

MEET THE CONTENDERS

2023

CHAMPAGNE STAKES

1



AIR CAV



PRO: Cox barn has started meet well and this son of Mitole should get better.
CON: Narrowly escaped in slowly-run maiden at Indianapolis.

2



DANCING GROOM



PRO: Won for fun going a mile at Saratoga; bred to get even better going longer.
CON: Possessed stronger dirt pedigree in that race, which was transferred from turf.

3



TIMBERLAKE



PRO: Won key maiden at Ellis, followed up with a second in the Hopeful (G1).
CON: Not a great Hopeful from a figure perspective; cross-entered in Keeneland G1.

4



GENERAL PARTNER



PRO: Rebounded off debut loss to graduate by four late in Saratoga meet.
CON: So far prone to bumping episodes leaving the gate.

5



EL GRANDE O



PRO: Most experienced member of the field has won or placed in all six starts.
CON: All but one of his races has been against New York-breds.

6



FIERCENESS



PRO: Crushed rivals by 11 in debut; very promising colt.
CON: Thrived in the mud; can he do it on a fast track, too?

7



GOLD SWEEP



PRO: Tremont winner endured rough trip in Hopeful; capable of better.
CON: Quality of graded stakes during Saratoga meet open to debate.

8



SWEET SODDY J



PRO: Undeclared on dirt; only loss to date on Tapeta.
CON: Beat far lesser at Colonial Downs, Timonium.