



# ARLINGTON MILLION BETTING GUIDE



# **CONTENTS**

- 3 How to Read a Past Performance
- 4 Arlington Stakes Guide
- 5 Expert Picks
- 6 Historical Overview
- 7 Arlington Park at a Glance
- 8 Arlington Million Tipsheet
- 9 Million Memories



# HOW TO READ A PAST PERFORMANCE

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The Brisnet.com Ultimate PPs are the most detailed past performance product on the market and include speed ratings, pace figures, exclusive Prime Power and Class ratings, detailed jockey and trainer statistics, and pedigree information. Start using Ultimate PPs and discover why Brisnet.com is the handicapper's edge.

12 Cathryn Sophia (E/P 5) 9  (B) Own: Cash Is King Llc Green, Multi-colored Crown, Green Shamrocks On White CASTELLAND JAVIER (0 0-0-0 0%)	B. f. 3 FTMSEP 201. Sire: Street Boss (S Dam: Sheave (Mines Brdr: Robert T Manf Trnr: Servis John C	Street Cry (IRE)) \$12,500 eshaft) fuso (MD)	147.1 (1st) Life: 5 4-0-1 \$385,520102 Fst (1 2016 3 2-0-1 \$295,520 99 Off (1 CD 0 0-0-0 \$0 0 Trf (1 A)	09) 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0 08) 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0
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★ Finished 3rd in last race ★ Best Dirt Speed is fastest among today's st ★ Hot Jockey in last 7 days (13 4-5-1)	tarters 20	• Failed as favorit	e in last race ● Poor 'Graded Stakes' trainer record: 7% win:	s 28 sts
27Feb16GP <sup>5</sup> 1m ft :24 :47 1:114 1:363 117 ©DvonaDa 30Jan16GP <sup>3</sup> 7f ft :223 :4521:094 1:22 116 ©FrwrdGa	PE (BCR E1 E2/ LP -G1 118 92 106/ 80 al-G2122 83 88/ 103 al-G2121 84 91/ 104 8 100k121 97 101/ 98	1c 2c SPD PP ST 1C 2C STF +7 +13 94 3 31½ 32½ 31 1hd -4 -7 96 4 3½ 41¼ 3½ 12½ -5 -11 99 1 6 44 31½ 1½ -1 -6 102 5 1 11½ 12½ 18	R FIN	Pressed3w;bid1/4;handy 6 Pressed3w;bid1/4;hand
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- BRIS Pace and Speed Pars
- 2 Jockey Stats
- Trainer Stats
- 4 Dam Stats
- 5 Sire Stats
- Sales Stats
- 7 Horse's Pedigree, Sales & Breeding Information
- BRIS Prime Power Rating
- 9 Run Style Stats
- 10 BRIS Pedigree Rating
- 11 Medication, Equipment, and Weight the Horse Will Carry
- 12 Horse's Lifetime Start Information
- 13 Owner & Jockey Silks

- Positive and Negative Comments
- Date of Race, Track, and Race Number
- Surface, Distance, and Track Conditions
- Fractional Times of Leader, Final Time, and Age Designation
- BRIS Race Rating and Class Rating
- 19 Race Type
- 20 BRIS Pace and Speed Ratings
- 21 Post Position, Placement Throughout Race, and Finish
- 22 Jockey and Weight
- 23 Medication, Equipment, and Odds
- Top Finishers, Comment, and Number of Starters
- 25 Workouts
- **26** BRIS Race Shapes











# **ARLINGTON STAKES GUIDE**

# by Alastair Bull

#### **RACE 7 - SECRETARIAT STAKES**

# G1, 3yos, 1 1/4 miles, Turf

Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf winner Oscar Performance confirmed he was back to his best in the Belmont Derby, beating foreign opposition and Good Samaritan, who then toppled Always Dreaming and Cloud Computing in the Jim Dandy Stakes. He's the 8-5 morning-line favorite in a small but select six-horse field that includes Sonic Boom and Gorgeous Kitten, who finished 1-2 in the American Derby, and three good Europeans: King Edward VII Stakes winner Permian (9-5 morning line), French 3-year-old Afandem, and Taj Mahal, who seeks to give Aidan O'Brien his fifth Secretariat Stakes.

#### **RACE 8 - BRUCE D. MEMORIAL STAKES**

# 3yos, 1 mile, Polytrack

Smarty Jones Stakes winner and one-time Kentucky Derby contender Uncontested races for the first time since finishing third in the Pat Day Mile May 6. His foes include Society Beau, third to McCraken in the Matt Winn Stakes, dual Canadian stakes winner Yorkton, multiple graded stakes-placed Kitten's Cat, and a number of horses untested in stakes company.

# **RACE 9 - AMERICAN ST LEGER**

# G3, 3yos & up, 1 11/16 miles, Turf

Michael Maker has a solid hand in this race with Taghleeb, recently second in the Man o' War Stakes, and Keystoneforvictory, conqueror of The Pizza Man in the Stars and Stripes Stakes. Their toughest opponents look to be Stars and Stripes third-place finisher Applicator and multiple graded stakes-placed Bullards Alley.

#### **RACE 10 - BEVERLY D. STAKES**

# G1, F&M 3yo & up, 1 3/16 miles, Turf

Argentinian G1 winner Dona Bruja is the 7-2 morning line favorite after winning both her U.S. starts this year. She faces a tough potential rival in Irish 3-year-old filly Rain Goddess, second in both the Pretty Polly Stakes (beating subsequent Man o' War Stakes winner Zhukova) and the Irish Oaks (behind the outstanding Enable). Other leading chances include Hawksmoor, winner of two graded stakes at Belmont this year, and the Chad Brown trio of Dacita, Grand Jete, and Rainha Da Bateria.

#### **RACE 11 – ARLINGTON MILLION**

#### G1, 3yo & up, 1 1/4 miles, Turf

Irish colt Deauville, third in this race last year, is rated the 7-2 favorite. His efforts this season include victory in the Huxley Stakes (G3) and a third-place finish to Ribchester in the Queen Anne Stakes (G1) at Royal Ascot. The European contingent also includes French group 1 winner Mekhtaal and Godolphin's Scottish, fifth to Highland Reel in the Prince of Wales's Stakes. Woodford Reserve Turf Classic winner Divisidero heads the home team, which includes 2016 Arlington Million runner-up Kasaqui, popular 2015 winner The Pizza Man, and Manhattan Stakes winner Ascend.

# **RACE 12 - PUCKER UP STAKES**

#### G3, 3yo F, 1 1/8 miles, Turf

Happy Mesa is a multiple stakes winner, but she was a very disappointing last in the Ta Wee Stakes at Indiana Grand behind several of her opponents here, including Fault, Lovely Bernadette, and Dontmesswithjoanne, who finished second, third, and fifth respectively. Lipstick City was a last-start stakes winner at Monmouth Park and deserves respect, as does Delaware Park stakes winner Journey Home.







# EXPERT PICKS FOR ARLINGTON MILLION DAY

We've assembled an expert team of handicappers to give their top picks for the stakes on Arlington Million Day.

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 Arlington Park











Oscar Performance

Permian Tai Mahal

Gain Ground

Smoke 'n' Gloat

Memory Bank

**Bullards Alley** 

**SECRETARIAT STAKES (G1)** 

**BRUCE D. MEMORIAL STAKES** 

**AMERICAN ST. LEGER (G3)** 

**BEVERLY D. (G1)** 

- 3 Permian Taj Mahal
- 1 Afandem

10 Society Beau

Yorkton

6 Applicator

10 Rain Goddess

Hawksmoor

5 Grand Jete

13 Mekhtaal

5 Deauville

Kasaqui

4 Smoke 'n' Gloat

**Bullards Alley** 

Keystoneforvictory

4 Oscar Performance

3 Harmac

3 Permian

8 Uncontested

5 Kitten's Cat

6 Applicator

2 Taghleeb

5 Grand Jete

4 Dona Bruja

5 Deauville

8 Kasaqui

10 Beach Patrol

10 Rain Goddess

1 Keystoneforvictory

- Taj Mahal
- 5 Gorgeous Kitten
- Permian

- Taj Mahal
- Gain Ground 6
- Uncontested
- Memory Bank
- 2 Taghleeb
- 7 Postulation
- Keystoneforvictory Taghleeb
  - Keystoneforvictory
- Dona Bruja

10 Rain Goddess

Kitten's Roar

- 10 Rain Goddess
- 4 Dona Bruja
  - Rainha Da Bateria
- Kasaqui
- 5 Deauville
- Oscar Nominated
- 12 Ascend
- 13 Mekhtaal
- 5 Deauville

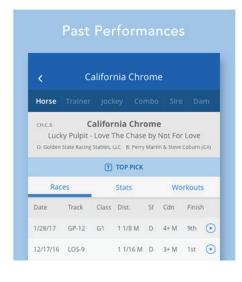
**PUCKER UP STAKES (G3)** 

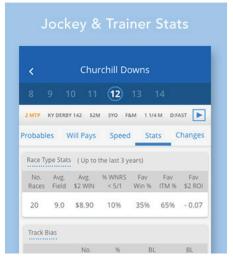
**ARLINGTON MILLION XXXV (G1)** 

- 4 Journey Home
- Fault
- 10 Happy Mesa
- 5 Dontmesswithjoanne
- Lovely Bernadette
- 6 Sensitive
- 4 Journey Home
- 3 Lipstick City
- 12 Mo's M V P
- 5 Dontmesswithjoanne
- Journey Home
- 8 Princess La Quinta

# twinspires FEATURES FOR HANDICAPPING









# **ARLINGTON MILLION HISTORY**

# by Alastair Bull

First run in 1981 as the first million-dollar race in Thoroughbred racing, the Arlington Million has a distinguished history. It attracts horses from around the world to Chicago, and remains one of the most prized turf events in the United States.

The classy and incredibly hardy John Henry helped establish the race, winning in 1981 and 1984 on the way to Horse of the Year titles both occasions. Since then, it's been a regular summer target for turf horses in North America and Europe.

One of the best handicapping puzzles on Arlington Million day is trying to establish how the European horses will go. To date, European horses have won 11 of the 34 runnings. In terms of class, Europeans, whose first surface is turf, will frequently have an advantage over locals, for whom the turf wasn't always the first choice.

There often aren't as many of the big-name European horses at Arlington Park as there are for the Breeders' Cup. In addition, those that do come have spent most of their careers racing on roomy tracks with a very long stretch, and thus are not as familiar with tighter U.S. turf courses. Tracks in Europe can also be wetter than they are in North America.

So, when handicapping the race, look at whether the Europeans have form in North America, or form on firm tracks. If there's evidence they can make up ground when rounding a turn,

that's also helpful; if you get a chance, maybe look at the horse physically and assess its athleticism to guess how it might handle turns.

Tight turf tracks can favor horses on or near the lead, but Arlington Park's turf course usually gives horses a chance wherever they settle in the running, unless the early pace is unusually slow. Horses that settle off the pace need to be put into the race rounding the final turn, but they often prove more than capable of pressing on.

Mondialiste, winner of the 2016 Arlington Million, was an example, settling fifth on the outside before beginning his challenge near the top of the stretch and outfinishing Kasaqui, who had been sixth before finding an inside run.

He wasn't the only one to win in this fashion last year. Sea Calisi was in the rear third of the field rounding the turn in the Beverly D but still won easily, while Noble Beauty was just as far back before winning the Pucker Up. Beach Patrol took out the Secretariat Stakes after settling third in the running on the outside, while Da Big Hoss was midfield in the American St Leger before making ground with three furlongs to run.

Generally then, it's best to analyze form using all the normal tools. Usually, class wins out.





# AT A GLANCE

A look at the current Arlington meet: May 5, 2017 through August 6, 2017

# **AVG. WINNING ODDS:** 4.78 – 1

#### **FAVORITE WIN%: 37% FAVORITE ITM%: 76%**

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	63.12
Daily Double	76.25
Trifecta	378.32
Pick 3	519.16
Superfecta	2,183.20
Pick 4	4,312.27
Pick 5	16,291.83
Pick 6 Jackpot	18,835.71
Super High Five Jackpot	31,952.63



# **TRACK BIAS MEET (05/05 - 08/06)**

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	84	50%	Е	Inside
6.5fDirt	23	35%	E	Inside
1 MileDirt	15	13%	E/P	Mid/Out
1 1/16mDirt	66	42%	Е	Rail/Ins
Turf Sprint	39	26%	Р	Rail
Turf Routes	89	26%	Р	Rail/In

# **TRACK BIAS WEEK (07/31 - 08/06)**

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	4	50%	E	Middle
6.5fDirt	4	25%	S	Outside
1 MileDirt	1	0%	Р	Middle
1 1/16mDirt	3	0%	E/P	Rail/Ins
Turf Sprint	3	33%	E/P	Rail
Turf Routes	11	27%	Р	Inside

# WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'16-' 17 Win %
Rivelli Larry	24	8	3	5	1.83	5	27%
Manley Steve	18	6	1	1	8.18	1	18%
Boyce Michele	10	4	4	1	2.91	1	16%
Becker Scott	11	4	3	0	4.14	2	27%
Cristel Mark J.	8	3	1	1	10.38	0	13%
Aguirre Rey	3	2	0	1	14.83	1	12%
Becker Judd	4	2	0	1	13.93	0	10%
Ganbat Enebish	4	2	0	2	3.73	0	14%

HOT JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'16-' 17 Win %
Valdivia, Jr. Jose	26	10	4	4	2.18	8	22%

COLD JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'16-' 17 Win %
Felix Julio E.	20	0	2	4	11.12	1	13%
Cotto, Jr. Pedro L.	11	0	1	0	13.91	0	11%



# TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



# 35TH RUNNING OF THE ARLINGTON MILLION

The Arlington Million (Gr 1) 1 1/4-Miles PURSE \$1,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Oak Brook	30-1
2	Oscar Nominated	15-1
3	Enterprising	30-1
4	Ghost Hunter	30-1
5	Deauville (IRE)	7-2
6	Fanciful Angel (IRE)	30-1
7	The Pizza Man	12-1
8	Kasaqui (ARG)	10-1
9	Scottish (IRE)	SCR
10	Beach Patrol	5-1
11	Divisidero	5-1
12	Ascend	10-1
13	Mekhtaal (GB)	9-2

TOP F	PICKS				
5	Deauville				
8	Kasaqui				
10	Beach Patrol				
\$20 W	/in				
5 (\$2	20)				
\$5 EXACTAS					
5 over 5,8,10,12,13 (\$20)					
\$.50 TRIFECTA PART-WHEEL					
5 over 5,8,10,12,13 over					
4,5,8	3,10,11,12,13 (\$10)				

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The Arlington Million appears a terrific betting race on paper, at least with respect to vertical exotics. On the win end, however, morning line favorite Deauville might just be a cut above these with the world's best rider, Ryan Moore, in the saddle.

Deauville lost the Million by a neck last year, and though he finished behind returning rival Kasaqui, keep in mind he was a mere three-year-old last season. The only sophomore ever to win this race was Tolomeo in 1983. Winner of the Huxley at Chester and having placed behind the top class Ribchester and Ulysses this term, Deauville should find this a welcome drop in class.

Fellow European Mekhtaal merits a look. Mekhtaal finished sixth in the talent laden Prince of Wales's at Royal Ascot and maintains positive French form. Finishing in front of Mekhtaal in the Prince of Wales's was fifth place runner Scottish. Scottish is a Caulfield Cup runner-up poised to move forward, but was injured Aug. 10 and scratched from the Million.

Among the domestic contenders, Kasaqui is better than what he showed in the Arlington Handicap. Ascend should appreciate the cut back to 1 1/4 miles, while Beach Patrol would seem more reliable than Divisidero over this course and distance.



# ARLINGTON MILLION MEMORIES: MANILA STILL THE BEST 30 YEARS ON

by Vance Hanson

"If I had a European runner and took a look at this field, I wouldn't come over, either."

So said Hall of Fame trainer Charlie Whittingham to the Chicago Tribune on the eve of the 1987 Arlington Million. Inaugurated in 1981 as the first seven-figure Thoroughbred race in history, the Million was, unsurprisingly, an immediate hit with horsemen on both sides of the Atlantic. And after six Millions the score was tied at 2 between John Henry [1981 and 1984], Charlie Whittingham (Perrault [1982] and Estrapade [1986]), and Europe (Tolomeo [1983] and Teleprompter [1985]).

The retired John Henry could score no more, so it was left to either Whittingham or Europe to potentially break the tie in 1987. However, as Whittingham noted, European-based horses were conspicuously absent from that year's Million, for several very good reasons.

The biggest of all was Manila. The 1986 U.S. grass champion had not only beaten European superstar Dancing Brave and Estrapade in the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) at Santa Anita the previous fall, but had continued his amazing grass form well into his four-year-old season. The son of Lyphard brought a 13-10-3-0 mark on turf into the Million, though with a proverbial chip on his shoulder following an upset loss to Talakeno in the Bernard Baruch H. (G2), a loss trainer LeRoy Jolley blamed on the sweltering Saratoga heat. Manila had also conceded 12 pounds to the winner in the half-length defeat.

Reasons two and three were actually former European mainstays Theatrical and Sharrood, both of whom saw their careers take off in America. Tenth in the 1986 Million in just his second U.S. appearance, Theatrical next placed three times in Grade 1 company under the care of trainer Bobby Frankel, including a neck loss to Manila in the Breeders' Cup.

Placed with Bill Mott at the beginning of the season, Theatrical entered the Million off four straight wins in the Hialeah Turf Cup (G1), Red Smith H. (G2), Bowling Green H. (G1) and Sword Dancer H (G1), the latter via the disqualification of the Paul Mellon-owned Dance of Life. Sharrood, meanwhile, had won three of his four starts for the then California-based John Gosden, including back-to-back wins in the Stars and Stripes (G3) at Arlington and Eddie Read (G1) at Del Mar.

Dance of Life himself was also in the Million picture at entry time. Possessing a grass record of 14-6-6-1, the Mack Miller

trainee had a 5 1/2-length win in the Sword Dancer negated after interfering with Theatrical in upper stretch, and had also been taken down in a Grade 3 event at the Meadowlands the previous fall. The son of Nijinsky II was clearly a horse on the rise, though, with wins in the 1986 Man o' War (G1) and 1987 Tidal H. (G2) and Fort Marcy H. (G3) to his credit.

The Fab Four became three on Million morning when Dance of Life was scratched due to a swollen ankle. Five others made up the Million field: the Whittingham-trained Rivlia and Forlitano; Explosive Darling, owned by Arlington chairman Dick Duchossois; and the outsiders Glaros and Spellbound.

This video [https://youtu.be/alpudBvAN4g] can better tell the story of the 1987 Million than mere words, but suffice it to say Manila proved most dominating as the even-money choice under Angel Cordero Jr., who had inherited the mount after a dispute between Jolley and jockey Jacinto Vasquez. Sharrood, the 7-2 third choice, finished 3 1/4 lengths ahead of 2-1 second favorite Theatrical.

"Manila sprinted the last quarter of a mile faster than any horse I've ever ridden, running that long a race," said Cordero, who obviously could tell the champion got the final split in 22 and change. "If my life depended on two horses, I would pick him and Seattle Slew to ride."

I once described the 1987 Million as my favorite of all the ones I've watched, but it's also a terribly bittersweet one. Manila fractured a cannon bone less than two weeks after winning the Million and was retired. Not

only was the Million his last race, but the immensely talented Sharrood and Dance of Life also never ran again.

In Manila's absence, Theatrical finished off his campaign with consecutive Grade 1 wins in the Turf Classic, Man o' War, and Breeders' Cup Turf. His longevity and Grade 1 accomplishments swayed more Eclipse Award voters in his direction as he won the turf male championship and nearly won Horse of the Year over Ferdinand. However, as I wrote two years ago:

"I fervently believe Manila was the best horse to set foot on a racetrack in the U.S., and possibly the world, in 1987. That he lost both awards, and had to wait 21 years for induction into the Hall of Fame, was most lamentable."

Thirty years on from his Arlington Million, Manila to me is still the all-time American king of the turf.

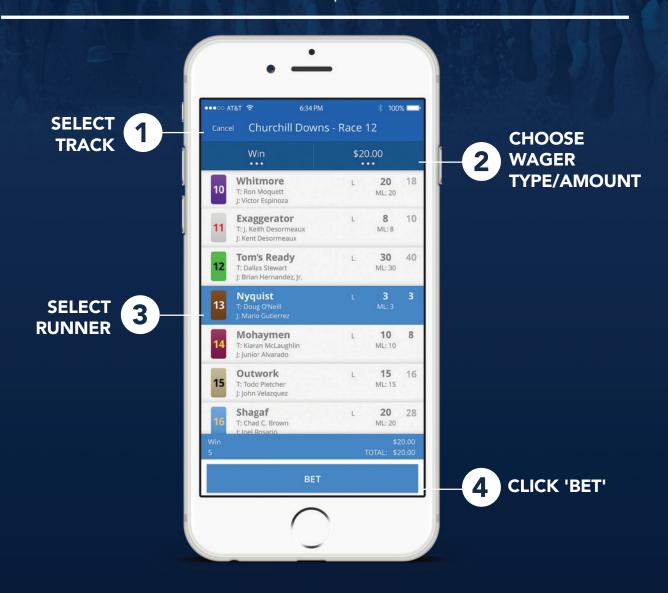


Trainer Leroy Jolley and owner of Manila with Hall of Fame trophy at Hall of Fame ceremonies - August 4, 2008



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