



# TRAVERS STAKES BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires™**



# twinspires™

## TRAVERS STAKES

# BETTING GUIDE

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# TRAVERS DAY BET BACK

OPT IN TO GET YOUR BET BACK  
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.

<div><div>12</div><div>Cathryn Sophia (E/P 5) 9/2</div><div>Own: Cash Is King Llc</div><div>Green, Multi-colored Crown, Green Shamrocks On White</div><div>CASTELLANO JAVIER (0 0-0-0 0%)</div><div><div>2</div><div>+2016</div><div>JKYw/EP types</div><div>591</div><div>22%</div><div>54%</div><div>-0.54</div></div><div><div>3</div><div>+JKYw/ Trn L60</div><div>2</div><div>50%</div><div>100%</div><div>+10.60</div></div><div><div>4</div><div>+JKYw/ Routes</div><div>107</div><div>22%</div><div>54%</div><div>-0.28</div></div></div> <div><div>7</div><div>B. f. 3 FTMSEP 2014 \$30k</div><div>Sire: Street Boss (Street Cry (IRE)) \$12,500</div><div>Dam: Sheave (Mineshaft)</div><div>Brdr: Robert T Manfuso (MD)</div><div>Trnr: Servis John C (0 0-0-0 0%)</div><div><div>8</div><div>Prime Power: 147.1 (1st)</div></div><div><div>9</div><div>+2016</div><div>Graded Stakes</div><div>69</div><div>33%</div><div>57%</div><div>+0.92</div></div><div><div>10</div><div>+Btm favorite</div><div>28</div><div>7%</div><div>36%</div><div>-1.84</div></div><div><div>11</div><div>+Routes</div><div>482</div><div>18%</div><div>43%</div><div>-0.05</div></div></div> <div><div>12</div><div>Life: 5 4- 0- 1</div><div>2016 3 2- 0- 1</div><div>2015 2 2- 0- 0</div><div>CD 0 0- 0- 0</div><div><div>13</div><div>Sire Stats: AWD 6.7</div><div>15% Mud</div><div>241 MudSts</div><div>1.57spi</div></div><div><div>14</div><div>Dam'sSire: AWD 7.3</div><div>15% Mud</div><div>820 MudSts</div><div>2.23spi</div></div><div><div>15</div><div>Dam'sStats: Unraced</div><div>100%2yo</div><div>1str</div><div>1w 1sw 18.02dpi</div></div><div><div>16</div><div>SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014</div><div>\$30.0k (27/47)</div><div>SireAvg: \$53.3k</div><div>StudFee: \$15,000</div></div></div> <div><div>17</div><div>100%2yo</div><div>1str</div><div>1w 1sw 18.02dpi</div></div> <div><div>18</div><div>SireAvg: \$53.3k</div><div>StudFee: \$15,000</div></div>										<div><div>13</div><div>Land Over Sea (S 1) 5/1</div><div>Own: Reddam Racing Llc</div><div>White, Purple Belt, White Band On Purple Sleeves, Purple</div><div>GUTIERREZ MARIO (0 0-0-0 0%)</div><div><div>2</div><div>+2016</div><div>JKYw/ S types</div><div>114</div><div>11%</div><div>44%</div><div>-0.20</div></div><div><div>3</div><div>+JKYw/ Trn L60</div><div>2</div><div>50%</div><div>100%</div><div>+10.60</div></div><div><div>4</div><div>+JKYw/ Routes</div><div>107</div><div>22%</div><div>54%</div><div>-0.28</div></div></div> <div><div>7</div><div>B. f. 3 OBSAPR 2015 \$130k</div><div>Sire: Bellamy Road (Concerto) \$7,500</div><div>Dam: Belle Watling (Pulpit)</div><div>Brdr: Jack Swain III (KY)</div><div>Trnr: O'Neill Doug F (0 0-0-0 0%)</div><div><div>8</div><div>Prime Power: 139.7 (4th)</div></div><div><div>9</div><div>+2016</div><div>Graded Stakes</div><div>228</div><div>19%</div><div>45%</div><div>-0.13</div></div><div><div>10</div><div>+Btm favorite</div><div>135</div><div>20%</div><div>39%</div><div>-0.25</div></div><div><div>11</div><div>+Routes</div><div>482</div><div>18%</div><div>43%</div><div>-0.05</div></div></div> <div><div>12</div><div>Life: 8 2- 4- 1</div><div>2016 3 1- 2- 0</div><div>2015 5 1- 2- 1</div><div>CD 0 0- 0- 0</div><div><div>13</div><div>Sire Stats: AWD 7.2</div><div>20% Mud</div><div>492 MudSts</div><div>1.22spi</div></div><div><div>14</div><div>Dam'sSire: AWD 7.6</div><div>17% Mud</div><div>1422 MudSts</div><div>2.26spi</div></div><div><div>15</div><div>Dam'sStats: Unraced</div><div>100%2yo</div><div>1str</div><div>1w 1sw 18.02dpi</div></div><div><div>16</div><div>SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014</div><div>\$30.0k (27/47)</div><div>SireAvg: \$53.3k</div><div>StudFee: \$15,000</div></div></div> <div><div>17</div><div>100%2yo</div><div>1str</div><div>1w 1sw 18.02dpi</div></div> <div><div>18</div><div>SireAvg: \$53.3k</div><div>StudFee: \$15,000</div></div>									
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BRIS Pace and Speed Pars
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- Jockey Stats

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# BET ANYWHERE



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# 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	PAYOFF
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, 3YOs, 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, 3YOs & 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, 3YOs & 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, 3YOs, 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	TOP PICKS
1	Cloud Computing	8-1	3 West Coast
2	Giuseppe the Great	20-1	10 Irap
3	West Coast	4-1	5 Good Samaritan
4	Tapwrit	7-2	
5	Good Samaritan	5-1	\$20 Win
6	Girvin	10-1	5 (\$20)
7	Always Dreaming	6-1	\$5 EXACTAS
8	Lookin At Lee	30-1	3,5,10 over 3,5,6,10 (\$45)
9	McCraken	12-1	
10	Irap	8-1	\$.50 TRIFECTA PART-WHEEL
11	Gunnevera	20-1	3,5,10 over 3,5,6,10 over 3,4,5,6,9,10 (\$18)
12	Fayeq	30-1	

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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. McCracken 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 McCracken 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



## RACE 7 BALLERINA STAKES (G1)

4 By the Moon  
5 Carina Mia  
3 Paulassilverlining

3 Paulassilverlining  
4 By the Moon  
7 Highway Star

3 Paulassilverlining  
7 Highway Star  
6 Distina

4 By the Moon  
3 Paulassilverlining  
5 Carina Mia

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

1 Practical Joke  
8 No Dozing  
7 Coal Front

1 Practical Joke  
7 Coal Front  
9 American Anthem

1 Practical Joke  
9 American Anthem  
3 Tale of Silence

1 Practical Joke  
9 American Anthem  
7 Coal Front

## RACE 9 FOREGO STAKES (G1)

4 Divining Rod  
10 Drefong  
6 Mind Your Biscuits

10 Drefong  
6 Mind Your Biscuits  
4 Divining Rod

10 Drefong  
6 Mind Your Biscuits  
5 Awesome Slew

6 Mind Your Biscuits  
8 Tale of S'avall  
10 Drefong

## RACE 10 SWORD DANCER STAKES (G1)

7 Idaho  
2 Bigger Picture  
4 Hunter O'Reilly

5 Money Multiplier  
7 Idaho  
2 Bigger Picture

5 Money Multiplier  
6 Erupt  
2 Bigger Picture

7 Idaho  
5 Money Multiplier  
2 Bigger Picture

## RACE 11 TRAVERS STAKES (G1)

6 Girvin  
4 Tapwrit  
10 Irap

3 West Coast  
10 Irap  
5 Good Samaritan

6 Girvin  
5 Good Samaritan  
12 Faye

10 Irap  
5 Good Samaritan  
6 Girvin

## RACE 12 BALLSTON SPA STAKES (G2)

1 Lady Eli  
6 Dickinson  
5 Antonoe

5 Antonoe  
1 Lady Eli  
2 Roca Rojo

2 Roca Rojo  
5 Antonoe  
1 Lady Eli

5 Antonoe  
1 Lady Eli  
6 Dickinson

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## FEATURES FOR HANDICAPPING

### Angles

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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  
T: Patrick Gallagher  
J: Aaron T. Gryder

W

42

50

ML: 50

### Past Performances

California Chrome									
Horse Trainer Jockey Combo Sire Dam									
CHC.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

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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.

%

BI

BI



# 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](https://www.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](https://www.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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SELECT  
RUNNER

3

4

CLICK 'BET'



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