



Kentucky Derby 150 – Race 12

The Contenders

Favoritism looks to be between **Fierceness** (5/2) and **Sierra Leone** (3-1). Todd Pletcher vs. Chad Brown! Sierra Leone sits on top of the Points Leaderboard with 155 and Fierceness is in 2nd with 136 Points.

So they both have proven themselves during the course of the Kentucky Derby Prep race season..

But remember, the Points leader has not won the race in the last 9 years. They ONLY won in the first two years of the Point Qualifying System (2013-14).

The top Point earner has come in 2nd twice, 3rd twice and 4th once and out-of-the-money in three of the other four years! Last year **Forte** was Scratched before the race.

And then there is the "**Mattress Mack**" factor as Jim McIngale usually wagers \$1-3 Million to win on the **Post Time Favorite** to hedge against his guarantee of refunding all his customers who purchased a \$3,000 mattress/furniture at his stores in Houston if the Favorite wins! He will not know exactly how much he will wager until Saturday as the total could go as high as \$4 Million!

Last year he wagered \$1.2 Million on Angel of Empire (4-1) at Post time. He finished 3rd behind Mage and Two Phil's.

This year's field has more racing experience than last year's as there are only (2) runners that did not race as a 2-year-old (Just a Touch, T O Password (Jpn)). However, the field this year is full of the same running style of on or near the lead along with several Closers that will be waiting for the leaders to fade in the stretch run. The big question is, which speed horses will try to rate so as not to get caught up in a speed duel early?

The consensus is that there will be a quick up front early pace like there was the last two years that made it possible for Mage (15-1) and Rich Strike (81-1) to run down the leaders in the stretch!

A lot of times when the race looks like there is a ton of speed, the jocks know this and try to rate them with the result being that the early parts of the race are run slower than normal allowing an aware jock on a speed horse to go the front and steal the race as the other speed horses can not run him down once they realize what is happening.

Remember Medina Spirit in 2021? Ridden by Johnny V. going wire to wire while the field was waiting for him to fade!

Guess who Johnny V. is riding this year. That's right, the Favorite Fierceness!

Again this year there are (2) Japanese runners attempting to win the Derby! The UNDEFEATED **Forever Young (Jpn)** won the UAE Derby and **T O Password (Jpn)** was the Points leader on the Japan Road to the Derby series.

They have been Red Hot all around the World during the past three years winning Breeders' Cup Championships and big races in Dubai. Normally they do not run well in the KY Derby (0 of 20) but this year could be a little different!

The only **Undeclared** horses are: Forever Young (Jpn) (5-5-0-0) and T O Password (Jpn) (2-2-0-0).

There are (2) runners with **ONLY 1 loss**: Endlessly (6-5-0-0), Sierra Leone (4-3-1-0)

In 6 of the past 11 years, the favorite has won the Derby, **Justify** (2018 - \$7.80), **Always Dreaming** (2017 - \$11.40), **Nyquist** (2015 - \$6.60), **American Pharoah** (2014 - \$7.80), **California Chrome** (2013 - \$7.00) and **Orb** (2012 - \$12.80).

The new training method for potential 3-year old Derby hopefuls is that trainers do not race their horses as much as in the past years. They seem to be trying to save them for that one BIG race (the Derby) but they are taking a chance that their horse does not have enough foundation for racing in and winning Grade 1 races in the Triple Crown series.

The result of this training method is that there are not as many triple digit Beyer speed numbers as in years past heading into the Kentucky Derby!

As 9 of the last 17 Derby winners ONLY had 2 or less prep races as a 3-year old. They were Medina Spirit, Maximum Security, Nyquist, American Pharoah, I'll Have Another, Animal Kingdom, Super Saver, Big Brown and Street Sense!

Last year the winner **Mage** had 3 races but none as a 2-year-old.

Earning a triple digit Beyer speed as a 3-year old is a (usually) requirement to WIN the Kentucky Derby and most winners have earned a Beyer 105 or higher. However 8 of the past 12 Derby winners never got to 100+ before the race!

Last year **Mage** only had a (94), in 2022 **Rich Strike** had a (84), in 2021 **Medina Spirit** had a (98), in 2020 **Authentic** had a (101), in 2019 **Maximum Security** had a (101) / **Country House** only had a (91), **Justify** had a (107), **Always Dreaming** in 2017 only had a (97), in 2016 **Nyquist** only had a (101), in 2015 **American Pharoah** had a (105) and was the only runner that did.

This year ONLY **(2) runners** hit the 100+ level this year. Mystik Dan (101) and Fierceness (110 and 105).

Also just as important as the 100+ Beyer speed ratings is the Final 1/4 Mile time of the horse's last race. The horse should have run his Final 1/4 Mile in one of the Big 6 Prep races in 25.3 seconds or less.

The Big 6 Prep races are the Louisiana Derby, Florida Derby, Blue Grass Stakes, Wood Memorial, Santa Anita Derby and the Arkansas Derby

19 of the last 24 Kentucky Derby winners had run the last 1/4 mile of their last Derby prep race in 25.3 seconds or less. In 2022 **Rich Strike** and **Animal Kingdom** in 2011 did this but not in one of the Big-6 preps (they did it in the Jeff Ruby/Spiral S.) – **Mind That Bird** in 2009 also did not meet this requirement!

This also holds true for 36 of the past 51 Kentucky Derby winners!

*The horses that did **NOT** run their last 1/4 Mile in 25.3 or faster in one of the **Big 6 Prep** races and/or earned a Bris 100+ Late Pace No. are: **Stronghold, Dornoch, Just a Touch, Track Phantom, Catalytic, Grand Mo the First and T O Password (Jpn) & Forever Young (Jpn) (not in Big 6 Prep).***

I am going to down grade those that did not meet the 25.3 time of the final 1/4 Mile unless they also show a 100 or higher Beyer speed rating...

To win the Kentucky Derby it has been proven that you need to have 3 or 4 races as a 3-year old and 3 - 7 races as a 2-year old.

Horses change a lot in their 2 and 3-year old years and they do it at

different paces. They develop structurally, their bones need to thicken, their muscles to develop and their ligaments need to get stronger.

As their body changes they also need to be race conditioned to support this growth and to develop stamina that will be needed to win the 1 ¼ Mile in the Kentucky Derby.

In the **past 32** Kentucky Derbies **ONLY 10** winners (*Sea Hero-1993, Mind That Bird- 2009, Super Saver-2010, Animal Kingdom-2011, I'll Have Another-2012, Orb – 2013, Always Dreaming – 2017, Country House – 2019, Medina Spirit – 2021, Rich Strike – 2022, Mage 2023*) did **NOT** **earn** a Triple Digit Beyer speed rating in 1 of their last 3 races before the Derby (as a 3-year old)!

18 of the past 34 Derby Winners had earned a triple digit Beyer speed rating in at least 2 of their previous 3 races as a 3-year old.

How many have accomplished that this year! Only **Fierceness** has a 100+ Beyer in 2 races this year.

The running style of 150th Kentucky Derby field looks to be a field with a lot of **Early & Early Pressers** with Dornoch, Track Phantom, Fierceness and Epic Ride do their best running when they are on the lead!

Who will want the lead and how fast will they go is another question!

There are a several **Closers** in here who will need a quick pace up front for them make their usual late run.

Recent history tells us to look for the **Early/Pressers** and **mid-pack runners** to hold the edge.

Dornoch, Track Phantom, Fierceness and **Epic Ride** should be racing on the front end trying not to go too fast! *Look for one of them to play come and catch me if you can.*

The **Early Pressers** that will be racing within 3-4 lengths of the Early Speed are **Resilience, Just a Touch, Stronghold, Catalytic, Grand Mo the First, West Saratoga, Domestic Product,** and **T O Password (Jpn).**

Those that have shown they can race in mid-pack from behind the speed

and pressers are: **Forever Young (Jpn), Just Steel** and **Mystic Dan**.

The **Closers** in hear are **Sierra Leone, Society Man, Catching Freedom, Honor Marie** and **Endlessly**.

The **Winning Derby Profile** tells us that MOST Derby(s) are won by a Closer (like Mage, Rich Strike, Orb, Animal Kingdom, Mind That Bird, Street Sense and Giacomo) not by a Speed horse. **But in recent years** we are seeing more **Early Pressers** also win (Medina Spirit, Maximum Security DQ'd (*1st across the wire*), Justify, Always Dreaming, Nyquist, American Pharoah, California Chrome, I'll Have Another, Super Saver, Big Brown, Barbaro and Smarty Jones).

The not having raced within the past 28 days is not applicable to any of the horses that ran in the Florida Derby or Louisiana Derby.

For those of you that have purchased our **Proven Winning Derby Profile** handicapping system, you know the importance that I place on having the correct Pedigree for Winning the Kentucky Derby.

Raise A Native sire line pedigree horses are Dornoch, Fierceness, Sierra Leone, Society Man and West Saratoga.

Buckpasser within the first 5 generations is one of the big proven pedigrees for Derby horses that win and/or come in second. This year there is only (1) Buckpasser horse: Epic Ride.

I use the proven pedigree profiles to help separate the contenders from the pretenders.

On my weighted point rating system of 23 categories that have proven themselves over the past 30+ years, which takes into consideration conditioning, experience and form as well as pedigree, **Fierceness (5/2), Society Man (50-1), Forever Young (Jpn) (10-1), Just a Touch (10-1)** and **Track Phantom (20-1)** were the 5 highest.

The next 4 on the rankings are Catching Freedom, Catalytic, Dornoch, Sierra Leone and West Saratoga which were within striking distance of Points behind our top ranked five horses.

Everyone knows that **Fierceness and Sierra Leone** are the Favorites and the horses to beat but Fierceness looks tower over this field and should have no problem getting everything his own way, as long as he breaks o.k. I have never made a Favorite my top choice but he fits our winning Profile and ranks on top of our scoring system!

#17 Fierceness will be my A1 Horse he won the Florida Derby by 13 1/2 lengths. He has a very good racing foundation with (5) career races and (3) wins. He earned a career best Beyer 110 speed in his last race by far the best in this field. He has most of the pedigree that we look for in the Kentucky Derby.

Next I will review how I eliminated horses from my other 2 A category horses. This should also help you to eliminate a horse for win betting that you might not otherwise do!

The past 34 winners have all run a sharp last race (*in-the-money or within 4 lengths of the winner*). Only (1) did not; Dornoch.

After eliminating the above horse from my A classification, I am using **Forever Young (Jpn)** and **Endlessly** as my A2 and A3 horses.

Those horses we eliminated above as A class horses does NOT exclude them as our B and C class Contenders.

With all the E/P type of runners this looks to be a jockey race, which will go to the lead. I think Johnny V. will be able to place Fierceness where ever he wants as all of the Speed runners are all to his inside with the exception of #20 Epic Ride. He will no doubt let the other speed runners go to the front while he rates a couple of lengths behind them!

I expect the early fractions to not be as quick as most handicappers think. It would not surprise if the jocks on the Speed horses back off a little for fear of getting into a speed duel.

If we do get a lot of up front runners contesting the pace, then things just might set up for a Closer to get up in time to win!

Be sure to watch the other 2-turn races on the racing card to see if the speed is holding (horses running within 2 lengths of the leader) or if mid-pack or late running horses are closing in the stretch run and if track records are being set. Churchill Downs tends to make the track a super-fast surface on Derby day.

With a mostly evenly matched field of all racing styles, we should be able to get some surprises in the Trifecta and Superfecta payoffs.

If it **rains** on Saturday and a Sloppy or Muddy track occurs, then the **early speed horses** (*like Fierceness*) will have a good shot at the win just like they did 19 years ago when Smarty Jones won as well as in 2018 when Justify won racing in 2nd as did Maximum Security in 2019! Of course 13 years ago was also sloppy when Super Saver won from stalking the pace

setters!

My betting strategy requires us to identify **3A horses**, **3B** and **4C** horses that are the main Contenders for making up the Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta wagers. The first A horse (A1) is our Key horse to Win the race. My wagering strategy is explained in the Next Section but first here are my Main Contenders.

A1 - #17 Fierceness (5/2) - My Top pick – I do not like that he is the favorite but he looks to be far better than the rest in here - he meets my criteria of having run his last 1/4 mile in 25.3 seconds or faster – he has only 1 off-the-board race (last year) – earned a career best Beyer speed no. in last race – won the Florida Derby by 13 1/2 lengths - has the **Large-heart trait** of the X-Chromosome – has **Raise A Native pedigree** line which has been in 17 of the last 29 Derby winners – has been looking really good in the mornings – shows recent Bullet work - Wet sealed track will only benefit him – attempting to become just the 3rd Breeders' Cup Juvenile Champion to also win the KY Derby – Johnny V./ rides for Pletcher!

A2 - #11 Forever Young (Jpn) (10-1) – UNDEFEATED in 5 career races - won the UAE Derby last out and the Saudi Derby 2 races back – converted speed no. in last race estimated to be 100+ Beyer - it is estimated that his Late Pace nos. in UAE Derby would have been a 100+ Bris Late Pace – has the **Large-heart trait** of the X-Chromosome – regular jock made the trip over to ride – he will be rated behind the pace setters – will be trying to become the 1st UAE Derby winner to win the KY Derby.

A3 - #14 Endlessly (30-1) – Longshot - won the Jack Ruby Steaks last out by 4 lengths – has earned career Best Beyer 91 last out – last 1/4 mile in last race in 25.3 seconds or faster – has only raced on synthetic & Turf tracks (should be beneficial on a Wet track if it rains) - he is a Closer that will be hoping for quick early fractions being set – a lot of times Turf horses do well on the Churchill dirt track (like Animal Kingdom in 2011) – has good distance pedigree.

B1 - #2 Sierra Leone (3-1) – won the Blue Grass S. coming from the back of the field – he is a Closer that mows them down late – last 1/4 mile in last race in 25.3 seconds or less – earned career Best Beyer speed number last out at 98 – has the CRITICAL **Raise A Native sire pedigree** line – has the **Large-heart trait** of the X-Chromosome - trainer Chad Brown still looking for his 1st Derby win – has won 3 of 4 races.

B2 - #4 Catching Freedom (8-1) – won the Louisiana Derby coming from the back of the field - has the **Large-heart trait** of the X-Chromosome - last 1/4 mile in last race in 25.3 seconds or faster – earned 100+ Bris Late

pace nos. last out - he wins every other race (so not today) – earned career best Beyer of 97 – shows increased speed nos. in of his races this year – shows Sharp recent over the track – he is another Closer in here that needs quick fractions set up front early – 1 of 2 runners in here from the Brad Cox barn.

B3 - #3 Mystik Dan (20-1) – ran 3rd in the Arkansas Derby – last 1/4 mile in last race in 25.3 seconds or less – the other horse that has earned a 100+ Beyer speed – won the Southwest S. 2 races back – 1 of 2 runners with Phalaris/Non-Phalaris pedigree – pedigree says distance should be just fine – he will be racing mid-pack – good post position – .

C1 - #19 Resilience (20-1) – won the Wood Memorial – equaled his career best Beyer of 90 in last race - ran last 1/4 mile in last race in 25.3 seconds or less - distance will not be a problem the Raise A Native broodmare sire line – he will be forwardly placed – should hit the board – Wood Memorial runners do well in the bottom of the Superfecta on KY Derby day – Junior Alvarado rides for the first time!

C2 - #8 Just a Touch (10-1) – scored high in our Derby Profile even though he is lightly raced with no races as a 2-yearold – ran 2nd in the Blue Grass S. last out – pedigree includes the **Large-heart trait** of the X-Chromosome – he will be forwardly placed behind the pace setters – earned career best 96 Beyer in last race – 2nd horse from the Cox barn.

C3 - #20 Society Man (50-1) – was 2nd in the Wood Memorial – has the CRITICAL **Raise A Native sire pedigree** line – has the **Large-heart trait** of the X-Chromosome – Phalaris/Non-Phalaris pedigree - he is a Closer that will be coming on late – shows recent Sharp works – Frankie Dettori rides for the 1st time.

C4 - #7 Honor Marie (20-1) – ran 2nd in Louisiana Derby (only beaten 1 length) – only out of the Exacta once in 5 career races (5-2-2-0) - ran last 1/4 mile in last race in 25.3 seconds or less – has the **Large-heart trait** of the X-Chromosome pedigree – shows Bullet work – he is another Closer that needs quick fractions being set up front – won the KY Jockey Club S. last year over this track.

Notes:

If any of these horses **SCRATCH**, move everyone up to fill in and add to the bottom of the choices, in order, #21 Epic Ride and #6 Just Steel.

If it Rains and the track is rated sloppy or muddy: (there is a 42% chance of showers on Sat. and 75% on Fri. – but then weather people are only correct about 33% of the time!)

On a **sloppy track** the **Early Speed horses** will have the advantage (*unless they all go too fast*) because the track will be sealed and much faster.

There are none that a pedigree that says stay away from on a sloppy track.

If the track comes up **labeled Muddy**, then 'the **closers/late runners** **will benefit** most and the early speed horses will tire.

Recent History of Kentucky Derby Prices On a WET Track							
Year	Winner	Trainer	Jockey	\$2.00 Win	\$2 Exacta	\$1 Trifecta	\$1 Superfecta
2019	Country House via DQ	Bill Mott	Flavien Prat	\$132.40	\$3,009	\$5,737	\$51,400
2018	Justify	Bob Baffert	Mike Smith	\$7.80	\$69	\$141	\$19,618
2017	Always Dreaming	Todd Pletcher	John Velazquez	\$11.40	\$336	\$8,297	\$75,974
2013	Orb	Shug McGaughey	Joel Rosario	\$12.80	\$981	\$3,462	\$28,542
2010	Super Saver	Todd Pletcher	Calvin Borel	\$18.00	\$152	\$1,168	\$101,284
2009	Mine That Bird	Chip Woolley	Calvin Borel	\$103.20	\$2,074	\$20,750	\$278,503
2004	Smarty Jones	John Servis	Stuart Elliott	\$10.20	\$65	\$493	\$20,690
AVERAGE				\$42.26	\$955.14	\$5,721.14	\$82,287.29

Those that have won on a Wet track are Sierra Leone, Fierceness, Forever Young (Jpn), Dornoch, Just a Touch, Society Man, Mystik Dan.

Those that ran second on a Wet track are Track Phantom, Just Steel and Honor Marie.

PP	HORSE	M/L	PP	HORSE	M/L	PP	HORSE	M/L
1	Dornoch	20-1	2	Sierra Leone	3-1	3	Mystik Dan	20-1
4	Catching Freedom	8-1	5	Catalytic	30-1	6	Just Steel	20-1
7	Honor Marie	20-1	8	Justa Touch	10-1	9	Encino	20-1
10	T O Password (Jpn)	30-1	11	Forever Young (Jpn)	10-1	12	Track Phantom	20-1
13	West Saratoga	50-1	14	Endlessly	30-1	15	Domestic Product	30-1
16	Grand Mo the First	50-1	17	Fierceness	5/2	18	Stronghold	20-1
19	Resilience	20-1	20	Society Man	50-1	21	AE-Epic Ride	30-1
						22	AE-Mugatu	30-1

Wagers:

I will make a Win/Place wager on **#17 Fierceness** and play a bottom wheel Exacta of **ALL** with **#17 and #2 (Sierra Leone).**

Will also make a Win-Place-Show wager on our **Best Longshot #14**

Endlessly (30-1) My other wagers will be:

My \$2 Exacta ticket will look like this:

A1A2A3 / A1A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$54

(17-11-14 / 17-11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

- this ticket should be a lock, just a matter of can we get a longshot as one of them?

- you may wish to do an Exacta Insurance bet for a **\$1 ticket** that would reverse the above bet

It would look like this:

A1A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / A1A2A3 - Cost \$27

(17-11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7 / 17-11-14)

Another Backup Wager would be:

B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$42

(2-4-3-19-8-20-7 / 2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

My \$1 Trifecta tickets will look like this:

A1A2A3 / A1A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4/ A1A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$216 or \$108 for **50 CENT wager**

(17-11-14 / 17-11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7 / 17-11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

If you think **Fierceness** is a LOCK then play it like this:

A1 / A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3 C4/ A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$72 or \$36 for **50 CENT wager**

(17 / 11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7 / 11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

A Less Expensive Ticket would be:

A1A2A3 / A1A2A3B1B2B3 / A1A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$120 or **\$60**

for 50 CENT wager

(17-11-14 / 17-11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7 / 17-11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

A Even More Less Expensive Ticket would be:

A1A2A3 / A1A2A3B1B2B3 / B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$96 or **\$48 for**

50CENT wager

(17-11-14 / 17-11-14-2-4-3 / 2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

A Even More Less Expensive Ticket would be:

A1 / A2A3B1B2B3 / B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$32 or **\$16 for 50CENT**

wager

(17 / 11-14-2-4-3 / 2-4-3-19-8-20-7) AND a Reverse

A2A3B1B2B3 / A1 / B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$32 or **\$16 for 50CENT**

wager

(11-14-2-4-3 / 17 / 2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

A **less expensive ticket** would look like this:

A1 / A2A3B1B2B3 / A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$40 or **\$20 for**

50CENT wager

(17 / 11-14-2-4-3 / 11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

My \$1 Superfecta tickets will look like this:

A1A2A3 / A1A2A3 / A1A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 = Cost \$294

(17-11-14 / 17-11-14 / 17-11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7 / 2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

A1 / A2A3 / A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$112

(17 / 11-14 / 11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7 / 11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

A Less Expensive Ticket would be:

A1 / A2 / A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 - Cost \$56

(17 / 11 / 14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7 / 14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7)

If you think Fierceness is a LOCK to Win then this:

It would look like this:

A1 / A2A3B1B2B3 / A2A3B1B2B3 / A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4

17/ 11-14-2-4-3 / 11-14-2-4-3 / 11-14-2-4-3-19-8-20-7) - Cost \$140

\$2 Oaks / Derby Daily Double

The Oaks looks to have two big Favorites in **#8 Tarifa (7/2), #14 Leslie's Rose (4-1)**.

We will play **#8 Tarifa (7/2)** as she is the one to beat: Use Her with **ALL in the Derby** side **#8 with ALL** – Cost \$40 for \$2 Double (*hope for a longshot in the KY Derby like the last 2 years*).

Then we will use the #14 - #3 - #11 - #13 and #5 with #17 Fierceness - #11 Forever Young (Jpn) - #14 Endlessly and #2 Sierra Leone - **Total Ticket Cost is \$40 for a \$2 Double**

NOTE: Daily Double, Exacta, Superfecta and Super High Five wagers are **\$1 minimum** straight bets.

On Oaks Day and Derby Day the **Superfecta has returned to the \$1 minimum** wager.

Wager Minimums:

- Win, Place, Show: \$2
- Exacta: \$2 (\$1 Box & Wheels)
- Daily Double, Super High 5: \$1
- Trifecta, Pick 3, Pick 4, Pick 5: 50 CENT
- Superfecta: \$1
- Derby City Pick 6: 20 CENT
- All Dirt Pick 5: 50 CENT
- All 3 Year-old Pick 3: \$3

Wagery Strategy

The Kentucky Derby is a fantastic opportunity to cash some large tickets for Exacta, Trifecta and even the Superfecta not to mention the Win, Place and Show bets.

There are more uninformed, once a year betters playing this race than any of the other, more than 50,000 horse races run in a year!

Thirteen years ago Churchill Downs was able to increase the number of betting entries from 14 to 20. Before 2001 you could only wager on 13 individual horses and all other horses were grouped together as the 14F entry.

They were previously restricted because the computers and tote boards could not handle more than 14. The Derby is limited to a maximum of 20 horses and now each one has their own betting pool!

The Kentucky Derby is the most difficult horse race to handicap if you want to play the trifecta and superfecta because there are so many horses in the field. There will be a full field of 20 horses again this year.

With a field this large, there will be many traffic problems. They will be bumping into one another out of the gate and into the first turn as well as having to go 4, 5 or 6 wide when they start making their move. Positioning of the horse in the first 114 mile of the race can be extremely important. The inside three post positions are not where you want to start from.

The outside positions in a full field does offer some advantage because the jockey is able to see everything that is happening with respect to the traffic as they head for the first turn and this allows him to place the horse where he would like to be, without getting into trouble.

NOTE: there has NEVER been a winner in Post #17 and it has been 38 years since a winner came from Post #1

What makes the trifecta and superfecta more difficult to wager on is that now with the 20 betting pools there are MANY more combinations.

When there were only 14 betting pools there were 2,184 combinations for the Trifecta.

That is now increased to 6,840 combinations. The superfecta goes from 24,024 to 116,280 possible combinations!

In 2022 the \$1 Superfecta paid a whopping \$321,500 with the (80-1)

Upset winner Rich Strike! The odds for the four runners was (81-1), (4-1), (6-1) and (35-1).

In 2019 the \$1 Superfecta paid \$51,400 and in 2017 with the Favorite winning the race the Super paid a whopping \$75,074!

Eleven years ago there were 2 Superfecta payouts because of a dead-heat for 4th place, the combined payout was \$72,349.70 for a \$1 ticket.

Nineteen years ago the Trifecta paid \$133,134.80 for a \$2 ticket. The Superfecta paid an all-time record of \$864,253.50 for a \$1 ticket....

In 2004 the Superfecta ticket paid \$41,380.20 (with the 2 favorites finishing 1st and 2nd), in 2011 the payoff was \$2,895.00 and in 2005 it was the Largest in Kentucky Derby history at \$864,253.

So what is one to do? Avoid the exotics because they are just too tough?

If you have a small amount of money to wager on the Derby, then you will want to stay with Win, Place, Show and some small exactas.

However, if you have been waiting since the last Derby to bet this year's you need to devise a strategy that will allow you the opportunity to go for the BIG payoffs in the trifecta and superfecta pools!

To do this we will have to make some difficult decisions with respect to which horses will be our keys and which ones we are willing to bypass completely. The winning Derby traits and trends that have proven themselves year after year will help us do this!

My strategy is to tier my selections by designating three A horses (keys), three B's and four C's. By doing this, we will be able to cover 10 horses in a exacta and trifecta bet for a fraction of the cost of boxing 10 horses.

We do this by placing a part-wheel trifecta bet of 3 x 6 x 10 for a total cost of \$105. If we would have boxed 9 horses it would have cost us \$720.

This ticket will look like this; A1A2A3 / A1A2A3B1B2B3 / A1A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4

Note the "/" means "With" when you are giving the window clerk your bet.

A variation of this type of bet that many use to reduce the cost of the ticket looks like this; A1A2A3 / B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / A1A2A3 and a second ticket like this;

A1A2A3 / A1A2A3 / B1B2B3C1C2C3C4. Each ticket will cost \$48 for a total of \$96. This approach requires that 2 of our A(key) horses run 1-2 or 1-3. When using This approach a separate ticket boxing the 3 A horses should be played.

Cost would be \$6 for a \$1 Trifecta box and \$12 for a \$2 box ticket.

Another variation that can be used is to Key or single our one TOP A horse over all others. You would play two tickets that would look like this;

A1 / A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 for a cost of \$72 and second ticket like this; A2A3BIB2B3CIC2C3C4 / A1 / A2A3BIB2B3C1C2C3C4 for another \$72 or a total of \$148.

You may even want to consider a third ticket for \$72 with your A1 horse singled on the bottom of the ticket. A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / A1

Remember, the last 15 year's average Trifecta for a \$1 wager paid \$3,712

This year definitely looks like a full field of 20 which should lead to a big Trifecta and Superfecta payoffs!

Now the Superfecta. It gets very expensive to use our Trifecta strategy here. Just keying our A1 horse with the other 9 in three slots, will cost a whopping \$504 as to \$72 in the Trifecta. To keep the wager affordable you will need to key two of the ten horses with the other eight. Your tickets will look like this;

K1 / K2 / X3X4X5X6X7X8X9X10 / X3X4X5X6X7X8X9X10;

K1 / X3X4X5X6X7X8X9X10 / K2 / X3X4X5X6X7X8X9X10

K1 / X3X4X5X6X7X8X9X10 / X3X4X5X6X7X8X9X10 / K2 - These 3 tickets will cost \$168 or \$56 ea.

Remember in 2005 the Superfecta paid \$864,253

NOTE: 14 of the last 22 \$1 Superfectas have paid more than \$24,000!

In 2018 with the favorite Justify winning, the \$1 Superfecta still paid a real nice \$19,618.

For our **Exacta bet** we will have a ticket that looks like this;

A1A2A3 / A1A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 and A1A2A3B1B2B3C1C2C3C4 / A1A2A3 each ticket costs \$24 for a \$1 Exacta for a total of \$48 or \$96 for a \$2 wager.

Please, whatever you do, do **NOT forget to make at least a Win/Place bet** on the one horse you really like.

With the large amount of money wagered on the Derby it is well worth it to bet your horse **across-the-board** (Win-Place-Show). If your horse is the post time favorite, Win-Place bet it if you can get 4-1 and KEY it over the other Top contenders in the Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta wagers.

I always also make a second bet with the one horse I like the most in a bottom wheel Exacta with the entire field. It is an ALL / Key Horse. A lot of times your No. 1 horse comes in second and gets beat by a longshot that you would have never used. This bet allows you to win the Exacta which can be one that pays very well.

A \$2 Exacta wheel in a 20 horse field will cost you \$38.

If nothing else the Win/Place/Show wager can keep you from having a losing day and you will be really ticked off if your horse wins and your trifecta for some reason does not hit and you have no money on the winner!

