Table of Contents

Section 1. Introduction

Section 2. The History of Critical Factors of Kentucky Derby Winners

Section 3. Critical Derby Factors & Trends Reviewed

Section 4. Scoring System for All Horses

Section 5. Pedigree Dosage Profiles & Index Numbers

Section 6. Phalaris Sire / non-Phalaris Dam

Section 7. Buckpasser Bloodlines

Section 8. Raise A Native Sire Bloodlines

Section 9. "Large-heart" Trait Bloodlines (X-Chromosome)

Section 10. Nasrullah, Northern Dancer, Princequillo or Turn-To Bloodlines

Section 11. Storm Cat Sire Bloodlines

Section 12. Wagering Strategy

Section 13. The Winner's Circle

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Section 1.

Introduction

The Kentucky Derby is the most famous race in the United States and is the most coveted by horse owners, trainers and jockeys. It is known as the "most exciting 2 minutes in sports" and held on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY. It has been run continuously since 1875.

It is the only race in the Triple Crown series that has **never had** an interruption!

However, in 2020 it was delayed and re-scheduled three months later than usual and was run as the 2nd Leg of the Triple Crown Series as opposed to its normal 1st Leg spot, because of the COVID pandemic! This resulted in more Point Prep races being added as well as additional Future Wager Pools.

So, you are excited about the 2026 Kentucky Derby, you have been following the series of Point Prep races leading up to the 1st Saturday in May, you are getting the party items ordered, reviewing your favorite mint julep recipe or maybe making reservations at your local simulcasting facility/casino to watch and bet on the Derby. The greatest 2 minutes in sports…. the Run for the Roses!

Oh, did you say bet on the Kentucky Derby? The 152nd edition of the most coveted race in American!

After hours of partying, sipping mint juleps, eating, chatting with friends, smoking your favorite cigar and betting on the races on the Churchill Downs under card (of which there are 13)!

How will you decide which horse(s) to bet on?

Just bet the favorite, or maybe box four horses in the exacta or maybe bet which ever horse Irad Ortiz Jr. or Flavin Prat or John Velazquez are riding or the horse(s) that Bob Baffert, Todd Pletcher or Brad Cox have in the race or maybe your favorite color on the saddle cloth or your favorite number (s)!

Trainer Bob Baffert will be making his return to the Kentucky Derby for the seond time since his suspension by Churchill Downs in 2022-2024. He is currently tied for the most wins in the Kentucky Derby with wins in 1997, 1998, 2002, 2015, 2018 and 2020. He also won in 2021 but was Disqualified a year later for a positive banned drug test and thus the suspension!

Two of his winners went on to win the Triple Crown, American Pharaoh in 2015 and Justify in 2018.

Beware of the Baffert factor when handicapping the race this year.

To win at betting the Kentucky Derby you MUST have a ***well thought out system*** based on the history of past winners of the race and what their advantage was over all of the other horses in the race.

The American tradition of the Kentucky Derby each year brings out more people than any other race of the year, novice fans as well as the avid thoroughbred handicapper. Those once a year betters are what make the Derby a huge opportunity for informed horseplayers to cash-in on big payoffs!

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This year more fans will be wagering from home via their favorite ADW computer system / Smartphone than ever before.

NOTE: do not wait to the last minute to place your bet as the systems will be over loaded and you might not be able to get your wager in!

The Kentucky Derby is the most **difficult** race for three-year old horses to win! It is also the **MOST Difficult** to handicap with 20 horses entered *(including two possible invaders from Japan & Europe).*

The KY Derby is one of the most over-analyzed horse race of the year. There is no shortage of angles to use in your handicapping when putting together your wagering strategy. However, the best systems use multiple angles that included pedigree as well as racing performance and speed numbers.

It is run at 1 1/4 miles and it will be the first time running at this distance for most of the horses and probably the ONLY time they will attempt this distance. Horses that win the Derby have the proven pedigree and running style for winning this race.

I have been handicapping horse races for over 40 plus years. During this time I have watched and bet thousands of races, read a hundred books on handicapping, used various systems consisting of speed, form, pace, trainer/jockey angles, races after layoff and claim, exacta pool pay outs, etc., etc., etc.

I have had moments of greatness and times of despair at playing this game. The angle that has always proven itself to me over these years is that ***pedigree and proper race preparation are the keys*** to consistently win major championship horse races. By that I mean winning trainers and jockeys will always continue to win at their **proven rate**, meet after meet, after meet and horses that have the **bloodlines and proper race preparation** for winning the Kentucky Derby will win it 85 percent of the time!

Yes, nothing is 100% in horse racing.

Remember 2022 when Rich Strike won at 81-1 odds?

From my analysis of results and betting experience of the Kentucky Derby over the many years, I have developed the ***"Proven Winning Derby Profile"*** that will zero in on those horses that are the most likely to win the Kentucky Derby and those that should be used in the Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta wagers based on those Factors that have proven to be the most critical!

In 2001, this method correctly picked the winner **Monarchos** which paid **$23.00 - $11.80 - $8.80** across the board. The exacta at **$1,229.00**, trifecta at **$12,238.40** and superfecta at **$62,986.90 .....**

In 2002, we identified **ALL four** horses. However we did not have War Emblem on top of our tickets as a "key horse " because he was a early speed type running horse who needed to win by running wire-to-wire! As you will see later on, we do not like this type of horse to win the Derby (there are a lot of these type of runners in this year's race).

We have made a slight change to my system in 2003 to include early speed horses if they also have the BEST late pace speed as well. Like War Emblem did!

In 2003 the system again selected **ALL 4** of the first horses across the Finish Line and giving us nice pay backs for the Exacta **($95.80**), Trifecta **($664.80**) and the Superfecta **($2,795.80**).

In 2004 the Kentucky Derby was run on a "sloppy track" and it resulted in the favorite, Smarty Jones, winning

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(for only the 3rd time in 27 years). Lion Heart completed the Exacta as the 2nd favorite and produced one of the lowest paying in many years at only **$65.20.**

If you had our system in 2004, you would have known that a "sloppy track" Favors the top early speed horses. Smarty Jones and Lion Heart were by far the **TOP** early speed horses!

Since I **do not** like to play Kentucky Derby favorites to win, I did not have him on top of my tickets. However, I did have a large Place bet on him which paid $6.20. Not bad for a favorite place payoff and our wagering strategy allowed us to cash in on the Exacta!

After all Smarty Jones was from Philly Park (now Parx) and so am I, thus the Place Bet on Smarty Jones.

Favorites have won most times the Churchill track has been sloppy and will continue to do so now that they always seal the track when it rains. A sealed track will usually benefit the front running speed horses.

Thank God it does not rain every year on Kentucky Derby day!

Recent History of Kentucky Derby Prices On a WET Track

Year	Winner	Trainer	Jockey	$2.00 Win	$2 Exacta	$1 Trifecta	$1 Superfecta
2025	Sovereignty	Bill Mott	Junior Alvarado	$17.90	$48	$232	$1,682
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	$39.21	$841.75	$5,035.00	$72,211.63

NOTE: In 2019 the winner Maximum Security (2nd favorite) was Disqualified and the Longshot Country House was moved up for the win!

In 2005 the Kentucky Derby prices set all-time records as 50-1 shot Giacamo won and the longest shot on the board at 71-1 Closing Argument came in 2nd followed by Afleet Alex. Only 1 length separated the Top 3 finishers. The Exacta paid **$9,814.80**, Trifecta **$133,134.80** and the Superfecta **$1,728,507.00** ... all were record payoffs for the Kentucky Derby.

The ***"Proven Winning Profile"*** system had identified Giacamo as a B1 horse which is the top rated horse to be **in-the-money** but probably will not win. The system had identified Afleet Alex as the TOP choice to win. We missed hitting the Exacta by a 1/2 length at the wire.....I know of ONLY 1 other handicapper that picked Giacamo as a key horse for use in the Exotic wagers!

*As you will see later, Giacamo had earned a rating in his last prep-race that has **produced the Derby Winner** in 18 of the prior 24 years!*

Oh well! That's horse racing ....

In 2005 Barbaro won the Derby as the 2nd Favorite at post time. Barbaro was one of Our top horses that we used in our selections. Because he was the Favorite right up to 15 minutes before the start of the race, I did not have him as my Top A1 horse.

However, our wagering strategy *(defined in the last section)* allowed us to hit the $587 Exacta!

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2007 was not a great year for making BIG money in any of the Triple Crown races as the top favorites won and the others finished 2nd and 3rd. Which as you will see later, that it is rare for this to happen in the Kentucky Derby?

Street Sense won as the favorite and became the first Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner to also win the Kentucky Derby! He went off at 4.9-1 which was also the highest paying favorite to win the Derby. He paid $11.80, $6.40, $4.60 across the board. The Place payoff of $6.40 for every $2 wagered is actually a very nice return for a favorite. That is more than tripling your money!

Finishing 2nd was Hard Spun the 4th favorite and coming in 3rd was the 2nd favorite Curlin. The $1 Exacta paid a lousy $50.90 and the $1 Trifecta brought back only $220.00. The $1 Superfecta paid an o.k. $14,523.20.

Compare those pay-outs to the 10 year average and you will see how abnormal those results were.

The 10 year average at that time was $883 for the $2 Exacta, $4,070 for the $1 Trifecta and $51,038 for the $1 Superfecta.

In 2008 we got another Favorite winning the Kentucky Derby. Big Brown overcame major obstacles in winning the greatest horse race in the World. He won as the favorite and from starting in the very last post position, No.20! By starting in the 20 hole, Big Brown had to run further than any other horse in the race and did make it look easy!

Big Brown paid $6.80 - $5.00 - $4.80 across the board. However, the Exotic wager paid O.K.. with the Filly Eight Belles finishing 2nd at (13-1) followed by Denis of Cork (27-1) and Tale of Ekati (37-1).

The Exacta paid a low $141.60, Trifecta $3,445.60 and the Superfecta $58,737.80. Not bad for getting the Favorite on top.

The down side to the race was the breakdown of the Filly Eight Belles soon after the finish line. She broke both front legs and had to be euthanized.

2009 was the year of another 50-1 UPSET with Mine That Bird! It was definitely an UPSET as there was no way to have handicapped him as the winner. No handicapper that I know picked him.

However, the ***"Proven Winning Profile"*** system had rated BOTH the 3rd place and 4th place finishers, Musket Man (19-1) and Papa Clem (12-1), as top selections. It was the first time ever that we had a tie on our point rankings. We had also identified the 2nd place horse Pioneerof the Nile as a major Contender for an in-the-money finish!

*Our wagering strategy allowed us to cash-in on the **$2,074 Exacta** by "Bottom Wheeling" **Pioneerof the Nile** with the field!*

In 2010 the ***"Proven Winning Profile"*** ranked Ice Box as the TOP play closely followed by Super Saver! But again we got a WET Sloppy track on Derby day and because Ice Box was a big time closer from the back of the pack, he had no shot at winning the race. He did finished 2nd coming from next to last to just miss catching Super Saver at 12-1 and paying $11.20 to Place. The Super Saver / Ice Box Exacta paid $152.40.

In 2011 we got a nice upset winner in Animal Kingdom at 21-1 which paid $43.80, $19.60 and $13.00 across-the-board to win!

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The ***"Proven Winning Derby Profile"*** had Midnight Interlude ranked #1. He did not run well and was out-of-the-money. However in our Kentucky Derby race selections, we made Animal Kingdom as our **BEST horse to UPSET** in the race. Our wagering strategy allowed us to hit the **Exacta for $330** and our across-the-board wager paid $43.80 - $19.60 - $13.00 for each $2 wager.

Animal Kingdom was ranked in the top 5 by the ***"Proven Winning Profile"*** and based on his 30-1 morning line odds, he made for a very strong Value Play.

In 2012 the UPSET winner was **I'll Have Another** (15-1) as he was able to catch the front running **Bodemmeister** 30 yards from the wire. Bodemeister ranked as our Top horse by the ***"Proven Winning Derby Profile"***. The **I'll Have Another / Bodemeister** Exacta paid $306 and Bodemeister paid $6.20 and $5.60 in the Place and Show positions. In our Kentucky Derby picks, we did not use Bodemeister as our win selection because of his not having raced as a 2-year old. Our Picks did use Bodemeister and Dullahan as major in-the-money finishers.

In 2013 **Orb** won as he was also the post time favorite. **Revolutionary** was our top pick based on ***"Proven Winning Derby Profile"***. He finished 3rd just missing 2nd by 1 length. He was our **A1** selection and Orb was our A3.

In 2014 **California Chrome** was the favorite (5/2) and became the first California bred horse to win the Derby since 1962 when Swaps won! The ***"Proven Winning Derby Profile"*** ranked Wicked Strong #1 in our points system but since he drew the number 20 post position we did not make him our top selection. We downgraded him to be an in-the-money horse and he was as he finished 4th. We made Danza out top choice followed by California Chrome as they were in our top points group. We also had Commanding Curve to also be an in-the-money horse. The results were **California Chrome** – **Commanding Curve** – **Danza- Wicked Strong**! Payouts were Exacta-$340, Trifecta-$3,424, Superfecta-$15,383

2015 was the year **American Pharoah** became our first Triple Crown winner in 37 years! It was certainly a lot of fun to follow and watch history being made. American Pharoah, trained by Bob Baffert, was the post time favorite. Baffert's other runner, **Dortmund**, finished 3rd and was the second favorite.

Both horses were rated in our top 5 point earners on our **Derby Profile**. Because of American Pharoah's high DI (dosage index) of 4.33 *(only 2 of the previous 15 Kentucky Derby winners had a DI higher than 4.00 and they were both 50-1 at post time)* we had Dortmund as our top selection with American Pharoah as one of our top in- the-money finisher!

American Pharoah proved me wrong but once he won the Derby I did feel he had an excellent shot in the Preakness Stakes. When the Belmont Stakes field came up with a short field it was a sign that he would win the Triple Crown!

3 of the top 4 post time favorites made up the Trifecta ($202) and the 5th favorite finished 4th for the Superfecta ($1,268). Our top rankings had 3 of the 4 runners. All low payouts for the Kentucky Derby! Our wagering strategy allowed us to hit the Trifecta.

2016 saw **Nyquist** enter the KY Derby undefeated in (7) career races and he went off as the 5/2 favorite and became the 4th winning favorite in the past 4 years! The last time the Kentucky Derby produced four consecutive winning favorites was in 1972-'75.

In fact the rare occurrence of the top (4) favorites coming in 1st – 2nd – 3rd – 4th just occurred in the previous year! This resulted in some of the lowest payouts in decades as the Exacta paid $30, Trifecta $173 and the Superfecta $542 for a $1 wager.

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In our Derby Picks we did not make **Nyquist** our top selection because he did not score in the top four on our scoring system and his **Dosage Index** (DI) of 7.00. However, as an undefeated runner we said he was a must use in the Trifecta and Superfecta wagers. We made **Gun Runner** our TOP selection and Suddenbreakingnews as our top **Upset** runner. We did use Nyquist, Exaggerator and Mohaymen in our Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta plays. The order of finish was Nyquist, Exaggerator, Gun Runner, Mohaymen and Suddenbreakingnews. We just did not have them in the correct order.

2017 gave us a sloppy track as **Always Dreaming** entered the KY Derby with a (3) race win streak including the Fl. Derby and was tied for the second highest last race Beyer speed no. but we did not like that he did not have the powerful X-Chromosome of War Admiral or Mahmoud. Thus we did not have him as our top pick but did include him in our in-the-money runners as he had the Critical **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree. We made Classic Empire as our Top selection as he scored high in our system.

Well another Favorite won the Derby as Always Dreaming became just the 2nd horse to win that did not have the pedigree trait of the "X-Chromosome" in the previous 20 years! Classic Empire got up for 4th after a troubled trip *(which can happen a lot in a 20 horse field)*.

But at least we got longshots to come in 2nd and 3rd which lead to some nice payouts in the Exacta ($336), Trifecta ($8,297) and Superfecta ($75,974).

In 20018 **Justify** entered the KY Derby undefeated for trainer Bob Baffert having never raced as a 2-year old and needed to break the "Apollo Jinx" of 136 years since the last KY Derby winner had not raced as a 2-year old! He not only beat the jinx but went on to win the Triple Crown!

Justify was not our top pick for winning the race but it was obvious that he would be in-the-money. We felt that the Storm Cat sire pedigree would be his downfall in getting the 1 ¼ Mile distance. He proved us wrong.

Vino Rosso, Bolt d'Oro and Good Magic fit the Derby profile the best. Good Magic did show up to run 2nd behind Justify who was a must use in the Exacta, Tri and Super wagers. We did not recommend Audible as a in-the-money play but we were able to cash-in on the $69.60 Exacta.

The 2018 KY Derby was called the **"wettest ever"** because of the large amount of rain that fell on Friday and Saturday. Justify did benefit from the sealed Wet/Fast track which usually benefits close up front runners but he went on to become the 2nd Triple Crown winner in 4 years.

The 2019 edition was one for the history books as the Undefeated Maximum Security won the race over a sloppy track as the second favorite (9/2) but then had the win stolen away from him by the un-scruple stewards that took 20 minutes to decide that he should be Disqualified and anointed Country House (65-1) the winner!

It had to be one of the biggest thefts in the history of horse racing and I will always consider **Maximum Security the winner** of the 145th Kentucky Derby!

In our Picks we had the Exacta and Trifecta nailed perfectly until Maximum Security was DQ's to 17th.

In our wager strategy using (3) A, (3) B and (3) C runners we used Maximum Security as one of our As, Country House as a B and Code of Honor as one of our Cs. We did not have Tacitus who ran 4th in our plays.

In 2020 trainer Bob Baffert won his 6th Kentucky Derby and 3rd of the last 6 years with Authentic. Authentic became just the 4th winner to go wire-to-wire in the previous 31 years. The ***Proven Winning Profile*** ranked Honor A. P. (8-1) and Tiz the Law (4/5) and Thousand Words (Scratched) ahead of Authentic (8-1).

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Our wagering strategy allowed us to cash in on the Exacta.

Mr. Big News (47-1) ran 3rd to keep us from hitting the Trifecta and Superfecta. In a normal year, he would have never been in the race as he did not earn any Derby Points in the Prep races. Because of COVID and the 3 month delay in running the KY Derby the field did not fill and thus he was given the opportunity to run.

2021 gave us Medina Spirit ($26.20) won going wire-to-wire again for trainer Bob Baffert giving him a 7th KY Derby win, the most ever by a trainer. But then the day after the race it was announced that the winner failed a post-race drug test and a 10 month court battle begun resulting in a disqualification of Medina Spirit and awarding the win to the runner up Mandaloun! *(If you did bet on Mandaloun you still did not collect anything)*

Baffert had the win taken away from him and was suspended by Churchill Downs from running any horses at their track for 2 years. Belmont Park and all NY tracks also suspended Baffert from competing last year.

In 2022 we got the biggest UPSET in the Kentucky Derby since 1913 when Donerail won at (91-1) with Rich Strike winning at (81-1) odds! He was not part of the 20 horse field up to Friday before race day but was a last minute (day) entry when Ethereal Road was Scratched on Friday morning giving Rich Strike a chance to run as he was one of two Also-Eligibles in the field!

Coming out of the 20 Post, he raced at the back of the field in 18th place until he started to make his move with ¼ Mile remaining and closed big time on the leaders by coming through on the rail to catch the favorite Epicenter.

Rich Strike did have two of our key handicapping factors with the **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree and running the quarter mile of his last race in 25.3 seconds or less!

We did not use him in our Derby Picks as he was not in the field when they were released on Thursday before Derby day. We did however cash-in on the $4,101 Exacta with our wagering strategy of wheeling the favorite on the bottom of the Field.

In 2023 Mage (15-1) won as he became the 2nd winner in 6 years that was able to win without having raced as a 2-year old. It is not the preferred way to prepare for the 1 ¼ Mile distance of the KY Derby as a 3-year old.

The ***Proven Winning Derby Profile*** had Mage ranked in our top 4 on our point based system. Our top 4 ranked runners were Hit Show, Angel of Empire, Mage and Kingsbarn all within 5 points.

In our wagering strategy we made Angel of Empire our top pick with Mage, Two Phil's to be used in the Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta wagers. When Forte was scratched, our first runner to move up and include in our wagers was Disarm.

We did not recommend using Mage as our top pick only because of his not having raced as a 2-year old!

Race results were Mage, Two Phil's, Angel of Empire, Disarm and Hit Show. As you can see we used them all in our wagering strategy!

The ***Proven Winning Derby Profile*** once again proved itself.

In 2024, Mystik Dan (18-1) won the races by a Nose over Sierra Leone who was a Nose in front of the horse from Japan, Forever Young (Jpn) who was 1 ¾ lengths better than Catching Freedom in 4th.

Trainer Ken McPeek and jockey Brian Hernandez, Jr. won both the KY Oaks & KY Derby on the weekend. A

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feat that had not been accomplished since 1952!

For the first time in 24 years, we made the favorite Fierceness our top choice. He came out the top of our scoring system by far. He looked on paper to be something special earning two 100+ Beyer speed numbers and looked to tower over the field. I was wrong and will never make the favorite my top choice again!

Our wagering strategy requires us to use 3A, 3B and 3C runners to be used in the Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta wagers. The As were Fierceness, Forever Young (Jpn) and Endlessly. The Bs were Sierra Leone, Catching Freedom and Mystik Dan and our Cs were Resilience, Just a Touch and Honor Marie.

We had all of the Superfecta horses in our A and B selections which allowed us to cash in on the $258.56 Exacta two times.

Last year Sovereignty (8-1) defeated Journalism (7/2) 1 ½ lengths over a sloppy/sealed track followed by Baeza (14-1) and Final Gambit (17-1). Baeza got in off the also-eligible list when Rodriguez was Scratched.

In our picks we made Burnham Square (12-1 ML) our Top as he was in the Proven Winning Derby Profile's top 5 point scorers based on the 23 categories used to identify the most likely horses to Win and be in the Exacta. The other top scorers were Grande (20-1 ML), Rodriguez (12-1 ML), Journalism (3-1 ML) and Publisher (20-1 ML).

We explained how Journalism was the horse to beat as he looked to be the best in the field but we do not like using the Favorite as our to pick in the Kentucky Derby and thus felt that Burnham Square would be the best choice of our top 5 scorers.

In our wagering strategy we used Burnham Square as our A1 horse and Journalism and Grande as our A2 and A3 runners.

The C horses were Sandman (C1), Chunk of Gold (C2), Tiztastic (C3) and Final Gambit (C4).

In our Picks we said if there are any Scratches, add #21 Baeza to the bottom and move everyone up to fill in.

When Rodriguez (B3) and Grande (A3) were Scratched our adjusted order of runners for our wagering strategy became: Burnham Square, Journalism and Sovereignty as our As, Luxor Cafe, Sandman, and Chunk of Gold as our Bs and Tixtastic, Final Gambit and Baeza as our Cs.

Based on our recommended wagers, this adjusted order is what allowed us to cashin on the $2 Exacta ($48), $1 Trifecta ($231) and $1 Superfecta ($1,682) even though Burnham Square could only finish 6th.

This year's crop of 3-year olds have a lot of questions that need to get answered before the first Saturday in May!

As growing 3-year olds, part of the handicapping game is figuring out which runners will show the biggest improvement on the first Saturday in May!

The final group of 100 Point Derby Prep races will be Key in separating the true Contenders from the Pretenders.

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The remaining sections in the ***"Proven Winning Derby Profile"*** will show you how to identify the **Key horses** and the betting strategy to use for giving us the best opportunity of hitting the Exotic bets and that is where the REAL money in horse racing is found!

THIS is the 14th YEAR for the Point System .....

No longer are Graded Stakes earnings being used to determine which horses will make it to the Kentucky Derby starting gates! Churchill Downs has come up with a new Points based system on selected races in the horse's 2-year old and 3-year old racing time periods.

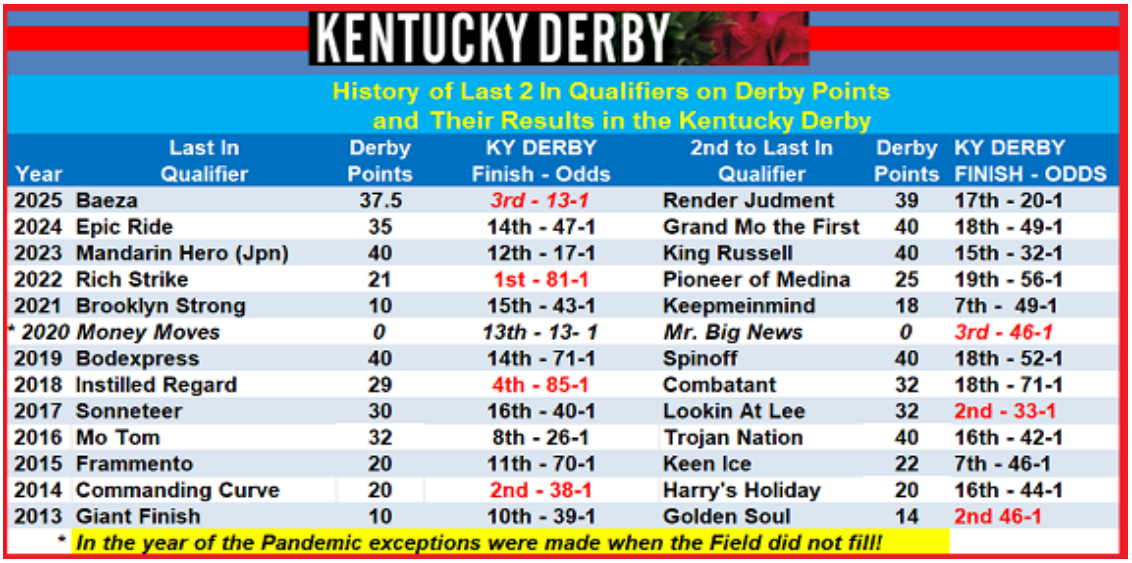
No longer will the Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner get an automatic berth in the Kentucky Derby because of the winner's share of a $2 Million purse. Under the new Points system the winner was ONLY given 20 points but has been revised to 30 Points.

Points need for the last runner to get into the race since the inception of the new system in 2013 has been 37.5-35-40-21-10-0 *(COVID yr.)* - 40-29- 30-32-20-20-10 from 2025 – 2013. Four of those last in horses have impacted the Superfecta; Last year **Baeza** (14-1) ran 3rd, in 2022 **Rich Strike** (81-1) won, in 2021 **Mr. Big News** (46-1) ran 3rd, in 2018 **Instilled Regard** (85-1) ran 4th and in 2014 **Commanding Curve** (38-1) finished 2nd. *So do not disregard the last in Point earner for your Trifecta & Superfecta tickets!*

In 2024 Churchill Downs made a big change to how many horses can earn Points. Previously points were award to the 1st – 4th place runners in the KY Derby Prep races. Now Points are awarded to those runners that finish 1st – 5th.

The result is that Points will be awarded to 37 more runners than in previous years which results in a total of 571 more Points being awarded in the Prep Races!

The increase of the number of points being awarded will only increase the number need to make it into the Kentucky Derby field!



History of Last 2 In Qualifiers on Derby Points and Their Results in the Kentucky Derby

Year	Last In Qualifier	Derby Points	KY DERBY Finish - Odds	2nd to Last In Qualifier	Derby Points	KY DERBY FINISH - ODDS
2025	Baeza	37.5	*3rd - 13-1*	Render Judment	39	17th - 20-1
2024	Epic Ride	35	14th - 47-1	Grand Mo the First	40	18th - 49-1
2023	Mandarin Hero (Jpn)	40	12th - 17-1	King Russell	40	15th - 32-1
2022	Rich Strike	21	1st - 81-1	Pioneer of Medina	25	19th - 56-1
2021	Brooklyn Strong	10	15th - 43-1	Keepmeinmind	18	7th - 49-1
*	*2020 Money Moves*	*0*	*13th - 13- 1*	*Mr. Big News*	*0*	*3rd - 46-1*
2019	Bodexpress	40	14th - 71-1	Spinoff	40	18th - 52-1
2018	Instilled Regard	29	4th - 85-1	Combatant	32	18th - 71-1
2017	Sonneteer	30	16th - 40-1	Lookin At Lee	32	2nd - 33-1
2016	Mo Tom	32	8th - 26-1	Trojan Nation	40	16th - 42-1
2015	Frammento	20	11th - 70-1	Keen Ice	22	7th - 46-1
2014	Commanding Curve	20	2nd - 38-1	Harry's Holiday	20	16th - 44-1
2013	Giant Finish	10	10th - 39-1	Golden Soul	14	2nd 46-1

* *In the year of the Pandemic exceptions were made when the Field did not fill!*

It is looking like 40 Points will be needed to get into the starting field again this year!

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With the NEW Points based system, the Road to the Kentucky Derby actually began last September with the running of the Iroquois at Churchill Downs!`

After 29 years of using the graded stakes earnings system to determine the 20 horse Derby field, Churchill Downs switched to a Points based system in 2013 that would be accumulated over a 35 race series. The previous system included 185 Graded Stakes races where earnings could be accumulated.

The new system de-values the 2-year old racing campaign and places more value in the final prep races know as the Big 6. The Point system also eliminates sprint races from the prep races *(which appears to have NOT been a good thing)*!

When the Graded Stakes earnings were used for eligibility to run in the Derby, trainers were able to put their horses into Graded Sprint races to help build foundation and stamina before stretching them out in distance races. Now they are more concerned about earning Points and with NO Points for Sprint races they are forced to run in route races before they are ready. As a result we have more runners with only 2 races in their 3-year old campaign and that has led to the post time Favorite winning 6 of the last 10 Kentucky Derbies and has produced 2 Triple Crown winners after not having any since 1978!

Since there have been NO confirmed speed/sprint runners in the Derby since the implementation of the Points based system, the KY Derby has been devoid of runners that can carry their speed for 1 ¼ miles distance of the race. We get reasonable good early fractions set but the latter fractions drop off more than previous editions of the race.

Before the Point system, it was not unusual for a pace setter / early speed runner to finish in-the-money. Such as Hard Spun (2012), Bodemeister (2012) and Shackleford (2011).

Without quality pace setters it becomes more difficult for Closers to win but not impossible! 8 of last 13 winners were no further back than 4 lengths behind the leader!

We are looking for this to change this year (no winning favorite) as the trainers have now become adjusted to the Points system and how that plays into their racing preparations in getting their runners ready to perform at their best on Derby Day!

The Prep Series 1 now awards 10-5-3-2-1 points for 1st - 5th finishing positions with the Prep Series 2 awarding 20-10-6-4-2, the Championship Series Leg 1 awards 50-25-15-10-5 points, Leg II awards 100-50-25-15-10 and the Wild Card (Lexington S.) race gives 20-10-6-4-2 points.

Churchill Downs has implemented a **NO Lasix** policy in the Points Prep races. If a horse does run with Lasix he is not eligible to earn any Points in that race! This is the 3rd year for this new policy.

This year is the eighth year for the "**Japan Road to Kentucky**" race series. It has 4 races where points are awarded for 1st through 5th. Only one spot in the starting Derby field is available for the top Japanese Point earner. If the top horse declines then the next highest Point earner gets the option and then the 3rd highest. If none of the top (3) Point earners comes over to run for the Roses, then that spot reverts back to the U.S. runners.

For the seventh year there is also a "**European / Middle East Road to Kentucky**" race series which has 7 races where points are awarded for 1st through 5th. The U.A.E. Derby in Dubai has now been added to the European races. It operates the same as the "Japan Road to Kentucky" with only one spot up for grabs in the

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starting Derby field. If the top horse declines then the next highest Point earner gets the option and then the 3rd highest. If none of the top (3) Point earners come over to run for the Roses, then that spot reverts back to the U.S. runners.

To see the current Leader Board for U.S., Japan and European Prep races go here Top Point Leaders click here.

Winners and 2nd place finishers will determine most of the 20 horse starting field in the Kentucky Derby. It is projected that if you have accumulated 40 points or more, you will be in the starting gate on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs!

Of course there are always some defections, for various reasons, from the top 20 which then allows the horse(s) with the next highest point total to get in.

However, it is not necessary to win one of those 15 "Championship Prep" races to get in. By finishing 2nd or 3rd in multiple prep-races you should earn enough points to finish in the top 20!

In 2010 the Kentucky Derby winner Super Saver did not win any of the 3-year old Prep-races but still had enough earnings by finishing 2nd in the Arkansas Derby after having won the KY Cup Juvenile in his 2-year old campaign. He would still make the Derby field under the new Points system!

Other pre-Points era Kentucky Derby winners who did not have a 3-year old Prep-race win are Mine That Bird (50-1), Giacomo (50-1) and Funny Cide (12-1) ... ALL of whom would still make the Kentucky Derby starting gate under the new Point system!

I do feel that the "Derby Point System" will again provide us with one of the MOST evenly matched field that we have become accustomed to since the inception of the Derby Points System. No longer will there be any starters that got in because they won a $1 Million purse race as a 2-year old and did not race competitively as a 3-year old!

Also the possibility of horses coming over from Europe and Japan will make this year's Derby one of the most exciting to watch and handicap!

Table of Contents | Next Section

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Section 2

The History of Critical Factors of Kentucky Derby Winners

Did you know???

☑ **… only ten race time favorites have won the Derby in the past 46 years -**

last year Journalism (7/2) finished 2nd as the favorite

☑ **… the top 3 favorites hit the board just TWICE in the past 50 years**

Last time was 2016 (Nyquist – Exaggerator – Gun Runner)

☑ **… the top 2 favorites hit the board just 10 times in the past 40 years –** ***last time was 2016***

Nyquist & Exaggerator ran 1st and 2nd .

☑ **… the top 3 favorites have ALL run out of the money 5 times in the past 38 years**

☑ **… only five horses in the past 36 years have won the Derby wire-to-wire**

☑ **… 24 of the past 39 Derby's have been won by a "back-of-the-pack"** *(but 6 of last 12 have been Pressers) Last year the winner Sovereignty won Closing from near the back of the field!*

☑ **… 27 of the past 39 Derby's have been won by a horse that had from 3-7 races as a 2-year old.**

(This ***has been changing*** *since the inception of the Point System- Last year Sovereignty had 3 races)*

☑ **… ONLY nine winners in the past 40 years did NOT have a 3 year old record of a 3-5 race campaign** *(9 of them were within the past 19 years!) (last year Sovereignty only had 2 races).*

☑ **… 31 of the past 40 winners had won a stakes race as a 3 year old**

(last year Sovereignty won the Fountain of Youth Stakes).

☑ **… 37 of the past 45 Derby winners (82%) had won or placed 2nd in their next to last Prep race**

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Of the (8) that did not, (4) of them finished 3rd and beaten less than 4 lengths – the other (4) finished 4th with none beaten by 10 lengths or more!

(last year Sovereignty won his 2nd to last prep).

☑ **… Only 6 horses have won in the past 40 years that did not run a race within 28 days** *(with the exception of the FL. Derby, Arkansas Derby & Louisiana Derby) – Last year Sovereignty's last race was 35 days prior to the KY Derby in the Florida Derby.*

☑ **… the past 40 winners all ran a sharp last race** ***(in the money or within 4 Lengths of the winner)***

☑ **… all but (10) winners in the past 35 years had a Beyer or BRIS speed rating of over 100 as a 3-year old** ***(all but 6 had at least a 105 Beyer)*** .

☑ **… 25 of the past 41 Derby(s) a horse with Buckpasser within 6 generations of their pedigree Won or came in second**

(14 of those won)

☑ **… 31 of the last 43 winners had a 1st or 2nd in one of the big prep races -** *(last year Sovereignty was 2nd in the Florida Derby which is one of the Big 6 Preps).*

☑ **… 50 of the last 76 1st and/or 2nd place finishes had the "Large Heart" trait on the Dam side of their bloodline** ***(last year both Sovereignty & Journalism had the "Large Heart" pedigree.***

☑ **… 25 of the last 76 1st and/or 2nd place finishers had the "Phalaris sire/non-Phalaris broodmare" bloodline.**

☑ **… In 151 years only 3 Fillies Have Won – the new point system is now keeping girls out!**

☑ **… ONLY 2 Breeders' Cup Juvenile winners have won the Kentucky Derby**

(2016 Nyquist and Street Sense in 2007) - THIS YEAR Ted Noffey is the BC Juvenile Champ but will not be in the Kentucky Derby because of injury.

Last year the Juvenile Champion Citizen Bull ran 15th in the KY Derby!

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☑ **… 19 of the last 34 (56%) Derby winners had the Raise A Native Sire bloodline. This includes 17 of last 31 winners!**

The Raise A Native Sire Line shows a very powerful pedigree trait over the past 25+ years for winning the Kentucky Derby.

☑ **… Only 5 Derby runners that had the Storm Cat sire side pedigree line has been able to win the Kentucky Derby they are 5 for 85.**

The Storm Cat pedigree has not been successful at these longer distance **dirt races**. They tend to perform best at middle distance dirt races. They do however have a good win early trait (2-year olds) and do well on the Turf distance races. *(the 5 that won were Sovereignty, Mystic Dan, Medina Spirit, Authentic & Justify 3 of the 5 were trained by Bob Baffert)!*

NOTE: ***Authentic & Justify both had the Raise A Native sire pedigree lines on their DAM's Sire side and/or on their Sire's DAM line….***

☑ **… 28 of the past 44 winners (64%) and 6 of last 10 trace their broodmare sire line back to Princequillo, Nassrullah, Northern Dancer, or Turn-To pedigree lines.**

☑ **... 40 of the last 54 (74%) winners had run the last 1/4 mile in a Derby Prep race in 25.3 seconds or less**

☑ **…In the 12 years of the qualifying Points System the Top Point earner only won the Kentucky Derby in the first 2 years – in the last 9 years they ran Scratched, 2nd, 2nd, 4th, 2nd, 4th, 19th, 13th, 3rd and SCRATCH – who will be this year's point leader?**

History of Top Point Earner vs. Kentucky Derby Winner!

Points Leader	Points	Derby Finish	Kentucky Derby Winner	Points	Points Position
2025 Burnham Square	130	6th	Sovereignty	110	6th
2024 Sierra Leone	155	2nd	Mystik Dan	46	17th
2023 Forte	190	SCR	Mage	50	15th
2022 Epicenter	164	2nd	Rich Strike	21	24th
2021 Essential Quality	140	4th	Medina Spirit	74	10th
2020 Tiz the Law	372	2nd	Authentic	200	2nd
2019 Tacitus	150	4th/3rd	Maximum Security DQ'd	100	7th
			Country House via DQ	50	15th
2018 Magnum Moon	150	19th	Justify	100	9th
2017 Girvin	150	13th	Always Dreaming	100	6th
2016 Gun Runner	151	3rd	Nyquest	130	2nd
2015 International Star	171	SCR	American Pharoah	160	4th
2014 California Chrome	150	1st	California Chrome	150	1st
2013 Orb	150*	1st	Orb	150*	1st*

* Tied

☑

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These Factors are indisputable and MUST be included in your handicapping process. This will get us to those horses that will be in contention for running first and second. From there we will be able to identify those horses that should not win, but can contend for third and fourth.

To analyze the Derby field against the winning factors, we will need to develop a checklist or spreadsheet and assign values to each for the purpose of ranking the horses.

First, in the next section we will look at each of these Factors in more detail.

Introduction | Table of Contents | Derby Factors-Trends

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Section 3

Critical Derby Factors / Trends Reviewed

1. **only ten race time favorites have won the Derby in the past 46 years**

Fusaichi Pegasus won the race in 2000 as the post time favorite. His odds were 2.30 - 1 and paid $6.60 to win. In 2004 Smarty Jones Won and paid $10.20 on a sloppy track.

In 2005 the media darling and favorite was Bellamy Road at odds of 2.60 - 1. He finished 8th.

In 2007 Street Sense became the first BC Juvenile winner to also win the Derby and he was the favorite and paid ($8.80).

In 2008 Big Brown won at odds of 5-2 and paid $6.80.

In 2013 Orb won as the longest priced favorite ever at 5.4-1 ($12.80).

Then in 2015 American Pharoah won as the 3-1 favorite paying $7.80 and went on to win the Triple Crown!

2016 gave us another favorite in Nyquist paying $6.60

2017 gave us another favorite in Always Dreaming paying a decent $11.40

2018 produced another Triple Crown winner in Justify as he won as the 3-1 favorite paying $7.80

Six winning favorites (2013-18) in the last fourteen years is a direct result of the new Points based qualifying system for getting into the KY Derby starting field!

The previous favorite to win prior to 2000 was Spectacular Bid in 1979.

Thirty years ago a lot more money in the way of purse dollars came into horse racing and trainers / owners were more eager to race their horses as a 2 year olds and by the time they got to the Derby they had peaked in their form and had nothing left for the 1 1/4 mile race of the Kentucky Derby. But because of their successful race record they would be made the Favorite to win the Derby!

However, the KY Derby winner would be a horse that was still improving and had not yet peaked. These were NEVER the media darlings or the Derby Favorite!

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However **things are changing recently** with more trainers limiting their Derby hopeful's racing schedule largely because of the new **Points based system** implemented 14 years ago.

In 2007 Curlin did not race as a 2-year old and Street Sense only had 2 races as a 3-year old. In 2008 Big Brown only had 1 race as a 2-year old and only 2 in his 3-year old campaign but was undefeated!

In 2009 *Mine That Bird also ONLY had 2 races as a 3-year old but had 6 as a 2-year old. In 2010 Super Saver had only 2 races as a 3-year old!* In 2011 Animal Kingdom also had only 2 races as a 3-year old and 2 in his 2-year old campaign!

2015 Triple Crown winner, American Pharaoh only had 2 races as a 3-year old, winning them both.

In 2016 Nyquist only had 2 races as a 3–year old winning both – but had 5 races as a 2-year old!

2017 gave us Always Dreaming who only had 2 races as a 2–year old winning none – but won all 3 races as a 3-year old!

In 2018 we got another **Triple Crown winner** trained by Bob Baffert in **Justify** who also broke the "Apollo Jinx" of no Kentucky Derby winner having not raced as a 2-year old since 1882. Justify only had 3 career races prior to his KY Derby run. As the 3-1 favorite he paid $7.80 for the win.

2019 was a year of firsts as **Maximum Security** won the race as the second choice on the odds board, had just 1 race as a 2-year old but 3 races as a 3-year old and undefeated in his career but had his Derby victory taken away as he was **DQ'd** and Country House (65-1) moved up for the win. *He had just 1 win in 6 career races!*

In 2023 the winner Mage (15-1) did not race as a 2-year old and had just 3 races prior to winning the Kentucky Derby.

As more and more trainers change their racing strategy in preparation for the Kentucky Derby we will start to see these under experienced horses win and finish in-the-money because they will all be competing on a more even race experience field!

2. The top 3 favorites hit the board just twice in the past 50 years

3. The top 2 favorites hit the board just 10 times in the past 40 years

By hitting the board, we mean 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Starting to get the idea about favorites?

The last time this happened was in 2016 as Nyquist and Exaggerator ran 1st and 2nd as the top 2 favorites!

In 2018 Justify won as the Favorite but the co-second favorites finished 5th and last…

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In 2019 the favorite finished 4th/5th but the 2nd Favorite Maximum Security did win until he was DQ'd

In 2020 Tiz the Law ran 2nd as the odds-on favorite - the winner Authentic ($18.80) was the 3rd favorite!

In 2021 Essential Quality was the favorite ran 4th as the favorite – the winner paid $26.20

In 2022 Epicenter ran 2nd as the favorite – the winner Rich Strike paid $163.60

Last year Journalism ran 2nd as the favorite – the winner Sovereignty was the 3rd favorite.

4. The top 3 favorites have ALL run out of the money 5 times in the past 38 years

This is why we are looking for big payoffs in the Win, Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta bets.

In 2009 the 3rd favorite Pioneerof the Nile ran 2nd behind 50-1 Mine That Bird and the Exacta paid a whopping $2,074!

In 2019 we got big payoffs because of the DQ of the winner Maximum Security and Country House (65-1) given the win which produced a $3,009 Exacta!

In 2020 the 3 top favorites did finish in the superfecta (1st-2nd-4th)$1 Superfecta still paid $7,925

In 2021 Essential Quality was the favorite and could only finish 4th as the second favorite ran 17th and the 3rd favorite finished 3rd.

In 2022 Epicenter was the favorite and finished 2nd behind the (81-1) upset winner Rich Strike and the $2 Exacta paid a big $4,101.

5. Only 5 horses in the past 36 years have won the Derby wire-to-wire (one of those was on a sloppy track) – *Medina Spirit in 2021 and in 2020 Authentic won going gate-to-wire – both trained by Bob Baffert!*

Before the Point System was implemented, Speed or Early Running style horses **did not** fare well in the Kentucky Derby. Speed horses are those that are on the lead from the start or are within 1-2 lengths of the lead.

Winning Colors won the race wire-to-wire back in 1988. The most recent, prior to the Points system, was Bob Baffert's War Emblem in 2002.

The other wire-to-wire winners were Go For Gin in 1994 on a wet and sloppy track.

When the track condition is ***fast/sloppy it will tend to favor*** speed horses.

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Since the inception of the Points Based System fourteen years ago, there no longer are any true Sprinter types in the race and now the winner has been and will be runners that can press the pace setters or have quality tactical speed!

The seven of the last 13 *(including Maximum security)* winners have all been pace pressers or had tactical speed that allowed them to clear the field early and then race in tracking position behind front runners!

We still need to include the best Closer in our Trifecta and Superfecta wagers as it is more likely that a (E/P) Early Presser type of horse will win the Kentucky Derby in current times!

Last year the winner Sovereignty was a **Closer** as was the 4th place runner Final Gambit!

6. 24 of the last 39 Derby's have been won by a "back-of-the-pack" horse **BUT 6 of the last 12** Winners were Pace Pressers or had Tactical Speed!

This running style is known as a **"Closer"**. This type of horse will usually be at the back of the pack for the 1st half of the race and then will start making his move up through the pack as he has saved his energy and speed while the front running speed horses are starting to get tired.

Last year the winner Sovereignty won Closing from near the back of the field.

In 2024 the 2nd, 3rd and 4th place runners went from 16th , 15th, and 13th position after ¾ of a Mile to all finish in the Superfecta.

Street Sense was a perfect example of this in 2007 as he came from last to 1st To win the Derby as the longest favorite to have ever won the race. Giacomo fit this running style as he came from back in 18th place at the 3/4 Mile pole to win at 50-1! ***In 2009 Mine That Bird came from dead last to win by 6 3/4 lengths at 50-1!*** With the large number of horses running in the Derby, traffic is a problem for a lot of the horses.

In 2013 the top 4 finishers ALL came from the back of the pack! Closers stay away from traffic problems *(unless they wait too long to make their move)*. That was an unusually run race because Palace Malice was racing for the first time with Blinkers On and that decision resulted in him setting some of the quickest fractions ever in the KY Derby and it encourage the other Early/Speed horse to chase him and at the end of the race they were ALL tired and faded allowing Orb to win the race coming on from 16th place! **DO NOT EXPECT THIS TO HAPPEN AGAIN** in today's Point System era!

The running style of horses can be found in the Past Performance chart found in the Daily Racing Form or BRISNET……

Again, in the past 13 years since the inception of the Points based system, we are seeing more E/P type of runners *(pace pressers)* get the win and **not Closers**. This is because the Points system has basically eliminated the true sprint (speed) runners to make it into the starting gate as there are no Points prep races for Sprint distances. As only 2 Early Speed runners have been able

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to hold on to win in the last 12 Derbies.

Also, in 2019 **Maximum Security was** on the lead for most of the race and crossing the finish line first before being disqualified!

In 2021Medina Spirit and in 2020 Authentic did win leading the field gate-to-wire. Both were trained by **Bob Baffert** who excels with Early Speed runners!

7. 27 of the past 39 Derby's have been won by a horse that ran 3-7 races as a 2 year old

This shows how important it is for a Derby horse to have had a solid 2 year old foundation.

The length of a 2 year old campaign indicates the soundness of the horse. We will accept a campaign of 2-9 races **but prefer the 3-7 level**. The number of races run can be found in the horse's past performances. In 2008 Big Brown had only 1 race and in 2007 Curlin tried to win the Derby with NO races as a 2-year old. Curlin became a monster but not on Derby day!

In 2018 Justify won the KY Derby without a race as a 2-year old. He broke the 137 year old curse of Apollo!

In 2023 Mage was able to repeat the Justify feat.

We are not looking for another KY Derby winner not to have raced as a 2-year old!

8. **O**nly (9) winners in the past 40 years did NOT have a 3 year old campaign of 3-5 races

To be a KY Derby winner this is usually a requirement. It is important that the horse is in race condition but not OVER raced. This information can be found in the horse's past performance charts. Sovereignty, Nyquist, American Pharoah, I'll Have Another, Super Saver, Mine That Bird, Big Brown, Street Sense and Animal Kingdom were able to overcome this disadvantage during the last 19 years and still win the race.

However, Nyquist did have 5 races at 2, American Pharoah had 3 races at 2, I'll Have Another had 3 races, Super Saver had 4 races at 2, Mine That Bird had 6 races at 2 and Street Sense had a 5 race campaign as a 2-year old which in today's standard is a lot and it built the racing stamina foundation required to win the Kentucky Derby.

9. 31 of the past 40 winners had won a Graded / Stakes race as a 3 year old

It is important that the horse **can win** in a big race. The Derby is no place to learn how to win. (*last year Sovereignty won the Fountain of Youth Graded Stakes).*

10. **37 of the past 45 Derby winners (82%) had won or placed 2nd in their next to last Prep race** Of

the (8) that did not – (4) finished 3rd beaten less than 4 lengths – (4) finished 4th beaten by less

than 10 lengths Gato Del Sol (1983), Go for Gin (1994) Charismatic (1999) and Country

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House (2019)

11. Only 6 horses have won in the past 40 years that did not run a race within 28 days

Those horses were Rich Strike, Authentic (COVID year), Animal Kingdom, Mine That Bird, Big Brown and Barbaro! The reason Big Brown and Barbaro did not have a race within 28 days was because the Florida Derby was moved out 2 weeks earlier which does not give the trainer enough time to get another race in before the Derby. Gulfstream Park has now moved the race up 1 week which is now 35 days prior to the Derby and last year the Arkansas Derby was moved back to 5 weeks prior to the KY Derby. So we need to adjust this criterion to **exclude ONLY** horses that ran in the **Florida Derby or the Arkansas Derby** from the 28 day rule.

Mine That Bird's last race was run just 34 days prior to the Derby which was the Sunland Derby. Which is **not** one of the BIG 6 Derby prep races which are all held within the 28 day range.

In 2020 Authentic's last race was 49 days out from the KY Derby because of the rescheduling of prep races due to COVID!

With the number of "Prep Races" available within 5 weeks of the Derby the good in-form horses are racing in at least one of them.

The **"Big 6 Prep Races"** are the Florida Derby, Santa Anita Derby, Arkansas Derby, Blue Grass, Wood Memorial, and the Louisiana Derby. Until 2013 the Illinois Derby was one of the BIG 6 but with the new POINTS system it has been replaced with the Louisiana Derby.

The Louisiana Derby is held 6 weeks out from the KY Derby which puts horses going to the KY Derby a little bit behind runners from the other 5 Big Preps with respect to holding their form!

The 2022 winner Rich Strike (81-1) ran in the Jeff Ruby Steaks which is held 35 days prior to the KY Derby. We may want to consider it as one of the "Big Preps" since it is now a 100 Point race.

12. **The past 40 winners have ALL ran a sharp last race (in the money or within 4 lengths of the winner**)

31 of the last 44 (70%) winners also showed a sum of 4 or less when adding together their finishing position in their last 2 races. We **MUST** demand that our horse(s) ran in the money in their last race or within 4 lengths of the winner. This information can be found in the horse's past performance charts.

Last year Sovereignty finished 2nd in the Florida Derby and 1st in the Fountain of Youth S.

13.* All but (10) winners in the past 35 years had a Beyer speed rating of over 100 as a 3 year old *(all but three of those had at least a 105 Beyer)

If a horse has not yet gotten to the **100+** speed rating level as a 3 year old, he will not get it in the Derby. Remember we are looking for horses that are improving, so we would like to see

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increases in their ratings.

It is also best if the horse's last race speed rating was their best as a 3 year old. **Beyer** speed ratings can be found in the Daily Racing Form's past performance charts.

Last year Sovereignty did not earn a 100+ Beyer in his 2nd to last race prior to the Derby,

14. **25 of the past 41 Derby's a horse with Buckpasser within 6 generations of their pedigree won or came in second (14 of those won) –**

This is a very powerful breeding statistic. These winners and placers had **Buckpasser** in their first 6 generations. Buckpasser is a horse that won 9 of 11 races as a 2 year old, won 15 consecutive races, named Champion 2-year old and 3-year old, 1966 Horse of the Year and 2-Time Champion Handicap Male Horse of the year. He retired from racing with a record of 25-4-1 in 31 career races. There was only one race that he did not finish on the board!

He has proven to be a very good sire in the breeding barn, but an even better broodmare sire. A list of this year's Derby horses with Buckpasser in their 1st Six generations is shown in Section 7.

15. 31 of the last 43 winners had a 1st or 2nd in one of the big prep races

This shows that to **win** the Derby the horse must be in top race condition and experienced racing with other good horses.

Last year Sovereignty ran 2nd in the Florida Derby.

16. **50 of the last 76 1st and/or 2nd place finishes had the "Large Heart" trait on the dam side of their bloodline.**

This is the passing on of the **X Chromosome** of War Admiral or Mahmoud through the dam side of the horse in the correct position for inheritance. Genetic research has indicated that the X chromosome is probably responsible for the large-heart trait in thoroughbreds and that War Admiral and Mahmound are two of the **leading sources** of this trait. The large heart allows for pumping more oxygen to the blood. ***Secretariat's 31 length romp in the Belmont Stakes is attributed to him having this pedigree!*** After his death an autopsy was done and it was determined that his heart weighed 22 lbs. The normal thoroughbred heart weighs 8 lbs.

Last year both the winner and second place horse had this powerful pedigree trait!

A list of this year's Derby horses with this trait is shown in Section 9 …

17. 25 of the last 76 1st and/or 2nd place finishers had the "Phalaris sire/non-Phalaris Broodmare-sire"

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bloodline

This is another powerful breeding trait that shows the importance of Phalaris on the sire side combined with it **not** being found on the Broodmare/sire side. In 2011 ANIMAL KINGDOM had this pedigree trait as did MYSTIK DAN in 2024.

Horses in this year's KY Derby with this trait can be found in Section 6 ….

18. 19 of the last 34 (56%) Derby winners had the powerful Raise A Native Sire side bloodline.

This includes 15 of last 26 (58%) and 17 of the last 31 (55%) winners!

The **Raise A Native** Sire-side line shows a very powerful pedigree trait over the past 30+ years for winning the Kentucky Derby. As a two-year-old, Raise a Native was undefeated in four starts and set or equaled track records three times. His racing career ended due to a bowed tendon in 1963. He had great success in the breeding barn as his sire line is present in 23 Kentucky Derby winners!

To see list of all Kentucky Derby Winners with the Raise A Native top sire side pedigree line Click Here:

A complete list of all Derby horses this year with this pedigree can be found In Section 8 .…..

19. Only 5 of 85 Derby horses with the Storm Cat top sire pedigree line have won the race.

Since 1994 when Tabasco Cat finished 6th the KY Derby, there have been 84 Derby runners that had the **Storm Cat top sire side pedigree** line and **ONLY 5 – Sovreignty, Mystik Dan, Medina Spirit, Authentic and Justify** were able to win the race and (3) of them were trained by Bob Baffert who has won 6 (7) KY Derbies!

There have been (5) to finish 2nd (2022, 2021, 2015, 2006, 2004), (3) to come in 3rd (2020, 2008, 2018) and (4) finished 4th (2022, 2011, 2010, 2008).

The pedigree of Storm Cat does best at middle distance races 7 Furlongs – 1 Mile – 1 1/16 Mile.

They do **not** run well in "2-turn" Grade 1 Dirt Route races like the 1 ¼ Mile of the KY Derby.

A complete list of all Derby horses this year with this pedigree can be found In Section 11 ……

20. Dual Dosage Factor has been Eliminated!

This will be the 7th year the Jockey Club has discontinued their issuance of the "Experimental Free-weight Handicap" rankings of 2 year olds and thus there is no longer a **Dual Dosage** factor for consideration!

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What is dosage?

It is a mathematical analysis of the strengths in a thoroughbred pedigree based upon the location of certain outstanding sires in its family.

What is the dosage profile?

It is a series of 5 numbers which shows exactly how many points this horse has inherited from sires in each of five categories.

Over the years the sum of the points in the 5 categories has been going lower which I feel is an indication of the thoroughbred pedigree going away from stamina and moving towards more of a speed trait which is not a benefit for racing in distance Stakes races.

The last 20 years Kentucky Derby winners' total points averaged 16.7, last 10 years the average is 13.6 and the last 5 years it is down to 12.8.

What is the dosage index?

It simply is the ratio of **speed** points to **stamina** points.

Up until 1991 most KY Derby winners had a DI (dosage index) below 4.00.

In recent times, 2000-2022, there were 5 winners that had a DI of 4.00 or greater. From 1960-1990 all winners had a DI of less than 4.00.

Dual dosage qualifiers were the "must have" prior to the 2000 Derby because in the previous 13 years, 6 winners were dual qualified. Since 1999, none of the winners were dual qualified until 2008 when **Street Sense** won the Derby. In 2011 **Super Saver** was a dual qualified runner as well! Dual dosage was defined as having a DI not greater than 4.00 and within 10 pounds of the "experimental high-weight" for 2 year olds or was a juvenile champion in another country.

In 2018 both the runner up (Good Magic) and 4th place finisher Instilled Regard (85-1) were both Dual Qualified!

Section 5 shows the Dosage and Profile for all runners in this year's KY Derby.

For our selection purposes we will put emphasis on those horses that that have a DI in the range of 2.00 - 4.00 … downgrade those that are greater than 5.00.

21. In 151 years only 3 Fillies Have Won

There have been 39 fillies to have started in the KY Derby with only 3 winning. The last Filly to win was Winning Colors in 1988. In 1999 2 fillies started, Excellent Meeting and Three Ring. They finished 5th and last! In 2008 Eight Belles finished 2nd in a superb effort that cost her, her life as she broke down after crossing the finish line!

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It does not look like any Fillies will be entered this year because of the new Derby Prep race Point System. Fillies **must compete against the males** to earn enough Points to get into the Kentucky Derby.

Until the Point System is changed we will **not** see any Fillies in the Derby!

The exception would be if a Filly won a Kentucky Derby Prep race on either the European or Japan Road to the KY Derby!

22. ONLY 2 Breeders' Cup Juvenile winners has won the KY Derby in 40 Years

In 2007 Street Sense won. He became the 1st Breeders' Cup Juvenile Champion to win the Kentucky Derby. In 2016 Nyquist became the second Juvenile Champion to win the Derby.

This year's Juvenile Champion is Ted Noffey who will not be in the Kentucky Derby this year due to injury.

23. **28 of the past 44 winners (64%) and 6 of the last 10 trace their broodmare sire line back to Princequillo, Nassrullah, Northern Dancer or Turn To DAM side pedigree.**

Again **pedigree** is **MOST** important when selecting your Derby horses. It proves itself year after year after year. Yet Millions of dollars are wagered every year on horses that **do NOT** have the bloodlines to **win!**

Section 10 shows the horses with this Bloodline.

24. **40 of the past 54 (74%) Derby winners raced in one of the Big-6 Prep-Races and** ran the **final quarter-mile in 25.3 seconds or less**.

That is a whopping 74% winners and is just too good to ignore.

In fact 21 of the past 26 KY Derby Winners ALL had this trait in their favor!

Sovereignty (2025), Mystik Dan (2024), Mage (2023), Maximum Security & Country House (2019), Justify (2018), Always Dreaming (2017), Nyquist (2016), American Pharoah (2015), California Chrome (2014), Orb (2013), I'll Have Another (2012), Super Saver (2010), Big Brown (2008), Street Sense (2007), Barbaro (2006), Giacomo (2005), Smarty Jones(2004), Funny Cide (2003), War Emblem (2002), Monarchos (2001) and Fusaichi Pegasus (2000).

In 2022 Rich Strike and in 2011 Animal Kingdom did not race in a Big-6 Prep race but did run their final ¼ mile in under 25.3 seconds in their last race which was the Jeff Ruby Steaks (previously the Spiral Stakes)!

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Maybe we should think about adding the Jeff Ruby Steaks to the Big 6 Preps and make the Big 7 since it is a 100 Point race.

In the next section we will develop a rating/scoring system of these critical factors.

Derby History | Table of Contents | Scoring System

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Section 4

Scoring / Rating System for All Horses

Now that we know which Factors are most critical for a horse to have if he is to win the Kentucky Derby, we need to develop a rating system for each of these Factors and then apply this system to each horse.

My years of experience at handicapping the Kentucky Derby has resulted in 22 Factors to rate all horses by. They are;

1. Any horse that has NOT started in a Stakes or Graded race at age 2.

   give each horse **2 points**.

2. Any horse that raced in any of the Derby 6 major "Prep Races"

   give each horse **2 points**.

3. Any horse that finished 1st or 2nd in a Stakes or Graded race in their last 2 races.

   give each horse **2 points**

4. Any horse that totals **4 or less** when adding their last 2 race finishes.

   give each horse 2 points

5. Any horse that did **not** finish 1st or 2nd *(unless they ran 3rd less than 4 lengths behind the winner)* in their next to last prep race.
   subtract 2 points from each horse

6. Any horse that has shown the ability to win or come in 2nd by racing on the front end or by pressing the pace setters or has shown that he can clear the field early and then sit behind the race leaders.

   give each horse **3 points**

7. Any horse whose last race Beyer/BRIS speed rating was their best

   (provided it was a Stakes race) give each horse **4 points**

8. Any horse with the Phalaris / Non-Phalaris trait.

   give each horse **2 points**

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9. Any horse with the **Raise A Native** sire line.

give each horse **4 points**

10. Any horse having the **Buckpasser** line within the 1st six generations.

give each horse **4 points**

11. Any horse with a Dosage Index of 2.00 - 5.00.

give each horse **2 points**

12. Any horse having the **"Large Heart"** trait.

give each horse **4 points**

13. Any horse with **broodmare/sire line** tracing back to Nasrullah, Turn To, Northern Dancer or Princequillo.

give each horse **2 points**

14. Any horse that has the Storm Cat sire pedigree line.

subtract 2 points from each horse ***(unless it is trained by Bob Baffert)***
Only Subtract 1 Point if the Raise A Native line is present on the Broodmare sire's line

15. Any horse that is a Filly.
subtract 2 points from each horse

16. Any horse with more than 9 races as a 2 year old.
subtract 2 points from each horse

17. Any horse with less than 3 races or more than 5 races as a 3 year old.
subtract 1 point

18. Any horse that did not race within the last 28 days. *(unless it was the Florida Derby, Arkansas Derby or Louisiana Derby)*
subtract 2 points

19. The horse that won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile race. *(none in the race this year)*
subtract 1 point

20. The horse with the highest average "late pace" BRISNET speed rating.

add **4 points** (or who earned the best final 1/4 mile time in their last race).

21. Any horse that ran in any of the Major 6-Prep races *(Louisiana Derby, Florida Derby,*

Santa Anita Derby, Arkansas Derby, Santa Anita Derby, Blue Grass S.) who also

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ran their final quarter-mile in 25.3 seconds or less.

Add **4 points**. *(If did it in the Jeff Ruby Steaks Add **2 points**)*.

Method for calculating the final quarter-mile in seconds using the Past

Performance line of their last race:

1. convert the horse's 6-furlong time to seconds adding a fifth of a second for each beaten length.

2. convert the horse's final time to seconds adding a fifth of a second for each beaten length.

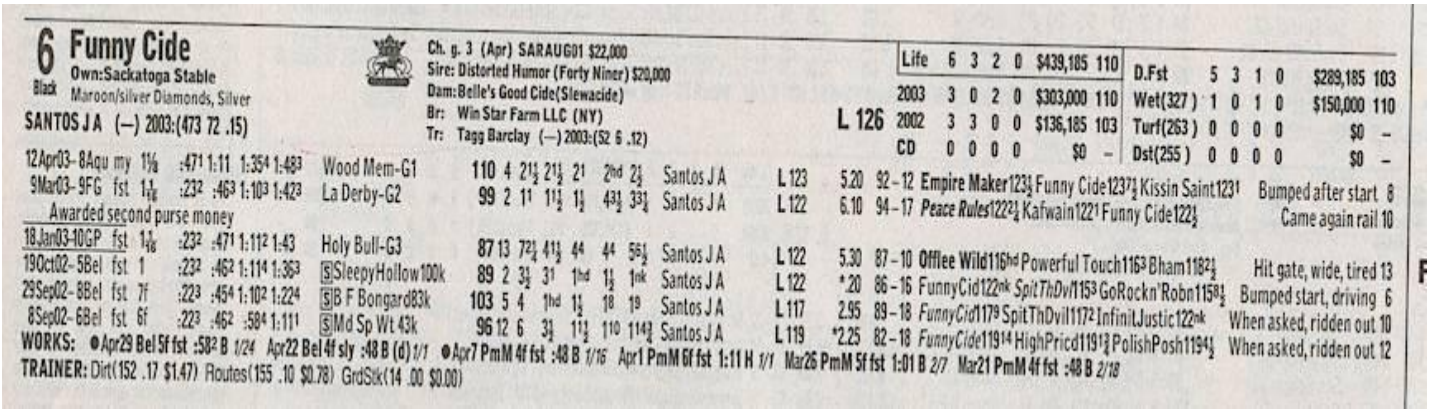
3.subtract the 6-furlong time from the final time to get the time in seconds that it took to run the last 3 furlongs of the race.

4. divide the time from No.3 by 3 to get the average time per furlong.

5.add the average furlong time to the horse's 6-furlong time in No.1 to get a 7-furlong time in seconds.

6. subtract the 7-furlong time from the final race time in No. 2 to get the final quarter-mile time.

Here is an example from past performances for Funny Cide:



6 Funny Cide
Own:Sackatoga Stable
Black Maroon/silver Diamonds, Silver
SANTOS J A (–) 2003:(473 72 .15)

Ch. g. 3 (Apr) SARAUG01 $22,000
Sire: Distorted Humor (Forty Niner) $20,000
Dam: Belle's Good Cide(Slewacide)
Br: Win Star Farm LLC (NY)
Tr: Tagg Barclay (–) 2003:(52 6 .12)

	Life	6	3	2	0	$439,185	110
L 126	2003	3	0	2	0	$303,000	110
	2002	3	3	0	0	$136,185	103
	CD	0	0	0	0	$0	–

D.Fst	5	3	1	0	$289,185	103
Wet(327)	1	0	1	0	$150,000	110
Turf(263)	0	0	0	0	$0	–
Dst(255)	0	0	0	0	$0	–

12Apr03- 8Aqu my 1⅛ :471 1:11 1:354 1:483 Wood Mem-G1 110 4 21½ 21½ 21 2hd 2½ Santos J A L 123 5.20 92–12 Empire Maker123¾ Funny Cide123⁷½ Kissin Saint123¹ Bumped after start 8
9Mar03- 9FG fst 1⅛ :232 :463 1:103 1:423 La Derby-G2 99 2 11 11½ 1½ 43½ 33¼ Santos J A L 122 6.10 94–17 Peace Rules122²¼ Kafwain122¹ Funny Cide122½ Came again rail 10
Awarded second purse money
18Jan03-10GP fst 1⅛ :232 :471 1:112 1:43 Holy Bull-G3 87 13 72½ 41½ 44 44 56½ Santos J A L 122 5.30 87–10 Offlee Wild116hd Powerful Touch116³ Bham118²½ Hit gate, wide, tired 13
19Oct02- 5Bel fst 1 :232 :462 1:114 1:363 SleepyHollow100k 89 2 3½ 31 1hd 1½ 1nk Santos J A L 122 *.20 86–16 FunnyCid122nk SpitThDvl115³ GoRockn'Robn115⁸½ Bumped start, driving 6
29Sep02- 8Bel fst 7f :223 :454 1:102 1:224 BF Bongard83k 103 5 4 1hd 1½ 18 19 Santos J A L 117 2.95 89–18 FunnyCid117⁹ SpitThDvil117² InfinitJustic122nk When asked, ridden out 10
8Sep02- 6Bel fst 6f :223 :462 :584 1:111 Md Sp Wt 43k 96 12 6 3½ 11½ 110 114¾ Santos J A L 119 *2.25 82–18 FunnyCide11914 HighPricd11913 PolishPosh11941 When asked, ridden out 12
WORKS: Apr29 Bel 5f fst :582 B 1/24 Apr22 Bel 4f sly :48 B (d) 1/1 Apr7 PmM 4f fst :48 B 1/16 Apr1 PmM 6f fst 1:11 H 1/1 Mar26 PmM 5f fst 1:01 B 2/7 Mar21 PmM 4f fst :48 B 2/18
TRAINER: Dirt(152 .17 $1.47) Routes(155 .10 $0.78) GrdStk(14 .00 $0.00)

The 6-furlong time is 1:11 and he was 1 length behind the leader so when we convert seconds we get 71 1/5.

The final time is 1:48 3/5 and he was 1/2 behind the winner so when we convert to Seconds we get 108 4/5.

When we subtract the 6-furlong time from the final time we get in seconds 37 2/5.

Then we divide it by 3 to get a average furlong time of 12.3.

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Next we add that to the 6-furlong time to get a 7-furlong time of 83 3/5.

Then we subtract the 7-furlong from the final time to get a final quarter-mile Time of 25.1

If you have access to the BRISNET past performances, you do not have to do the calculations for every horse. Any runner that earned a "Late Pace" Speed rating of 99 or higher, it equates to the same as running in 25.3 Seconds or better for the final 1/4 mile.

Note: you should still do the calculation for any horse with a "Late Pace" between 98 and 95 because they still may come out at 25.3 or less.

22. The track at Churchill Downs is a "true" Dirt surface.

What about Synthetic dirt surfaces?

The synthetic surfaces tend to be preferred by Turf Horses or horses with Turf bloodlines. A lot of runners that excel on synthetic surfaces do not fare well on "true" dirt tracks!

Those tracks that have installed synthetic surfaces are:

Turfway Park, Woodbine and Presque Isle Downs.

Subtract 2 Points for any runner that has not raced on "True" Dirt Surfaces or has shown that their best races are run on Synthetic / Turf surfaces.

The best way to assemble this information is to either use a lined sheet of paper or create an Excel spreadsheet.

List all of the Derby horses on the left side and then create 22 columns across the top.

Then use **Section 5** ,**Section 6** , **Section 7** , **Section 8** , **Section 9** , **Section 10** **and** **Section 11** for looking up the pedigree traits that we identified.

You will also need the horses' past performance charts to look at their race history and find their Beyer / BRIS speed ratings.

Past Performances can be gotten for FREE *(once the field is finalized)* for the Derby at the Daily Racing Form Web site at; DRF Kentucky Derby Past Performances ... here

or
Get BRISnet Past Performances here...

Or

From Equibase FREE KY Derby Past Performances here…….

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To Download FREE BRIS & Equibase Past Performances for all Derby and Oaks for all horses Click the Links below:

Click Here to Get KY Derby Bris PPs ….
Click Here to Get KY Oaks Bris PPs ….

Click Here to Get KY Derby Equibase PPs ….
Click Here to Get KY Oaks Equibase PPs ….

After you have completed the ratings of all horses, the one with the highest point total is our main or key horse to win. Along with 2 of the next 3 highest point runners to complete our (3) A(s).

Year after year the winner is usually found here.

Next we will identify (3) B and (3) C horses to comprise the Trifecta and Superfecta wagers.

In the **Section 12** we will discuss wagering strategies for betting the race including Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta.

Derby Factors | Table of Contents | Dosage Table

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Section 5

Dosage Numbers

For The 2026 Kentucky Derby

When the 2026 Derby Field is Finalized

Any Pedigree Updates will be e-mailed to You

Horse	Dosage Profile	Total Pts	DI	CD
Albus	6-10-12-0-0	28	3.67	0.79
Commandment	1-2-1-0-0	4	7.00	1.00
Blackout Time	2-2-15-2-1	22	1.10	0.09
Brandt	1-5-4-0-0	10	4.00	0.70
Bravaro	4-6-6-0-0	16	4.33	0.88
Bricklin	1-5-4-0-0	10	4.00	0.70
Buetane	0-3-1-0-0	4	7.00	0.75
Chief Wallabee	3-7-5-1-0	16	3.57	0.75
Cherokee Nation	2-2-8-0-0	12	2.00	0.50
Chip Honcho	1-2-6-3-0	12	1.00	0.08
Class President	0-2-2-0-0	4	3.00	0.50
Corona de Oro	5-5-17-3-0	30	1.61	0.40
Crown the Buckeye	8-10-12-0-0	30	4.00	0.87
Danon Bourbon	1-5-4-0-0	10	4.00	0.70
Don Erectus (Jpn)	2-1-5-0-0	8	2.20	0.63
Emerging Market	4-4-5-1-0	14	3.00	0.79
Fulleffort	3-18-7-0-0	28	7.00	0.86
Further Ado	0-3-7-0-0	10	1.86	0.30

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Great White	**2-8-2-0-0**	**12**	**11.00**	**1.00**
Golden Tempo	**7-8-10-1-0**	**26**	**3.33**	**0.81**
Grittiness	**6-8-9-1-0**	**24**	**3.36**	**0.79**
Incredibolt	**5-10-10-1-0**	**26**	**3.33**	**0.73**
Intrepido	**1-8-5-0-0**	**14**	**4.60**	**0.31**
Iron Honor	**1-5-4-0-0**	**10**	**4.00**	**0.70**
Litmus Test	**4-4-5-1-0**	**14**	**3.00**	**0.79**
Mr. A. P.	**1-1-2-2-0**	**6**	**1.00**	**0.17**
Medici	**11-3-13-1-0**	**28**	**2.73**	**0.86**
Napoleon Solo	**3-13-4-0-0**	**20**	**9.00**	**0.95**
Nearly	**2-2-12-0-0**	**16**	**1.67**	**0.38**
Ocelli	**3-7-18-2-0**	**30**	**1.73**	**0.37**
Ottinho	**5-11-32-0-0**	**48**	**2.00**	**0.44**
Pavlovian	**1-1-5-1-0**	**8**	**1.79**	**0.25**
Potente	**1-4-7-0-0**	**12**	**2.43**	**0.50**
Pyromancer (Jpn)	**6-8-14-0-0**	**28**	**3.00**	**0.71**
Reagan's Honor	**3-4-16-1-0**	**24**	**1.67**	**0.38**
Renegade	**1-3-4-0-0**	**8**	**3.00**	**0.63**
Right to Party	**6-8-18-0-0**	**32**	**2.56**	**0.63**
Robusta	**1-6-5-0-0**	**12**	**3.80**	**0.67**
Silent Tactic	**6-6-20-0-0**	**32**	**2.20**	**0.56**
Six Speed	**4-4-21-1-0**	**30**	**1.61**	**0.37**
So Happy	**1-2-1-0-0**	**4**	**7.00**	**1.00**
Stark Contrast	**3-9-15-3-0**	**30**	**1.86**	**0.40**
Talkin	**1-7-16-2-0**	**26**	**1.60**	**0.27**
Taptastic	**5-11-37-1-0**	**54**	**1.77**	**0.37**

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The Puma	**4-7-15-0-0**	**26**	**2.47**	**0.58**
Vitruvian Man	**2-6-18-0-0**	**26**	**1.89**	**0.38**
Wonder Dean (Jpn)`	**1-0-4-1-0**	**6**	**1.00**	**0.17**

The **Jockey Club** has discontinued their assigning **Experimental High Weights** for 2-year olds in 2019 and thus the "Dual Qualifiers" factor is no longer available for consideration in our handicapping process.

Dual Qualifiers were those that are ranked within 10lbs. Of the Experimental High Weights (126lbs.) and who's Dosage Index (DI) is 4.00 or less.

KY Derby winners in the past 10 years have averaged a Total of 13.7 Points in their Dosage Profile and 12.8 Points over the last 5 years.. Only four winners had less than 10 Points (all of them since 2012)

Scoring Section | Table of Contents | Phalaris / Non-Phalaris Section

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Section 6

2026 Kentucky Derby Horses with the

Phalaris Sire & Non-Phalaris Dam

When the 2026 Derby Field is Finalized

Any Pedigree Updates will be e-mailed to You

Chip Honcho

Don Erectus (Jpn)

Stop the Car

Talkin

In the last 53 KY Derby(s), there have been 28 (56%) winners with the Phalaris/non-Phalaris pattern.

Dosage Table | Table of Contents | Buckpasser Table

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Section 7

2026 Kentucky Derby Horses With

Buckpasser Within Their 1st Six Generations

When the 2026 Derby Field is Finalized

Any Pedigree Updates will be e-Mailed to You

Albus

Bravaro

Bricklin

Class President

Corona de Oro

Emerging Market

Golden Tempo

Incredibolt

Iron Honor

Mr. A. P.

Medici

Nearly

Pavlovian

Reagan's Honor

Renegade

Secured Freedom

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Silent Tactic

Six Speed

So happy

Stop the Car

Talkin

Talk to Me Jimmy

Taptastic

Universe

Great White

Vitruvian Man

Phalaris / non-Phalaris Table | Table of Contents | Raise A Native Table

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Section 8

2026 Kentucky Derby Horses Who

Raise A Native In Sire Line

When the 2026 Derby Field is Finalized

Any Pedigree Updates will be e-Mailed to You

Brandt

Chip Honcho

Danon Bourbon

Emerging Market

Fulleffort

Further Ado

Golden Tempo

Grittiness

Mr. A. P.

Napoleon Solo

Ocelli

Ottinho

Robusta

So Happy

Stop the Car

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Talkin

Universe

Vitruvian Man

Buckpasser Table | Table of Contents | X-Chromosome Table

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Section 9

2026 Kentucky Derby Horses With The

War Admiral or Mahmoud "Large Heart" Trait

When the 2026 Derby Field is Finalized

Any Pedigree Updates will be e-Mailed to You

Albus+

Commandment

Blackout Time

Bravaro+

Bricklin+

Buetane+

Chief Wallabee

Chip Honcho+

Class President

Corona de Oro+

Crown the Buckeye

Danon Bourbon+

Don Erectus (Jpn)+

Emerging Market+

Fulleffort+

Further Ado+

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Golden Tempo+

Great White+

Grittiness+

Incredibolt+

Intrepido+

Iron Honor

Litmus Test

Mr. A. P.+

Medici

Napoleon Solo+

Nearly+

Ocelli+

Ottinho+

Pyromancer (Jpn)

Right to Party+

Reagan’s Honor

Renegade+

Robusta+

Secured Freedom+

Silent Tactic+

Six Speed+

So Happy+

Stop the Car+

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Talkin

Talk to Me Jimmy

Taptastic

The Puma+

Vitruvian Man+

+ - indicates multiple lines of these X-Chromosomes

Raise A Native Table | Table of Contents | Nasrullah Northern Dancer Princequillo Turn-To Table

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Section 10

2026 Kentucky Derby Horses

Whose Broodmare Sire Line Traces back to

Nasrullah, Northern Dancer, Princequillo

or Turn-To

When the 2026 Derby Field is Finalized

Any Pedigree Updates will be e-Mailed to You

Albus

Commandment

Bravaro

Bricklin

Buetane

Cherokee Nation

Chief Wallabee

Chip Honcho

Danon Bourbon

Don Erectus (Jpn)

Fulleffort

Further Ado

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Golden Tempo

Great White

Grittiness

Incredibolt

Iron Honor

Litmus Test

Mr. A. P.

Medici

Napoleon Solo

Nearly

Ocelli

Ottinho

Pavlovian

Potente

Pyromancer (Jpn)

Reagan’s Honor

Robusta

Secured Freedom

Six Speed+

Stark Contrast

So Happy

Talk to Me Jimmy

The Puma

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Vitruvian Man

Wonder Dean (Jpn)

X-Chromosome Table | Table of Contents | Storm Cat

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Section 11

2026 Kentucky Derby Horses

With the Storm Cat Sire Line

When the 2026 Derby Field is Finalized

Any Pedigree Updates will be e-mailed to You

Commandment

Blackout Time+

Cherokee Nation

Intrepido

Medici

Nearly

Pavlovian

Potente

Renegade

Secured Freedom

Six Speed

Stark Contrast+

+ - denotes those horses that have the Raise A Native broodmare sire side pedigree line.

Nashrullah Table | Table of Contents | Wagering Strategy

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Section 12

Wagering Strategy

The Kentucky Derby is the most exciting 2 minutes in sports, but for the serious Horseplayer, it's much more than just a race – it's an opportunity!

It is a fantastic opportunity to cash some large tickets in the 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!

In 2005 at the Kentucky Derby an ALL-TIME record was set for the amount Of money wagered on this one-of-a-kind horse race. The total amount was over $100 Million Dollars. That is on just 1 race!! It was the first time total wagers broke the Million Dollar level .

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

This does produce some horses that are UNDER bet in various pools like the Place and Show as well as the Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta pools.

For example in 2005 Giacamo paid $45.80 to Place and $19.80 to show. $20 Wagered to Place and Show would have paid you back $650..... not bad for your horse not needing to win the race!

The Kentucky Derby is the most difficult race to handicap if you want to play the trifecta and superfecta because there are so many horses in the field. You can count on having 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 1/4 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 in front of them with respect to traffic as they head for the first turn and this allows the jock to place the horse were he would like,

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without getting into trouble.

This will be the 7th year Churchill Downs will be using the new 20 Post starting gate which eliminates the need for the auxiliary gate's additional 6 Posts.

This new single starting gate has eliminated the disadvantage of being in Post No. 14.

With the auxiliary gate, there was a big gap between post 14 and post 15. A lot of times the runners coming from Post positions 15, 16 and 17 would come over on the horse in Post #14 and basically crush him into the others on his opposite side which would take the horse completely out of the race from the very start!

This is what happened in 2018 to Mendelssohn who finished last and to Classic Empire in 2017 even though he was able to finish 4th.

In 2005 the Top 4 finishers were ALL from outside post positions 10, 18, 12 and 17.

In 2022 **Rich Strike** (81-1) won from the far outside Post No. 20.

Last year the winner came from post 8 and the 3rd place finisher from Post 21!

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 was only 14 betting pools there were 2,184 combinations for the Trifecta. That is now increased to 6,840 combinations with 20 runners! The Superfecta goes from 24,024 to 116,280 possible combinations!!

In 2005 the $1 Superfecta payoff was the Largest in Kentucky Derby history at $864,253, last year it was $321,500 in 2009 it was $278,503, in 2010 it was $101,285 , in 2002 it was $91,764, in 2017 it was $75,974.

So what is one to do? Avoid the exotic wagers 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 Exactas and maybe a couple small Trifecta or Superfecta.

However, if you have been waiting since last year's 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 Factors that we covered in earlier Sections will help us do this!

The strategy is to tier our selections by designating three A horses (Keys), three B's and three C's. By doing this, we will be able to cover 9 horses in a exacta and trifecta bet for a fraction of the cost of boxing 9 horses.

We do this by placing a part-wheel trifecta bet of 3 X 6 X 9 for a total cost of $105. If we would have boxed 9 horses it would have cost us $504.

This ticket will look like this ;

A1 A2 A3 / A1 A2 A3 B1 B2 B3 / A1 A2 A3 B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 C3

A variation of this type of bet that many use to reduce the cost of the ticket looks like this;

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A1 A2 A3 / B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 C3 / A1 A2 A3 and a second ticket like this;

A1 A2 A3 / A1 A2 A3 / B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 C3. Each ticket will cost $42 for a total of $84.

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 / A2 A3 B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 C3 / A2 A3 B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 C3 for a cost of $56 and second ticket like this;

A2 A3 B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 C3 / A1 / A2 A3 B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 C3 for another $56 or a total of $112.

Remember, the last 10 years Trifecta payout has averaged **$4,318 for a $1 wager**.

These high payouts are a result of the expanded Wagering pools.

Last year there were 20 horses in the race and this year definitely looks like another full field of 20 which should lead to another nice Trifecta payoff!

Now the Superfecta. It gets very expensive to use our Trifecta strategy here. Just keying our A1 horse with the other 8, four times, will cost a whopping $1,344 as to $168 in the Trifecta. To keep the wager affordable you will need to key two of the nine horses with the other seven. Your tickets will look like this;

A1 / K2 / XXXXXXX / XXXXXXX - $84

A1 / XXXXXXX / K2 / XXXXXXX - $84

A1 / XXXXXXX / XXXXXXX / K2 - $84

You decide which horse you want to use as your 2nd Key horse (K2).

Remember in 2005 the $1 Superfecta paid a record $864,253, last year paid $321,500, in 2009 paid $278,503 and in 2010 paid $101,285. In 2002 the Superfecta paid $91,764.50 and in 2017 it paid $75,974.

In 2008 there was a **Dead Heat for 4th** and thus we had 2 Superfecta payouts. They were for $42,430.40 and $29,919!

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

A1 A2 A3 / A1 A2 A3 B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 C3 and one this way

A1 A2 A3 B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 C3 / A1 A2 A3 each ticket costs $24 for a $1 Exacta for a total of $48 or $96 for a $2 Exacta.

Please, whatever you do, do NOT forget to make at least a Win / Place bet on the one or two horses you really like. Unless it is the post time favorite. If it is the favorite do not place a Win bet unless the odds are at least 4-1. *(this year the favorite could be as high as 5-1).*

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If nothing else the Win bet 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!

If you have a limited bankroll you should stick to Exacta and Win/Place/Show wagers on your TOP choice.

My favorite bet is a Win and Place bet on my Top selection and a Bottom wheel Exacta bet with the same horse. That way if my Top Choice Wins, I collect on the Win and Place bets. If he comes in 2nd, then I collect on the Place and Exacta bets.

I also make the same wager with Favorite on the Bottom of the Exacta with the "Field".

A lot of times when my Top selection comes in 2nd it gets beat by a much longer Odds horse and the Exacta pay-out can be substantial.

In 2022 the "Bottom Wheel" Exacta of ALL with the Favorite paid $4,101.

In 2009 a "Bottom Wheel" Exacta of ALL with Pioneerof the Nile paid us $2,074 for a $2 wager that cost us $36. That is a profit of $2,038.80!

NOTE: ***Churchill Downs has a $1 Minimum on the Superfecta wager as opposed to the 10 Cent Minimum they have on all other racing days – except on KY Oaks & KY Derby Days!***

Storm Cat Table | **Table of Content** | **Winners Circle**

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Section 13

The Winner's Circle

The most important item to remember on Derby day is to know which horses you are going to bet and how you will structure your tickets BEFORE you go to the track, simulcasting facility, party or sit down at your computer!

Because once you get there, there are all kinds of distractions from the activities going on, people talking about *"Their"* horse and why it can't lose or a tip from a guy who heard another person say that a friend of his said this horse cannot lose!!

Next, during the days leading up to the race, keep yourself informed on how the horses are working out at the track. You can get this information at the Daily Racing Form , Bloodhorse Web sites and at the BRISnet Web site or Churchill Downs Web site. Each day they report on the workouts and trainer comments about their workouts. This is important because some horses do not take to a particular track. Especially those horses that have been doing most of their racing on synthetic surfaces.

(You can watch morning workouts on DRF.com, FanDuel Racing(TVG), Xpressbet.com and YouTube.)

We want to make sure that our "A" horses are not having this problem. We want our "A" horses to have some "Bullet" works. This will be noted in the daily comment sections at those Web sites.

Critical in using our wagering strategy, it is important that we select the correct Three "A" horses.

What I do is take the horse with the highest point total from our rating system, if there is a tie, I will use both in my A's as long as it is not a Early Speed horse (*unless it is a sloppy track*), and include the 2 best horses that have the "Big-Heart" trait and the final 1/4 mile time of 25.3 seconds or better in their last prep race. By best, I mean the two that fit the "Profiles" of Derby winners that we previously discussed.

For the B's and C's, I do the same thing, with the exception that I keep the Best of the Early Speed horses *(unless it also had the highest "late pace" speed rating)* and the best dead closer in the field as one of my C's.

When identifying the Bs & Cs, do NOT forget about the importance of having Run their final quarter-mile in 25.3 seconds in one of the Big 6 Prep-races. The only 2 horses that did that in 2003 came in 1st and second!! The 2006 winner, 50-1 shot Giacomo also did that so any horse that meets this requirement is a live horse to be "in-the-money". *The 2022 winner Rich Strike (81-1) did this in the Jeff Ruby Steaks (not a Big 6 Prep)!*

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2025 Proven Winning Derby Profile

When putting together you tickets for the Win, Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta wagers, keep in mind the below graphic on which of the Big 6 Prep races produced the most results in each spot!

Big 6 Prep Races Producing the Most Superfecta Finishers in the Kentucky Derby From 2004 - 2025

	Won	2nd	3rd	4th
Florida Derby	8	3	2	4
Santa Anita Derby	6	3	3	3
Arkansas Derby	5	4	6	3
Blue Grass Stakes	1	5	4	3
Wood Memorial	1	1	1	6
Louisiana Derby	0	4	4	2
OTHER	3	4	1	3

NOTE: In 7 of the last 10 years two spots in the KY Derby Superfecta came out of the same Big 6 Prep race!

As you will be doing the next several weeks, so will I be doing my analysis and handicapping of the Derby field.

If you have not yet signed up for our Derby Day race selections - We will be making the KY Derby selections available for purchase on Thursday before race day, for a price of only $30.00 as well as Full Card race selections on Derby Day for just $40.00.

Special Kentucky Derby & Triple Crown Pricing!

Go to our Web site for **Special Pricing** on the **Triple Crown races at** AndHereTheyCome.com

I hope you find our system of handicapping the Kentucky Derby helpful and profitable.

See you in the Winner's Circle!!

Wagering Strategy | Table of Contents

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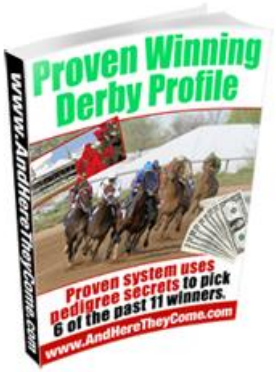

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