant's Causeway... Dam won the GI Apple Blossom H. and four other graded stakes going a route of ground... Full-brother Creative Cause took the GI Norfolk S., was second in the GI Santa Anita Derby, finished third in the GI Preakness S. and GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile and was a wide-trip fifth in the 2012 Derby... Bred on both sides to get 10 furlongs... **VERDICT:** Destin has the speed and the pedigree to win without a doubt, but the seven-week layoff and his temperament are legitimate concerns... One of the biggest wild cards in the race, but has to be respected as a top contender.


Destin's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
3/12/16	<a href="#">GII Tampa Bay Derby</a>	1st
2/13/16	<a href="#">GIII Sam F. Davis S.</a>	1st
1/16/16	<a href="#">GIII LeComte S.</a>	4th

*Best of racing luck to*  
**DESTIN**  
*and all his connections*




DESTIN wins the G2 Tampa Bay Derby 3.12.2016

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#10 WHITMORE - 20-1  
 (g, Pleasantly Perfect--Melody's Spirit, by Scat Daddy)  
 O-Robert V LaPenta, Harry T Rosenblum & Southern Springs Stables;  
 B-John Liviakis (KY); T-Ron Moquett;  
 J-Victor Espinoza. DI: 2.38  
 Lifetime Record: 6-2-2-1, \$475,000

**PROS:** Whitmore's consistency is his trademark... Only off the board once in six starts--four of them at the graded level--the Kentucky-bred allowance winner always brings his best effort, including a runner-up performance in the GII Rebel S. Mar. 19



Whitmore | Coady Photography

and a solid third in the GI Arkansas Derby last time Apr. 16... He also has a vital win over the strip, taking his maiden by 7 1/4 lengths Nov. 6... **CONS:** Whitmore has frequently been forced into wide field-circling journeys that leave him vulnerable late...


Compounding that flaw, the chestnut also seems to lack that killer instinct required to win races at the elite level... **Cont. p10**



**Whitmore cont.**

Although he captured an Oaklawn Park allowance coming up the fence, those types of runs don't usually pan out in a jam-packed 20-horse field, where traffic problems are a given instead of the exception to the rule... He also hasn't won beyond six furlongs and the 10-furlong distance may be a bridge too far... **PEDIGREE:** Whitmore's sire Pleasantly Perfect (Pleasant Colony) thrived on the GI Kentucky Derby distance of 1 1/4 miles, landing the 2003 G1 Dubai World Cup, GI Breeders' Cup Classic, and the GI Pacific Classic S., but was slow to mature... Out of an unraced Scat Daddy mare, Whitmore's second dam Capture the Cat (Tale of the Cat)'s lone victory was going six panels over the all-weather. Third dam Ten Flags, by Triple Crown hero Seattle Slew, won at 1 1/16 miles and was beaten 30 lengths into fourth in the 2001 1 1/2-mile GI Coaching Club American Oaks... **VERDICT:** Whitmore will probably make his patented closing bid Saturday, but he will only be running for place honors at best.

Whitmore's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/16/16	<a href="#">GI Arkansas Derby</a>	3rd
3/19/16	<a href="#">GII Rebel S.</a>	2nd
2/15/16	<a href="#">GIII Southwest S.</a>	2nd
1/16/16	<a href="#">OP Alw</a>	1st



**#11 EXAGGERATOR - 8-1**  
 ([Curlin](#)--Dawn Raid, by Vindication)  
 (\$110,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP)  
 O-Big Chief Racing LLC, Head of Plains Partners LLC, Rocker O Ranch LLC, et al; B-Joseph B. Murphy (KY);  
 T-Keith Desormeaux; J-Kent Desormeaux. DI: 3.40. Lifetime Record:  
 9-4-2-1, \$1,671,120

**PROS:** Exaggerator put in what was arguably the most impressive win in the final round of Derby preps when romping by 6 1/4 lengths in the GI Santa Anita Derby, a race which has produced two of the last four Kentucky Derby winners... The bay



Exaggerator | Benoit photo

has been very consistent throughout his nine race career, hitting the board in seven of those outings... He has also proven to be versatile, closing from far back to win the Santa Anita Derby; going wire-to-wire in the GIII Delta Downs Jackpot;

and sitting close to a hot pace when a respectable second to champion **Nyquist** (Uncle Mo) in the GII San Vicente S...

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**Exaggerator cont.**

His veteran pilot knows his way around the Churchill oval, having won the Derby three times... **CONS:** The colt's best performances seem to come in the slop--i.e. the Santa Anita Derby, Delta Downs Jackpot and a solid second to **Brody's Cause** (Giant's Causeway) in the GI Breeders' Futurity--and the current forecast for Derby day is 80 and sunny... He has also been beaten by most of the heavy hitters here in likely favorite Nyquist, who has conquered Exaggerator on three occasions, MGISW Brody's Cause and GII San Felipe S. hero Danzing Candy (Twirling Candy)... **PEDIGREE:** Exaggerator is a son of two-time Horse of the Year and Classic winner Curlin, who in turn has produced two other Classic winners in GI Belmont S. victor Palace Malice and GI Travers S. winner Keen Ice... His dam's two wins came sprinting, but she is a daughter of undefeated champion Vindication (by Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew) and a half-sister to MGSW Embur's Song--though that runner's wins were over the Woodbine synthetic at 1 1/16 miles or less... **VERDICT:** Exaggerator must prove his big win last time was not pace- or surface-aided. However, he has proven shipping is no issue and with his consistency, there is no reason to think the bay won't have a say in the outcome.



#12 TOM'S READY - 30-1  
 ([More Than Ready](#)--Goodbye Stranger, by Broad Brush)  
 (\$145,000 Ylg '14 FTNAUG;  
 RNA \$145,000 Wlg '13 KEENOV)  
 O-G M B Racing; B-Blackstone Farm LLC (PA); T-Dallas Stewart; J-Brian Hernandez, Jr. DI: 3.00. Lifetime Record: 9-1-4-0, \$302,220

**PROS:** Conditioned by Dallas Stewart, who has orchestrated a number of shocking runner-up finishes in each of the past three Triple Crown seasons with Golden Soul (Perfect Soul {Ire}) at odds of 34-1 in the 2013 Derby, Commanding Curve (Master



Tom's Ready | Coady

Command) at odds of 37-1 in the 2014 Derby, and Tale of Verve (Tale of Ekati) at odds of 28-1 in the 2015 Preakness... Has room to improve after a series of wide, mid-pack trips in his last three races at Fair Grounds... **CONS:** All three of Stewart's

previously mentioned runners regressed significantly in their ensuing starts, and Tom's Ready may have already delivered his "upset" race when second in the GI Louisiana Derby at odds of 30-1... Finished well behind **Gun Runner** (Candy Ride {Arg}) in both the GII Risen Star S. and Louisiana Derby, and has been bested by commonly owned **Mo Tom** (Uncle Mo) in four of five head-to-head meetings... His lifetime best Beyer Speed Figure of 85 remains well behind the top marks achieved by others in the starting gate... **PEDIGREE:** Sire More Than Ready's progeny in the Northern Hemisphere have an average maximum winning distance of 7.4 furlongs, and his top performers have generally been best at distances close to a mile... Dam sire Broad Brush finished third in both the 1986 Kentucky Derby and Preakness, and went on to win three Grade I events at 10 furlongs... Tom's Ready's dam is a half to stakes winners Lemonlime (Lemon Drop Kid) and Miss Moses (Gulch), who were both at their best at middle distances... **VERDICT:** Don't be surprised if he outruns his odds, but even the task of procuring a minor award seems like an uphill battle for this colt.


Exaggerator's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/9/16	<a href="#">GI Santa Anita Derby</a>	1st
2/15/16	<a href="#">GII San Vicente S.</a>	2nd
11/21/15	<a href="#">GIII Delta Downs Jackpot</a>	1st



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Tom's Ready's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
3/26/16	<a href="#">GII Twinpires Louisiana Derby</a>	2nd
1/16/16	<a href="#">GIII LeComte S.</a>	2nd

#13 NYQUIST - 3-1  
 (Uncle Mo--Seeking Gabrielle,  
 by Forestry)  
 (\$180,000 Wlg '13 KEENOV;  
 \$230,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP;  
 \$400,000 2yo '15 FTFMAR)  
 O-Reddam Racing LLC; B-Summerhill  
 Farm (KY); T-Doug O'Neill; J-Mario  
 Gutierrez. DI: 7.00. Lifetime Record:  
 7-7-0-0, \$3,322,600

**PROS:** Nyquist has done nothing wrong in seven trips to the post and, after a spring which at one point flirted with the potential



Nyquist | Horsephotos

of three undefeated colts in the Derby, last year's juvenile champ is the only unbeaten runner in the field... He showed versatility and determination when coming off the pace after a troubled trip in the Breeders' Cup...

Same connections took home the roses in 2012 with I'll

Have Another (Flower Alley)... **CONS:** With Mohaymen (Tapit)'s lackluster effort, the quality of the Florida Derby field is questionable. ... Detractors continue to question Nyquist's ability to get the Derby's added furlong and his seemingly atypical training schedule leading up to the race adds to the doubts... Only one horse, Street Sense, has completed the Breeders' Cup Juvenile/Kentucky Derby double... **PEDIGREE:** Nyquist's sire and fellow undefeated juvenile champion Uncle Mo missed out on a Derby start in 2011, but his sire Indian Charlie was third in the race in 1998 and his broodmare sire Arch won the 1 1/4-mile GI Super Derby and sired GI Breeders' Cup Classic winner Blame... Nyquist's dam Seeking Gabrielle is a sprint winner by Grade I-winning sprinter Forestry... **VERDICT:** Clearly the one to beat, but definitely has some questions to answer.

Nyquist's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/2/16	<a href="#">GI Florida Derby</a>	1st
2/15/16	<a href="#">GII San Vicente S.</a>	1st
10/31/15	<a href="#">GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile</a>	1st
9/27/15	<a href="#">GI FrontRunner S.</a>	1st

**DERBY STATS**

**Fastest Time:** 1:59.40 (Secretariat)  
**Largest Winning Margin:** 8 lengths (Assault/Whirlaway)  
**Most wins by a jockey:** 5 (Eddie Arcaro/Bill Hartack)  
**Most wins by a trainer:** 6 (Ben Jones)  
**Most wins by an owner:** 8 (Calumet Farm)  
**Longest shot to win:** Donerail at 91-1

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## NYQUIST



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#14 MOHAYMEN - 10-1  
 (Tapit--Justwhistledixie, by Dixie Union)  
 (\$2,200,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP)  
 O-Shadwell Stable; B-Clearsky  
 Farm (KY); T-Kiaran McLaughlin;  
 J-Junior Alvarado. DI: 3.00.  
 Lifetime Record: 6-5-0-0, \$852,850.

**PROS:** Mohaymen made easy work of his first five races, including the GII Nashua S., the nine-furlong GII Remsen S., the GII Lambholm South Holy Bull S. and the GII Xpressbet.com Fountain of Youth S... His adaptable running style gives him the ability to adjust to any pace scenario he might face in the Derby... The gray has two very sharp works over the track with a best-of-27 half-mile in :46.80 Apr. 20 followed by a :47.40 half-mile Apr. 29... **CONS:** The 2014 Keeneland September co-topper not only lost as the favorite to unbeaten champion Nyquist (Uncle Mo) in the GI Xpressbet.com Florida Derby, but finished fourth behind maiden winner **Majesto** (Tiznow) and Fellowship (Awesome of Course), who he had easily beaten in both the Holy Bull and Fountain of Youth... The fields he has beaten in his previous graded successes have proven to be suspect, as none of the runners who finished anywhere near him is going on to Louisville... In fact, those considered the best of his beaten rivals --Zulu (Bernardini), Greenpointcrusader (Bernardini) and Flexibility (Bluegrass Cat)--all flopped in their next starts...



**Mohaymen cont.**

**PEDIGREE:** Mohaymen's sire Tapit never won beyond nine furlongs and his only son to have completed the task thus far is Tonalist...The colt's dual Grade II-winning dam is also a winner at nine furlongs, having captured the 2009 GII Bonnie Miss S...He is



Mohaymen | Lauren King

a half-brother to talented GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner New Year's Day (Street Cry {Ire}), who was injured shortly after that race and retired before he had a chance to show how far he could run... **VERDICT:** If Mohaymen has returned to his previous form as both his trainer and workouts suggest, he will definitely be

a force to be reckoned with on Derby day, but whether he can turn the tables on Nyquist is still uncertain.



#15 **OUTWORK** - 15-1  
 (Uncle Mo--Nonna Mia, by Empire Maker)  
 O/B-Repole Stable (KY); T-Todd Pletcher; J-John Velazquez. DI: 11.00  
 Lifetime Record: 4-3-1-0, \$701,800.

**PROS:** Has done nothing wrong in four career starts, breaking his maiden emphatically at Keeneland last April before adding a Tampa optional claimer off the bench Feb. 13. His lone defeat came when runner-up in the Mar. 12 GII Tampa Bay Derby to stablemate **Destin** (Giant's Causeway), but he returned to winning ways in the GI Wood Memorial... In a Derby with a decided lack of early speed, he figures to find himself in an advantageous spot early--he pressed an extremely fast pace in the Wood... **CONS:** Outwork won the historic Wood--contested over a sloppy surface--in the slowest time ever recorded (1:52.92), and was life-or-death to hold off maiden Trojan Nation (Street Cry {Ire}) in the process... The Wood has not been the most productive Derby prep in recent years... **Cont. p14**



Outwork | NYRA/Coglianesse

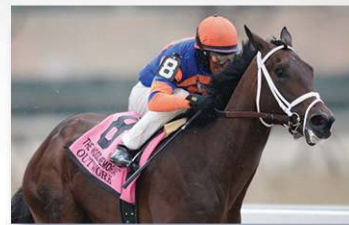
Mohaymen's Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
2/27/16	<a href="#">GII Fountain of Youth S.</a>	1st
1/3/16	<a href="#">GII Holy Bull S.</a>	1st
11/28/15	<a href="#">GII Remsen S.</a>	1st

# DERBY DREAMS START AT WINSTAR

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**DESTIN**

Twin Creeks Racing Stable  
 Broke At WinStar



Wood Memorial winner  
**OUTWORK**

Repole Stable  
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Arkansas Derby winner  
**CREATOR**

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Louisiana Derby winner  
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**Outwork cont.**


**PEDIGREE:** Outwork is one of a number in here who hail from the first crop of sire sensation Uncle Mo. The champion juvenile of 2010 never won beyond 1 1/16 miles, and his only off-the-board finish came when attempting this distance in the 2011 GI Breeders' Cup Classic... Dam Nonna Mia, by solid stamina influence Empire Maker, was Grade I-placed at a mile--the farthest she was asked to go. Nonna Mia's dam Holy Bubbette (Holy Bull) was a SW and GSP sprinting, and produced multiple Grade II-winning router Cairo Prince (Pioneerof the Nile).

**VERDICT:** Outwork still has some questions to answer, but he figures to sit a nice trip and fits with the main contenders on speed figures.


Outwork's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/9/16	<a href="#">GI Wood Memorial S.</a>	1st
2/13/16	<a href="#">TAM Alw/OC</a>	1st
4/23/15	<a href="#">KEE Msw</a>	1st

He also won the GI Preakness S. after skipping the Derby and has turned into a top sire, particularly with dirt routers... Shagaf's dam, Muhaawara, won the one-mile Sky Beauty S. at Aqueduct en route to \$131,297 in earnings... Second dam Habibti won a pair of Grade I's going long as a 2-year-old, ran second in two more top-level events at three before finishing third in the GI Kentucky Oaks... She produced long-winded GIII Breeders' Cup Marathon S. hero Eldaafer, by Bernardini's sire A.P. Indy... **VERDICT:** 'TDN Rising Star' Shagaf has yet to truly live up to his hype and his Wood Memorial was a disappointing effort. He needs to run a lot faster than he ever has to be a realistic win candidate. On the plus side, he does have a pedigree that suggests he'll relish 10 furlongs.

Shagaf's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/9/16	<a href="#">GI Wood Memorial</a>	5th
3/5/16	<a href="#">GIII Gotham S.</a>	1st



#16 SHAGAF - 20-1  
 (Bernardini--Muhaawara, by Unbridled's Song)  
 O-Shadwell Stable; B-Shadwell Farm (KY); T-Chad Brown  
 DI: 3.80. Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0, \$328,800



#17 MOR SPIRIT - 12-1  
 (r, Eskendereya--I'm a Dixie Girl, by Dixie Union)  
 (\$85,000 Ylg '14 FTKOCT; \$650,000 2yo '15 FTFMAR)  
 O-Michael Lund Petersen; B-Elkstone Group LLC (PA); T-Bob Baffert; J-Gary Stevens. DI: 1.57; Lifetime Record: 7-3-4-0, \$658,400

**PROS:** Shagaf is a lightly raced, well-bred colt who won the first three races of his career, including the GIII Gotham S., when he overcame a speed-biased track to get up... Goes out for one of the top two barns in the country... The homebred has the kind of midpack running style that can help work out a good trip in the Derby... May not have liked the slop when beaten as the

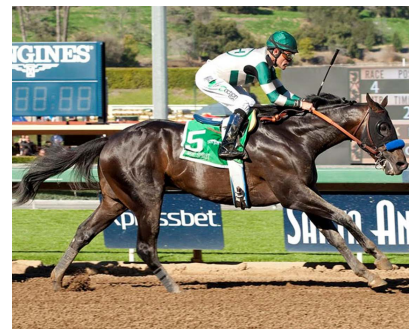


Shagaf | Leslie Martin

favorite in the GI Wood Memorial S... **CONS:** Shagaf has been well-regarded since his debut, but still hasn't run a race fast enough to stamp him as a top contender... Had no excuse pace-wise in the Wood, as he sat a perfect, ground-saving trip from off a torrid

speed duel and still could manage only fifth... **PEDIGREE:** Shagaf's sire, Bernardini, was a MGISW who had no problem handling 10 furlongs during dominant victories in the GI Travers S. and GI Jockey Club Gold Cup, or when second in the GI Breeders Cup Classic. as a 3-year-old.

**PROS:** Has never finished outside of the exacta in any of his seven career appearances... Looks to have plenty of foundation and is one of four members of this year's field to have posted three wins around two turns... Gave a very good account of himself after shipping in to Churchill for last year's GII Kentucky Jockey Club S., where he attended the pace and stayed on gamely to deep stretch before settling for second in just his third career start... Gets the services of Gary Stevens, who won three of the 10 runnings of the



Mor Spirit | Benoit photo

Derby between 1989 and 1997... Trainer Bob Baffert also knows his way to the Churchill infield, having hoisted the Derby trophy on four occasions, including with Triple Crown winner American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile) in 2015... **CONS:** Came through at long odds-on in the GI Los Alamitos Futurity and again in the GIII Robert B. Lewis S., but burned money when runner-up in the GII San Felipe S. and GI Santa Anita Derby in his two most recent appearances... **Cont. p15**



**Mor Spirit cont.**

While it appears he'll run all day, he doesn't have any real turn of foot and his grinding style could work against him beneath the Twin Spires... Could be overbet off his connections...

**PEDIGREE:** Though his dam was a black-type winner and Grade III-placed at two, there appears to be enough stamina in Mor Spirit's female family. His granddam, the MSW I'm Out First (Allen's Prospect) is a half-sister to Zenith (Roy), the dam of Grade I winner Great Hunter (Aptitude)... Ten furlongs definitely seems within his scope... **VERDICT:** Mor Spirit is far from impossible, though the quality of his two graded wins going long begs some questions... Excuses can be made for his two recent defeats when **Danzing Candy** (Twirling Candy) was loose on the lead in the San Felipe and when the underfoot conditions didn't suit in the Santa Anita Derby... But his modest finishing kick combined with a potentially unappealing price leaves us 'mor' than hesitant to back him on top.

Mor Spirit's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/9/16	<a href="#">GI Santa Anita Derby</a>	2nd
3/12/16	<a href="#">GI San Felipe S.</a>	2nd
2/6/16	<a href="#">GIII Robert B. Lewis S.</a>	1st
12/19/15	<a href="#">GI Los Alamitos Futurity</a>	1st

**CONS:** Connections thought highly enough of Majesto to enter him directly into the Florida Derby on the back of his maiden win, but he would be the first maiden winner to take the GI Kentucky Derby since Giacomo in 2005... He lacks a vital race at Churchill and horses usually show either a marked affinity or distaste for that surface... One of many vying to come with a late run... **PEDIGREE:** Majesto is by the only dual winner of the GI Breeders' Cup Classic in Tiznow (Cee's Tizzy), who has already sired a Classic winner in GI Belmont S. hero Da'Tara...His get have shown plenty of aptitude toward two-turn dirt routes, so that factor must be considered a plus... Out of the unraced Unacloud (Unaccounted For), Majesto is a half-brother to GISWs Overanalyze (Dixie Union) and Meadow Breeze (Meadowlake)... **VERDICT:** Majesto has the prerequisite pedigree to get the trip and seems to be moving in the right direction to blow up the tote come Derby Day, but the leading contenders need to stub their collective hooves to allow him that opportunity.

Majesto's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/2/16	<a href="#">GI Florida Derby</a>	2nd
2/27/16	<a href="#">GP Msw</a>	1st



#18 MAJESTO - 30-1  
(r, [Tiznow](#)-Unacloud,  
by Unaccounted For}  
(\$300,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP)  
O-Grupo 7C Racing Stable;  
B-Diamond A Racing Corp. (KY);  
T-Gustavo Delgado; J-Emisael  
Jaramillo. DI: 2.33.  
Lifetime Record: 6-1-2-2, \$239,500

**PROS:** Majesto stepped up in a big way to take second in the GI Xpressbet.com Florida Derby Apr. 2 off just a 1 1/16-mile maiden victory... In the first three home bar once, including behind future MGSW **Destin** (Creative Cause), who joins him in the gate Derby Day, the Tiznow ridgling is a big, long-striding sort who should appreciate the added real estate of the 10-furlong GI Kentucky Derby... The Grupo 7C Racing Stable colorbearer also has a solid foundation, as his last five starts have each come at 1 1/16 miles or longer... Preferring to make his run from off the pace, Majesto could benefit, if the fractions are hot early...



Majesto | Leslie Martin

**HOW THEY GOT THERE:  
KENTUCKY DERBY WINNERS' PREPS SINCE 1980**

Year	Winner	Last Prep
2015	American Pharoah	1st, Arkansas Derby
2014	California Chrome	1st, Santa Anita Derby
2013	Orb	1st, Florida Derby
2012	I'll Have Another	1st, Santa Anita Derby
2011	Animal Kingdom	1st, Vinery Spiral S.
2010	Super Saver	2nd, Arkansas Derby
2009	Mine That Bird	4th, Sunland Derby
2008	Big Brown	1st, Florida Derby
2007	Street Sense	2nd, Blue Grass
2006	Barbaro	1st, Florida Derby
2005	Giacomo	4th, Santa Anita Derby
2004	Smarty Jones	1st, Arkansas Derby
2003	Funny Cide	2nd, Wood Memorial
2002	War Emblem	1st, Illinois Derby
2001	Monarchos	2nd, Wood Memorial
2000	Fusaichi Pegasus	1st, Wood Memorial
1999	Charismatic	1st, Coolmore Lexington
1998	Real Quiet	2nd, Santa Anita Derby
1997	Silver Charm	2nd, Santa Anita Derby



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#19 BRODY'S CAUSE - 12-1  
 ([Giant's Causeway](#)-Sweet Breanna, by Sahm)  
 (\$350,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP)  
 O-Albaugh Family Stable; B-Gabriel Duignan, William Arvin Jr & Petaluma B'stock (Ky); T-Dale Romans; J-Luis Saez. DI: 1.38. Lifetime Record: 6-3-0-1, \$1,123,138

**PROS:** Owns a win over the track, having broken his maiden here second out last September... Was very visually impressive when upsetting the GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity at Keeneland in October over popular Derby pick **Exaggerator** (Curlin), and again showed off a nice turn of foot to return to winning ways in the GI Toyota Blue Grass S. last time... Trainer Dale Romans has had plenty of success in graded stakes under the Twin Spires, and boasts recent GI Preakness S. and GI Travers S. wins, as well as on-the-board finishes in both the Derby and GI Belmont S...

**CONS:** Brody's Cause has been the beneficiary of very quick paces in his two Grade I victories, and is one of many off-the-pace types signed on here in a race that doesn't appear to feature an abundance of early speedsters... Perhaps he needed the race or didn't take to the Tampa main track, but his complete non-effort in the GII Tampa Bay Derby remains a mystery... Has yet to earn higher than a 91 Beyer Speed Figure--it'll take a significantly higher number to win Saturday...

**PEDIGREE:** Progeny of top all-around sire Giant's Causeway

generally have no trouble with Classic distances... Second dam Sweet Roberta, by strong stamina influence Roberto, was a Grade II winner who finished second in the 1989 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies... **VERDICT:** He's a solid and accomplished runner, but probably needs to get faster.

Brody Cause's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/9/16	<a href="#">GI Toyota Blue Grass S.</a>	1st
10/3/15	<a href="#">GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity</a>	1st
9/11/15	<a href="#">CD Msw</a>	1st



Brody's Cause | Corady

NYQUIST  BRODY'S CAUSE,  
 CALLBACK, CONQUEST DADDYO,  
 TAKE CHARGE BRANDI, UNION RAGS,  
 STREET BABE, ISOTHERM, PICK OF THE LITTER,  
 STARTUP NATION, FIRING LINE, NO NAY NEVER,  
 PAIN AND MISERY, VIA VILLAGGIO, WINNING CAUSE,  
 ARCHARCHARCH, TALE OF VERVE, GENERAL QUARTERS,  
 SURF CAT, D'TARA, FOREVER TOGETHER, SOMETHINGABOUTLAURA,  
 FLOWER ALLEY, SWEET TALKER, AUTHENTICAT, BRUSHED BY A STAR,  
 BY THE LIGHT, FORTY TALES, BASHART, A SHIN TOP, ETC. ETC.

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KENTUCKY DERBY WINNERS from BLUE GRASS  
Since 1970

Year	KY Derby Winner	BG finish
1970	Dust Commander	1st
1972	Riva Ridge	1st
1979	Spectacular Bid	1st
1982	Gato Del Sol	2nd
1987	Alysheba	3rd*
1990	Unbridled	3rd
1991	Strike the Gold	1st
1993	Sea Hero	4th
1995	Thunder Gulch	4th
2007	Street Sense	2nd

\*DQ'd from first.



#20 DANZING CANDY - 15-1  
([Twirling Candy](#)—Talkin and Singing, by Songandaprayer)  
O-Halo Farms, Jim & Dianne Bashor; B-Halo Farms (KY); T-Clifford Sise Jr; J-Mike Smith. DI: 3.80.  
Lifetime Record: 5-3-0-0, \$358,650

**PROS:** In a Derby field replete with late runners, front-running ‘**TDN Rising Star**’ Danzing Candy could face limited competition early... Easily handled likely second choice **Exaggerator** (Curlin) and Mor Spirit (Eskendereya) in the GII San Felipe S... **CONS:** Went too fast to last in the Santa Anita Derby, but still offered no resistance when wilting down the lane in a uninspiring prep



Danzing Candy | Benoit


race.... A late arrival in Louisville, Danzing Candy will be without a work over the Churchill strip in his first start outside California...

**PEDIGREE:** Danzing Candy is from the first crop of Grade I winner Twirling Candy (Candy Ride {Arg}), who won the 2010 GI Malibu S.

in record-setting time and was second by just a head in the following year’s 1 1/4-mile GI Pacific Classic. His dam, a half-sister to GI Breeders’ Cup Turf winner Better Talk Now, failed to win in nine trips to the post. She is by the speedy Songandaprayer (Unbridled’s Song), who set the pace in the 2001 Derby before fading to 13th... **VERDICT:** Talented colt should be on front early, but not sure he’ll have enough in the tank to hold off the closers.

Danzing Candy’s Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
3/12/16	<a href="#">GII San Felipe S.</a>	1st
02/04/16	<a href="#">SA Alw/OC</a>	1st
12/26/15	<a href="#">SA Msw</a>	1st



#21 LAOBAN - 50-1  
([Uncle Mo](#)—Chattertown, by Speightstown)  
(\$40,000 Wlg ‘13 KEENOV;  
\$260,000 Ylg ‘14 KEESEP)  
O-McCormick Racing LLC & Southern Equine Stable LLC; B-Respite Farm (KY); T-Eric Guillot; J-Cornelio Velasquez. DI: 3.00.  
Lifetime Record: 5-0-2-1, \$151,250.

**PROS:** Laoban’s gate speed should get him out of trouble early should he draw into this 20-horse affair...Though he has not raced at Churchill before, he is well traveled, having seen a different venue in each of his five trips to the post...

**CONS:** Despite a pair of Grade III placings, the most glaring knock against the dark bay is he is still a maiden... Nine furlongs proved to be an issue for the colt last time when fourth in the Blue Grass behind Brody’s Cause (Giant’s Causeway), so



Laoban | Coady photography

10 furlongs is a pretty big ask... **PEDIGREE:** His dam, a daughter of champion sprinter Speightstown, only has two wins to her credit, both going short... **VERDICT:** Should he draw into the race, Laoban should be calling the shots early along with **Danzing Candy** (Twirling Candy), but will likely call it a day somewhere between the eighth and ninth furlong.

Laoban’s Video Highlights

Date	Race	Finish
3/5/16	<a href="#">GIII Gotham S.</a>	2nd
1/9/16	<a href="#">GIII Sham S.</a>	3rd



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#22 CHERRY WINE - 30-1  
 (Paddy O'Prado--C.S. Royce, by Unbridled's Song)  
 O-William Pacella & Frank Jones, Jr.; B-Pacella Racing, Frank Jones, Jr. & Frank Shoop (KY); T-Dale Romans; J-Robby Albarado. DI: 3.80.  
 Lifetime Record: 8-2-1-2, \$218,878.

**PROS:** Cherry Wine already has a dominant win over this strip, romping by 9 1/4 lengths when breaking his maiden in the slop last November, and has been very consistent since... Tabbed a 'TDN Rising Star' after an impressive allowance win at Gulfstream in January, he overcame traffic trouble when a late-running fourth in the GII Rebel S. and was a solid third last time in the GI Toyota Blue Grass S... Distance seems to be no issue for this sophomore and he should relish 10 furlongs... His conditioner, who trained GI Preakness S. winner Shackleford (Forestry) and two Derby third-place finishers--one of which is



Cherry Wine  
 Horsephotos

this colt's sire, has shown the upmost confidence in Cherry Wine all year and will enter him in the GI Preakness S. should he not get in here...

**CONS:** The homebred's closing style is dependent on a hot pace up front, which is not certain, though looks a bit more likely should **Laoban** (Uncle Mo) draw in...He has already been outrun by some of the other closers signed on here, including stablemate **Brody's Cause** (Giant's Causeway), **My Man Sam** (Trappe Shot) and **Creator** (Tapit)... **PEDIGREE:** Cherry Wine's sire Paddy O'Prado, who completed the trifecta in the 2010 Derby, won at 10 furlongs, though that was on the grass in the GI Secretariat S., and also captured the grassy 1 3/16-mile GII Virginia Derby... His dam, who was also trained by Romans, won twice on the grass at 1 1/16 miles, but her sire Unbridled's Song was a strong dirt runner, having won the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile, GI Florida Derby and GI Wood Memorial S., the latter two being at nine furlongs... **VERDICT:** Cherry Wine will have to step up his game a bit to turn the tables on runners like Brody's Cause and Creator. However, he is right there every time and if the pace plays to his liking, there is no reason to think he won't be charging home strongly in the final furlong.

Cherry Wine's Video Highlights		
Date	Race	Finish
4/9/16	<a href="#">GI Blue Grass S.</a>	3rd
3/19/16	<a href="#">GII Rebel S.</a>	4th
1/9/16	<a href="#">GP Alw</a>	1st

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