



# BELMONT STAKES BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires™**



# twinspires™

# BELMONT STAKES

# BETTING

# GUIDE



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# BELMONT STAKES BETTING GUIDE OVERVIEW

by Alastair Bull

There may be no Triple Crown on the line – indeed, there are no Triple Crown race winners running at all. But the Belmont Stakes always offers great interest, and great betting opportunities.

Long-odds victories have become almost commonplace in the Belmont. The last 18 renewals have featured 11 winners at double-figure odds, including included winners at 70-1 (Sarava, 2002), 38-1 (Da'Tara, 2008), 36-1 (Birdstone, 2004), 30-1 (Lemon Drop Kid, 1999), and 24-1 (Ruler on Ice, 2011).

This may or may not be related to the fact that few American horses in modern times are bred to run the Belmont Stakes trip of 1-1/2 miles. But whatever the reason, chances are you'll get a decent return if you successfully predict what happens.

Adding to the puzzle this year is the late withdrawal of the likely favorite, Classic Empire. His connections were hoping for a classic success after his unlucky Kentucky Derby fourth-place finish and his runner-up effort in the Preakness Stakes, when he was arguably left in front too early. But a hoof abscess, the same problem which bedeviled him in the Holy Bull Stakes in February, means Classic Empire joins Derby winner Always Dreaming and Preakness victor Cloud Computing on the sidelines.

This means Lookin At Lee, the Derby runner-up and Preakness fourth-place finisher, will, barring misfortune, be the only horse that will run in all three Triple Crown races. Like all horses that attempt all three races, there will be questions asked about whether he has enough energy to produce his best over 1-1/2 miles after grueling races at Churchill Downs and Pimlico.

However, in all his races he is doing his best work at the finish, which suggests that he should enjoy the 1-1/2 miles more than most.

Also backing up from the Preakness are two horses that didn't contest the Derby: third-place finisher Senior Investment, and sixth-place finisher Multiplier.

Derby starters who bypassed the Preakness have a good record in the Belmont. The best of them could be Tapwrit, who didn't get much luck in the Derby after being bumped at the start, and Irish War Cry, the cause of much of the Derby bumping, who may have been disadvantaged by a track bias against horses running wide. The latter was the morning line favorite after the post position draw.

New Triple Crown shooters also have a good record in the Belmont. One to watch may be Twisted Tom, who continues to improve as a 3-year-old. It was his trainer Chad Brown who produced the new shooter Cloud Computing to upset Classic Empire in the Preakness, and you wouldn't put it past him to do it again.

But the most interesting new shooter is undoubtedly the Japanese horse Epicharis. Unbeaten at home, he was just touched off in the UAE Derby March 25. His pedigree is full of stamina, and the effort of Lani to finish third last year shows Japanese form for the race shouldn't be underestimated.

It all adds up to a race full of possibilities. Get it right and you'll probably be very happy.



# HOW TO READ A PAST PERFORMANCE

## TWINSPIRES CUSTOMERS GET FREE BRISNET PPs FOR TRACKS THEY WAGER ON

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)

Own: Cash Is King Llc

Green, Multi-colored Crown, Green Shamrocks On White

CASTELLANO JAVIER (0 0-0-0 0%)

2

+2016

JKYw/EP types

591

22%

54%

-0.54

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+JKYw/ Trn L60

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50%

100%

+10.60

4

+JKYw/ Routes

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22%

54%

-0.28

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B. f. 3 FTMSEP 2014 \$30k

Sire: Street Boss (Street Cry (IRE)) \$12,500

Dam: Sheave (Mineshaft)

Brdr: Robert T Manfuso (MD)

Trnr: Servis John C (0 0-0-0 0%)

8

Prime Power: 147.1 (1st)

11

L 121

12

Life: 5 4- 0- 1

2016 3 2- 0- 1

2015 2 2- 0- 0

CD 0 0- 0- 0

Sire Stats: AWD 6.7

Dam'sSire: AWD 7.3

Dam'sStats: Unraced

SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014

15%Mud

15%Mud

100%2yo

\$30.0k (27/47)

SireAvg: \$53.3k

241MudSts

820MudSts

1str

1w

1sw

1.57spi

2.23spi

18.02dpi

\$385,520 102

\$295,520 99

\$90,000 102

\$0 0

Fst (109)

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Land Over Sea (S 1)

Own: Reddam Racing Llc

White, Purple Belt, White Band On Purple Sleeves, Purple

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# EXPERT PICKS FOR BELMONT STAKES DAY

We've assembled an expert team of handicappers to give their top picks for the Pick 6 on Belmont Stakes Day.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10** Belmont Park



## JAIPUR INVITATIONAL STAKES (G3)

5 Holding Gold	3 Pure Sensation	2 Disco Partner	1 Loose On the Town
8 Canadian Flyer	7 Hogy	3 Pure Sensation	4 Green Mask
9 Conquest Enforcer	4 Green Mask	9 Conquest Enforcer	3 Pure Sensation

## WOODY STEPHENS STAKES (G2)

3 Recruiting Ready	7 Wild Shot	10 Long Haul Bay	3 Recruiting Ready
9 The Money Monster	3 Recruiting Ready	8 American Anthem	7 Wild Shot
11 Petrov	11 Petrov	2 Classic Rock	11 Petrov

## JUST A GAME (G1)

2 Roca Rojo	7 Antonoe	1 Dickinson	5 Celestine
7 Antonoe	1 Dickinson	5 Celestine	7 Antonoe
1 Dickinson	2 Roca Rojo	2 Roca Rojo	2 Roca Rojo

## METROPOLITAN HANDICAP (G1)

8 Tom's Ready	12 Awesome Slew	12 Awesome Slew	8 Tom's Ready
9 Mor Spirit	5 Sharp Azteca	2 Rally Cry	5 Sharp Azteca
6 Mohaymen	8 Tom's Ready	7 Economic Model	12 Awesome Slew

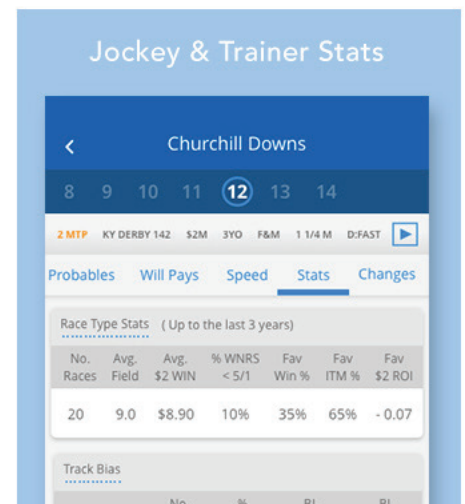
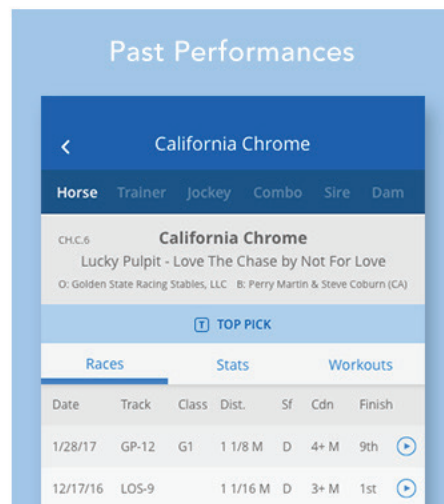
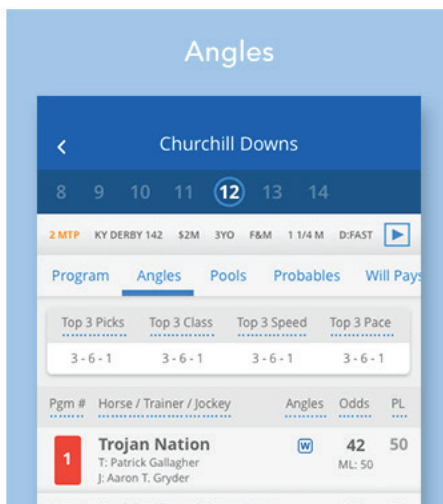
## MANHATTAN (G1)

3 World Approval	6 Potemkin	4 Time Test	1 Beach Patrol
4 Time Test	4 Time Test	9 Sadler's Joy	5 Ascend
7 Divisidero	9 Sadler's Joy	1 Beach Patrol	2 Wake Forest

## BELMONT STAKES (G1)

5 Irish War Cry	4 J Boys Echo	7 Irish War Cry	8 Senior Investment
2 Tapwrit	2 Tapwrit	11 Epicharis	7 Irish War Cry
11 Epicharis	12 Patch	12 Patch	2 Tapwrit

## twinspires™ FEATURES FOR HANDICAPPING



# BELMONT STAKES TOP HORSES



## LOOKIN AT LEE

Owner: L and N Racing, LLC Trainer: Steve M. Asmussen Jockey: Corey J. Lanerie

At every stage, the late-charging Lookin At Lee has seemed like a horse who would relish 1-1/2 miles at Belmont Park. He put in a very good effort to charge home from well back to finish second in the Derby, though he probably benefitted from better going on the rail. He didn't get the saloon passage in the Preakness but still rallied well for a fourth-place finish. If he can get close enough in the running, Belmont's wide spaces and his likely enjoyment of the staying contest should give him a great chance.



## EPICHARIS

Owner: U. Carrot Farm Racing Syndicate Trainer: K. Hagiwara Jockey: C. Lemaire

Japan's challenger comes into the race fresh after his second-place finish in the UAE Derby to Thunder Snow, who followed his Kentucky Derby bad behavior with a second-place finish to the highly-regarded Churchill in the Irish 2,000 Guineas. Epicharis' pedigree is also full of stamina influences, so 1-1/2 miles should not be an issue. Epicharis' Japanese dirt form is superior to that of Lani, who finished third in the Belmont last year.



## IRISH WAR CRY

Owner: Isabelle de Tomaso Trainer: H. Graham Motion Jockey: Rajiv Maragh

One of the most exciting 3-year-olds in the land, if a little inconsistent. He won the Holy Bull Stakes very well, and beat subsequent Preakness Stakes winner Cloud Computing comfortably in the Wood Memorial. His Fountain of Youth Stakes failure remains a mystery, while his Kentucky Derby 10th-place finish may have been influenced by a track bias against horses running well off the rail. Has stamina influences in his pedigree and a serious chance if he starts.



## TWISTED TOM

Owner: Cobra Farm, Inc. Trainer: Chad C. Brown Jockey: Feargal Lynch

After Cloud Computing's Preakness victory, it pays not to ignore Chad Brown-trained new shooters to the Triple Crown, and Twisted Tom is clearly a horse on the improve. The New York-bred has won all three of his 3-year-old starts, scoring a comfortable victory in the 1-1/8 mile Federico Tesio Stakes May 22. Brown is confident the Creative Cause colt will enjoy 1-1/2 miles at Belmont Park.



## TAPWRIT

Owner: Bridlewood Farm, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and LaPenta, Robert V. Trainer: Todd Pletcher Jockey: Jose L. Ortiz

Another horse that suffered from bumping in the early stages of the Kentucky Derby, Tapwrit did well to rally for sixth. He'd earlier looked very good when winning the Tampa Bay Derby, though like many horses he ran below his best in the Blue Grass Stakes. He is reportedly training well and gives Todd Pletcher a chance of winning Triple Crown races with two different horses. Looks to have reasonable prospects of staying 1-1/2 miles.

# TRIPLE CROWN EXPERIENCE BECOMING LESS IMPORTANT BUT STILL RELEVANT TO BELMONT STAKES

by James Scully

Belmont Stakes history contains horses of note who missed the Kentucky Derby and Preakness due to various reasons. Conquistador Cielo quickly comes to mind, capturing the 1982 Belmont Stakes by a dazzling 14-length margin six days after crushing older horses in the Met Mile, and the front-running dynamo was one of three “new shooters” (along with Crème Fraiche and Danzig Connection) during Woody Stevens’ remarkable five-year run of Belmont Stakes winners from 1982-86.

But the late Hall of Famer Stevens was the exception to the rule as horses with Triple Crown experience used to dominate the Belmont Stakes. In the 13-year period from 1994-2006, every winner except Sarava (2002) competed in either the Kentucky Derby or Preakness.

Times have changed, with five of the last 10 winners bypassing the first two legs of the Triple Crown. This year’s 149th running of the \$1.5 million Belmont Stakes on June 10 won’t have Always Dreaming and Cloud Computing, the fifth time in 17 years the winners of the Kentucky Derby and Preakness won’t be in the starting gate.

That never used to never happen. With the exception of 1970, every Belmont Stakes from 1955-1999 featured the winner of either the Kentucky Derby or Preakness.

But don’t be fooled into thinking it’s a level playing field. Horses with Triple Crown experience still have an advantage, making up more than half the field and most of the top betting choices every year. Most of the winning new shooters this century were longshots like Creator (16-1), Ruler on Ice (24-1), Drosselmeyer (13-1), Da’ Tara (38-1) and Sarava (70-1).

Since A.P. Indy, who was the morning line favorite for the 1992 Kentucky Derby before being withdrawn the day before due to a minor injury, Rags to Riches (2007) is the only new shooter to win the Belmont Stakes at less than 9-1 odds.

Up to 16 horses can run in the Belmont Stakes and 11 of the possible 2017 starters have competed in either the Kentucky Derby or Preakness. It will be no surprise to see a horse with Triple Crown experience prevail for the third straight year.

## LAST 25 BELMONT STAKES WINNERS:

HORSE	TRIPLE CROWN EXPERIENCE	LAST RACE RESULT
Creator	Ky Derby	13th Ky Derby
American Pharoah	Ky Derby/Preakness	1st Preakness
Tonalist	New Shooter	1st Peter Pan
Palace Malice	Ky Derby	12th Ky Derby
Union Rags	Ky Derby	7th Ky Derby
Ruler On Ice	New Shooter	2nd Federico Tesio
Drosselmeyer	New Shooter	2nd Dwyer
Summer Bird	Ky Derby	6th Ky Derby
Da’ Tara	New Shooter	2nd Barbaro
Rags to Riches	New Shooter	1st Ky Oaks
Jazil	Ky Derby	4th Ky Derby
Afleet Alex	Ky Derby/Preakness	1st Preakness
Birdstone	Ky Derby	8th Ky Derby
Empire Maker	Ky Derby	2nd Ky Derby
Sarava	New Shooter	1st Sir Barton
Point Given	Ky Derby/Preakness	1st Preakness
Commendable	Ky Derby	17th Ky Derby
Lemon Drop Kid	Ky Derby	3rd Peter Pan
Victory Gallop	Ky Derby/Preakness	2nd Preakness
Touch Gold	Preakness	4th Preakness
Editor’s Note	Ky Derby/Preakness	3rd Preakness
Thunder Gulch	Ky Derby/Preakness	3rd Preakness
Tabasco Cat	Ky Derby/Preakness	1st Preakness
Colonial Affair	New Shooter	2nd Peter Pan
A.P. Indy	New Shooter	1st Peter Pan





# HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

by Glenn Atkinson

Since 2000, 65% of Belmont Stakes winners have had a previous race over the main track, out of a group that makes up only one third of total starters. All but one of these winners ran first or second in their previous Belmont race(s). Additionally, 52% of all superfecta placements came from these horses. Meantime is the only qualifier this year.

Around forty per cent of Belmont Stakes winners since 2000 did not run in either the Kentucky Derby or the Preakness. The two horses that upset at the longest odds in recent history, Sarava and Da' Tara were newcomers to the Triple Crown that raced on or close to the lead, a style shared by Meantime. Having big money rider Mike Smith on board and a trainer with impressive win and ROI percentages in graded stakes adds to his chances.

Of the winners that did not have a race over the track several had a timed workout at Belmont prior to the race. There have only been two winners since 2000 that had neither a race over the track or a timed workout, one of which was American Pharoah. This Belmont familiar group lands 75% of superfecta placings from a pool of runners half of that figure.

In years when neither the Kentucky Derby or Preakness Stakes winners are present favorites have poor historical results. After the defection of Classic Empire, Irish War Cry is likely to inherit that role. Horses that finished far up the track in the Kentucky Derby seldom hit the board in the Belmont Stakes and most

of the exceptions like Stay Thirsty and Palace Malice had prior race experience at Belmont. Irish War Cry has had neither a race nor a timed workout at Belmont.

Runners who finished fifth through ninth in the Kentucky Derby since 2000 have made an impact in this race. Out of thirty of these more than half finished in the Belmont superfecta, including four winners. This year's representatives of this category are Tapwrit and Gormley.

What about third place Preakness horse Senior Investment and troubled trip Multiplier? Horses joining the Triple Crown in the Preakness do not have a good record in the Belmont. Of the nine that hit the board in the Preakness only two place horses managed to run third in the Belmont. Of the fifteen total from this category none of the others filled out any part of the Belmont superfecta.

My ticket will start with Tapwrit who comes out of the sweet spot second flight Kentucky Derby finishers and is trained by Belmont savvy Pletcher. New York based Twisted Tom is an improving Chad Brown trainee ridden by Castellano (sound familiar?). I have to add Meantime to possibly get an easy lead and have an impact. Of the horses without Belmont experience, Gormley appears most viable.



Tapwrit working at Churchill Downs.



# TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



## 149TH RUNNING OF THE BELMONT STAKES

The Belmont Stakes (Gr 1)

1 1/2-Miles

PURSE \$1,500,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Twisted Tom	20-1
2	Tapwrit	6-1
3	Gormley	8-1
4	J Boys Echo	15-1
5	Hollywood Handsome	30-1
6	Looking at Lee	5-1
7	Irish War Cry	7-2
8	Senior Investment	12-1
9	Meantime	15-1
10	Multiplier	15-1
11	Epicharis	4-1
12	Patch	12-1

TOP PICKS	
8	Senior Investment
7	Irish War Cry
2	Tapwrit
\$5 EXACTAS	
7,8 over 1,2,12 (\$30)	
\$15 EXACTA BOX	
7-8 (\$30)	
\$1 TRIFECTA PART-WHEEL	
7,8 over 2,7,8 over All (\$40)	
\$.10 SUPERFECTA PART-WHEEL	
7,8 over 1,2,7,8,12 over 1,2,7,8,12 over 1,2,4,7,8,11,12 (\$9.60)	

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The Belmont Stakes became wide open when 2-year-old champ Classic Empire was removed from consideration due to a foot abscess. The final jewel in the Triple Crown was already missing star power due to the absence of Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming and Preakness victor Cloud Computing, but it remains an enticing betting proposition with a contentious field of 12 entered.

Oddsbroker Eric Donovan settled upon Irish War Cry as the 7-2 morning line favorite in the 149th running of the "Test of the Champion." The Wood Memorial winner has been keen to race on the front end in previous starts and with a couple of speedy types drawn to his outside in Meantime and Epicharis, Irish War Cry must find a way to work out a suitable trip during the early stages.

The pace won't be hot but should be solid for a 1 1/2-mile race. And Senior Investment will be looking to step forward with his first major victory. A winner in 4-of-5 starts entering the Preakness, the chestnut offered a belated but eye-catching turn of foot to get up for third at Pimlico. He needs to launch his move a little sooner on Saturday and trainer Kenny McPeck knows how to get a horse ready for the Belmont, sending out Sarava to a 70-1 upset in 2002. Senior Investment is eligible to keep improving with a career-best performance.

We'll give a slight edge to Senior Investment from off the pace at an expected price but will save with Irish War Cry, who remains the horse to beat from a talent perspective. Third choice Tapwrit merits respect for two-time Belmont winner Todd Pletcher following a rough trip in the Kentucky Derby and we'll use him underneath in the exotics along with stablemate Patch and Twisted Tom from the Chad Brown stable.

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