

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



CHURCHILL
DOWNS

THE LUKAS STAKES

The Lukas Stakes (Gr 3)

1 1/8-Mile

PURSE \$300,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Hawaakom	12-1
2	Blueridge Traveler	12-1
3	Big Dollar Bill	15-1
4	Quip	5-2
5	Sir Anthony	15-1
6	Tenfold	6-1
7	Pioneer Spirit	5-1
8	Kukulkan	6-1
9	Silver Dust	6-1
10	Mocito Rojo	5-1

TOP PICKS	
7	Pioneer Spirit
4	Quip
10	Mocito Rojo
3	Big Dollar Bill
\$40 WIN	
7	
\$40 EXACTA KEY BOX	
7 with 3, 4, 10	

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The \$300,000 Lukas Classic Stakes (G3) will be run at Churchill Downs Saturday night. For three-year-olds and upward, it will be run at 1 1/8 miles with a long run to the clubhouse turn so post position will not be that critical.

#1 HAWAAKOM is a hard-knocking nine-year-old that is still capable. He has a big late kick and consistently runs final pace figures over 100. Last out here two weeks ago, he came from 14 lengths behind to miss by a neck at 13/1 going shorter.

#2 BLUERIDGE TRAVELER returned off a 15-month layoff with an even fourth when Ken McPeck added Lasix again. He came back here and beat #1 HAWAAKOM when he sat mid-pack and wore down his rivals. At level weights and not much back class, he looks in over his head here.

#3 BIG DOLLAR BILL is an unusual horse in that he is a dirt marathoner, not turf. He was third in a grade two stakes race going 1 3/4 miles three starts back here and won at Saratoga at the same distance last year. Off for nine months, he returned with an even effort going a mile at Ellis Park and now looks ready for nine furlongs for Ian Wilkes. Even though he is successful going longer, he has a 3-1-1-1 record going this distance.

#4 QUIP won the Tampa Bay Derby (G2) last year and was a good second in the Arkansas Derby (G1). He came back this year and in his second start off the layoff, he won the Oaklawn Handicap (G2) when stalking the pace on a sloppy track going this distance. He just missed here at course and distance in the Stephen Foster (G2) then did nothing in the Pacific Classic (G1). He could have a pace advantage in here and should be able to avoid any early traffic.

#5 SIR ANTHONY won four starts in a row to finish up last year including a grade three stakes race at Gulfstream Park on a sloppy track. He has raced all over the country this year at the age of four and won the Cornhusker

Handicap (G3) two starts back going this distance in good time at Prairie Meadows. Last out, he raced evenly in a grade three in West Virginia but just looks a cut below these.

#6 TENFOLD when he's good, he's real good but he's not real good often enough. He won the Jim Dandy Stakes (G2) last year at this distance at Saratoga but then was off the board the next three starts. He bounced back with a win in the Pimlico Special (G3) then did nothing in his next two starts when moved up in class. Not sure which version will show up today.

#7 PIONEER SPIRIT is a very fast horse that is very consistent and is training like a monster here over the track for Brad Cox. He just missed by a neck two starts back then won the Schaeffer Memorial Stakes at Indiana Downs in good time and now returns off a 77-day layoff which Cox wins 28% and the last 476 of them show a flat-bet profit. He should be loose on the lead without much pace pressure.

#8 KUKULKAN was a multiple grade one stakes winner on the dirt in Mexico. I like how he has established himself in America off three straight solid efforts including a win here going two turns against high-class allowance foes. I'm still not sure how good he is but his last start was a bit of a breakthrough in terms of a 103 BRIS speed rating.

#9 SILVER DUST is a horse for the course that just missed behind #7 PIONEER SPIRIT at Indiana Downs then he came back and won a grade three stakes race at Mountaineer Park. He should be able to sit mid-pack and be the first to move on the leaders before the deep closers begin their rally.

#10 MOCITO ROJO comes in here off four straight wins including a two-length win in a grade three stakes race at Lone Star. Prolific winner has shown he can handle this class level and has enough gate speed to gain some kind of position going into the clubhouse turn.