

CHURCHILL DOWNS Saturday 05/02/2015



Forecast

High 75 F

0

Partly Sunny

Low 54 F Precip: 12%

THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL

#3 YOCKEY'S WARRIOR (Race 2)

He apparently was still feeling the effects of his monstrous victory at first asking on April 4 at Keeneland, finishing second that day. Yockey's Warrior was a mere shell of himself at Keeneland last month, setting the pace over a track surface that was extremely unkind to frontrunners and/or runners racing towards the rail. Regardless, Yockey's Warrior held on well in the stretch to salvage the place once displaced on the front end by the winner, and he was clearly second best. He projects to compete over a fairer surface today, switching to Churchill Downs while getting a huge upgrade in riders to Joel Rosario. He looms the controlling speed once again, drawing an a beneficial inside post.

#3 CARVE (Race 4)

He has had the misfortune of competing against Race Day not once, but twice in both of his starts off a layoff in Arkansas. In their second go-round on April 11, he gave the aforementioned runner all he could handle past midstretch, but was unable to match strides with that dual graded stakes winner when it mattered in the final yards, settling for a sharp second place finish. Carve profits immeasurably from some class relief today and the absence of Race Day as well, running in a high-end optional claiming contest. A drop in class to face similar rivals at a flat mile resulted in a going away victory as the post time favorite over this track in 2014. Pace pressing tactics are expected to be the order of the day, sporting a bullet breeze last Sunday. Castanon gets on board once again, the pilot for four of Carve's last five victories.

#18 AMERICAN PHAROAH (Race 11)

American Pharoah began his career in a maiden race at Del Mar over the Polytrack in August. This was the same surface his trainer and owner had maligned in years past for its inconsistency, initially leading to Ahmed Zayat moving the majority of his stable to the east coast. His west coast presence has gradually increased in recent years. Among his stable's stars were 2012 Arkansas Derby winner and Kentucky Derby and Preakness runner-up Bodemeister and 2012 Haskell winner Paynter.

Bet down to 7/5 in his debut, American Pharoah chased the pace and tired late to split the field in a group of nine. Based on his impressive showings in the morning, and the quality of the maiden race in which he debuted, Baffert was willing to try this colt in the Del Mar Futurity on closing day of the boutique meet. Dispatched at 3-1, he grabbed control shortly after the start and never looked back. It was a polished and complete effort from a lightly raced colt and quickly vaulted him up the list of best 2 year-olds in the country. A routine win in the Frontrunner 24 days later at Santa Anita only cemented that status. It also set him up as a likely heavy favorite in the Breedersí Cup Juvenile over the same oval in early November.

An injury suffered in preparation for the Juvenile sidelined this colt, and his status for the Triple Crown was unknown when the calendar turned to 2015. While preparing for the Rebel, American Pharoah drew continued rave reviews regarding his training, as clockers and observers regularly stood mouths agape with incredulity at the site of the bay colt. He ran to his training in the aforementioned Rebel, dominating from start to finish, en route to a six length score. American Pharoah overcame several obstacles that afternoon. It was reported after the race, that he had lost a shoe soon after the start. He was also racing on a sloppy track for the first time and outside the confines of southern California at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs Arkansas.

Even after the Rebel rout, many doubted American Pharoah's ability to rate off the pace and to handle more legitimate competition. A return engagement in the Natural State would include a meeting with Southwest winner Far Right and a good bit more speed was entered in the Arkansas Derby. This established the scenario many skeptics yearned for, as American Pharoah was positioned just off the pace by regular rider, and two-time Kentucky Derby winner, Victor Espinoza. With a decisive move on the far turn, he wrested command from the vanquished Bridgetís Big Luvy, and entered the Oaklawn Park stretch in complete control. The final margin of victory was 8 lengths, but that is rendered moot given the consummate ease with which he handled his opposition.

With a fourth consecutive win in the bag and continued improvement, American Pharoah seemingly took the path to Derby favoritism right through Arkansas. His victory in Hot Springs evoked memories of 2012 Kentucky Derby favorite Bodemeister winning the same race for the same connections. Baffert shrewdly sent American Pharoah directly to Kentucky after the Arkansas Derby, affording him the opportunity to train at Churchill Downs for over 2 weeks.

Baffert has come to Churchill Downs for the Derby with an eclectic mix of horses over the years. He has had the blazing fast Sinister Minister, the steady grinding Real Quiet, the street fighter Silver Charm, the fleet-footed Bodemeister and the classy and consistent Point Given among others. American Pharoah deserves more than to be labeled a carbon copy of a prior Baffert participant. However, his brilliance is reminiscent of the very best the Hall of Famer has saddled for the Kentucky Derby. He is very fast and seems to have no issues with stamina whatsoever. American Pharoah has the ability to make his competition look ordinary in company workouts in the morning and graded stakes races in the afternoon.

Roughly a month ago, just before his seasonal debut in the Rebel, a video of an American Pharoah workout at Santa Anita was taken by HRTV. In it, he worked in company with a then-unraced maiden. He absolutely dusted that rival en route to a drill that drew rave reviews. The world was introduced to that unraced maiden about a week later when he scored at first asking. His name is Whiskey Ticket, and he joined the ranks of graded stake winners with a win at Hawthorne in the Illinois Derby on April 18. There has been no doubt about his brilliance when training, but the fact that Baffert has trained American Pharoah with talented horses, only makes his preparation more impressive.

Regardless of how hard he or she may try, a trainer cannot simulate what occurs for a racehorse on Kentucky Derby day. They race before a tumultuous crowd, the likes of which are otherwise never seen in this country. There is pageantry, pomp and circumstance and eventually a horse race. One of the only places on the Derby trail where the setting is similar to Churchill Downs is at Oaklawn on Arkansas Derby day. The field saddles in the infield and throngs of racing-crazed fans pack the century old facility, both indoors and out. Numerous observers noted that the presumptive Derby favorite handled everything in stride and seemed more than comfortable with the new circumstances. That will aid him tremendously at Churchill Downs.

Given the success that he had with his first half-dozen Kentucky Derby starters, some would view the 13-year period since Bob Baffert won the nation's grandest race a drought. He has, however, seen his trainees post multiple top notch performances. His ability to train a Derby winner has not waned, and a year like 2015 has probably only rekindled the flames. His hand is coming up aces, and no member of his squadron of talented sophomores is regarded more highly than American Pharoahand rightfully so.

#6 BENT ON BOURBON (Race 13)

Hinted to his ability with a 'better than it looks' fourth place finish in his Feb 21 debut at Gulfstream. Broke from post 13 in a field of 14. Showed sharp speed from the gate but was hung out wide throughout in a strong maiden field. Finished a good 4th, losing less than length in the stretch. Returned at Keeneland Apr 12 stretching out to today's 7f distance. Broke flatfooted then was forced to lose ground every step of the way. Made a strong move from off the pace to take a narrow lead turning for home. Nailed at the wire by a logical contender. The third place finisher came back to win here on Thursday as the Wizard's Pick of the Day. Gets an upgrade in riders today to Castellano.

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

RACE 1

Post Time 10:30 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | Allowance Optional Claiming(\$62,500) | Purse: \$72,000



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

PGM # Horse Name M/L Jockey Trainer

1A HAZARDS OF LOVE 7-2 GRAHAM J AMOSS T

He got back on the winning track last month at Keeneland, returning from a layoff. Hazards of Love won the pace battle and the war that day, racing over a track that favored off the pace runners to prevail by a 1/2 a length. A 'horse for the course' and the distance, similar race tactics are expected to be employed today by a trainer that excels with last out winners. Hazard of Love sports a pair of maintenance type breezes in the interim, and he boasts enough tactical speed to neutralize a difficult outside post with jockey James Graham.

6 TARPY'S SURPRISE 5-1 LANERIE C ROMANS D

Needed his comeback effort off an extended layoff back in February in South Florida. He improved his position around the far turn, but then failed to maintain that rally into the stretch while garnering the show. Sporting a trio of drastically improved AM trials at Churchill, dramatic improvement/more speed is anticipated today with that race under his belt and receiving a change in venue.

8 IRISH YOU WELL

3-1 VELAZQUEZ J

CATALANO W

Overmatched in 2 of his last 3 starts, both in stakes, returning from a 7 month layoff. Cuts back in distance after showing improved speed chasing solid fractions and superior wire-to-wire winner Apr 11 in the Grade 3 Ben Ali. Gets a major upgrade in riders to Velazquez for good trainer Catalano.

7 BANNER BILL

5-1 GEROUX F

LOVELL M

Gets a trainer change to Michelle Lovell for his Churchill Downs debut effort. He regressed February 14, running evenly to finish third after winning off the claim in his previous start. He too should be forwardly placed off a freshening for a barn that is quite proficient with new acquisitions.

1 INDYCOTT

7-2 GRAHAM J

AMOSS T

Completes the second half of the 'coupled' Tom Amoss entry. He generated a lackluster effort when zealously spotted in a Grade 2 contest back in March at the Fair Grounds. Takes a realistic drop in class today, facing optional claimers. Gets pace to close into, competing at this favorite distance.

RACE 2

Post Time 11:01 7 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds | Allowance Optional Claiming(\$75,000) | Purse: \$67,000



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

PGM # Horse Name

M/L Jockey

Trainer

3 YOCKEY'S WARRIOR (Best Bet)

3-1 ROSARIO J

STALL, JR. A



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

1 ROLL TIDE ROLL

9-2 VELAZQUEZ J

CATALANO W

Overcame a less then ideal break at Oaklawn Park to win at first asking on April 11. He quickly settled into striking position after an unflattering getaway to chase the pace, drawing away in deep stretch in his well-bet/well-meant unveiling. Takes the next logical step up the class ladder today, facing early level Allowance runners. He must break cleanly from the rail while stretching-out from the rail to clear the next hurdle. Shows a familiarization work in the interim, a definite plus.

1A TOUGH CUSTOMER

9-2 BRIDGMOHAN S

CATALANO W

Returns from a 7 month layoff. Cuts back to 7f, the distance of his impressive maiden win first time out over this track and distance last Sept. Fractious in the gate and chased wide throughout when overmatched Oct 4 stepping up in class into a Grade 1 stake. Expected to be fowardly placed from the start today.

5 DEFONDO

9-2 SMITH M

STEWART D

He was out of his element in a Grade 2 stakes contest on March 18 with the addition of blinkers in Louisiana. Takes a realistic drop in class today, competing against preliminary Allowance runners in a sprint. Drastic reversal in form anticipated over a tracked that he has handled in the past. Also, he boasts an ability to 'run well fresh' with Mike Smith climbing aboard.

7 ISLAND TOWN

5-1 LEPAROUX J

WILKES I

His comeback effort in Lexington, which was his 2015 debut, was nothing more than a 'prep' for today in a lackluster sixth-place finish. He shows a pair of nice AM trials making Churchill Downs his homebase once again, fashioning a bullet breezes in April. His lone lifetime came victory over today's track. A dramatic reversal in form is anticipated racing around familiar surroundings with Leparoux.

RACE 3

Post Time 11:31 1 Mile | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | Maiden Special Weight | Purse: \$62,000



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

PGM # Horse Name M/L Jockey Trainer

4 WEST VILLAGE 7-2 BEJARANO R CATALANO W

Makes his grass debut following a pair of 'better than it looks' third place finishes in both career starts at Oaklawn around 2 turns. Raced 'greenly' in his debut after a wide trip and his jock making a premature middle move. Allowed to drop too far back early in the race Apr 11 as the 2-1 favorite. Jockey Velazquez had too much real estate to make up and too little time to overcome his deficit. Rallied for the show, despite a racing very wide throughout. Expect an improved performance Saturday switching to the turf, a surface he is bred well on both sides to love. There are several quality grass winners in past generations on his mothers side. Gets a jockey change to Bejarano, who is a terrific turf rider. Trainer Wayne Catalano does very well improving horses making their first start on grass. After drawing 2 tough outside posts in Arkansas, West Village gets a much better inside slot to break from today.

9 REACH FOR A KITTEN 3-1 CASTELLANO J

MAKER M

Beaten a nose Mar 15 making his first start for trainer Mike Maker in his return from a 14 1/2 month layoff. Outfinished Thatcher Street after his jock made a huge wide premature middle move into the fastest part of the pace. Continued to inch closer to the leaders in the stretch run, but simply ran out of ground stretching out to 1 1/8 miles. 1 more jump and Reach for a Kitten would have escaped this maiden condition. His strong effort that day off the bench could have been the cause for his defeat just 20 days later as the even money favorite. Compromised that day by a tough outside post and slow early fractions. Has been given 4 weeks off to recover from that effort. Reunited with Castellano, who forms a strong jockey and trainer combo with Maker.

2 THATCHER STREET

6-1 LEPAROUX J

WILKES I

Despite having had 11 chances to break his maiden, this 4 year old has only run once on grass and that was last time out at Gulfstream stretching out to 1 1/8 miles. Breaking from a tough outside post in a field of 11, Thatcher Street made a huge wide middle move, making up 10 lengths through the far turn. He continued to sustain his rally in the stretch to miss by a quickly diminishing 1/2 lengths. Had to settle for third at 21-1. Cuts back to a mile today and breaks from the rail. I expect him to be more fowardly placed early on and a ground saving trip before Leparoux asks him for his run.

7 UNDER THE TABLE

30-1 OSORIO D

BURKE T

'Bombs away' with this colt who is 30-1 morning line. Took 'sneaky' money in his debut which was an off the turf race at Keeneland. Ran in spots to finish fourth, but dirt was not going to be his calling card. Grass is. He is a full brother to a multiple grass winner and a half to another turf victor. Further research into his pedigree also points out a strong turf pedigree. Trainer Tim Burke does not start many horses, but he does good work with what limited stock he does put on the racetrack.

RACE 4

Post Time 12:04 1 Mile | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | Allowance Optional Claiming(\$100,000) | Purse: \$82,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 4-5-6) Pick 4 (Races 4-5-6-7)

PGM # Horse Name

M/L Jockey

<u>Trainer</u>

3 CARVE (Best Bet)

7-2 CASTANON J

COX B

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

6 CAT BURGLAR

4-1 GARCIA M

BAFFERT B

Resumes his career for trainer Bob Baffert. He has been sidelined since a razor sharp third place finish in marathon route contest last June at Belmont Park. He is a runner that knows how to win 'off works'. Much like Carve, he too returns to meet optional

claiming rivals off the layoff. Possesses tactical speed to sit a good trip today, reuniting with jockey Martin Garcia for a trainer that excels off of this length of layoff.

4 ROCKET TIME

6-1 BOREL C

STALL, JR. A

Improved effort on April 4 at Keeneland, turning back to a sprint in that race. He set a pressured pace off a layoff that day, holding the lead into the stretch before tiring slowly to finish third over a track that favored closers. Class drop only enhances his chances today. Has the speed to lead over his favorite track, which should be a kinder his running style as well.

7 JESSICA'S STAR

12-1 GRAHAM J

STIDHAM M

Exits the same race as Rocket Time. He gave futile chase of that rival on April 4, tiring under pressure in an effort he sorely needed. Returns to a middle distance of ground, which he obviously prefers. May elect to settle a bit farther off the pace as well today, attempting to defeat older runners for the first time.

RACE 5

Post Time 12:38 1 Mile | Open | 3 Year Olds | G3 Pat Day Mile S. | Purse: \$200,000

1 MILE

Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 5-6-7) Lucky 7 (Races 5-11)

PGM # Horse Name

M/L Jockey

<u>Trainer</u>

6 COMPETITIVE EDGE

6-5 VELAZQUEZ J

PLETCHER T

Undefeated and very impressive in all 3 career starts as the odds on favorite. In each victory the 3 year old son of Super Saver showed excellent early speed, but was very rateable on the front end, winning off as his rider pleased each time. Attempts to carry his speed a 1 turn mile. The added distance should pose no problem. Competitive Edge has a long strong stide and is bred and acts like the longer he goes, the more effective he will be. The 'key' today is his post draw. Breaking outside the other speeds, allows John Velazquez to sit a perfect stalk and pounce trip behind the likely pacesetter Gimme Da Lute. Sharp 4f work over this track Apr 24.

5 LORD NELSON

3-1 BEJARANO R

BAFFERT B

Shipped East from Santa Anita to contest the Grade 3 Bay Shore Apr 4. Broke slow from his tough inside post at the 7f distance. Dropped well off the leaders early in the race, clearly resenting being pinned on the rail with a lot of dirt kick back, Dropped even further back as the field turned for home, never looking like he would make an impact. Lord Nelson was swung out widest into the stretch and with a sudden burst of late acceleration, nearly got up in the shadow of the wire, making up 8 1/2 lengths from the top of the stretch. Good fourth to Dortmund going 2 turns March 7 and a victory over last year's BC Juvenile winner Texas Red Feb 1, point out this colt has quality. If there is a pace melt down late, Lord Nelson is likely to be the beneficiary. Shows 2 solid works at Churchill since shipping down from New York.

2 GIMME DA LUTE

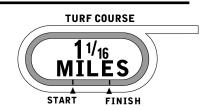
7-2 GARCIA M

BAFFERT B

Uncoupled stablemate of Lord Nelson, both trained by Bob Baffert, invades Churchill from Santa Anita in sharp and improving form. Stretches out to a 1 turn mile following a pair of wins in races restricted to California breds. Even though he was right on top of some very fast early fractions, in all 3 career starts, Gimme Da Lute never had the lead at either the first or second calls of the race. Dropped a nose decision in his debut, but in his 2 victories, the son of Midnight Lute was able to dispose of hid pace rivals and draw clear. Exits a career best effort Apr 4 in a \$200,000 Cal Bred stake, winning easily in fast time. Because of his inside post draw, it could force the hand of Garcia to bust him out of the gate and hustle him right to the front, playing 'catch me if you can'.

RACE 6

Post Time 1:19 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds | G2 American Turf S. | Purse: \$250,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 6-7-8) Pick 6 (Races 6-11)

PGM # Horse Name M/L Jockey Trainer

8 CONQUEST TYPHOON 5-1 SMITH M CASSE M

Returns to the lawn today, which he seems to favor. He has been far from being disgraced over 'fake dirt' at Turfway and Golden Gate respectively in recent starts as a three-year-old. Change in race, he rallied from off the pace to claim the place at nine furlongs over Polytrack back in March in a decent effort. Wisely given time to recoup in the interim, he shortens-up in distance today, getting back on the grass. Both wins over the weeds have come when he has been able to 'settle' early on, and then make one run. A bullet breeze over dirt on April 12 alludes to a top performance today at a more manageable distance.

1 LUCK OF THE KITTEN

7-2 ROSARIO J

WARD W

He did everything but win in his sophomore debut in Lexington last month. Luck of the Kitten brushed aside all challenges for the lead, holding on grimly to the lead in the stretch. Ultimately, he could not turn back the late bid of a perfect stalking trip winner, acquitting himself quite well in defeat. He should have derived beneficial conditioning from that effort. And, he looms the controlling speed today, breaking from the rail under Rosario.

7 NUN THE LESS

6-1 LEZCANO J

BLOCK C

Drop in class generated the desired results on April 12 off the bench. Displaying tactical speed once again, he dueled the early pacesetter into defeat in deep stretch, slowly edging away late. His final time was 3/5 faster than the filly division later in the day. Similar tactics expected again today, tackling stakes caliber runners with a boost in class for a good turf trainer.

11 DIVISIDERO

20-1 HERNANDEZ R

BRADLEY W

Late running 3 year old returns from a 2 month break after a solid third place finish Mar 7 at Gulfstream. He was stepping up into a Grade 3 stake after an impressive 25-1 upset win in his career debut going 2 turns at today's distance. Similar to his race first time out, Divisidero was forced to launch a very wide rally from a tough outside post. Steadied at a crucial point late in the race which cost him a closer finish. Draws outside again today, but this big colt clearly demonstrated he prefers to rally outside of horses.

RACE 7

Post Time 2:08 7 Furlongs | Fillies and Mares | 4 Year Olds And Up | G1 Humana Distaff S. | Purse: \$300,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 7-8-9) Pick 5 (7-11)

PGM # Horse Name M/L Jockey Trainer

8 JUDY THE BEAUTY

6-5 SMITH M

WARD W

Makes her debut as a six-year-old today. She was last seen 'leaving it all on the track' with an ultra game effort to prevail by a head in the Breeders' Cup Filly/Mare Sprint at Santa Anita. Takes her first step today towards defending her Breeders' Cup title, searching for her initial victory at Churchill Downs as well. A disappointing favorite in last year's renewal of this race, she comes into this race a 'fresh' runner. Expertly managed throughout her career by owner/trainer Wesley Ward, she encounters a less than stellar field in her return. As a result, she is expected to enjoy a good outside trip under Mike Smith, who has won with her both times that he has been aboard.

3 DAME DOROTHY

9-2 CASTELLANO J

PLETCHER T

She proved to be no match late for a decisive daylight winner at Santa Anita back in March around two turns. A gem of consistency throughout her career, Dame Dorothy returns to a sprint distance today where she is 2 for 2. In addition, she partners once again with Javier Castellano for trainer Todd Pletcher, having picked up the pace in her recent morning works in South Florida prior to heading to Kentucky. Looks to be the most likely winner should the odds-on favorite need a race off the bench.

1 SWEET REASON

5-1 ORTIZ, JR. I

GYARMATI L

She simply failed to fire her best shot out West behind Judy The Beauty in the Breeder's Cup back in November. Begins her career as an older runner today, venturing to Kentucky while coming off the sidelines. A more typical outing is expected in this

spot, sporting a bullet 3F breeze over this track on Tuesday. Should be closer to the leaders today with a more deliberate pace scenario anticipated.

7 SWEET WHISKEY

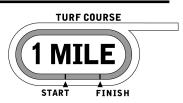
6-1 VELAZQUEZ J

PLETCHER T

Good third Mar 21 returning from a 4 month layoff. Succumbed late to a pressured fast pace. There is not much early speed lined up in this race, so expect Velazquez to hustle hard to get the front and play 'catch me if you can'.

RACE 8

Post Time 2:59 1 Mile | Fillies and Mares | 4 Year Olds And Up | G2 Churchill Distaff Turf Mile S. | Purse: \$300,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 8-9-10) Pick 4 (Races 8-9-10-11)

PGM # Horse Name

M/L Jockey

Trainer

8 SANDIVA (IRE)

7-2 CASTELLANO J

PLETCHER T

She has come alive in a big way since jockey Javier Castellano has taken over the reins. Appeared to be on her way to victory on March 28 at Gulfstream Park, but gave ground grudgingly late to Lady Lara who she meets again today. Sandiva might had made a premature middle move into a strong third quarter in her latest effort off the layoff, therefore compromising her best chance at victory. She has worked thrice since then, and today's flat mile distance should 'fit her like the proverbial glove'. Despite never having won at eight furlongs, she is well spotted to get back on the winning track, dropping weight.

4 LADY LARA (IRE)

7-2 ALVARADO J

MOTT W

She took the measure of Sandiva off the layoff over Gulfstream Park grass March 28, her unveiling as an older runner. 2 for 2 under jockey Junior Alvarado, Lady Lara rallied determinedly to overhaul Sandiva in deep stretch in a hard-earned victory that day. She demonstrated an affinity for today's turf course back in November. As a result, she has every right to register back-to-back wins with the right trip and/or with clear sailing for trainer Bill Mott.

5 COFFEE CLIQUE

3-1 VELAZQUEZ J

LYNCH B

She was the third-place finisher behind the top two selections in Hallandale in March. Coffee Clique was a bit one-paced late in a third-place finish off a lengthy layoff, a race that she most definitely needed. A Grade 1 winner who reeled off three successive victories last year, she attempts to exact her revenge on the first two choices as the defending champion of this race. Draws a better post today, and should definitely have derived beneficial conditioning from her comeback effort. Johnny V. rides has the call.

1 PERSONAL DIARY

8-1 ROSARIO J

OLIVER V

Should profit from the return to 'firmer ground' today. Simply appeared to 'spin her wheel's over grass with much 'give' to it at Keeneland on April 11 off a layoff. She draws the rail again today with jockey Joel Rosario riding. She owns a win at today's distance in addition to being staked-placed over Churchill Downs turf. Can make her presence felt with with a ground-saving trip and/or clear sailing.

RACE 9

Post Time 3:43 7 Furlongs | Open | 4 Year Olds And Up | G2 Churchill Downs S. | Purse: \$500,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 9-10-11)

PGM # Horse Name M/L Jockey Trainer

2 BAYERN 1-1 GARCIA M BAFFERT B

Last year's Breeders' Cup Classic winner returns from a 6 month layoff for trainer Bob Baffert and owner Kaleem Shah, who will be rooting on his prized 3 year old Dortmund 2 races later in the Kentucky Derby. Bayern was victorious in 3 of his last 4 starts as

a 3 year old, all front running wins travelling 2 turns with Martin Garcia in the irons. Begins his 4 year old campaign cutting back to a 7f sprint. Bayern is 2 for 2 at this distance, including a 'monster' wire-to-wire score last June in the Grade 2 Wood Stephens on the Belmont Stakes undercard. Breaking from an inside post today, expect Garcia to waste no time gunning to the front, swatting off the early pressure from Brewing and then waiting for the challenge from Private Zone and Pants On Fire. Bayern's sharp 6f and 7f stamina building workouts at Santa Anita indicate he is ready to Rock N' Roll in the Grade 2 Churchill Downs.

5 PANTS ON FIRE

5-1 LOPEZ P

BREEN K

It's taken awhile for the connections of this year old warrior to realize Pants On Fire's best game is 7f to a mile. Got back on the winning track March 28 at Gulfstream off 3 1/2 month layoff cutting back from 2 turns to today's distance. Very game in victory stalking a moderate pace and finishing up in fast time. Will have to rally from further off the pacesetter today, tactics which have been employed successfully in the past. Expected to get a much quicker pace scenario, which will set the table up nicely for strong stretch rally. Has a win at Churchill in 2013 and that came in a 1 turn mile in stakes company.

4 PRIVATE ZONE

2-1 PEDROZA M

NAVARRO J

Cuts back to 7f after succumbing in the 'shadow of the wire', setting a pressured strong pace throughout. Private Zone was making his first start for high % winning trainer Jorge Navarro that afternoon fior the same owners. Tricky spot today, because this speedster is not as quick early as Bayern. I'm not sure he will have enough of a closing punch to run wear that one down at the 7f distance and withstand pressure from Pants On Fire who will be making his presense felt. All this could be a moot point and a race for the place spot, if Bayern returns like a tiger and simply runs this field off their feet.

Post Time 4:44 1 1/8 Miles | Open | 4 Year Olds And Up | G1 Woodford Reserve Turf Classic S. | Purse: \$500,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta / Pick 3 (Races 10-11-12) Pick 4 (Races 10-11-12-13)

PGM # Horse Name

M/L Jockey

Trainer

8 STEPHANIE'S KITTEN

9-2 VELAZQUEZ J

BROWN C

The lone filly facing males in this Grade 1 stake. In many instances, facing the opposite sex is a recipe for defeat, but not in this case. Older female turf horses customarily run very well against their male counterparts on grass overseas and on occasions here in the US. You don't see this often in the states, but the sharp connections of Stephanie's Kitten know this is a not a stellar Grade 1 field. She is also has proven to relish the Churchill downs grass course. 3 starts over it and all 3 were victories in stakes races highlighted by a win in the 2011 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. Returned Mar 7 at Tampa off a 4 month layoff with a workmanlike score in a Grade 3 stake at today's 1 1/8 miles distance. Likes to lay back and make 1 run and is handy enough not to be compromised by minor traffic problems and moderate fractions to close into. Jockey Velazquez returns aboard who has ridden this 6 year old mare to 5 of her 9 victories.

5 FINNEGANS WAKE

9-2 ESPINOZA V

MILLER P

Ships in from southern California in razor sharp and consistent form. Late running 6 year old responds beautifully to jockey Espinoza, who has been aboard 5 times, winning 4 races, three Grade 2 events and one Grade 3. Has also won over this turf course in the past and twice at today's distance. Needs some pace to close into and a clean trip to make his presense felt at the wire.

7 JACK MILTON

5-1 CASTELLANO J

PLETCHER T

Finally put it all together with an impressive off the pace win over soft turf Apr 10 at Keeneland in a Grade 1 stake. In his prior 4 starts, Jack Milton ran well with excuses. 5 year old is certainly capable of winning a race like this but needs a well timed ride at a distance he has attempted only once in his career. 5 year old is 1 for 1 over Churchill Downs grass course.

10 CHOCOLATE RIDE

12-1 TALAMO J

COX B

One of the better claims made in 2014 for just \$40,000 last November at Churchill. In 5 starts switching barns to high % winning trainer Brad Cox, this 5 year old has shown steady improvement in 4 turf outings while moving up the class ladder each time. Exits Grade 3 and Grade 2 wins in his last 2 starts, both victories accomplished in front running fashion. Similar tactics expected today,

in a race which lacks another confirmed front runner. This Grade 1 stake is obviously his toughest test to date. What this 5 year old does have going for him is a weaker than normal race for this level and is in sharp form with a tactical edge and generous odds.

11 **SLUMBER (GB)** 8-1 ORTIZ, JR. I

Beaten favorite at 9-5 last time out to the front running winner Chocolate Ride. 7 year old was shipping in from Gulfstream following a nose defeat in a Grade 1 stake at today's distance. Simply ran out of ground losing by a guickly diminishing half length after a wide trip through the far turn and in the stretch. Despite having not won a race since August 2013 and 9 subsequent races since, Slumber never fails to give you his best.

RACE 11 Post Time 6:34 1 1/4 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds | G1 **Kentucky Derby Presented By Yum! Brands | Purse:** \$2,000,000



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

PGM# **Horse Name** M/L Jockey Trainer

18 AMERICAN PHAROAH (Best Bet) 5-2 ESPINOZA V **BAFFERT B**



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

DORTMUND 8

GARCIA M

BAFFERT B

In any other year, a runner with Dortmund's resume would loom a prohibitive favorite in the Kentucky Derby. Dortmund, however, seems to live in the shadow of stable-mate American Pharoah. Nonetheless, he is a very serious win candidate and boasts credentials that satisfy even the most discriminating horseplayer.

Dortmund's debut was a smashing win at 6.5 furlongs at Santa Anita. He rated comfortably off the pace and exploded around the turn to win by nearly five lengths. Next, trainer Bob Baffert would send Dortmund to Churchill Downs for an entry level Allowance event. Bet down to 2/5 favoritism, regular rider Martin Garcia set him up stalking the pace before asking him to move on the far turn. Dortmund gathered in his rivals and quickly established a comfortable lead before powering to a 7 length win.

Dortmund then faced a pair of talented juveniles in a compact field for the Los Alamitos Futurity. In a stretch-long battle, Dortmund proved best by a head over Firing Line and Mr. Z. It was a workmanlike win that showed Dortmund would not back down from a battle. He once again effectively rated off the pace and showed dogged determination in the stretch drive.

Baffert mapped a plan for Dortmund to have three preps for the Kentucky Derby, opting for the Bob Lewis as Dortmund's 3 yearold debut. That day he engaged with familiar rival, Firing Line, in the stretch, was headed but re-rallied late to get up in time to once again win by a head. Next up in the San Felipe, Dortmund, pressed by cheap speed, would take the field gate-to-wire to win over a game Prospect Park and wide-trip Bolo. Finally, Dortmund would end up facing five rivals in a short field for the Santa Anita Derby, scoring decisively and with consummate ease.

One quality that you want to see in a Derby aspirant is toughness. Dortmund has been locked in battle on multiple occasions in the past, and has come out on the winning end each and every time. He won a stretch-long fight over Mr. Z and Firing Line in the Los Al Futurity, then bested Firing Line once again in the Bob Lewis by coming back when one length behind in mid-stretch.

Despite having shown the ability to win from off the pace as a juvenile, some have lingering doubts about Dortmund rating and being as effective in the Kentucky Derby. The likelihood that he is able to get the lead early at Churchill Downs seems minimal. However, that should not dissuade one from considering Dortmund a serious win candidate. He arrived at Churchill two weeks before the Run for the Roses and that gave him ample time to train under the Twin Spires. If he can rekindle the magic he created on the same surface six months earlier, the roses are well within his reach.

15 **FROSTED**

15-1 ROSARIO J

MCLAUGHLIN K

Frosted was expected to be among Godolphin's very best 2 year-olds from the 2012 crop, and began his career in a deep and competitive maiden event on the Travers undercard. Dispatched at 7-1, Frosted ran a credible second in an event marred by a fallen horse. Following another runner-up finish at second asking, this time at Belmont, Frosted made his first start at Aqueduct on the second day of the fall meet as part of a heavily favored entry. Showing more tactical speed in a race run at a modest pace, Frosted took command on the turn and drew away with authority to a 5 1/4 length victory.

The improved effort led trainer Kieran McLaughlin to enter Frosted in the Remsen. Despite drawing widest of all in stall 13, he went to post the 9/5 favorite. On that day, with the rail absolutely the place to be, Frosted took the worst of it covering 61 feet, near 9-lengths more than the winner, Leave the Light On, in a narrow loss.

In his 3 year old debut in the Holy Bull at Gulfstream, favoritism wound up going to Frosted, despite the presence of Breeders' Cup Juvenile runner-up Upstart. Despite being unable to reel Upstart in late, it was an excellent starting point to his sophomore season, showing he still had considerable upside.

In The Fountain of Youth, a rematch between Frosted and Upstart, Frosted stopped abruptly while on the lead, tiring badly. Something undoubtedly was amiss, as he shortened stride severely to finish 4th. Befuddled but undeterred, McLaughlin made every effort to understand and eliminate whatever problems played a part in Frosted's disappointing Fountain of Youth performance: Frosted would receive a rider switch to Joel Rosario, a 'tweaking' to his blinkers allowing a wider field of vision, and minor throat surgery to assure proper breathing.

Opting for more familiar surroundings and separation from the quirky Gulfstream main track, McLaughlin returned to Aqueduct, site of Frosted's narrow miss in the Remsen. Bet down to 2-1 in a competitive edition of the Wood Memorial, new rider Joel Rosario asked him to move on the far turn, gathering momentum in the vicinity of the 5/16ths mark. In the stretch run, Frosted had dead aim on 20-1 Tencendur, collared that rival and powered clear to a decisive two-length score. It was clearly his best effort to date, and erased the bad memories of the Fountain of Youth flop.

McLaughlin stamped himself one of the best trainers in the country years ago. His exploits in the Kentucky Derby have been limited, though his first starter ever, Closing Argument in 2005, finished a strong second to Giacomo. However, none of his prior entrants came in off the type of performance delivered by Frosted, making him this trainer?s best chance yet. With future Hall of Famer Joel Rosario, a man who has won two of the last six Triple Crown races, in the irons, Frosted is a major contender. He has no issues being outside, so a wide trip will not hurt his chances. He will also benefit if the pace is particularly fast, and is in position to take another step forward off of his recent victory. That makes him dangerous in this ultra competitive edition of the Run for the Roses.

6 MUBTAAHIJ (IRE)

20-1 SOUMILLON C

DE KOCK M

This 2015 'mystery' horse brings forth serious credentials that extend beyond his steadily improving performances on the racetrack. Mubtaahij was bred by the Dunmore Stud in Ireland. He is by Dubawi, a multiple Grade I winner who took the Irish 2000 Guineas during his brief but accomplished career. Ironically, Dubawi was trained by Saeed bin Suroor, the principal trainer for Sheikh Mohammed al Maktoum?s Godolphin Stable. As a stallion, Dubawi has produced a staggering 16 Group I winners, including Al Kazeem, Makfi and Poet's Voice. Mubtaahij is not the only Grade I winner produced by his dam, the Irish-bred Pennegale. Among her earlier foals was 2010 Prix de I?Opera winner Lily of the Valley. That 2000 meter fall staple is annually among the strongest races run in Europe. There is no doubt that stamina influences flow deeply in Mubtaahij's pedigree.

The whispers regarding a potential Kentucky Derby try for Mubtaahij became actual chatter after his Al Bastakiya triumph. With a win in the UAE Derby, that chatter would turn to roars. The challengers in that affair would be robust, as Maftool and Sir Fever would line up along with the Japanese raider Golden Barows. Mubtaahij drew the rail in the 1900 meter event, an outpost that de Kock did not prefer given his colt's penchant for racing outside. For the first time, he would be ridden by Christophe Soumillon, an international superstar who has had success in the saddle around the globe. Soumillon kept his mount in a perfect spot just behind the leaders through the opening half-mile. He waited patiently until the 400 meter mark and angled out in upper stretch before kicking strongly clear late. As the field neared the wire, Mubtaahij had put four, then six, then eight lengths on his rivals before being taken in hand late. The smashing victory enabled Soumillon to have a gander at the crowd and share his jubilation for the powerful performance. De Kock was asked afterwards if the next stop would be in Kentucky, and he confirmed that while adding that he would learn the words to 'My Old Kentucky Home'.

While every Derby entrant that has shipped to Kentucky from Dubai has failed, the circumstances are different for Mubtaahij. He is conditioned by a trainer who has had tremendous international success over the years. In fact, de Kock has started six horses in the United States in the last 15 years. When interviewed before the Kentucky Derby, de Kock mentioned that the feed that Mubtaahij regularly eats is not FDA approved. That would require a change for a generally laid-back horse that trains without shoes and lives in an open pen. When the race itself begins, he will face dynamics the likes of which he has never seen before. He has not been in a field larger than 11, and has not faced an early pace as taxing as the one that usually exists in the Kentucky Derby. To prepare him for those hurdles, Soumillon positioned him behind rivals in the UAE Derby, which forced him to take more kick-back than he had before. He handled it with alacrity and showed the maturation and progression you want to see from a sophomore at this time of year.

If a horse is to win the Kentucky Derby off of a UAE Derby start, it would stand to reason that runner would come from a successful international barn. Obstacles such as the compressed schedule, coupled with the travel and changed logistics including food and stabling are often overwhelming. However, it is the brilliant conditioning of a horseman like de Kock, and the raw talent Mubtaahij has shown that inspire confidence. He will face 7 rivals who come into the Derby off victories at 1 1/8 miles; the furthest each have ever run. Mubtaahij has the significant advantage of victories in his last 2 starts travelling a 1/16th of mile longer. Despite landing in one of the deepest and most competitive Derby fields in recent memory, Mubtaahij looms a dangerous rival who stands a fair chance to have a strong impact on the outcome.

10 FIRING LINE

12-1 STEVENS G

CALLAGHAN S

Firing Line made a strong impression on debut in a narrow loss going 6 furlongs at Santa Anita as the heavy favorite. He followed that with a decisive polytrack victory going 6 ½ furlongs at Del Mar. That win was impressive enough for Callaghan to try him against Grade I foes in the Los Alamitos Futurity in mid-December. He was slated to run into the aforementioned Dortmund as well as the Grade I placed Mr. Z. Firing Line was given plenty of support, and he battled through strong fractions from start to finish. Though he wound up beaten by a head, he ran every bit as well as Dortmund, with this diminutive colt nearly beating him to the wire.

New rider, Gary Stevens, and Firing Line took Dortmund on again in the Bob Lewis. Stevens applied a change of tactics, taking his charge off the pace, made a strong run to the lead only to be repulsed by the resurgent Dortmund along the inside.

In an effort to avoid Dortmund, Firing Line was sent to New Mexico for the Sunland Derby in late March. He out-classed his rivals in that field and pulled clear late to win by over 14 lengths. His final time of 1:47 and 1/5 was eye-catching, but the main track was 'souped up', producing faster than normal times all afternoon. Regardless of the time, it was an impressive effort given the way he took heat from the inside throughout and pulled clear late. The rivals he was facing were far from legitimate graded stakes caliber types, but he handled them with consummate ease.

Simon Callaghan is a young trainer who has had success since coming to America. He won two Grade I races in 2014 with Fashion Plate, and has scored multiple Grade I wins on turf. Firing Line will be his first Kentucky Derby starter, and he is coming in relatively fresh off of the Sunland score. Having Gary Stevens aboard is a major credit, as he has nearly regained the standing he had at his career zenith. The versatility he has shown with Stevens aboard is a major positive. The bulky field and taxing pace will make his job tougher, but there are reasons to feel Firing Line can hang on for a share.

Callaghan is a young trainer who has had success since coming to America. He won two Grade I races in 2014 with Fashion Plate, and has scored multiple Grade I wins on turf. Firing Line will be his first Kentucky Derby starter, and he is coming in relatively fresh off of the Sunland score. Having Gary

Post Time 7:35 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds | Allowance Optional Claiming(\$75,000) | Purse: \$67,000



Daily Double / Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta

PGM # Horse Name M/L Jockey Trainer

12 COMFORT 4-1 CASTELLANO J PLETCHER T

Fourth place finish Apr 11 at Keeneland in the grade 3 Lexington, 'better than it looks'. 3 year old colt was making his first start for trainer Pletcher off a private purchase. Bumped at the start which resulted in having to race at the back of the pack last of 7 entering the backstretch. Launched a strong wide middle move racing against a track which strongly favored horses racing on the rail all afternoon. Tried hard to continue his rally through the stretch, but had nothing left in the final 1/8th of a mile. Must overcome his tough outside post, but the class drop should be the great equalizer.

4 GUAPO MAN

5-1 GEROUX F

CARROLL D

You don't see too many 17 length wire-to-wire wins with horses stretching out to 2 turns for the first time. Guapo Man did just that Mar 29 at the Fair Grounds in basically a canter. Defeated 6 weak rivals so the million dollar question is can he class up with more experienced rivals who have run well against far tougher competition. If he can, then Guapo Man's speed fron an inside post will make him a danger to wire this field. This is a homebred from a dam who herself was a quality distance performer. Shows 3 good works over this track since his maiden victory.

13 UNBRIDLED JUAN

3-1 SAEZ L

LYNCH B

Must draw in from the AE's, bit if he does, this colt could prove to be a huge player here despite his tough outside post. Added lasix Mar 7 in his second career start and the result was a monster performance winning off by 7 lengths in very fast time against a quality maiden field. The second place finisher came back to romp.

3 PAID ADMISSION

6-1 LANERIE C

RICHARD C

Wintered at Oaklawn where he ran very well in 3 of his 5 starts there. The 2 he did not fare well in were both stakes, once in the slop against American Pharoah. Showed good tactical speed in his last 2 outings racing wide both times. Draws a good inside post today and gets an upgrade in riders to Lanerie.

Post Time 8:05 7 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | Maiden Special Weight | Purse: \$62,000



Exacta / Trifecta / Superfecta

PGM # Horse Name M/L Jockey Trainer

6 BENT ON BOURBON (Best Bet) 5-2 CASTELLANO J KENNEALLY E

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

9 COACHES CHALLENGE

8-1 BEJARANO R

CATALANO W

Looks well meant making his career debut for good trainer Catalano and long time owners Gary and Mary West. \$230,000 yearling purchase has been training steadily since late January without missing a beat. His workout regimen began at the Fair Grounds and then at Oaklawn. His last 3 works at Churchill which were all very good. Bred well to handle this 7f distance. Draws a good outside post and gets jockey Bejarano aboard. Barn very capable winning with a first time starter.

4 WILD AND UNBRIDLED

12-1 SAEZ L

MCCAULEY T

Bet with both hands in ALL pools when sent off the 6-5 favorite in his debut at the prestigious recently concluded Keeneland meet. Bumped hard leaving the gate which clearly compromised his chances. Rushed up to chase, but was no match for the runaway winner. Jock eased up on the reins in mid-stretch when the final outcome was never in doubt. Gets a rider change today to Luis Saez, who forms a strong trainer and jockey combo for McCauley. More speed expected today with a cleaner start and stretching out to 7f.

12 MUNTIJ

15-1 PEDROZA M

PEITZ D

Acclimated very well to the switch in surfaces from grass to dirt in his 2nd career start at Keeneland. Split horses late to safely secure the place spot behind a runaway winner. Stretches out a furlong, which this 3 year old Shadwell Stable homebred should have no problem handling. An outside post going 7f is more an advantage than not. From a good underrated trainer Dan Peitz.

CANCELLATION NOTE: In the event the track you purchased cancels before the start of the program, or at any point during the program, an alerting e-mail will be sent to your DRF.com address. You are entitled to download a replacement daily selection sheet of your choice at anytime in the future at no charge.

Any questions or comments can be sent to: wizard.drf@gmail.com

THE WIZARD® and THE WIZARD Design are registered service marks of Wizard Publications, INC. © 2015 Wizard Publications, Inc. Republication, retransmission or dissemination of the contents of this document in any form, is prohibited without the written permission of Wizard Publications INC. Use, including viewing, of the material contained herein shall constitute acceptance of these terms.

Copyright © 2015 Daily Racing Form, Inc. and Equibase Company, all rights reserved

Data provided or compiled by Daily Racing Form, Inc. and Equibase Company generally are accurate but occasionally errors and omissions occur as a result of incorrect data received from others, mistakes in processing and other causes. Daily Racing Form, Inc. and Equibase Company disclaim responsibility for the consequences, if any, of such errors, but would appreciate their being called to their attention.