



2024 Belmont Stakes Picks & Wagering Strategy

The Field

PP	HORSE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ODDS
1	Seize the Grey	D. Wayne Lukas	Jaime Torres	8-1
2	Resilience	Bill Mott	Junior Alvarado	10-1
3	Mystik Dan	Ken McPeck	Brian Hernandez, Jr.	5-1
4	The Wine Steward	Mike Maker	Manny Franco	15-1
5	Antiquarian	Todd Pletcher	John Velazquez	12-1
6	Dornoch	Danny Gargan	Luis Saez	15-1
7	Protective	Todd Pletcher	Tyler Gaffalione	20-1
8	Honor Marie	Whitworth Beckman	Florent Geroux	12-1
9	Sierra Leone	Chad Brown	Flavien Prat	9/5
10	Mindframe	Todd Pletcher	Irad Ortiz Jr.	7/2

It will be a historical Belmont Stakes as it is the first ever that it has been held at Saratoga Race Course.

Because of major renovations being done at Belmont Park, the 3rd Leg of the Triple Crown series will be run over the Saratoga track this year and next year. It will also be run at the shorter distance of only 1 ¼ Miles. Not the normal 1 ½ Miles!

This year it will NOT be known as the “**Test of Champions**” because of the shorter distance which is the same as the Kentucky Derby.

However, it is still very difficult to win when you have raced in each leg of the Triple Crown series like Mystik Dan will be doing!

It takes a true champion to race in these 3 races as a 3-year old at 3 different tracks even if the Belmont Stakes will not be run at the 1 ½ Mile marathon distance.

The Triple Crown series is not supposed to be easy to accomplish. It takes a very special horse to win the (3) races which are at distances of 1 ¼ Mile followed by 1 3/16 Mile and then at the marathon distance of 1 ½ Mile.

The runners this year get a big break not having to deal with the massive turns at legendary Belmont Park (*known as Big Sandy*) which has done in many a horse and jockey alike. Jockeys that are not accustomed to racing over the Big Sandy strip make their

move on the far turn way too early. Because of the distance of the race they need to wait until the top of the stretch to make their move.

But not this year as they will be racing at Saratoga at 1 ¼ Miles.

Racing in ALL 3 legs of the Triple Crown, Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes, is one of the most difficult feats in sports to accomplish. Racing at 3 different tracks over a short 5 week period of time at the young age of 3. That is why there have only been 13 horses to win the Triple Crown.

ONLY the KY Derby winner Mystik Dan will have run ALL 3 Legs this year.

Some facts about the Belmont Stakes (at 1 ½ Miles):

1. There have only been 4 wire-to-wire winners in the past 39 years.

(they were Justify in 2018, American Pharoah in 2015, Commendable in 2000 and Da' Tara 2008)

2. 20 of the last 25 Belmont winners **did not** race in the Preakness Stakes. (*last year Arcangelo's prior race was in the Peter Pan S.*)

3. 20 of the last 33 winners raced in the Kentucky Derby.

4. Deep Closers do not win the Belmont Stakes (*unless it is a full field of 14*).

5. **NO** Belmont Stakes winner has closed from farther back than 3rd at mid-stretch since 1933.

6. Time off is not a big factor as long as the horse has raced in the past 6 weeks.

7. The winner will have previously raced against the Top 3 Year Olds in the country.

8. **In the past 38 years ONLY 11 favorites have won the race.**

(*they finish-in-the-money 74% of the time*)

9. 2nd favorites have won 9 of the last 38 Belmonts.

(*they finished in-the-money 78% of the time*)

10. 3rd favorites have **ONLY** won 8 of the last 38 Belmonts.

(*they finish in-the-money only 10% of the time*)

11. Over the past 29 years, 23 different trainers have won this race.

Just like in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, there is a *Winning Profile* for the Belmont Stakes.

With the race being switched to Saratoga and at a shorter distance of 1 ¼ mile it now most closely matches up to the mid-Summer Derby the Travers at Saratoga as well as the Kentucky Derby!

For those of you who purchased our "*Proven Winning Derby Profile*" system, you know the importance we put on having the correct Pedigree and the proper racing campaign for the horses' 2-year old and 3-year careers. The same holds true with the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes.

However, we will still take into consideration the pedigree with respect to who has the Raise A Native sire line pedigree, and those that may have the X-Chromosome of War Admiral and/or Mahmoud (*large heart trait*) and the proper Dosage Index.

The Raise A Native sire bloodline has proved to be a major pedigree factor in the last 29 Belmont Stakes winners with 16 of those having it!

In the Kentucky Derby it has been in 17 of the last 29 winners.

There are (4) runners that have the Raise A Native sire side pedigree line. They are;
Seize the Grey (8-1) The Wine Steward (15-1) Dornoch (15-1)
Sierra Leone (9/5)

Only Mystik Dan does NOT have the "X-Chromosome" trait (*large-heart*) of War Admiral and/or Mahmoud.

Tapit has proven to be a Key sire pedigree line in the Belmont Stakes (*at 1 ½ Mile*) as he has produced 5 of the last 10 winners!

- ONLY 1 horse in this year's field that was sired by a Tapit offspring:
Mindframe (7/2)

The "**Large-Heart**" trait is what allowed the great Secretariat to win the Belmont Stakes (*at 1 ½ Miles*) by a record 31 lengths 50 years ago!

When he died, an autopsy was performed and the doctors found that his heart was 3-times larger than the normal thoroughbred and it was traced to the passing of the X-Chromosome on his mare's side. A large heart allowed Secretariat to pump a lot more oxygen to be burned which results in more energy and power just like in a race car motor!

19 of the last 28 Belmont Stakes winners had the **X-Chromosome trait (large-heart) of War Admiral and/or Mahmoud!**

Sierra Leone is the morning line Favorite as he is tops in the Bris Prime Power and Class ratings and was only beaten by a nose in the Kentucky Derby by Mystik Dan.

The Belmont Stakes Winning Profile:

- 1. The winner will have raced in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes or Peter Pan with the KY Derby being the preferred route to the winners circle. (15) of the last 23 Belmont winners raced in the Derby**

*Seize the Grey (Preakness S.), The Wine Steward (Peter Pan), Antiquarian (Peter Pan), Protective (Peter Pan) and Mindframe (Optional Claiming) **did not** run in the Kentucky Derby!*

- 2. The winner will have had from 3 - 6 races as a 2-year old.**

Just like in the KY Derby it is important that a horse have the proper racing foundation for competing in a Triple Crown race. (*becoming less important today*)

*Antiquarian (0), Protective (1), Sierra Leone (2) and Mindframe (0) are the runners that **had LESS THAN 3 races as a 2-year old.***

- 3. The winner will have raced from 3 - 6 times as a 3-year old.**

Only The Wine Steward (2) and Mindframe (2) did not meet this criteria.

- 4. The winner should have won or placed in a Grade 1 or the Grade 2 or the G3 Peter Pan race as a 3-year old.**

*Protective and Mindframe **did NOT** have a Win or Place in a Grade I or II or the Peter Pan this year.*

- 5. Last race should have been run within the past 35 days.**

ALL runners meet this criterion.

- 6. Sharp race over the Saratoga strip.**

*Seize the Grey, Dornoch, Protective and The Wine Steward **meet this criteria.***

- 7. Bullet workout before the race.** Indication that the horse will be on the muscle and ready to give his/her best effort. 10 of the last 21 Belmont Stakes winners turned in a bullet in their last work out.

None this year registered a Bullet work however, Resilience (2/30) and Mystik Dan (2/5) both put in 2nd fastest work at Saratoga and Dornoch (3/51) registered the 3rd fastest work!

8. Runners sired by Tapit or are grandsons of Tapit have Won 5 times, Placed 2 twice and finished 3rd 2-times along with (2) 4th Place finish. All within the last 10 years!

Mindframe is a grandson of Tapit.

9. Trainer Todd Pletcher has won the Belmont Stakes 4 times along with 10 runner-ups.

Antiquarian, Protective and Mindframe come from the Pletcher barn this year. Last year he got 2nd and 3rd with Forte and the TapitTrice!

10. The winner will have a pedigree dosage index (DI) in the range of 2.00 to 5.00 or less.

Seize the Grey (6.11) does NOT meet this criterion.

In the past 33 years there were 8 winners with a DI greater than 3.00 (only 2 in the past 19 years) – 6 of those 8 had the Raise A Native sire pedigree line!

There are ONLY (3) horses in the field that have earned a Beyer speed rating of 100+ : Seize the Grey (100), Mystik Dan (101) and Mindframe (103).

This race is setting up to be a **very exciting** one as there are (5) runners that could win it. Sierra Leone and Honor Marie are the **ONLY Deep Closers** who will need some fast early fractions being set so they can make a late move on the leaders as they start to fade! There are a **lot of Early Pressers** in the field which should result in several runners setting the pace and not allowing Seize the Grey to steal the race on the front end like he did in the Preakness.

We did get a very competitive field this year which should result in some surprises in the Superfecta!

Race Setup:

Seize the Grey, Dornoch and Mindframe will be the **Pace Setters**. The **Early/Pressers** (close up) will be Antiquarian, Mystik Dan, The Wine Steward, and Resilience.

The **Mid-pack Pressers** runner looks to be Protective.

The Closers are **Sierra Leone** and **Honor Marie**. They should get the quick early fractions up front to set them up for making their big Closing turn-of-foot to reel in the leaders.

There is a 97% chance of a Thunderstorm in Saratoga Springs, New York on Saturday. Saturday will be a cool 68 degrees and partly cloudy.

Seize the Grey, Mystik Dan, Antiguarian, Dornoch, Sierra Leone and Mindframe have all won on a Wet track.

Honor Marie has performed well on Wet tracks.

There does not look like any of the runner's pedigree will be at a disadvantage on a Wet track surface.

REMEMBER: A sloppy/sealed track usually gives an advantage to the early speed horses that have the off-track pedigree and a muddy track gives the Closers an advantage that have an off-track pedigree.

Usually they seal the track if rain is predicted and it in turn makes the track harder which allows the speed horses to run even faster! However, if Rain comes very late just before the Belmont Stakes they may not be able to seal the surface!

A MUDDY rated track will benefit the come from behind runners as it wears down the front runners!

My Belmont Stakes Picks:

My betting strategy in a (10) horse field requires us to identify 1A horse, 2B and 4C horses that are the main Contenders for making up the Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta wagers. The A horse is our Key horse to Win the race. My wagering strategy is explained in the Next Section but first here are my Contenders.

The race looks to go through the Kentucky Derby runner-up **Sierra Leone** as he just missed by a nose in catching Mystik Dan at the wire! He is the best **Closer** in the field!

The BIG unknown in the race is will the new bit that Sierra Leone will be racing with cure his lugging in on the leader when he gets close to him in the final yards? Not to mention that he gets a jock change to Flavien Prat replacing Gaffalione!

SELECTIONS

A1 – Resilience (#2 10-1) – he finished a non-threatening 6th in the KY Derby after racing wide from Post #18 – did make a mid-race bold rallying up from 8th to 2nd within a ½ length of the lead while racing 6 wide on the far turn. No doubt made the move too early as he faded to 6th – putting the Blinkers On 2 races back has helped him in the speed department - won the Wood Memorial at Aqueduct earning a 90 Beyer – Alvarado rode him for the 1st time in the KY Derby (should have gotten to know him better since - has the "**X-Chromosome**" Large Heart pedigree trait – has DI of 3.50 – has the S-Cat sire line with the **Raise A Native DAM** sire line - has been looking good in morning works – shows 2 recent Sharp works at Saratoga - trainer Mott won Belmont in 2010 with a longshot.

B1 – Sierra Leone (#9 9/5) – just missed in the KY Derby by only a nose – won the Blue Grass S. and the Risen Star S. – he is 1 of 2 Closers in here – he should get the fast early fractions up front to set up his late Close - each of his 5 career races show increased Beyer speed nos. (99-98-95-91-71) - has "**X- Chromosome**" Large Heart pedigree trait – has the Powerful **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree – his pedigree is perfect for this distance with a DI of 2.00 – he tops the Bris Prime Power & Class rating – has never been out of the Exacta (5-3-2-0) - trainer Brown has made a change to the bit to help stopping him from lugging in when he nears the wire – trainer also making jockey change to Prat to help correct his lugging in – trainer Brown looking for his 1st Belmont Stakes win!

B2 – Dornoch (#6 15-1) – had a troubled trip in the KY Derby coming out of the dreaded #1 Post – he got shuffled out of the gate by Mystik Dan coming over on him and then was checked hard (after that his race was over) – he did finish 10th - shows 2 recent Sharp works at Saratoga – he ran 2nd at Saratoga in his Debut – he looks to do his best running when on the lead – has "X- Chromosome" Large Heart pedigree trait – has the Powerful **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree – has won on a Wet track.

C1 – Mindframe (#10 7/2) – 1 of 3 Pletcher runners in the race – he will be trying to give his grand sire (Tapit) his 6th victory in this race in the last 11 years – trainer Pletcher excels in this race (*usually with his KY Derby also rans*) – he is UNDEFEATED in 2 career races – light on experience as he did not race as a 2-year old (*will need to really step it up in here as he competes against Stakes quality*) - earned a Beyer of 103 in Debut – has earned 100+ Bris Late pace no. in each of his races – has the "**X-Chromosome**" Large Heart pedigree trait – has the **Raise A Native DAM** sire side pedigree - distance should not be a problem with his DI of 4.33 – will be going Off Lasix today – trainer Pletcher has won Belmont 4-times along with 9 seconds (*he knows how to get it done*) – Irad rides back.

C2 – Seize the Grey (#1 8-1) – won the Preakness S. – he went gate to wire beating the KY Derby winner by 2 ¼ lengths – earned a career best Beyer 100 speed – he also won the Pat Day Mile on the KY Derby undercard - has "X- Chromosome"

Large Heart pedigree trait – has the Powerful **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree – has won on a Wet track - has a win over the Saratoga track – he is an Early Speed horse and will no doubt be gunning it from Post #1 - trainer D. Wayne Lukas is old school in his training as this guy has lots of foundation with 10 career races – his sire Arrogate was a late bloomer and got better with each race (*his pedigree says I am just getting started*) – Lukas has won the Belmont Stakes 4 times.

C3 – The Wine Steward (#4 15-1) – ran a very good 2nd (only beaten ¾ length) in the Peter pan S. – has never been out of the Exacta in 6 career races (6-3-3-0) – has a win over the Saratoga track – he looks to be forwardly placed – still looking for his 1st Graded Stakes win – has the Powerful **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree – has "**X-Chromosome**" Large Heart pedigree trait – gets jock change to Manny Franco (jock/trainer team hits @25/63%) – has been the post time favorite in 4 of 6 races!

C4 –Honor Marie (#8 12-1) – had lots of trouble in KY Derby as he got jostled hard out of the gate and pushed back to last (had no shot after that) and finished 8th – he is the other Closer in here – there should be enough early speed fractions to set up for his late close down the stretch - has "**X- Chromosome**" Large Heart pedigree trait – gets jock change to Geroux replacing the injured Curtis – ran a very good 2nd (only beaten 1 length) in the Louisiana Derby – not a good win bet but could get into the Superfecta!

IF THERE ARE SCRATCHES:

Use in order: #3 Mystik Dan and #5 Antiquarian. Add them to the bottom and move everyone else up.

Wagering Strategy:

Win & Place & Show wager on #2 **Resilience** along with a \$2 Bottom Wheel Exacta ALL with #2 and #9 = \$36

My \$2 **Exacta ticket** will look like this:

A1 / B1B2C1C2C3C4 - \$12

(2 / 9-6-10-1-4-8)

\$1 Exacta Box:

B1B2C1C2C3C4 / B1B2C1C2C3C4 - \$30

(9-6-10-1-4-8 / 9-6-10-1-4-8)

My \$1 **Trifecta tickets** will look like this:

A1 / B1B2C1C2C3C4 / B1B2C1C2C3C4AE1AE2 - Cost \$42 for \$1 wager or \$21 for 50Cent wager.

(2 / 9-6-10-1-4-8 / 9-6-10-1-4-8-3-5)

An insurance wager would play the A1 horses to come in 2nd it will look like this:

B1B2C1C2C3C4 / A1 / B1B2C1C2C3C4AE1AE2 - Cost \$42 for \$1 wager or \$21 for 50Cent wager.

(9-6-10-1-4-8 / 2 / 9-6-10-1-4-8-3-5)

Play Resilience / Sierra Leone Top and Bottom

(2-9 / ALL / 2-9) - Cost \$16 for \$1 Wager or \$8 for 50Cent wager

If you feel Sierra Leone will Win then you may want to play a ticket

like this:

(9 / 2-6-10 / 2-6-10-1-4-8) - Cost \$15 for \$1 Wager or \$7.50 for 50Cent

wager

My \$1 **Superfecta tickets** will look like this:

A1 / B1B2 C1C2 / B1B2C1C2C3C4 / B1B2C1C2C3C4 - **Cost \$80 for \$1 wager or \$8 for 10CENT wager.**

(2 / 9-6-10-1 / 9-6-10-1-4-8 / 9-6-10-1-4-8)

Or you could do a Lesser ticket like this:

A1 / B1B2 / B1B2C1C2C3C4 / B1B2C1C2C3C4AE1AE2 - **Cost \$60 for \$1 wager or \$6 for 10CENT wager.**

(2 / 9-6 / 9-6-10-1-4-8 / 9-6-10-1-4-8-3-5)

Play Resilience / Sierra Leone Top and Bottom

A1B1 / ALL / ALL / A1B1 - **Cost \$112 for \$1 wager or \$11.20 for 10CENT wager.**

(2-9 / ALL / ALL / 2-9)

Or you could do a Lesser ticket like this:

B1 / A1B2 / A1B2C1C2C3C4 / A1B1B2C1C2C3C4AE1AE2 - **Cost \$60 for \$1 wager or \$6 for 10CENT wager.**

(9 / 2-6 / 2-6-10-1-4-8 / 2-6-10-1-4-8-3-5)

Superfecta Box: (2-9-6-10-1) \$1 Wager = \$120 or \$12 for 10CENT Wager

Remember the Average Payouts over the 10 years are:

- the average \$2 Win paid.....\$13.05
- the average \$2 Exacta paid\$99
- the average \$2 Trifecta paid\$1,410
- the average \$1 Superfecta paid.....\$3,336

Intercontinental / Belmont Stakes 2 Day Double Wager:

We will be playing the following \$5 Double:

#2 - #6 - #8 - #10 with #2 - #9 - #6 = \$60 for \$5 Wager

Just a Game / Belmont Stakes 2 Day Double Wager:

We will be playing the following \$5 Double:

#7 - #6 - #4 with #2 - #9 - #6 = \$45 for \$5 Wager

Acorn / Belmont Stakes 2 Day Double Wager:

We will be playing the following \$5 Double:

#9 - #3 with #2 - #9 - #6 = \$30 for \$5 Wager

Belmont Park allows the 10 Cent Superfecta wager like they do any other day in New York. A \$18 ticket would be \$1.80 and a \$56 ticket would be \$5.60. You can also play tickets for multiples of a Dime. 20 Cents, 30 Cents, etc. It would not be limited to just a 10 Cent wager.

Two day Double with the Belmont Stakes has a \$5 minimum wager.

Also 50 Cent minimum Trifecta, and Pick4. \$1 minimum Pick 3 and \$1 minimum Pick 6.

*** please review all horse post position numbers as we are not responsible for any typographical errors in this document.

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