



# TRAVERS STAKES

# BETTING

# GUIDE

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# TRAVERS STAKES

# BETTING

# GUIDE

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# SARATOGA TRAVERS DAY BET BACK

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ALL RACES TRAVERS DAY AT SARATOGA



\*See offers page for full details

# 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.

		B. f. 3 FTMSEP 2014 S30k												Prime Power: 147.1 (1st)												Life: 5 4- 0- 1 \$385,520 102												Fst (109)		E1 92 99		E2 / Late 99		SPD 99							
<b>12</b> Cathryn Sophia (E/P 5) 9		Own: Cash Is King Llc												Sire: Street Boss (Street Cry (IRE)) \$12,500												Dam: Sheave (Mineshaft)												Fst (109)		5 4- 0- 1		\$385,520 102									
9/2		Green, Multi-colored Crown, Green Shamrocks On White												Brdr: Robert T Manuso (MD)												Trnr: Servis John C (0 0-0 0 0%)												0 0- 0- 0		\$0		\$0									
CASTELLANO JAVIER (0 0-0 0 0%)		+2016 494 22% 54% -0.54												+JKW/EP types 591 26% 57% -0.15												+JKW/ Trn L60 2 50% 100% +10.60												+JKW/ Routes 107 22% 54% -0.28		+Routes 482 18% 43% -0.05											
13		★ Finished 3rd in last race ★ Best Dirt Speed is fastest among today's starters												★ Hot Jockey in last 7 days (13 4-5-1)												● Failed as favorite in last race ● Poor 'Graded Stakes' trainer record: 7% wins 28 sts												●													
DATE TRK		16 DIST 17												19 RR RACETYPE 18CR E1 E2/ LP 1c 2c SPD PP ST 1C 2C STR FIN 22 JOCKEY												2015 5 4- 0- 1 \$385,520 102												Fst (109)		5 4- 0- 1		\$385,520 102									
09Apr16Kee6		1 1/8 ft .24 :47 1:11 1:432												117 ⑦Ashland-G1 118 92 106/ 80 +7 +13 94 3 3 1 2 3 2 3 1 1hd 3 1/2 CastellanoJ121												117 ⑧DvonaDal-G2122 83 88/ 103 4 -7 96 4 3 1 4 1 3 1 1/2 17 CastellanoJ122												L 0.50 WpNMrrkRclsVlntrnkCrnSp2		Bold bid 4w; hung		5									
27Feb16GP5		1m ft .24 :47 1:14 1:363												116 ⑨FrwrdGal-G2121 84 9/ 104 5 -11 99 1 6 44 3 1 2 1 1/2 15 1/2 RosarioJ120												L 0.20 CthrynsPthLwsBy2013 1st												2.23spi													
30Jan16GP3		7f ft .223 :452 1:094 1:22												114 ⑩GinTakingB100k121 97 101/ 98 -1 -6 102 5 1 11 1/2 12 1/2 18 116 RosadoJ119												L 0.10 CthrynsPth6Prgnss5ThndringSk1												On left lead; handily		6											
05Dec15Lif5		7f ft .23 :463 1:11 1:23												112 ⑪Mdn 50k 119 94 94/ 102 3 -11 99 2 3 11 1/2 12 1/2 15 112 RosadoJ122												L 2.40 CrnSp12AWMndSn52WrbLbsf2												Sharp; handy fashion		9											
30Oct15Prx5		6f ft .222 :463 :583 1:111												● 23Apr Kee 5f ft :593 B 1/36 03Apr Kee 4f ft :481 B 5/37 26Mar Pmm 6f ft 1:13 B 1/1 13Mar Pmm 4f ft :482 B 2/42 20Feb Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/66 24Jan Pmm 4f ft :50 B 89/103												● 016Jan Pmm 5f ft :593 B 1/13 08Jan Pmm 5f ft 1:003 B 2/23 31Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/76 20Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :481 B 1/37 25Nov15 Ppx 5f ft 1:009 B 1/14 16Nov15 Ppx 5f ft :593 B 1/13												●													
5/1		White, Purple Belt, White Band On Purple Sleeves, Purple												Ch. f. 3 OBSAPR 2015 S130k												Prime Power: 139.7 (4th)												Life: 8 2- 4- 1 \$472,000 97		Fst (107)		7 1- 4- 1 \$430,000 97									
GUTIERREZ MARIO (0 0-0 0 0%)		+2016 214 14% 45% -0.40												JKYnS types 114 11% 44% -0.20												+Shipper 228 19% 45% -0.13												Sire Stats: AWD 7.2		20%Mud 492MudSis		1.22spi									
2016		+Jockey 114 11% 44% -0.20												+Trainer 135 20% 38% -0.25												+Dam'sSire: AWD 7.6												175Mud 1422MudSis		2.26spi		1.22spi									
13		Land Over Sea (S 1)												Own: Reddam Racing Llc												Ch. f. Bellemy Road (Concerto) \$7,500												Comment		Bold bid 4w; hung		5									
DATE TRK		16 DIST 17												19 RR RACETYPE 18CR E1 E2/ LP 1c 2c SPD PP ST 1C 2C STR FIN 22 JOCKEY												2015 5 4- 0- 1 \$385,520 102												L 0.50 WpNMrrkRclsVlntrnkCrnSp2		Bold bid 4w; hung		5									
09Apr16Kee6		1 1/8 ft .24 :47 1:11 1:432												117 ⑦Ashland-G1 118 92 106/ 80 +7 +13 94 3 3 1 2 3 2 3 1 1hd 3 1/2 CastellanoJ121												L 0.20 CthrynsPthLwsBy2013 1st												1.23spi		2.23spi		1.22spi									
27Feb16GP5		1m ft .24 :47 1:14 1:363												117 ⑧DvonaDal-G2122 83 88/ 103 4 -7 96 4 3 1 4 1 3 1 1/2 17 CastellanoJ122												L 0.10 CthrynsPth5LslnSnt4BaltDiv2												Off step slow;in hand		6											
30Jan16GP3		7f ft .223 :452 1:094 1:22												116 ⑨FrwrdGal-G2121 84 9/ 104 5 -11 99 1 6 44 3 1 2 1 1/2 15 1/2 RosarioJ120												L 0.10 CthrynsPth6Prgnss5ThndringSk1												On left lead; handily		6											
05Dec15Lif5		7f ft .23 :463 1:11 1:23												114 ⑩GinTakingB100k121 97 101/ 98 -1 -6 102 5 1 11 1/2 12 1/2 18 116 RosadoJ119												L 0.20 CthrynsPth5LslnSnt4BaltDiv2												Sharp; handy fashion		9											
30Oct15Prx5		6f ft .222 :463 :583 1:111												● 23Apr Kee 5f ft :593 B 1/36 03Apr Kee 4f ft :481 B 5/37 26Mar Pmm 6f ft 1:13 B 1/1 13Mar Pmm 4f ft :482 B 2/42 20Feb Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/66 24Jan Pmm 4f ft :50 B 89/103												● 016Jan Pmm 5f ft :593 B 1/13 08Jan Pmm 5f ft 1:003 B 2/23 31Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/76 20Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :481 B 1/37 25Nov15 Ppx 5f ft 1:009 B 1/14 16Nov15 Ppx 5f ft :593 B 1/13																									

# AT A GLANCE

A look at the current Saratoga meet: July 21, 2017 through August 21, 2017



**AVG. WINNING ODDS:** 5.65 – 1

**FAVORITE WIN%:** 32% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 69%

EXOTICS	PAYOUT
Quinella	32.44
Exacta	88.60
Daily Double	96.10
Trifecta	503.21
Pick 3	705.96
Superfecta	3,025.52
Pick 6	28,943.71
Pick 4	4,855.65
Pick 5	42,361.85
Grand Slam	93.68

## TRACK BIAS MEET (07/21 – 08/20)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	43	51%	E	Outside
7.0fDirt	27	15%	E/P	Rail/Ins
1 1/8mDirt	35	26%	E	Rail
1 1/4mDirt	1	0%	P	Middle
Turf Sprint	44	23%	P	Outside
InTf Routes	54	24%	E	Middle
Turf Routes	24	8%	S	Rail/Ins

## TRACK BIAS WEEK (08/14 – 08/20)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	13	46%	E	Rail/Ins
7.0fDirt	6	17%	E/P	Rail/Ins
1 1/8mDirt	9	11%	E/P	Rail
1 1/4mDirt	1	0%	P	Middle
Turf Sprint	10	10%	E/P	Rail/Ins
InTf Routes	10	30%	E	Middle
Turf Routes	4	0%	E/P	Rail/Ins

## WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Brown Chad C.	25	9	5	4	2.40	8	25%
Servis Jason	6	3	0	1	5.81	1	28%
Diodoro Robertino	7	3	1	1	7.19	0	24%
Romans Dale L.	9	3	2	1	6.88	1	15%
Barbara Robert	3	2	1	0	4.57	0	10%
Dilger Michael	5	2	0	0	23.47	0	13%
Klesaris Steve	5	2	1	0	8.18	0	15%

HOT JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Ortiz Jose L.	43	12	7	8	4.27	6	21%
Velazquez John R.	19	5	3	5	4.08	1	20%
Albarado Robby	8	3	0	0	8.06	1	15%
Bravo Joe	8	2	1	1	9.91	1	15%

COLD TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Lukas D. Wayne	12	0	1	0	20.59	2	10%
Martin Carlos F.	11	0	0	2	10.00	2	13%
McGaughey III Claude R.	11	0	1	2	9.49	1	17%
Mejia Jaime	10	0	0	0	33.30	0	3%

COLD JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Reyes Luis R.	15	0	0	2	21.84	0	5%
Maragh Rajiv	13	0	0	1	12.72	1	12%
Geroux Florent	12	0	2	0	14.38	1	19%

# TRAVERS STAKES DAY OVERVIEW

by Alastair Bull

## Race 7, 2:59PM: BALLERINA STAKES

**\$500,000, G1, F&M, 7 Furlongs, Dirt**

Chad Brown holds a strong hand in this race with recent stable acquisition Carina Mia and with Paulassilverlining, the likely favorite. Since her third-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint she's undefeated in four races, including two grade 1 events. Carina Mia, in her second start for Brown, is likely to run well again, while there will be support for Curlin's Approval and Distinta after good runs in Florida, while Highway Star and By the Moon can't be left out of multiples.

## Race 8, 3:35PM: H. ALLEN JERKENS STAKES

**\$500,000, G1, 3YO, 7 Furlongs, Dirt**

Formerly the King's Bishop Stakes, this race features Kentucky Derby fifth-place finisher Practical Joke, returning to seven furlongs for the first time since his Hopeful Stakes win on this track. He should face a stiff challenge from American Anthem, unbeaten in three starts under a mile. Amsterdam Stakes (G2) winner Coal Front is also a worthy challenger.

## Race 9, 4:12PM: FOREGO STAKES

**\$600,000, G1, 3YO & up, 7 Furlongs, Dirt**

Champion sprinter Drefong aims to get back on track for 2017 after losing his rider at the start of his seasonal debut, the Bing Crosby Stakes. He returns to the scene of his King's Bishop Stakes victory last year but will face an in-form Mind Your Biscuits, who since his Breeders' Cup second-place finish to Drefong has won the Dubai Golden Shaheen and the Belmont Sprint Championship.

## Race 10, 4:49PM: SWORD DANCER STAKES

**\$1,000,000, G1, 3YO & up, 1 1/2 miles, Turf**

Aidan O'Brien has sent Idaho in from Ireland to try to win his first grade 1 race. He hasn't been much inferior to his older brother Highland Reel, and at his last two starts won the Hardwicke Stakes (G2) and finished third in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes (G1). He faces another tough European rival in the French-trained Erupt, winner of last year's Canadian International (G1). United Nations Stakes (G1) winner Bigger Picture and 2016 Sword Dancer runner-up Money Multiplier head the home team.

## Race 11, 5:44PM: TRAVERS STAKES

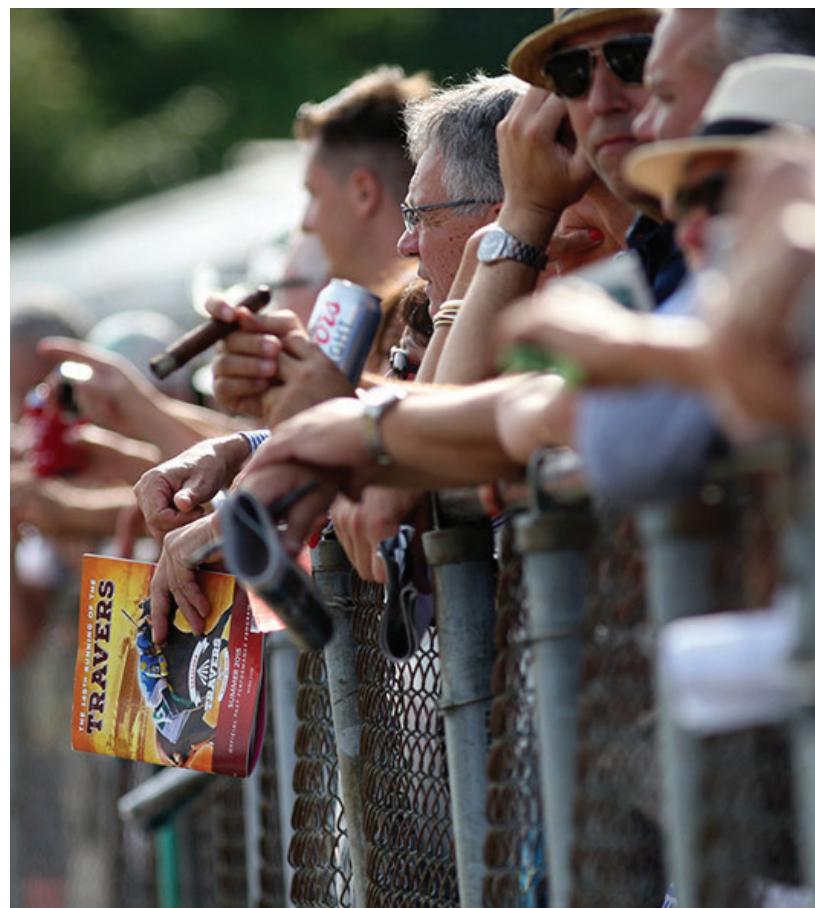
**\$1,250,000, G1, 3YO, 1 1/4 Miles, Dirt**

The big race of the day, and an incredibly open race. It features the first Travers meeting of three Triple Crown race winners (Always Dreaming, Cloud Computing, and Tapwrit) since 1982, but a case can be made for all 12 runners. Punters need to assess which is the best form – the various Triple Crown races, the Jim Dandy, the Haskell Invitational, the Ohio Derby, and the up-and-coming form of West Coast, who aims to break onto the national stage like his stablemate Arrogate did a year ago.

## Race 12, 6:20PM: BALLSTON SPA STAKES

**\$400,000, G2, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf**

Star turf mare Lady Eli is likely to start favorite after winning the Gamely Stakes (G1) and the Diana Stakes (G1) at her previous two starts. Lady Eli's stablemate Antonoe, winner of the Just a Game Stakes (G1), and Dickinson both finished behind the favorite in the Diana Stakes but they again look to be her toughest rivals.



# TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



## 148TH RUNNING OF THE TRAVERS STAKES

The Travers Stakes (Gr 1)

1 1/4-Miles

PURSE \$1,250,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Cloud Computing	8-1
2	Giuseppe the Great	20-1
3	West Coast	4-1
4	Tapwrit	7-2
5	Good Samaritan	5-1
6	Girvin	10-1
7	Always Dreaming	6-1
8	Lookin At Lee	30-1
9	McCraken	12-1
10	Irap	8-1
11	Gunnevera	20-1
12	Fayeq	30-1

TOP PICKS
3 West Coast
10 Irap
5 Good Samaritan
<b>\$20 Win</b>
<b>5 (\$20)</b>
<b>\$5 EXACTAS</b>
<b>3,5,10 over 3,5,6,10 (\$45)</b>
<b>\$.50 TRIFECTA PART-WHEEL</b>
<b>3,5,10 over 3,5,6,10 over 3,4,5,6,9,10 (\$18)</b>

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This renewal of the Travers (G1) is a fascinating betting exercise. Like any race, though, it's best to have a strong opinion before investing. We have a lot of negative ones regarding a large chunk of the field.

Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Always Dreaming and Preakness (G1) winner Cloud Computing were unimpressive in the Jim Dandy (G2) and don't inspire confidence that a complete form reversal is forthcoming.

Of the three classic winners, Belmont S. (G1) hero Tapwrit might have stronger claims, but this is a tough ask to win the Travers without an interim prep. Only Birdstone (2004) has ever done it, and he didn't face a field with this depth.

Giuseppe the Great, Lookin at Lee, Gunnevera, and Fayeq appear outclassed. McCraken still hasn't run a race fast enough to win this.

West Coast is the least exposed major contender in the field, and appears capable of seizing control of divisional leadership with continued progression off two good-looking wins in which he endured very wide trips.

Irap is arguably the most improved member of the crop. His Indiana Derby (G3) was visually stunning. Girvin is also in fine fettle after getting over foot troubles that cost him in the Kentucky Derby.

Good Samaritan perked up big time on the switch to dirt in the Jim Dandy. He might be capable of inhaling this field as well.

We'll use those four liberally in our vertical exotics, and also toss Tapwrit and McCraken in the lower rungs.

# EXPERT PICKS FOR TRAVERS STAKES DAY

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

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26** Saratoga Racecourse



**Ed DeRosa**  
@EJXD2



**Vance Hanson**  
@VPHanson



**Nicolle Neulist**  
@RogueClown



**James Scully**  
@James\_Scully111

## RACE 7 BALLERINA STAKES (G1)

4	By the Moon	3	Paulassilverlining	3	Paulassilverlining	4	By the Moon
5	Carina Mia	4	By the Moon	7	Highway Star	3	Paulassilverlining
3	Paulassilverlining	7	Highway Star	6	Distina	5	Carina Mia

## RACE 8 H. ALLEN JERKENS STAKES (G1)

1	Practical Joke	1	Practical Joke	1	Practical Joke	1	Practical Joke
8	No Dozing	7	Coal Front	9	American Anthem	9	American Anthem
7	Coal Front	9	American Anthem	3	Tale of Silence	7	Coal Front

## RACE 9 FOREGO STAKES (G1)

4	Divining Rod	10	Drefong	10	Drefong	6	Mind Your Biscuits
10	Drefong	6	Mind Your Biscuits	6	Mind Your Biscuits	8	Tale of S'avall
6	Mind Your Biscuits	4	Divining Rod	5	Awesome Slew	10	Drefong

## RACE 10 SWORD DANCER STAKES (G1)

7	Idaho	5	Money Multiplier	5	Money Multiplier	7	Idaho
2	Bigger Picture	7	Idaho	6	Erupt	5	Money Multiplier
4	Hunter O'Reilly	2	Bigger Picture	2	Bigger Picture	2	Bigger Picture

## RACE 11 TRAVERS STAKES (G1)

6	Girvin	3	West Coast	6	Girvin	10	Irap
4	Tapwrit	10	Irap	5	Good Samaritan	5	Good Samaritan
10	Irap	5	Good Samaritan	12	Fayeq	6	Girvin

## RACE 12 BALLSTON SPA STAKES (G2)

1	Lady Eli	5	Antonoe	2	Roca Rojo	5	Antonoe
6	Dickinson	1	Lady Eli	5	Antonoe	1	Lady Eli
5	Antonoe	2	Roca Rojo	1	Lady Eli	6	Dickinson



## FEATURES FOR HANDICAPPING

### Angles

Churchill Downs

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2 MTP	KY DERBY 142	\$2M	3YO	F&M	1 1/4 M	D:FAST

Program Angles Pools Probables Will Pays

Top 3 Picks	Top 3 Class	Top 3 Speed	Top 3 Pace
3 - 6 - 1	3 - 6 - 1	3 - 6 - 1	3 - 6 - 1

Pgm # Horse / Trainer / Jockey Angles Odds PL

1 Trojan Nation	W 42 50
-----------------	---------

Suddenlreakinnow 24 20

### Past Performances

California Chrome

Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Combo	Sire	Dam
CH.C.6 California Chrome	Lucky Pulpit	Love The Chase by Not For Love	O: Golden State Racing Stables, LLC B: Perry Martin & Steve Coburn (CA)		

TOP PICK

Races	Stats	Workouts
Date Track Class Dist. Sf Cdn Finish		
1/28/17 GP-12 G1 1 1/8 M D 4+ M 9th		
12/17/16 LOS-9 1 1/16 M D 3+ M 1st		

### Jockey & Trainer Stats

Churchill Downs

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2 MTP	KY DERBY 142	\$2M	3YO	F&M	1 1/4 M	D:FAST

Probables Will Pays Speed Stats Changes

Race Type Stats (Up to the last 3 years)

No. Races	Avg. Field	Avg. \$2 WIN	% WNRs < 5/1	Fav Win %	Fav ITM %	Fav \$2 ROI
20	9.0	\$8.90	10%	35%	65%	- 0.07

Track Bias

No.	%	BL	BL

# TRAVERS HANDICAPPING

by Alastair Bull

The Travers Stakes isn't known as the Mid-Summer Derby for nothing. The 1-1/4 mile Saratoga feature brings the best 3-year-olds in the country together. This year, with no clear-cut leader in the division, the Travers may be the race that decides who is named champion 3-year-old male.

You'd expect the Travers to have its fair share of upsets – after all, Saratoga is the Graveyard of Champions. And though favored horses have a fairly good record, there certainly have been some surprises, the most notable in recent years being American Pharoah's defeat by Keen Ice in 2015.

The biggest shock came in 1930, when Triple Crown winner Gallant Fox was beaten by 100-1 shot Jim Dandy. The Saratoga race named after that upsetter has proved the most reliable lead-up in the past 30 years. Seven winners of the Jim Dandy Stakes in that time have won the Travers, though one, Alpha, had to share the 2012 Travers in a dead-heat with Golden Ticket.

The Jim Dandy has a better record as a Travers predictor than the Haskell Invitational. That double has been done four times in the past 30 years, but not since Point Given completed it in 2001.

Of the Triple Crown races, the best guide has been the Belmont Stakes. Six Belmont winners in the past 30 years have gone on to win the Mid-Summer Derby, the most recent being Summer Bird in 2009.

This compares to three that completed the Kentucky Derby-Travers double (Sea Hero, Thunder Gulch, and Street Sense),

and two that completed the Preakness-Travers double (Point Given and Bernardini).

This year's Travers is unusual as it contains all three Triple Crown race winners – Always Dreaming, Cloud Computing, and Tapwrit. The last time that happened was in 1982, when Gato Del Sol, Aloma's Ruler, and Conquistador Cielo were all present; they were all beaten by Canadian raider Runaway Groom.

As far as other trends go, the Travers is frequently won by a horse running near the lead, between second and fourth. Closers don't often win.

All of this suggests that serious note should be taken of Belmont Stakes winner Tapwrit and Jim Dandy victor Good Samaritan – even though Tapwrit hasn't started since the Belmont, and Good Samaritan's victory came at his first start on dirt.

However, I'd suggest close attention should also be paid to Irap when you head to [TwinSpires.com](http://TwinSpires.com) for a bet. His Blue Grass Stakes win at 33-1 was widely seen as a fluke, a view reinforced by his Kentucky Derby 18th. But that was on a wet track, and since then he's won the Ohio Derby (from subsequent Haskell winner Girvin), and the Indiana Derby. These aren't normal Travers lead-ups, but the form lines look solid, especially if the weather stays dry.

Visit [TwinSpires.com](http://TwinSpires.com) to bet on the Travers Stakes, and to watch the race.



# IDAHO, ERUPT REMATCH ENLIVENS SWORD DANCER

by Kellie Reilly

Although Saturday's Sword Dancer (G1) is by definition important as a "Win & You're In" for the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1), the 1 1/2-mile contest wasn't generating much buzz – until the Europeans arrived. Now thanks to the Aidan O'Brien-trained Idaho and French-based Erupt, the Sword Dancer has suddenly become an intriguing component of Travers Day.

The duo met last fall in the Canadian International (G1), where Erupt lived up to his name with a telling burst of speed from just off a pedestrian pace. Idaho, never in a good tactical position, was a workmanlike fifth.

But there's ample reason for projecting a better effort from Idaho this time. First, his trip to the Canadian International looked like a back-up plan. His prior race, the St Leger (G1) at Doncaster, was actually his main objective, only he stumbled and unseated his rider as the odds-on favorite. Before that bit of bad luck, Idaho was cruising as though to gallop all over his St Leger rivals. Had he scored a classic victory there, I doubt he'd ever have been on a plane to Woodbine.

Like his full brother Highland Reel, Idaho is improving with maturity, and we arguably haven't seen the best of him yet. Third in the 2016 Derby (G1) at Epsom, Idaho took a step forward when a close runner-up in the Irish Derby (G1), and he put it all together in style in the Great Voltigeur (G2) before his Doncaster

debacle. He's resumed his progress at four, taking Royal Ascot's Hardwicke (G2) and finishing third to two of the brightest stars of 2017– Enable and Ulysses – in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth (G1). Idaho beat Highland Reel that day, with an assist from the rain-softened ground, but he's just as effective on firm. If Idaho stamps his BC ticket here, we might see another round of sibling rivalry versus reigning Turf champ Highland Reel.

Erupt could join fellow Niarchos Family homebred Ulysses, already bound for the Turf, at Del Mar. Although the Francis-Henri Graffard trainee has gone winless since Woodbine, a return to North America could bring out the best in him. Unlike many of Dubawi's progeny, Erupt requires a quick surface to produce his best. That's partly why he endured a losing streak after his 2015 Grand Prix de Paris (G1) heroics too. A close fourth in his comeback in the Prix Ganay (G1), he floundered last time when virtually eased in a too-bad-to-be-true Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud (G1). The ground wasn't that much worse than it was in the Ganay, implying something else may have been amiss, but the Spa may be curative.

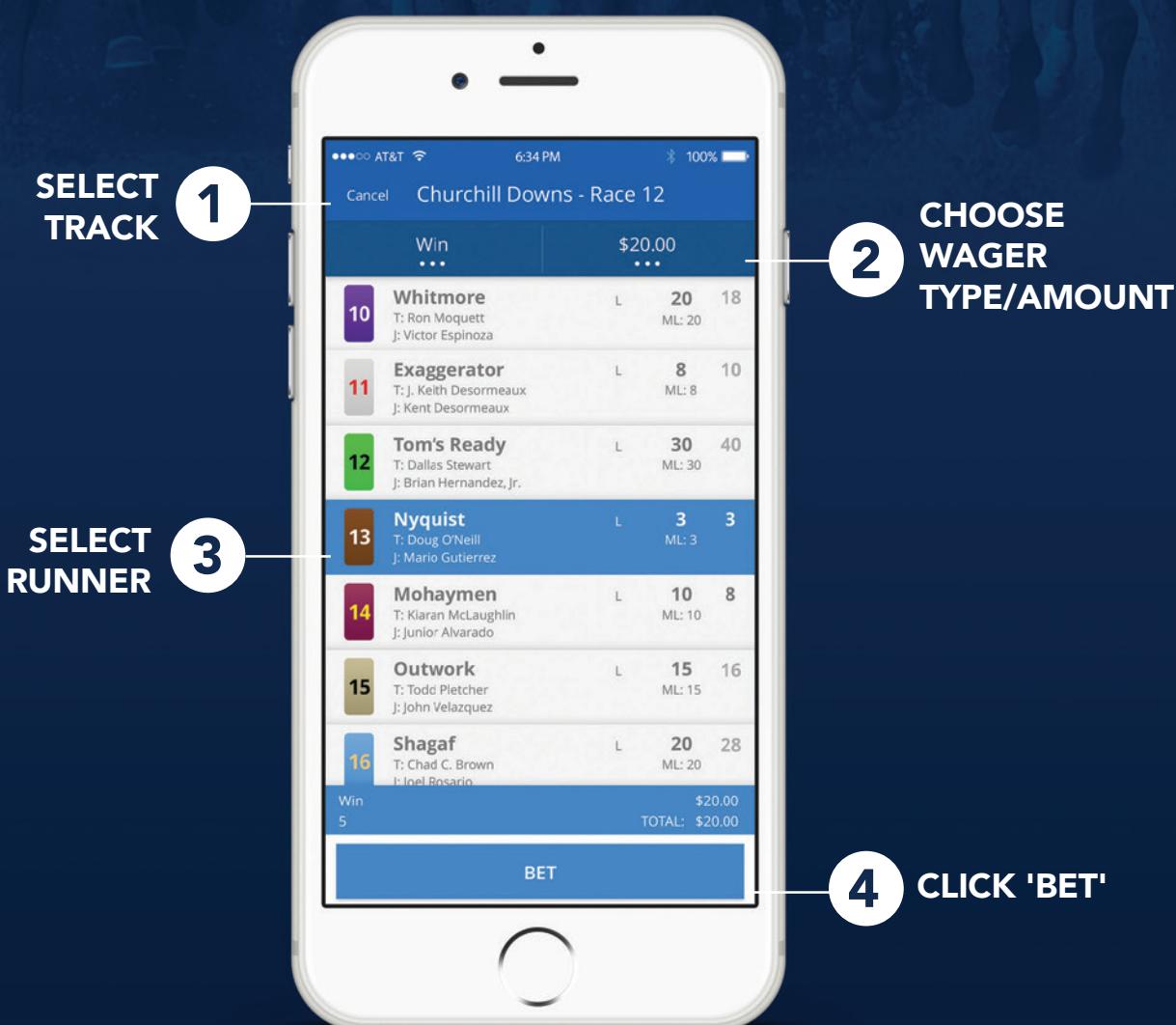
While neither Idaho nor Erupt has the stature of now-retired champion Flintshire, the winner of the past two editions of the Sword Dancer, their international formlines – Idaho's current and Erupt's prior – command respect. The home defense is led by the horse who was a troubled second to Flintshire here last year, Money Multiplier. An honest Grade 1 bridesmaid, Money Multiplier deserves a breakthrough at the highest level, but he'd probably prefer a spot without any internationals.



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