

150 KENTUCKY
DERBY®

KENTUCKY DERBY 150

BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires**

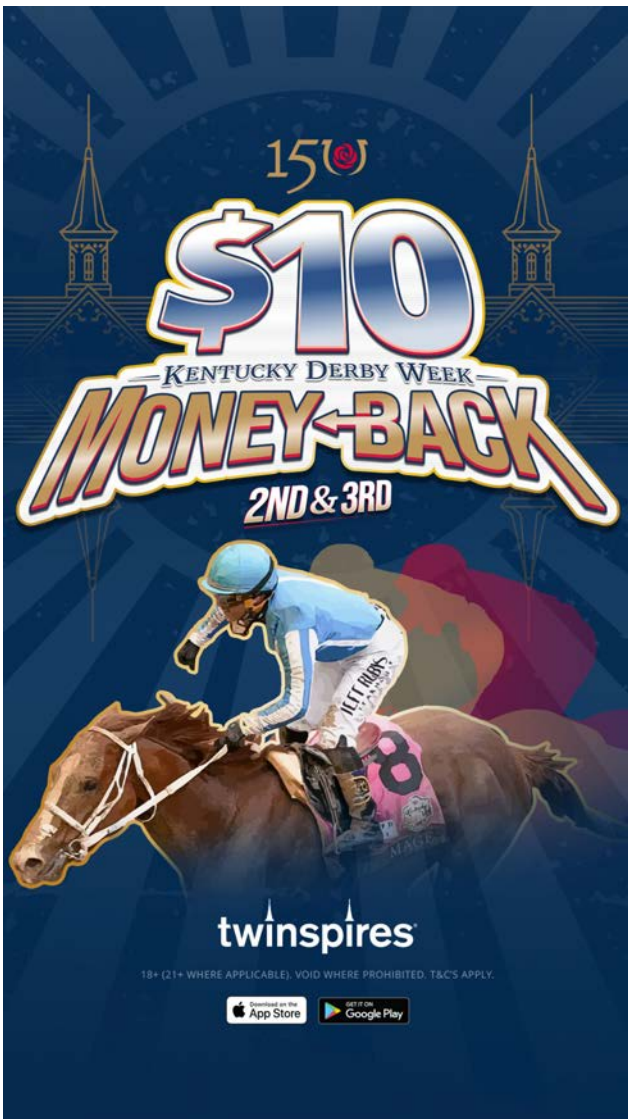




KENTUCKY DERBY.



KENTUCKY DERBY 150 BETTING GUIDE



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*KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT BY JAMES SCULLY
PEDIGREE HORSE PROFILES BY KEELER JOHNSON
INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING REPORTS BY KELLIE REILLY*



AT A GLANCE

A look at the previous Churchill Downs meet: November 27, 2023.

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 5.67-1

FAVORITE WIN%: 35% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 71%

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	90.00
Daily Double	92.31
Trifecta	1,001.68
Pick 3	587.67
Superfecta	7,904.47
Pick 4	6,415.54
Pick 5	28,297.53
Pick 6 Jackpot	200,966.84
Super High Five	5,301.33



TRACK BIAS MEET (09/14 - 11/26)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	39	15%	E/P	Rail/Ins
7.0fDirt	43	40%	E	Inside
1 MileDirt	46	22%	P	Inside
1 1/16mDirt	73	32%	E/P	Middle
Turf Routes	28	4%	P	Mid/Out

TRACK BIAS WEEK (11/20 - 11/26)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	8	0%	S	Rail/Ins
7.0fDirt	10	40%	E	Inside
1 MileDirt	11	27%	E	Middle
1 1/16mDirt	14	21%	E/P	Rail/Ins
Turf Routes	1	0%	S	Inside

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	WINNING FAVORITES	'22-'23 WIN %
Bauer Philip A.	12	5	2	2	6.12	2	22%
Medina Robert	8	3	0	2	17.58	2	12%
McCarthy Michael W.	9	3	2	2	4.83	0	16%
Newton Troy	2	2	0	0	5.18	0	19%
Walden Williams	4	2	1	0	16.43	2	19%
Beckman D. Whitworth	5	2	2	0	18.45	0	14%
Casse Mark E.	5	2	0	1	4.51	1	16%
Diodoro Robertino	5	2	0	0	9.47	1	21%

HOT JOCKEYS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	BEATEN FAVORITES	'22-'23 WIN %
Rosario Joel	11	3	1	0	13.48	2	17%
Concepcion Axel	12	3	1	1	10.32	2	20%

COLD JOCKEYS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	BEATEN FAVORITES	'22-'23 WIN %
Cannon Declan	20	0	1	5	27.06	1	12%
Ortiz Jose L.	11	0	1	1	11.36	2	18%
Beschizza Adam	10	0	1	1	20.40	0	10%

RACE & LIVE BLOG SCHEDULE

LIVE BLOG SCHEDULE

OPENING DAY

Saturday, April 27, 2024 6:00PM ET

- Kentucky Derby and
- Kentucky Oaks draw information 7:00PM ET

THURBY

Thursday, May 2, 2024 12:45PM ET

KENTUCKY OAKS

Friday, May 3, 2024 10:30AM ET

KENTUCKY DERBY

Saturday, May 4, 2024 10:30AM ET



STAKES RACES SCHEDULE

DATE	GRADE	PURSE	RACE
Sat. Apr 27		\$200,000	Roxalana Overnight Stake
Wed. May 1	Listed	\$300,000	William Walker
Wed. May 1		\$200,000	Isaac Murphy Marathon Overnight Stakes
Thur. May 2	Listed	\$350,000	Opening Verse
Thur. May 2		\$250,000	Kentucky Juvenile
Thur. May 2		\$200,000	St. Matthews Overnight Stakes
Fri. May 3	GI	\$1,500,000	Longines Kentucky Oaks
Fri. May 3	GI	\$1,000,000	Fasig-Tipton La Troienne
Fri. May 3	GII	\$750,000	Alysheba
Fri. May 3	GII	\$600,000	Eight Belles presented by Sysco
Fri. May 3	GII	\$600,000	Edgewood presented by Forcht Bank
Fri. May 3	GIII	\$400,000	Modesty presented by Derby City Gaming
Fri. May 3	GIII	\$400,000	Unbridled Sidney presented by Resolute Racing
Sat. May 4	GI	\$5,000,000	Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve
Sat. May 4	GI	\$1,000,000	Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic
Sat. May 4	GI	\$1,000,000	Churchill Downs presented by Ford
Sat. May 4	GI	\$1,000,000	Derby City Distaff presented by Kendall-Jackson Winery
Sat. May 4	GII	\$750,000	Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile
Sat. May 4	GII	\$600,000	Twin Spires Turf Sprint presented by Sentient Jet
Sat. May 4	GII	\$600,000	Pat Day Mile presented by SAP
Sat. May 4	GII	\$600,000	American Turf presented by TwinSpires
Sat. May 4	Listed ®	\$200,000	Knicks Go presented by L&N Federal Credit Union

MEET THE CONTENDERS

by Vance Hanson

KENTUCKY OAKS.

150 

1. TARIFA



PRO: Dominated the key Fair Grounds preps, which produced last year's Oaks winner.

CON: Proved a bit hard to settle in Fair Grounds Oaks (G2) and faces much bigger field this time.

2. WHERE'S MY RING



PRO: Bolted up to win Gazelle (G3) at Aqueduct, her first win in eight tries.

CON: This is a far more difficult assignment for a filly unused to winning much.

3. POWER SQUEEZE



PRO: Enters on a four-race win streak, including rallying Gulfstream Park Oaks (G2) triumph.

CON: Beat fillies last time with questionable stamina; tougher challenge here.

4. LESLIE'S ROSE



PRO: Bounced back from first loss to win Ashland (G1) very impressively.

CON: Struggled racing inside rivals two back, still a potential issue.

5. THORPEDO ANNA



PRO: Delivered scintillating win in the Fantasy (G3) off the bench; has won three of four.

CON: Hasn't quite faced this quality of rival yet, and that's the main drawback.

6. JUST FYI



PRO: Juvenile champ ran well in Ashland, a race she needed off a long break.

CON: Some division rivals seem to have caught up with and passed her; must quicken some.

7. GIN GIN



PRO: Owns useful experience over the Churchill strip, including a stakes placing.

CON: Made little impact in softer Aqueduct preps.

8. FIONA'S MAGIC



PRO: Davona Dale (G2) heroine threw in towel early last time; capable of better.

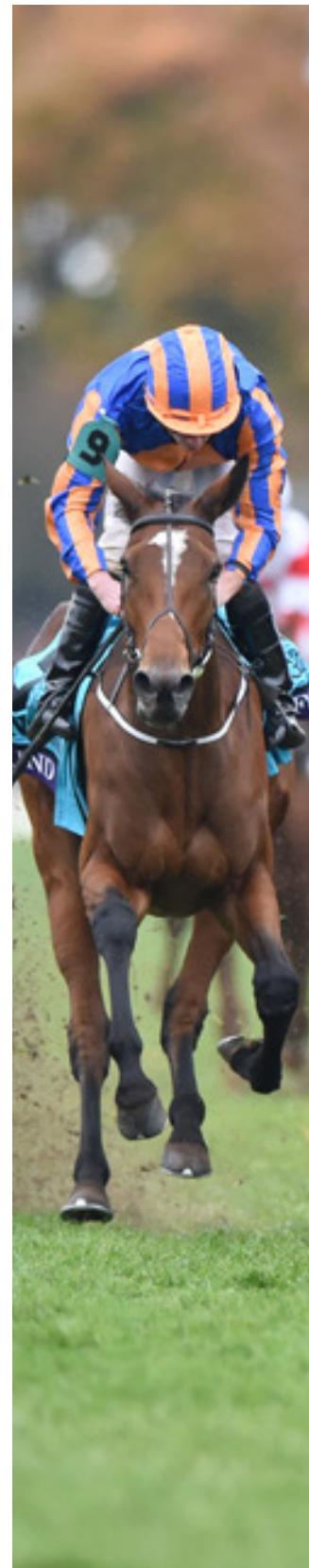
CON: Speedy lass would seemingly be a lot more competitive around one turn.

9. TAPIT JENALLIE



PRO: Stakes winner has been landing minor shares at Oaklawn, for what it's worth.

CON: Winless since November and must take it up several notches to get a piece here.



10. EVERLAND



PRO: Two-for-3 since the claim, including upset win in Bourbonette Oaks.
CON: Unproven over a conventional dirt track and lacks relative back class.

11. LEMON MUFFIN



PRO: Dazzling maiden win in Honeybee (G3) two back for five-time Oaks winner Lukas.
CON: Never involved in the Fantasy and perhaps a cut or two below the best here.

12. INTO CHAMPAGNE



PRO: Consistent record so far, winning or placing in all four starts.
CON: Duel and fade over 1 1/16 miles suggest nine furlongs might be a stretch

13. WAYS AND MEANS



PRO: Tough-trip second in Gulfstream Park Oaks off long layoff; can progress.
CON: Best odds ever await longtime backers, but still likely to be overbet.

14. MANAMA GOLD



PRO: Louisiana-bred cut her teeth in Dubai, where she went undefeated over the winter.
CON: Wasn't facing much overseas and runner-up in UAE Oaks (G3) still a maiden.

15. OUR PRETTY WOMAN

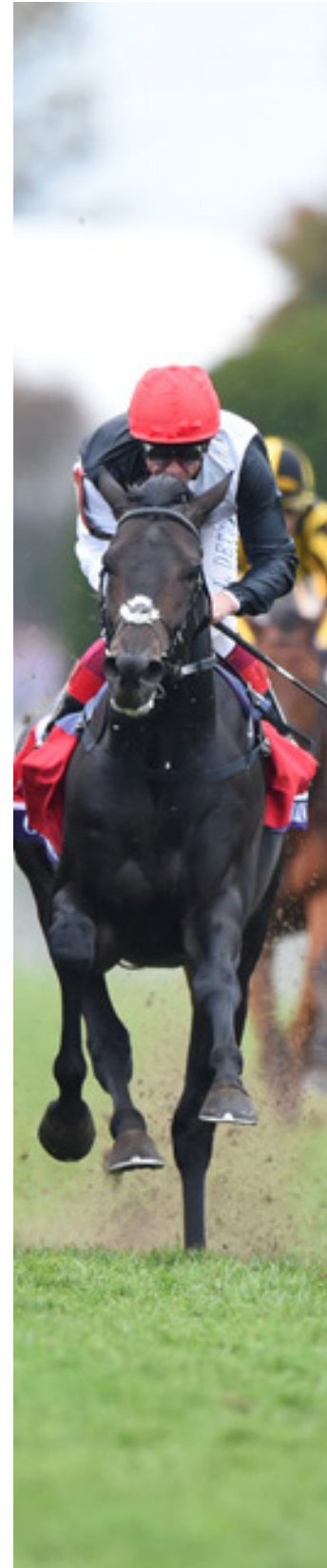


PRO: Ran super in stakes debut loss to Tarifa by a narrow margin.
CON: Likely must deal with a lot of other speed here while stretching out farther.

16. CANDIED



PRO: One of the best of her generation at two and can move forward off belated season debut.
CON: Never made an impact despite going favored in Ashland.



MEET THE CONTENDERS

by Vance Hanson

KENTUCKY DERBY.

150 

1. SIERRA LEONE



PRO: Handles dry/wet and passed eye tests in key Risen Star (G2) and Blue Grass (G1).

CON: Speed ratings still a bit light, historically, for Derby winner, but nature of this field.

2. FIERCENESS



PRO: No one in this field is faster on his best day; one to beat on Breeders' Cup/Fla. Derby form.

CON: Tends to need things his own way, has yet to overcome adversity.

3. CATCHING FREEDOM



PRO: Talented closer hasn't run a bad one yet and price will be fair.

CON: Has a bit of form to find on Sierra Leone; perhaps needs fast going to ensure best.

4. STRONGHOLD



PRO: First or second in all six outings and bravely clung to victory in Santa Anita Derby (G1).

CON: West Coast segment of division has lacked depth.

5. RESILIENCE



PRO: Flattered Risen Star form with comfortable win in Wood Memorial (G2).

CON: Has a bit of form and speed to find against same Risen Star foes.

6. FOREVER YOUNG



PRO: Exciting Japanese entrant is undefeated in five starts and will thrive stretching out.

CON: Gets first true class test here and might be hard to avoid kickback in congested field.

7. ENDLESSLY



PRO: Well-handled so far with strong record on turf, synthetics.

CON: Appears to be struggling in main track workouts; not a guaranteed starter here.

8. DORNOCH



PRO: Taken out of comfort zone in Blue Grass; more effective on the lead.

CON: Remsen (G2) win aided by bias; doesn't appear to have progressed a lot since two.

9. JUST A TOUCH



PRO: Talented colt has come a long way in a short time, placing in Gotham and Blue Grass.

CON: Hard to see him overturning Blue Grass form on the stretch out.



10. TRACK PHANTOM



PRO: Sharp breaker should be prominent much of the way and has some class.

CON: Distance concerns have always been an issue; fading fourth in shorter Louisiana Derby.

11. WEST SARATOGA



PRO: First or second in all three Churchill tries, including Iroquois (G3) upset.

CON: Tends to lose ground late in longer races; probably more of a one-turn type.

12. JUST STEEL



PRO: A durable sort with 11 starts already and barn has won Derby four times.

CON: Has yet to win a two-turn stakes, something Lukas' winners had going for them.

13. HONOR MARIE



PRO: Loves the Churchill strip and will easily last 10 furlongs more than most.

CON: Perhaps a cut below higher quality closers Sierra Leone and Catching Freedom.

14. DOMESTIC PRODUCT



PRO: Much improved with second in Holy Bull (G3) and gutsy Tampa Bay Derby (G3) win.

CON: Tampa race a pretty slow affair and eight-week layoff a concern.

15. CATALYTIC



PRO: Runner-up in Florida Derby in stakes debut, albeit 13 lengths behind Fierceness.

CON: One of several in the field that spots top players 5-10 lengths of form on paper.

16. SOCIETY MAN



PRO: Enters off easily his best performance with a rallying second in Wood Memorial.

CON: Was 106-1 at Aqueduct for a reason and this spot loads tougher.

17. MYSTIK DAN



PRO: One to seriously consider if track comes up wet, based on Southwest (G3) romp.

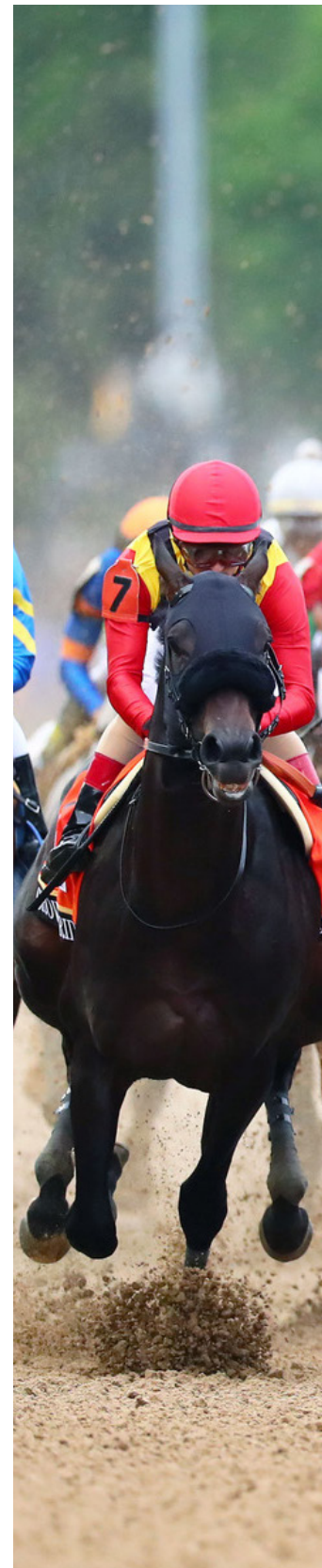
CON: Would need to find a bit more over a dry surface.

18. ENCINO



PRO: Beautifully bred colt peaking at the right time following Lexington (G3) win.

CON: Not battle tested against division's best and arguably barn's third string chance.



19. T O PASSWORD



PRO: Distance no concern for this undefeated and unexposed Japanese entrant.

CON: Don't have a good gauge on his relative talent level.

20. GRAND MO THE FIRST



PRO: Has garnered a small piece of the purse in all four stakes appearances.

CON: One of the slower entrants on paper from a speed rating perspective.

21. EPIC RIDE



PRO: Has never run a bad race and seemed to handle dirt fine in Blue Grass.

CON: Best form has been on synthetic surfaces and well handled by Sierra Leone last time.



SIERRA LEONE



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Racing 1 1/8 miles is no obstacle for Sierra Leone, winner of the Blue Grass (G1) and Risen Star (G2) and runner-up in the Remsen (G2) on the Road to the Kentucky Derby. Neither should the 1 1/4-mile distance of the Kentucky Derby (G1) prove problematic for the beautifully bred colt.

Sierra Leone is a son of 2017 Horse of the Year Gun Runner, a tried-and-true route racer whose exploits over 1 1/4 miles included a win in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) and a third-place finish in the 2016 Kentucky Derby. A resounding success at stud, Gun Runner has proven versatile as a stallion, siring sprinters and route racers alike. Some of the stoutest include 1 3/16-mile Preakness (G1) winner Early Voting, 1 1/8-mile Santa Anita Derby (G1) hero Taiba, and 1 1/8-mile Haskell (G1) winner Cyberknife.

All told, the progeny of Gun Runner win at an average distance of 7.4 furlongs, indicating a stallion with a tendency to pass on stamina. That isn't surprising given Gun Runner's own pedigree; he's a son of 1 1/4-mile Pacific Classic (G1) winner Candy Ride out of 1 1/16-mile Molly Pitcher (G2) winner Quiet Giant, in turn a daughter of Giant's Causeway out of Quiet Dance. Giant's Causeway is a three-time leading North American sire known as a strong stamina influence, while Quiet Dance is the dam of Horse of the Year and Breeders' Cup Classic winner Saint Liam, 1 3/8-mile United Nations (G1) winner Funtastic, 1 1/8-mile Bay Meadows Derby (G3) winner Congressional honor, and one-mile and 70-yard Busanda S. winner Dance Quietly.

The dam side of Sierra Leone's pedigree is also encouraging. He was produced by the Malibu Moon mare Heavenly Love, an early-maturing juvenile who won the 1 1/16-mile Alcibiades (G1). She's one of many Grade 1 winners sired by Malibu Moon, who is perhaps best known for his son Orb, winner of the 2013 Kentucky Derby.

Malibu Moon has sired a wide mix of sprinters, milers, and route racers, and his progeny boast an average winning distance of 7.1 furlongs—slightly speedier than Gun Runner, but still respectable. A similar tendency can be seen in Malibu Moon's record as a broodmare sire; his daughters have foaled classy route racers like Preakness runner-up Midnight Bourbon, champion three-year-old filly Stellar Wind, Haskell hero Girvin, and Breeders' Futurity (G1) winner Locked, but also Grade 1-winning sprinter/milers like Bellafina, By the Moon, and Brightwork.

A mix of speed and stamina is typically the secret to success in the Kentucky Derby, and the pedigree of Sierra Leone is an ideal blend of both. If he falters on the first Saturday in May, his bloodlines won't be to blame.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

Long and physically imposing, Sierra Leone will bring a dynamic closing kick to the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby (G1). The dark bay exits a superb win in the Blue Grass (G1) over an inside and speed-favoring oval at Keeneland, flying past rivals to win going away by 1 1/2 lengths after launching his bid from far back and powering wide into the stretch. Sierra Leone has raced against the track flow in all three stakes starts, displaying immense talent while still raw at times, and his rider Tyler Gaffalione commented after the Blue Grass, "He has so much ability and he does things so easily. We haven't even got close to the bottom of him yet." Sierra Leone will need to work out a trip from off the pace in a 20-horse field and after balking at the starting gate of the Blue Grass, he needs to handle the loading process better at Churchill Downs.

OWNER: Sierra Leone races for Derrick Smith, Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor, Westerberg Limited (Michael Kuessner), Brook T. Smith & Peter Brant. Tabor is best known for his involvement in Coolmore-affiliated partnerships, but as a sole owner, he won with his first Kentucky Derby starter, Thunder Gulch in 1995. Overall, he's compiled a 20-1-1-0 record in the Derby. Brant co-owned 1984 Kentucky Derby winner Swale and is unplaced from three other starters. Magnier (0-for-13), Derrick Smith (0-for-12), and Westerberg (0-for-1) have prior experience, and this will be the first starter for Brook Smith.

TRAINER: Chad Brown finished fourth with his initial Kentucky Derby starter, Normandy Invasion in 2013, and the 45-year-old conditioner from upstate New York has compiled a 7-0-1-1 record in the Run for the Roses, finishing second (Good Magic in 2018) and third (Zandon in 2022) with two of his last three starters. An 18-time Breeders' Cup race winner, Brown has saddled Preakness (G1) winners Cloud Computing (2017) and Early Voting (2022) and earned four Eclipse Awards for leading trainer. He also will be represented by Tampa Bay Derby (G3) winner Domestic Product.

JOCKEY: An 11-time leading jockey at Churchill Downs, Tyler Gaffalione will seek his first Kentucky Derby victory. The 29-year-old Florida native is unplaced from six previous starts, the best finish being a seventh by War of Will (2019), whom Gaffalione piloted to a Preakness (G1) win two weeks later, and Gaffalione earned his first Breeders' Cup race wins in 2022. Named champion apprentice jockey of 2015, Gaffalione picked up the mount upon Sierra Leone this year, guiding the colt to eye-catching wins in the Risen Star (G2) and Blue Grass.

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by Debby Oxley, Sierra Leone was purchased for a sale-topping \$2.3 million as a yearling at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga August sale. Oxley is married to John Oxley, and the Oxleys campaigned 2001 Kentucky Derby winner Monarchos. They also own Darling My Darling, the second maternal dam for Sierra Leone and unbeaten Japanese star Forever Young. Sierra Leone will be their second Kentucky Derby starter as a breeder, with Pyramid Peak finishing 17th in 1995.

FIERCENESS



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

A blend of tactical speed and staying power carried Fierceness to blowout victories in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) and Florida Derby (G1), stamping the bay colt as the possible favorite for the 2024 Kentucky Derby (G1).

The source of Fierceness' speed and stamina is easy to see. It's written all over his classy pedigree.

Fierceness is a son of City of Light, a speedy yet versatile runner who won the Malibu (G1) and Triple Bend (G1) sprinting seven furlongs, the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) racing a one-turn mile, and the Pegasus World Cup (G1) and Oaklawn H. (G2) racing 1 1/8 miles around two turns. For good measure, he stretched his speed over 1 1/4 miles to finish third in the Gold Cup at Santa Anita (G1).

City of Light's first foals hit the races in 2022, and they've since shown a propensity to shine racing around two turns. Chop Chop won the Juvenile Fillies S. and Wintegreen S. racing one mile, in addition to finishing second in the 1 1/16-mile Alcibiades (G1). Mimi Kakushi nabbed the UAE Oaks (G3) racing 1,900 meters (about 1 3/16 miles). And now Fierceness has shown abundant talent over 1 1/16 miles in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and 1 1/8 miles in the Florida Derby.

But wait, it gets better. The dam of Fierceness is Nonna Bella, a daughter of Stay Thirsty out of Nonna Mia. Stay Thirsty was long-winded enough to win the 1 1/4-mile Travers (G1) and finish second in the 1 1/2-mile Belmont (G1), but speedy enough to cut back in trip and win the one-mile Cigar Mile H. (G1). Nonna Mia finished third in the one-mile Frizette (G1) and previously foaled 1 1/8-mile Wood Memorial (G1) winner and Kentucky Derby participant Outwork.

While Stay Thirsty hasn't set the world on fire at stud, he's sired several graded stakes winners led by Hopeful (G1), H. Allen Jerkens (G1), and Cigar Mile H. (G1) winner Mind Control. He's also the sire of Golden Leaf, winner of the 1 1/4-mile Premio Ricardo Ortiz de Zevallos (G1) and 1 1/2-mile Derby Nacional (G1) on dirt in Peru.

A mixture of miler speed and stamina is often the secret to success in the Kentucky Derby, and since the pedigree of Fierceness contains hefty doses of both, he has to be viewed as a major threat to prevail on the first Saturday in May.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

Based on nearly every metric, Fierceness is the fastest horse entering the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby (G1). The frontrunning colt registered field-topping 112 and 106 Brisnet Speed ratings for respective dominant wins in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) and Florida Derby (G1), stylishly drawing off from the competition by the top of the stretch, and Fierceness will look to get into a cruising rhythm in the Kentucky Derby, saving plenty for the key stages while racing on or up close to the lead. Following a 13-length romp in the Florida Derby, he will need to string together wins for the first time in his five-race career, throwing in unexpected clunkers at odds-on following rough starts in the Champagne (G1) and Holy Bull (G3), and the break appears more important for Fierceness than most. He remains a formidable presence and deserves to be favored come post time.

OWNER: Fierceness will be the ninth Kentucky Derby starter for Repole Stable (Mike Repole). A native of Queens, N.Y., 55-year-old Repole developed an interest for Thoroughbred racing as a teen and has owned horses for more than 20 years. Along with Fierceness, Repole has campaigned recent champions Forte, Nest, and Vino Rosso, but Forte unfortunately had to miss last year's Kentucky Derby due to a foot issue. Repole's best Kentucky Derby result came in partnership with Mo Donegal, who came back to win the Belmont (G1) after finishing fifth under the Twin Spires.

TRAINER: Todd Pletcher will have a Kentucky Derby starter for the 21st consecutive year, recording wins with Super Saver (2010) and Always Dreaming (2017). After working as an assistant for D. Wayne Lukas, Pletcher won his first race as a trainer in 1996, and the 56-year-old Texas native made his first Kentucky Derby appearance in 2000. Pletcher holds the record for Kentucky Derby starts, compiling a 64-2-2-4 mark, and the Hall of Famer owns a record eight Eclipse Awards for leading trainer. Pletcher has also captured four runnings of the Belmont (2007, 2013, 2017, and 2022).

JOCKEY: With victories aboard Animal Kingdom (2011), Always Dreaming (2017), and Authentic (2020), John Velazquez is tied for fourth-most Kentucky Derby wins. The 56-year-old launched his riding career in his native Puerto Rico, moving his tack to New York in the early 1990s, and Velazquez has won more than 6,500 races. Since making his first appearance in 1996, Velazquez has missed only three editions of the Kentucky Derby, and he owns the third-most starts with an overall 25-3-2-0 scorecard. The Hall of Famer completed a personal Triple Crown sweep last year, guiding National Treasure to a Preakness (G1) win, and Velazquez has won the Belmont twice (2007 and 2012).

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by Repole Stable (Mike Repole), Fierceness will be his second Kentucky Derby starter as a breeder, finishing 14th with homebred Outwork in 2016.

CATCHING FREEDOM



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

A perfect pedigree doesn't guarantee success in the Kentucky Derby (G1), but it doesn't hurt. And any way you slice it, Catching Freedom is bred to excel in the Derby.

Catching Freedom joined the Road to the Kentucky Derby with a rallying victory in the 1 1/16-mile Smarty Jones S. at Oaklawn Park. He later finished third in the 1 1/8-mile Risen Star (G2) before taking home top honors in the 1 3/16-mile Louisiana Derby (G2), both at Fair Grounds. Stretching out another sixteenth of a mile for the 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby should be right in his wheelhouse.

Catching Freedom is a son of Constitution, winner of the 1 1/8-mile Florida Derby (G1) and 1 1/8-mile Donn H. (G1). A son of three-time leading North American sire Tapit out of the Distorted Humor mare Baffled, Constitution had the pedigree to shine in the spring classics and passed on that genetic makeup to his son Tiz the Law, winner of the 1 1/8-mile Belmont (G1) and runner-up in the Kentucky Derby.

Numerous other sons and daughters of Constitution have enjoyed success racing one mile or farther in the U.S. and Canada, including graded stakes winners Americanrevolution, Webslinger, Law Professor, Independence Hall, Laura's Light, Treason, We the People, Major General, Promise Keeper, Venezuelan Hug, Breakpoint, Warrant, and Ridin With Biden. The latter two have won racing as far as 1 1/2 miles, while Breakpoint took the 1 3/4-mile San Juan Capistrano (G3).

The dam of Catching Freedom is Catch My Drift, a capable route racer who dominated the 1 1/8-mile Summer Colony S. before placing third in the 1 1/8-mile Beldame (G1). As a broodmare she's foaled three winners from three starters; in addition to Catching Freedom, she's the dam of the 1 1/8-mile Peter Pan (G3) and 1 1/8-mile Ohio Derby (G3) runner-up Bishops Bay plus one-mile Ellis Park Derby third-place finisher Strava.

Catch My Drift, in turn, is a daughter of Pioneerof the Nile, runner-up in the Kentucky Derby and the sire of acclaimed Triple Crown winner American Pharoah. He's also the sire of champion and Preakness (G1) runner-up Classic Empire, and the average winning distance of Pioneerof the Nile's progeny (7.5 furlongs) is indicative of stamina.

Pioneerof the Nile is also emerging as a promising broodmare sire. Aside from Catching Freedom, Bishops Bay, and Strava, daughters of Pioneerof the Nile have foaled one-mile Beholder Mile (G1) winner A Mo Reay and seven-furlong Malibu (G1) hero Speed Boat Beach.

Only time will tell how Catching Freedom performs in the Kentucky Derby, but if he's beaten on the first Saturday in May, his pedigree won't be to blame.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

After being cut off a couple of strides out of the gate, Catching Freedom dropped back to last and offered a dynamic closing kick to win the 1 3/16-mile Louisiana Derby (G2) at Fair Grounds by a length. The bay colt made his stakes debut a winning one in the Smarty Jones at Oaklawn on New Year's Day but registered only an 89 Brisnet Speed rating for the 2 3/4-length decision. Catching Freedom continued to show more in the Risen Star (G2) six weeks later, rallying to be a close third to Sierra Leone, and registered a commendable 100 Speed figure in the final prep. His progressing form offers appeal, longer distances appear to be no obstacle, and Catching Freedom will look to offer a serious win challenge with another forward move in the 150th Kentucky Derby (G1).

OWNER: Based in Des Moines, Iowa, Albaugh Family Stables is operated by Dennis Albaugh and his son-in-law Jason Loutsch. Their first appearance came in 2016, and Angel of Empire's third in 2023 is the best result from a total of six Kentucky Derby starters (including two campaigned in partnership).

TRAINER: Brad Cox grew up near Churchill Downs and has developed into one of the world's top trainers, opening his own stable in 2004 after working for Jimmy Baker, Burk Kessinger, and Dallas Stewart. Two-time champion Monomoy Girl, winner of the 2018 Kentucky Oaks (G1), helped bring him national attention, and Cox finished first and third with his first two Kentucky Derby starters, Mandaloun and Essential Quality, who were elevated one spot via disqualification in 2021. The two-time Eclipse Award-winning trainer brings an 8-1-0-2 record into his fourth Kentucky Derby appearance, and 44-year-old Cox also has Blue Grass (G1) runner-up Just a Touch and Lexington (G3) winner Encino in the Kentucky Derby field.

JOCKEY: Winner of the 2019 Kentucky Derby aboard Country House, Flavien Prat has compiled a stellar 6-1-1-3 record since making his first start in 2017, winning or placing in his last four Kentucky Derby starts. The 31-year-old achieved early success in his native France, and Prat moved his tack permanently to the United States in 2015. A winner of numerous jockey titles at Del Mar and Santa Anita, Prat is perhaps best known as the rider of undefeated Horse of the Year Flightline, and he also guided Rombauer to an upset in the 2021 Preakness (G1).

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by WinStar Farm (Kenny Troutt), Catching Freedom sold for \$575,000 as a yearling at the 2022 Keeneland September sale. WinStar bred Kentucky Derby winners Funny Cide (2003) and Super Saver (2010), compiling an overall 10-2-1-0 record as a breeder, and the Versailles, Kentucky farm campaigned Super Saver and Triple Crown hero Justify (2018), the latter in partnership. Elliott Walden, who trained Victory Gallop and Menifee to back-to-back seconds in the Kentucky Derby (1998-99), serves as President/CEO and Racing Manager of WinStar.

STRONGHOLD



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Stronghold has made a strong name for himself on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, winning the Santa Anita Derby (G1) and Sunland Park Derby (G3) after finishing a close second in the Los Alamitos Futurity (G2).

The Kentucky Derby (G1) looms on the horizon for Stronghold, but does he have the pedigree to shine racing 1 1/4 miles on the first Saturday in May? That's a tricky question that requires a nuanced answer.

Let's talk about Stronghold's sire, 2004 Horse of the Year Ghostzapper. Versatility was a strong suit for the Hall of Fame inductee, who won Grade 1 races over distances from six furlongs to 1 1/4 miles. Speed was Ghostzapper's greatest weapon, but he could sustain his speed over route distances, most notably winning the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1).

At stud, Ghostzapper has sired major winners over an incredibly wide variety of distances and surfaces. Some have been best as sprinters, including champions Goodnight Olive and Judy the Beauty, who combined to win three editions of the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (G1). Others have thrived over middle distances, such as multiple Grade 1 winners Better Lucky and Guarana. And a handful have done their best work over 1 1/4 miles, including Dubai World Cup (G1) hero Mystic Guide and Queen's Plate S. winners Moira, Holy Helena, and Shaman Ghost. The latter reiterated his 1 1/4-mile prowess with a triumph in the Santa Anita H. (G1).

All told, the progeny of Ghostzapper win at an average distance of 7.2 furlongs, a middle-of-the-road number that restates the obvious: Ghostzapper sires sprinters and routers alike. So which end of the spectrum will Stronghold occupy? The bottom half of his pedigree may provide the answer.

Stronghold's dam is Spectator, a sprinter/miler who won the 6 1/2-furlong Sorrento (G2) and placed second in the 1 1/16-mile Santa Anita Oaks (G1). She, in turn, is a daughter of Jimmy Creed, who scored his signature victory in the seven-furlong Malibu (G1). The progeny of Jimmy Creed win at a speed-oriented average distance of 6.6 furlongs, with the multiple Grade 1-winning sprinter/mile Casa Creed ranking as the best.

Given the speed in the dam side of Stronghold's pedigree, we have to ponder the possibility he'll prove best as a miler rather than a classics type. And there's one other pedigree factor worth

mentioning: the tendency for Ghostzapper's progeny to peak during the second half of their three-year-old seasons and beyond.

Ghostzapper himself followed that late-maturing path, as did Mystic Guide, Shaman Ghost, Moira, Holy Helena, Goodnight Olive, and Judy the Beauty. Horses who mature early enough to start in the Kentucky Derby have been uncommon among Ghostzapper's progeny, and he's yet to sire a winner of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness (G1), or Belmont (G1).

Even if Stronghold ultimately thrives racing 1 1/4 miles, his pedigree suggests he'll do so during the second half of 2024 or in 2025. If Stronghold is going to shine on the first Saturday in May, he'll have to blaze a new trail for the progeny of Ghostzapper.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

After a pair of seconds in his first two stakes attempts last year, Stronghold improved over the winter, recording a smashing win in the Sunland Derby (G3) and a courageous triumph in the Santa Anita Derby (G1). It's easy to admire the tenacity shown in the latter, as Stronghold forced his way between rivals turning for home and gamely repelled a serious late bid from the prohibitive favorite, scoring by a neck. And his ability to overcome adversity may serve him well in a 20-horse Kentucky Derby (G1) field. Stronghold showed an affinity for Churchill Downs earlier in his career, breaking his maiden convincingly as the odds-on favorite, and while his pedigree may appear geared toward distances shorter than 1 1/4 miles, Stronghold has shown no limitations while proving highly effective in both two-turn stakes appearances this year.

OWNER: Eric and Sharon Waller are set to make their first Kentucky Derby appearances as owners. The Wallers have owned horses for more than 28 years, and they reside in Rancho Santa Fe, Cal. near Del Mar.

TRAINER: After working for Mike Mitchell for 11 years, Phil D'Amato took over the stable when Mitchell retired in 2013. He quickly made a name for himself in Southern California, especially in the turf ranks, and Stronghold will be the first Kentucky Derby starter for the 48-year-old conditioner. D'Amato has won seven training titles at Del Mar and five at Santa Anita.

JOCKEY: Antonio Fresu will make his first Kentucky Derby appearance. After launching his career in his native Italy, the 32-year-old rider had stints in Dubai and England before moving his tack to America in 2023. He made an immediate impact in the Southern California jockey ranks, finishing second by wins at Del Mar last summer, and Fresu piloted 46 winners to rank second during the recently completed Santa Anita winter/spring meet.

BREEDER/SALES: A Kentucky homebred for Eric and Sharon Waller, Stronghold will be their first Kentucky Derby starter as a breeder.

RESILIENCE



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

A pace-tracking trip carried Resilience to a 2 1/4-length win in the Wood Memorial (G2) at Aqueduct, stamping the bay colt as a viable Kentucky Derby (G1) contender.

Pedigree handicappers were already aware of Resilience's Kentucky Derby potential. After all, his pedigree is packed with speed, stamina, class, and—most importantly—Kentucky Derby winners.

Resilience is a son of five-time leading North American sire Into Mischief. A sprinter/miler who won the CashCall Futurity (G1), Into Mischief is known for passing on speed and stud. But some of his best runners have carried their speed over the Kentucky Derby's 1 1/4-mile distance, including Derby winners Authentic (2020) and Mandaloun (2021). Another son, Audible, finished third in the 2018 Kentucky Derby.

Meanwhile, Resilience's dam is Meadowsweet, a two-time turf winner over distances of about 6 1/2 furlongs and 1 1/16 miles. Her first foal, Cloud Forest, won a maiden special weight racing one mile on dirt at Aqueduct.

Meadowsweet is a daughter of Smart Strike out of Tranquility Lake, and this is where the pedigree of Resilience really starts to shine. Smart Strike won the 1 1/16-mile Philip H. Iselin H. (G1) and developed into an elite stallion, siring Preakness (G1) winner and two-time Horse of the Year Curlin, Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) winner and champion English Channel, Preakness hero and two-time champion Lookin At Lucky, and many other top-class runners. Daughters of Smart Strike have foaled Kentucky Derby winners Mine That Bird (2009) and Rich Strike (2022).

As for Tranquility Lake, she won a bevy of graded stakes across a decorated career. She was best on grass, winning the Gamely Breeders' Cup H. (G1) and Yellow Ribbon S. (G1) racing 1 1/4 miles, but she also won the 1 1/16-mile Clement L. Hirsch (G1) and placed in the seven-furlong La Brea (G1) on dirt.

Tranquility Lake's record as a broodmare is equally impressive. In addition to Meadowsweet, she has foaled Shoemaker Mile (G1) winner Courageous Cat, Eddie Read H. (G1) and Charles Whittingham Memorial H. (G1) hero After Market, and Al Maktoum Challenge Round 3 (G2) winner Jalil. Courageous Cat was a miler, but After Market and Jalil both secured signature victories over 1 1/4 miles.

It comes down to this—if Resilience wins the Kentucky Derby, he'll become the third son of Into Mischief and third horse produced by a Smart Strike mare to win the Kentucky Derby. Any way you slice it, that's a pedigree geared for success on the first Saturday in May.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

Resilience broke his maiden at Gulfstream Park in early January and followed with a commendable fourth in his stakes debut, a deep Risen Star (G2) at Fair Grounds. His rider felt the bay colt got a little intimidated when forced to check in the stretch and Resilience added blinkers for the Wood Memorial (G2) at Aqueduct, responding with a convincing win from just off the pace. He's the type to dismiss at your own risk. Resilience likes to race up close with his tactical speed and appears to be discovering his best form at the right time. He's bred to relish the added ground and has kept progressing while making his last four starts at different tracks.

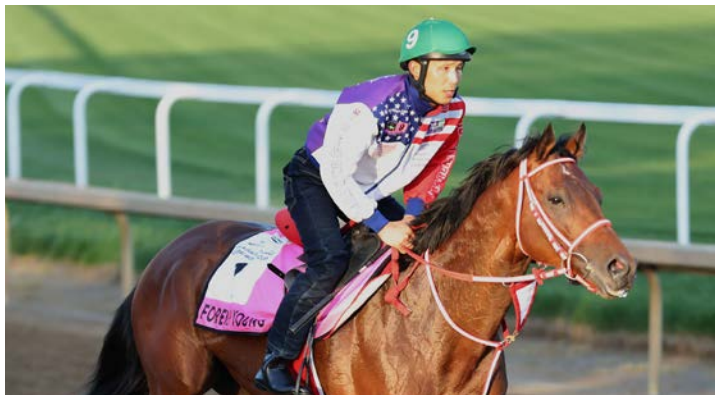
OWNER: Resilience will be the first Kentucky Derby starter for Emily Bushnell and Ric Waldman. Bushnell is the daughter of breeders Pam and Martin Wygod. Waldman, a Louisville native, has managed operations at many notable stud farms, overseeing great sires Northern Dancer and Storm Cat. He started Ric Waldman Thoroughbred Consulting in 1994.

TRAINER: Bill Mott won his first and only Kentucky Derby via disqualification with Country House in 2019. The South Dakota native worked as an assistant for Hall of Famer Jack Van Berg before going out on his own in 1978, and the 70-year-old New York-based conditioner has won 10 training titles at Belmont Park and nine at Saratoga. Mott became the youngest trainer (45) ever elected to the Hall of Fame in 1998, and he captured the 2010 Belmont (G1) with Drosselmeyer. He's also won 15 Breeders' Cup races. Mott's first Kentucky Derby starter came in 1984 and his overall record reads 12-1-0-1.

JOCKEY: Junior Alvarado made his fifth appearance in the Kentucky Derby. His first mount, and best result, came aboard Mohaymen, who finished fourth in 2016.

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by Pam and Martin Wygod, Resilience will be their first Kentucky Derby starter as a breeder. Sadly, Martin passed away on April 12 at 84, six days after Resilience's win in the Wood Memorial. A classmate and friend of late Hall of Fame trainer Bobby Frankel, Martin developed an affinity for horses in high school and worked at Belmont Park as a hotwalker before attending college. A pioneer in online pharmaceutical sales, the successful businessman started owning horses in 1965, and the Wygods have been influential as breeders and owners since the 1970s.

FOREVER YOUNG (JPN)



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

A powerful seven-length victory in Japan's Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun at Kawasaki Racecourse stamped Forever Young as a formidable 2024 Kentucky Derby (G1) contender, a status he confirmed with globetrotting victories in the Saudi Derby (G3) and UAE Derby (G2).

Horses based in Japan have enjoyed abundant international success in recent years. 2022 Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun winner Derma Sotogake used his victory at Kawasaki as a springboard to a 2023 campaign highlighted by a win in the UAE Derby, a sixth-place finish in the Kentucky Derby, and a runner-up effort in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1). But Forever Young—who is unbeaten in five starts—has the potential to rise even higher.

Forever Young is a son of Real Steel, winner of the 2016 Dubai Turf (G1) racing 1,800 meters (about 1 1/8 miles) on turf in Dubai. A son of Japan's legendary Triple Crown winner Deep Impact, Real Steel was produced by the Storm Cat mare Loves Only Me, which makes Real Steel a full-brother to Yoshito Yahagi's 2021 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1) winner Loves Only You.

Loves Only You won four Group 1 races over distances from 2,000 meters to 2,400 meters (about 1 1/4 miles to 1 1/2 miles). Real Steel was a bit speedier, recording all three of his group stakes wins over 1,800 meters, but it's worth noting Real Steel stretched his speed to finish second by a neck in the Kikuka Sho (G1) traveling 3,000 meters (about 1 7/8 miles) against the top-notch seven-time Group 1 winner Kitasan Black.

At stud, Real Steel is off to a promising start. He ranked second by progeny earnings among Japan's first-crop sires of 2022, and he's already sired 2,200-meter (about 1 3/8-mile) St. Lite Kinen (G2) winner Lenbensstil and 1,600-meter (about one-mile) Daily Hai Nisai (G2) winner All Parfait.

KENTUCKY DERBY INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING REPORT

Forever Young is arguably Japan's best chance so far in the Kentucky Derby (G1), not just because he's undefeated, and trained by a master horseman in Yoshito Yahagi, who's already scored historic victories in the Breeders' Cup.

After achieving the highest-ever rating by a two-year-old on dirt in his homeland, Forever Young has taken his game on the road, and

overcome varying degrees of adversity in both the Saudi Derby (G3) and UAE Derby (G2). Those qualifications set him apart from the six past Japanese shippers who've tried the Kentucky Derby. Unlike his compatriots who either took a gigantic leap forward in Dubai, or otherwise didn't appear to be the top of the class at home, Forever Young sports the pattern of an elite colt potentially building toward a new career high at Churchill Downs.

Of course, that's not to minimize the challenges, whether external circumstances – e.g., the 0-for-18 stat of UAE alumni in the Kentucky Derby – or the possibility of self-sabotage at the start. But Forever Young has the unquantifiable ability to keep winning, even when he should have lost, and his timeline going into the Derby is eerily similar to his biggest win as a juvenile.

A TRAINER PROVEN ON THE WORLD STAGE – AND ON THE U.S. DIRT

It would be no surprise if Yahagi becomes the first Japanese trainer to solve the Derby puzzle. A multiple Japan Racing Association (JRA) award winner for his training prowess over the last decade, including the past five years in a row, Yahagi has topped the standings in different categories. He's won the JRA training awards for most wins (2014 and 2016), most prize money (2019 and 2023), both metrics of wins and prize money (2022), and the "trifecta" of sweeping those honors as well as the training technique category (2020 and 2021).

While Yahagi trained 2020 Japanese Triple Crown champion Contrail, many of his big names have gained fame on the world stage. North American racing fans will remember his sensational Breeders' Cup double at Del Mar in 2021, when Loves Only You captured the Filly & Mare Turf (G1) and Marche Lorraine shocked the Distaff (G1). Yahagi's racked up other majors from Hong Kong to the Middle East and Australia. To mention just two of his high-profile victories, Japan's Horse of the Year Lys Gracieux plundered the prestigious Cox Plate (G1) in 2019, and last year, Panthalassa wired the \$20 million Saudi Cup (G1) as an outsider lacking dirt credentials.

Forever Young's regular rider, Ryusei Sakai, is an up-and-coming talent based with Yahagi. Currently tied for fourth in the overall jockey standings at home, Sakai has won Japanese Grade 1s on both dirt and turf. He turned in a front-running masterclass aboard Godolphin's dirt star Lemon Pop in last December's Champions Cup (G1), and his astute handling of Forever Young is a reflection of his confidence in the colt.

FOREVER YOUNG'S PEDIGREE AND SALES HISTORY

Bred by the powerhouse of Northern Farm, Forever Young sold for ¥98 million (approximately \$725,926 according to the sale website) as a yearling at the Japan Racing Horse Association's Select Sale. As you might expect, he descends from the breed-shaping male line of 1989 Kentucky Derby hero and Hall of Famer Sunday Silence.

Forever Young's sire, Real Steel, is a full brother to the aforementioned champion Loves Only You, both by the

FOREVER YOUNG (JPN) CONT.

great Deep Impact and out of a granddaughter of Breeders' Cup legend Miesque. Real Steel, himself trained by Yahagi, became the horseman's first big splash on the international scene when taking the 2016 Dubai Turf (G1).

Forever Young is related to Derby rival Sierra Leone. The two are out of accomplished half-sisters from a female line cultivated by Debby Oxley. Forever Young's dam, Forever Darling, was sold for a mere \$8,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September, but she went on to win the 2016 Santa Ynez (G2). By the A.P. Indy stallion Congrats, and from the immediate family of Japanese Horse of the Year Zenno Rob Roy, Forever Darling was privately acquired by Katsumi Yoshida and ultimately exported to Japan.

FOREVER YOUNG'S DOMINANT JUVENILE CAMPAIGN

Debuting for owner Susumu Fujita on Oct. 14 at Kyoto, Forever Young went off as the 3.20-1 second choice in an about 1 1/8-mile race for newcomers. But he proved much the best by four lengths in 1:54.8, a time faster than the other two-year-old maiden on the card that elapsed in 1:55.3.

Off a beat slow, Forever Young recovered to sit a couple of lengths off the pace in the second flight. He was just galloping among horses until he got a seam in upper stretch. Splitting foes like a seasoned pro, he kicked away with authority. Forever Young posted a field-best final 600 meters (about three furlongs) in :37.7, under good handling in what looked like an easy steering job.

Forever Young next graduated to stakes company in the JBC Nisai Yushun, also going about 1 1/8 miles at Mombetsu, a track on the lesser National Association of Racing (NAR) circuit. Bet down to 6-5 favoritism, he was again slow to find his stride from the gate. But he didn't get any sort of position as he did at Kyoto.

Rather, Forever Young lagged well back with only a straggler or two behind him. His aversion to kickback was evident as he raced with his head up in air, feeling the spray of the good track pelting him. Yet he launched a sustained, stout rally to score by 1 1/2 lengths in 1:54.3, with a gap of eight lengths back to third.

This was the blowout performance that garnered a 113 rating, the best ever recorded for a Japanese dirt juvenile. His time of 1:43.5 was influenced by a stop-start pace, and the demanding condition of the track (according to keiba.go.jp).

Although Fujita was reportedly intrigued by Japan's new dirt Triple Crown in 2024, the international route prevailed. Forever Young was set for a Mideast swing, not the Japan Road, in hopes of making it to the Kentucky Derby.

FOREVER YOUNG SNATCHES VICTORY FROM DEFEAT IN SAUDI

Between Yahagi's reputation and his own burgeoning resume, Forever Young was the odds-on favorite in the Feb. 24 Saudi Derby on Saudi Cup Day. But the one-turn metric mile posed a bit of culture shock, especially once he relapsed into a sluggish



start, against speedier rivals who were in their element at that configuration.

Indeed, Forever Young looked out of his comfort zone for a long way. He was niggled along to try to stay in touch with the smart Book'em Danno, who was cruising just off the pace on the backstretch. The leaders got away from Forever Young cornering into the stretch, and he appeared bound for third at best. But his stamina finally kicked in late, despite never changing leads (possibly an indicator of how out of sync he was). Even on his left lead, Forever Young somehow got up to chin Book'em Danno on the line.

Considering that Book'em Danno was coming off a 12 1/2-length tour de force in the Pasco S., this was some effort to catch him. Another Florida shipper, Bentornato, checked in a further six lengths adrift in third.

The clock furnished another data point: Forever Young obliterated the stakes record, posting a final time of 1:36.17. Yahagi later revealed he didn't ship well to Saudi. Between the travel, the idea of the Saudi Derby as a stepping stone for the UAE Derby, the conditions that didn't favor him, and his own miscues, Forever Young really ought to have lost.

CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF MEYDAN IN THE UAE DERBY

The UAE Derby's about 1 3/16-mile trip around Meydan was more congenial for a colt who'd started his career at about 1 1/8 miles. And Yahagi reported that he was physically better after moving from Saudi to Dubai.

Still, Forever Young could have had another excuse; this time, the 1-2 favorite lost ground around the entire circuit from his far outside post.

Sporting a new visor to protect his face from the kickback, Forever Young was ridden with urgency, as in the Zen-Nippon, to get position. But here he was parked very wide rounding the clubhouse turn. Sakai sensibly eased back a bit into a spot within comfortable striking range. Although he was still racing wide

FOREVER YOUNG (JPN) CONT.

without cover, he traveled with gusto at every stage. Forever Young took aim on the leader at the top of the lane, switched leads effectively, and powered away by two lengths from Argentine-bred Auto Bahn.

Forever Young crossed the wire in 1:57.89. The time is well off the 1:55.18 track record set by Mendelssohn in 2018, and compatriot Derma Sotogake's 1:55.81 in last year's UAE Derby.

But that might not tell the whole story, since both Mendelssohn and Derma Sotogake got away as pacesetters in races that produced exceedingly flattering margins. Forever Young's different running style, and substantial ground loss, must be factored into the assessment.

During the current season at Meydan, only one other race over the distance has gone faster – the Jan. 26 Al Maktoum Challenge (G1) won by the older Kabirkhan in 1:57.72. Note that Kabirkhan's race was faster in the middle stages, while the UAE Derby pace slackened at the comparable points. Hence Forever Young finished much faster than Kabirkhan in order to record almost the same time.

According to the Gmax tracking data, Forever Young reeled off the fastest sectionals in each of the final three furlongs in the UAE Derby – :12.2, a punishing :11.8, and :12.6 while pulling away, with ears pricked.

HISTORICAL HEADWINDS

Merely invoking the specters of Mendelssohn and Derma Sotogake, however, is a reminder of the woeful record of UAE Derby competitors in the Run for the Roses. The aforementioned 0-for-18 factoid is worse than just not producing a winner; not one has even managed to crack the superfecta.

That's partly a function of the difficulty of trying to peak again after long-distance travel, and partly tales of softer trips at Meydan, but it's also an indication of the deeper competition in the Kentucky Derby itself. Yet I'm convinced that the right horse can defy this uniformly negative trend one day. If the Churchill Downs track had been fast in 2017, Thunder Snow might have taken care of it already. It was the wet surface that caused the bucking bronco exhibition from Godolphin's \$16.5-million globetrotter.

Forever Young's other challenge, trying to stay undefeated through the Derby, is no mean feat either. The most recent horse to join that exclusive club is Justify (2018), although Maximum Security would have done so, if not for his disqualification for interference in 2019. The handful to attempt it over the past three years all lost their perfect marks.

RACE TIMELINE THE KEY?

Forever Young fans can take heart in the fact that his 5-for-5 record, compiled at five different racetracks in three countries, illustrates his ability to adapt to various situations. He's won by tracking the leader, stalking a few lengths back, or closing from the clouds, and gaining experience that will come in handy in the Derby.

None of that addresses the unique demands of performing up to a high level as an international shipper, who must carry his form from Japan to the Mideast and now to the U.S. But the race spacing angle just might.

The Kentucky Derby will be the third start of his form cycle, significantly on a timeline comparable to the spacing of his two-year-old campaign. Last fall, Forever Young had nearly three weeks from his maiden to his stakes debut, then a 5 1/2-week gap to his blowout in the Zen-Nippon. This year, he had a month from Saudi to the UAE, and now five weeks to the Kentucky Derby.

Could that prep schedule portend a similar leap forward for his main aim, on the first Saturday in May? At least his manner of winning the UAE Derby suggests that he hasn't maxed out yet, but has left something to build upon in the next month.



ENDLESSLY



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Stretch-running Endlessly has been a force to reckon with on turf and synthetic, winning four stakes. In the Jeff Ruby Steaks (G3) on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, he stormed home over the Turfway Park Tapeta track to dominate by four lengths.

But Endlessly has never run on dirt, the surface over which the Kentucky Derby (G1) is contested at Churchill Downs. Switching surfaces for the Derby is a question mark, though Endlessly's pedigree suggests it's not an impossible obstacle to overcome.

Endlessly is a son of Oscar Performance, a speedy grass star who won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1), Belmont Derby (G1), Secretariat (G1), and Woodbine Mile (G1) over distances from one mile to 1 1/4 miles. That Oscar Performance excelled on turf isn't surprising; he's a son of grass champion and standout turf sire Kitten's Joy out of Devine Actress, a stakes-winning daughter of champion and Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) winner Theatrical. This makes Oscar Performance a full-brother to Oscar Nominated (a graded stakes winner on turf and synthetic) and a half-brother to Award Winner, victorious in the Charles Whittingham (G2) on grass.

Now, despite his clear-cut grass breeding, Oscar Performance has sired a couple of accomplished dirt horses during his brief stud career to date. Red Carpet Ready has won the Eight Belles (G2), Forward Gal (G2), and Hurricane Bertie (G3) sprinting, and Tumbarumba took the Fred W. Hooper (G3) and Ellis Park Derby racing one mile. Furthermore, Deer District finished second in the 6 1/2-furlong Amsterdam (G2) and Oscar Eclipse won the seven-furlong Sir Shackleton S.

The rest of Endlessly's pedigree is slanted more strongly toward dirt success. His dam is Dream Fuhrever, an unraced daughter of top-tier sprinter/miler Langfuhr. During a decorated career, Langfuhr won the Vosbugh (G1), Carter H. (G1), and Metropolitan H. (G1) over distances from seven furlongs to one mile.

Langfuhr may have been best racing around one turn, but his progeny have excelled over a wide variety of distances and surfaces. Lawyer Ron was voted 2007 champion older male after dominating the Whitney (G1) and Woodward (G1) racing 1 1/8 miles on dirt at Saratoga. Imperial Gesture cleaned up the Beldame (G1) and Gazelle (G1) over the same distance and surface at Belmont Park. Jambalaya won multiple Group 1 grass contests over distances from 1 1/4 miles to 1 3/8 miles, Interpatation upset the 1 1/2-mile Joe Hirsch Turf Classic (G1) on turf, Euroears nabbed the Bing Crosby (G1) dashing

six furlongs on dirt, and Imperialism finished third in the 2004 Kentucky Derby.

However, as a broodmare sire Langfuhr has passed on dirt prowess with greater consistency, at least to his most accomplished descendants. His daughters have foaled classy dirt horses like 2017 Kentucky Derby runner-up Lookin At Lee, 1 1/8-mile Kentucky Oaks (G1) winner Proud Spell, Kentucky Oaks runner-up My Miss Sophia, 1 1/8-mile Florida Derby (G1) winner Materiality, Grade 1 winning sprinter/miler Firenze Fire, and multiple Grade 3-winning route racer Blended Citizen. The latter also won the Jeff Ruby Steaks over Turfway's old Polytrack synthetic course.

Since Endlessly's dam is a daughter of Langfuhr, and since Oscar Performance is siring quality dirt racers in defiance of his grass pedigree, we have to acknowledge the possibility Endlessly could prove just as effective on dirt as on turf and Tapeta.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

Endlessly will bring a late kick to the 150th Kentucky Derby (G1) on May 4, rallying smartly past rivals to earn his spot with a four-length decision in the Jeff Ruby Steaks (G3) in late March. That race came over Turfway Park's synthetic Tapeta track, and while the Jeff Ruby has produced a Kentucky Derby winner (Rich Strike) and runner-up (Two Phil's) over the last two years, both horses had won previously at Churchill Downs. Endlessly has never raced on dirt, recording a pair of Grade 3 turf wins last year and capturing the El Camino Real Derby on Tapeta in his three-year-old opener. The 20-horse Kentucky Derby field is always a challenging spot to try something new, but deep-closing Endlessly may receive a favorable set up, with another hot pace expected this year.

OWNER: Amerman Racing (Jerry and Joan Amerman) will be represented by their first Kentucky Derby starter. The California-based owners who have campaigned multiple Breeders' Cup race winners.

TRAINER: Endlessly will be the first Kentucky Derby starter for Michael McCarthy. A 53-year-old native of Youngstown, Ohio, McCarthy upset the 2021 Preakness (G1) with Rombauer, and he trained 2018 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) winner City of Light, the sire of presumed 2024 Kentucky Derby favorite Fierceness. McCarthy worked for trainers Ben Cecil, Doug Peterson, and Todd Pletcher before starting his own stable in 2014.

JOCKEY: Umberto Rispoli launched his riding career in his native Italy in 2005, and the 35-year-old jockey had stints in France and Hong Kong before moving to Southern California in late 2019. This will be his second Kentucky Derby mount, finishing 14th on Brooklyn Strong in 2021.

BREEDER/SALES: Endlessly was bred in Kentucky by the Amermans. This will be their second Kentucky Derby appearance as breeders, with Oscar Nominated finishing 17th in 2016.

DORNOCH



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

It's safe to say that Dornoch has the pedigree of a Kentucky Derby (G1) winner. Because he literally has the pedigree of a Kentucky Derby winner.

On April 18, 2020, a chestnut colt by Good Magic out of Puca was born. Later named Mage, he would go on to win the 2023 Kentucky Derby in an upset.

On April 22, 2021, a bay colt by Good Magic out of Puca was born. Mage's younger brother was given the name Dornoch, and after posting determined victories in the Remsen (G2) and Fountain of Youth (G2) on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, Dornoch has a chance to emulate his sibling with a win on the first Saturday in May.

It's easy to understand why Mage and Dornoch are shining where the Kentucky Derby is concerned. Good Magic, the champion two-year-old male of 2017 after winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), placed second behind Triple Crown winner Justify in the 2018 Kentucky Derby. And Good Magic is a son of two-time Horse of the Year Curlin, third in the 2007 Kentucky Derby and also the sire of 2016 Kentucky Derby runner-up Exaggerator and the grandsire of 2022 Kentucky Derby winner Rich Strike.

But wait, there's more. Puca competed in the 2015 Kentucky Oaks (G1) and is a daughter of Big Brown, the champion three-year-old male of 2008 after winning the Kentucky Derby, Preakness (G1), Haskell (G1), and Florida Derby (G1). At stud, Big Brown is best known as the sire of Dortmund, third in the 2015 Kentucky Derby and winner of the Santa Anita Derby (G1) and Los Alamitos Futurity (G1).

If you've lost count of the number of times we've mentioned "Kentucky Derby" while recounting the exploits of Dornoch's closest relatives, so have we. Before Mage won the 2023 Kentucky Derby, we noted how his "sire, grandsire, and dam sire all started in the Run for the Roses, giving Mage the pedigree to factor on the first Saturday in May."

Not only did Mage factor, he took home the roses. No mare has ever foaled multiple Kentucky Derby winners, but we know with certainty that the Good Magic/Puca cross can produce a Derby winner, and that bodes well for Dornoch's chances in the 2024 Run for the Roses.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

A full brother to 2023 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Mage, Dornoch convincingly broke his maiden going two turns at Keeneland last fall, but he refused to change leads and did not run straight through the stretch. The speedy colt concluded his juvenile season by taking the Remsen (G2) at Aqueduct but continued to display erratic behavior, re-rallying to prevail by a nose after suddenly veering in and losing momentum by hitting the rail with a clear lead in upper stretch. In two starts this year, Dornoch loafed on the front end when controlling a slow pace in a Fountain of Youth (G2) win at Gulfstream and resented being rated in the Blue Grass (G1) at Keeneland, tossing his head behind horses on the first turn and into the backstretch, eventually winding up a non-threatening fourth. Those slow performances are disconcerting. Dornoch is expected to be hustling from the break in the Kentucky Derby, and remains a promising and talented type, but his lack of professionalism must be overcome.

OWNER: West Paces Racing (Larry Connolly), R.A. Hill Stable (Raymond Hill III), Belmar Racing and Breeding (Vito Cucci), Two Eight Racing (Jayson Werth), and Pine Racing Stables (Mark Pine) campaign Dornoch. It will be the first Kentucky Derby appearance for all but R.A. Hill Stable, who co-owned Vekoma (12th) and Tax (14th) in 2019. West Paces is also co-owner of Society Man, who earned a spot in the 2024 Kentucky Derby field with a runner-up effort in the Wood Memorial (G2).

TRAINER: A Louisville native, Danny Gargan will make his second Kentucky Derby appearance, finishing 14th with Tax in 2019. His father, Danny Gargan, won the 1973 Kentucky Oaks aboard Bag of Tunes, and Gargan worked as an assistant trainer and jockey agent before launching his training career in 2013. Gargan will also train Society Man in the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby on May 4.

JOCKEY: Luis Saez made his first Kentucky Derby appearance in 2013 and will bring a 10-0-0-1 record into this year's edition. The 31-year-old launched his professional career in his native Panama and began riding in the United States in 2009, quickly rising through the ranks. Saez rode Maximum Security, who finished first in the 2019 Kentucky Derby but was disqualified and placed 17th for interference. His best official result came aboard Essential Quality, promoted to third in the 2021 edition, and Saez guided Essential Quality to victory in the Belmont (G1) five weeks later.

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by Robert Clay's Grandview Equine, Dornoch sold for \$325,000 as a yearling at the 2022 Keeneland September sale. Grandview also bred Mage, and Dornoch will be their second Kentucky Derby starter as a breeder.

JUST A TOUCH



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

One of the most beautifully bred horses in the prospective 2024 Kentucky Derby (G1) field is Just a Touch, the lightly raced runner-up in the Blue Grass (G1) and Gotham (G3) on the Road to the Kentucky Derby.

Just a Touch hails from the second crop of foals sired by 2018 Triple Crown winner Justify, a brilliant speedster with the stamina to handle 1 1/4 miles in the Kentucky Derby, 1 3/16 miles in the Preakness (G1), and 1 1/2 miles in the Belmont (G1).

Justify is off to a strong start at stud. His success is due in part to the wide variety of distances and surfaces his progeny have handled. Many have done their best work on turf, including one-mile Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1) winner Hard to Justify, 1 1/4-mile Belmont Oaks (G1) heroine Aspen Grove, and seven-furlong Dewhurst (G1) winner City of Troy.

But other sons and daughters of Justify have inherited their sire's dirt prowess. Arabian Lion turned in a giant effort to win the seven-furlong Woody Stephens (G1). Just F Y I was voted 2023 champion two-year-old filly after winning the 1 1/16-mile Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) and one-mile Frizette (G1). Verifying won the 1 1/16-mile Indiana Derby (G3) and competed in the 2023 Kentucky Derby after placing in the 1 1/8-mile Blue Grass (G1) and one-mile Champagne (G1). And Just Steel is slated to join Just a Touch in the 2024 Kentucky Derby field after placing second in the 1 1/8-mile Arkansas Derby (G1).

Just a Touch could have fallen on either side of the turf/dirt division among Justify's progeny, and it's likely his dam that pushed him to the dirt side. He was produced by Touching Beauty, winner of the one-mile Comely (G3) on dirt. Four of Touching Beauty's five winning foals have recorded victories on dirt, including the stakes-place Corps of Discovery.

Touching Beauty is a daughter of Tapit out of Victory Road. Tapit is a three-time leading North American sire whose progeny have largely excelled on dirt, led by undefeated 2022 Horse of the Year Flightline and Belmont winners Tonalist, Creator, Tapwrit, and Essential Quality. Victory Road won the La Senorita S. racing one mile on dirt.

The cross of Justify with Tapit mares has already produced a successful dirt racer in the form of Champions Dream, winner of the

one-mile Nashua (G3). Now Just a Touch is rising to Grade 1 heights and has his sights set on the Kentucky Derby. There's nothing in his breeding to suggest racing 1 1/4 miles on dirt will be problematic, so Just a Touch passes the pedigree test for a Kentucky Derby contender.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

A late-developing colt, Just a Touch impressively captured his career debut over a sloppy track at Fair Grounds in late January and followed with a good second in the Gotham (G3) at Aqueduct in the slop. The Blue Grass (G1) at Keeneland marked his first start at two turns and a fast track, and Just a Touch chased a fast pace in second until surging to the lead in upper stretch, taking a clear advantage with a sixteenth of a mile remaining. He could not withstand the fast-charging Sierra Leone, but the bay sophomore held well for second. His tactical ability may bode well in the 20-horse Kentucky Derby (G1) field, the up-and-comer will look to settle just off the early leaders, and Just a Touch's progressing form adds to the appeal. He's a candidate to keep moving forward on May 4.

OWNER: Just a Touch will be the first Kentucky Derby starter for Qatar Racing (Sheikh Fahad al Thani), Resolute Racing (John Stewart), and Marc Detampel.

TRAINER: Brad Cox grew up near Churchill Downs and has developed into one of the world's top trainers, opening his own stable in 2004 after working for Jimmy Baker, Burk Kessinger, and Dallas Stewart. Two-time champion Monomoy Girl, winner of the 2018 Kentucky Oaks (G1), helped bring him national attention, and Cox finished first and third with his first two Kentucky Derby starters, Mandaloun and Essential Quality, who were elevated one spot via disqualification in 2021, and the latter came back to capture the Belmont (G1). The two-time Eclipse Award-winning trainer brings an 8-1-0-2 record into his fourth Kentucky Derby appearance, and 44-year-old Cox also has Louisiana Derby (G2) winner Catching Freedom and Lexington (G3) winner Encino in the field.

JOCKEY: Probably best known as the regular rider of 2017 Horse of the Year Gun Runner, Florent Geroux finished third aboard Gun Runner when making his first Kentucky Derby appearance in 2016. He won the 2021 Kentucky Derby on Mandaloun via disqualification, and Geroux owns an overall 7-1-0-1 record. The 37-year-old started his riding career in his native France, moving his tack to the United States in 2007,

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by Don Alberto Corporation, Just a Touch will be the second Kentucky Derby runner as breeder for the Chile-based outfit, which was also responsible for third-placer Mr. Big News in 2020. Just a Touch passed through the auction ring three times, eventually selling for \$300,000 at last year's OBS April two-year-old sale.

TRACK PHANTOM



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Pacesetting and dueling tactics carried Track Phantom to victories in the Gun Runner S. and Lecomte (G3) at Fair Grounds on the Road to the Kentucky Derby.

But as distances have grown longer, Track Phantom's successes have dwindled. He finished second in the 1 1/8-mile Risen Star (G2) and fourth in the 1 3/16-mile Louisiana Derby (G2). Does Track Phantom have the stamina to carry his speed over 1 1/4 miles in the Kentucky Derby (G1)? His pedigree gives off mixed signals.

Let's start with Track Phantom's sire, Quality Road. A four-time Grade 1 winner over distances from one mile to 1 1/8 miles, Quality Road had lots of speed but couldn't quite carry it over 1 1/4 miles. His progeny have trended in a similar direction, with the majority doing their best work racing 1 1/8 miles or less. They include Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) winner City of Light, champion two-year-old male Corniche, champion three-year-old filly Abel Tasman, Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1) winner Hootenanny, and Saudi Cup (G1) hero Emblem Road.

Now, there have been exceptions to this trend. On turf, Spring Quality won the 1 1/4-mile Manhattan (G1) and Bleeker Street nabbed the 1 1/4-mile New York (G1). And on dirt, Dunbar Road took the 1 1/4-mile Alabama (G1) and National Treasure wired a slow-paced edition of the 1 3/16-mile Preakness (G1). But overall, serious classics contenders have been uncommon among Quality Road's progeny.

Miss Sunset, the dam of Track Phantom, isn't an obvious source of classic stamina either. An accomplished sprinter who won 10 out of 20 starts, including the Raven Run (G2) and eight other stakes, Miss Sunset previously foaled O'Conner Sunset, a two-time winner sprinting 6 1/2 furlongs or less. Speed is the name of the game for Miss Sunset, which isn't surprising since she's a daughter of five-time leading North American sire Into Mischief, a Grade 1-winning sprinter/miler known for passing on speed at stud.

But wait—Into Mischief might be the sire of Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) winners Life Is Good and Goldencents and Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (G1) heroines Gamine and Covfefe, but he's also sired Kentucky Derby winners Mandaloun and Authentic. The latter reiterated his prowess over 1 1/4 miles by conquering older rivals in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1). Furthermore, daughters of

Into Mischief have foaled Breeders' Cup Classic winner White Abarrio and 1 1/16-mile Wise Dan (G2) winner Stitched.

Clearly Track Phantom has lots of speed in his pedigree, but it's not impossible to envision him handling 1 1/4 miles. He might not be the most stoutly bred Kentucky Derby contender, but Quality Road and Into Mischief are both responsible for classic winners, so there's at least an outside chance Track Phantom will carry his speed over 1 1/4 miles on the first Saturday in May.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

Track Phantom broke his maiden when stretching out to two turns at Churchill Downs last fall and followed with convincing wins in the Gun Runner S. and Lecomte (G3) at Fair Grounds, establishing himself as a legitimate Kentucky Derby (G1) contender. The frontrunning bay stepped up in distance and competition for the next two starts, finishing a close second to Sierra Leone in the 1 1/8-mile Risen Star (G2) and fourth in the Louisiana Derby (G2). Those performances call into question his threshold for longer distances, and Track Phantom will be a longshot in the 150th Kentucky Derby, but the battle-tested sophomore will add blinkers and his tactical ability has proved to be an asset for classy colts in previous runnings.

OWNER: L and N Racing (Lee Levinson), Clark Brewster, Jerry Caroom, and Breeze Easy (Mike Hall) campaign Track Phantom. This will be the second Kentucky Derby starter for L and N Racing, who owned 2017 runner-up Lookin At Lee, and the first for Brewster, Caroom, and Breeze Easy.

TRAINER: North America's all-time leading trainer by wins, Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen has been close on several occasions, saddling Epicenter (2023), Lookin At Lee (2017), and Nehro (2011) to runner-up efforts, but the 58-year-old conditioner is still seeking his first Kentucky Derby win. He finished third with Gun Runner (2016) and Curlin (2007), the latter providing Asmussen with the first of two Preakness (G1) winners, and Creator won the 2016 Belmont (G1) for him. In fact, Asmussen has captured nearly every major U.S. dirt stakes except the Kentucky Derby, recording a 25-0-3-2 mark, and has won a pair of Eclipse Awards for leading trainer so far. Raised in Texas, Asmussen's brother Cash was a successful jockey, winning an Eclipse Award stateside and numerous important races in Europe, and Steve's son Keith will make his first Kentucky Derby start as a jockey aboard Just Steel this year.

JOCKEY: Joel Rosario finished fourth aboard his first Kentucky Derby starter, Make Music for Me in 2010, and guided Orb to a rallying win in the 2013. From the Dominican Republic, the 39-year-old also rode 2022 runner-up Epicenter, compiling an overall 12-1-1-0 record in the Kentucky Derby, and Rosario earned the Eclipse Award for leading jockey in 2021.

BREEDER/SALES: Mike Hall's Breeze Easy bred Track Phantom in Kentucky and retained an ownership interest after the colt sold as a yearling for \$500,000 at the 2022 Keeneland September sale. This will be the first Kentucky Derby starter for Breeze Easy as a breeder.

WEST SARATOGA



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

It's only fitting that Jeff Ruby Steaks (G3) runner-up West Saratoga won the one-mile Iroquois (G3) at Churchill Downs, the first leg of the 2023-24 Road to the Kentucky Derby. The gray colt is bred top and bottom for success in the spring classics.

West Saratoga's sire is Exaggerator, a son of two-time Horse of the Year and 2007 Preakness (G1) winner Curlin. Exaggerator emulated his sire by winning the 2016 Preakness, and he also finished second in the Kentucky Derby (G1) for good measure.

Exaggerator thrived over classic distances, and while his stud career has been modest so far, he's starting to pick up steam. In 2022, his son Skippy Longstocking placed third in the 1 1/2-mile Belmont (G1), and he's since rattled off victories in the Charles Town Classic (G2), West Virginia Derby (G3), Harlan's Holiday (G3), and two editions of the Challenger (G3) over distances from 1 1/16 miles to 1 1/8 miles. Candidate and Gagetown are other sons of Exaggerator who have won stakes running long.

Two-turn stamina is a recurring theme among Exaggerator's most accomplished runners, and West Saratoga figures to receive an extra dose of stamina from his dam, Mo Wicked. The unraced mare is a daughter of 2010 champion two-year-old male Uncle Mo, a brilliant miler who has proven to be a source of stamina at stud. His best foals include 2016 Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist and 2022 Belmont hero Mo Donegal.

Meanwhile, daughters of Uncle Mo have produced 1 1/8-mile Haskell (G1) winner Geaux Rocket Ride, 1 1/8-mile Arkansas Derby (G1) winner Muth, 1 1/8-mile Black-Eyed Susan (G2) heroine Interstatedaydream, 1 1/16-mile Kentucky Jockey Club (G2) and 1 1/16-mile Lecomte (G3) winner Instant Coffee, 1 1/16-mile Fair Grounds Oaks (G2) winner Southlawn, and 1 1/16-mile Fantasy (G3) victor Thorpedo Anna. And, in addition to West Saratoga, Uncle Mo is the dam sire of Major General, who won the 2021 Iroquois when it was contested over 1 1/16 miles around two turns.

Mo Wicked's dam is Wicked Ride, a daughter of record-setting 1 1/4-mile Pacific Classic (G1) winner Candy Ride out of Wickedly Wise. Wickedly Wise has foaled 1 1/16-mile Alcibiades (G1) winner Wickedly Perfect plus one-mile and 70-yard Go for Wand S. winner Wicked Mizz and 1 1/16-mile Indiana Oaks (G2) runner-up Ash Zee, the dam of 1 1/8-mile Federico Tesio S. winner The Reds.

Any way you slice it, West Saratoga is bred to shine in the 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby. If he fails to factor in the spring classics, his pedigree won't be to blame.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

West Saratoga traveled about five wide into the first turn of the Jeff Ruby Steaks (G3) from his outside post and remained well off the rail most of the way, making a move to take second on the far turn over Turfway's Tapeta track. The gray colt was no match in the final furlong for Endlessly, but West Saratoga gamely outfinished four other rivals for second, guaranteeing his participation in the 150th Kentucky Derby (G1) on May 4. The early/presser has placed in all three stakes this season, finishing second in the Pasco and third in the Sam F. Davis (G3) at Tampa Bay Downs, and West Saratoga captured the first qualifier in the 2023-24 Road to the Kentucky Derby series, the Iroquois (G3) at a one-turn mile at Churchill Downs last September. He's never won at two turns and will need to run faster to challenge in the Kentucky Derby, but West Saratoga is a hard-trying individual who will try to work himself into a favorable spot turning for home.

OWNER: West Saratoga will be the first Kentucky Derby starter for Harry Veruchi, who started owning horses in the early 1980s and campaigns a small stable. He's had horses with Larry Demeritte since the early 2000s.

TRAINER: A trainer in his native Bahamas, Larry Demeritte moved to the United States in the mid-1970s and took out his U.S. trainer's license in 1991. West Saratoga will be his first Kentucky Derby starter. Demeritte is known for purchasing and developing inexpensive horses, selecting West Saratoga for Veruchi on the last day of the 2022 Keeneland September sale, and he's based at the Thoroughbred Training Center in Lexington, Ky. Diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 1996, Demeritte has admirably battled cancer for nearly 30 years.

JOCKEY: Jesus Castanon picked up the mount on West Saratoga earlier this year and the gray colt will be his second Kentucky Derby mount, guiding Shackleford to a fourth-place finish in 2011. Castanon rode Shackleford to victory in the Preakness (G1) two weeks later.

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by Two Hearts Farm, West Saratoga was purchased for \$11,000 as a yearling at the 2022 Keeneland September sale.

JUST STEEL



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Runner-up finishes in the Arkansas Derby (G1), Southwest (G3), and Smarty Jones S. have qualified Just Steel to compete in the 2024 Kentucky Derby (G1).

The veteran of 11 starts is a capable competitor on dirt, but that's arguably in defiance of his bloodlines. A glance at Just Steel's pedigree suggests turf might actually be his preferred surface.

Let's start with Just Steel's sire, Justify. The 2018 Triple Crown winner competed exclusively on dirt and entered the history books with his determined victories in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness (G1), and Belmont (G1). Some of his progeny have done well on dirt, including 2023 champion two-year-old filly Just F Y I, 2023 Kentucky Derby starter Verifying, and recent Blue Grass (G1) runner-up Just a Touch, who is slated to join Just Steel in the 2024 Kentucky Derby starting gate.

But just as common among Justify's progeny are top-class turf campaigners. For example, Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1) heroine Hard to Justify, Dewhurst (G1) winner City of Troy, Belmont Oaks (G1) victor Aspen Grove, and Prix Marcel Boussac Criterium des Pouliches (G1) winner Opera Singer. That's not too surprising since Justify is a son of Florida Derby (G1) winner Scat Daddy, a versatile stallion who sired a bevy of major winners on dirt, turf, and synthetic.

The bottom half of Just Steel's pedigree is definitely geared toward turf. His dam, Irish Lights, was a talented Australian sprinter/miler who won the Thousand Guineas (G1) at Caulfield. Prior to Just Steel, she foaled Omei Sword and Call Me Teddy, a pair of stakes-winning turf sprinters.

That Irish Lights is a source of speed on turf isn't surprising. Her sire is Fastnet Rock, a top-tier turf sprinter who won the Lightning (G1) and Oakleigh Plate (G1) in Australia. He counts among his foals Mosheen, a four-time Group 1 winner over distances from 1,600 meters (about one mile) to 2,500 meters (about 1 9/16 miles); Shoals, a three-time Group 1-winning sprinter/miler; Fascinating Rock, winner of the 1 1/4-mile Champion (G1) and 1 5/16-mile Tattersalls Gold Cup (G1) in England; Sea Siren, a three-time Group 1-winning sprinter who has become the dam of Pegasus World Cup Turf (G1) winner Warm Heart; and many other Group 1 winners. All the ones we listed excelled on grass.

Many of Fastnet Rock's progeny have done their best work racing one mile or less, though as horses like Mosheen and Fascinating Rock illustrate, he's capable of siring long-winded runners as well. Similar can be said of Fastnet Rock's record as a broodmare sire. His daughters have produced elite sprinters like five-time Group 1 winner Santa Ana Lane and Black Caviar Lightning winner Gytrash, but also top-tier route racers like the above-mentioned Warm Heart and also Russian Emperor, a three-time Group 1 winner in Hong Kong over distances from 2,000 meters (about 1 1/4 miles) to 2,400 meters (about 1 1/2 miles).

Taking all of these pedigree elements together, Just Steel is bred to shine on turf, perhaps over distances from six furlongs to 1 1/4 miles. If his Kentucky Derby aspirations don't pan out, a surface switch down the road might unlock even greater potential.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

Runner-up in the Arkansas Derby (G1), Just Steel likes to race close to the pace and the early/presser rates as an intriguing longshot for the 150th Kentucky Derby (G1) following a career-best effort at 1 1/8 miles. His top performance from seven juvenile starts came sprinting, a dominant win in the 6 1/2-furlong Ed Brown S. at Churchill Downs in late November, but Just Steel stretched back out in distance for Kentucky Derby qualifiers this winter. After seconds in the Smarty Jones and Southwest (G3), the bay colt was too far back early and never fired finishing seventh in the Rebel (G2), but he rebounded commendably in the Arkansas Derby, trying hard to reel in Muth all the way to the wire finishing two lengths back, nearly five lengths clear of third. Just Steel is a throwback – the vast majority of Kentucky Derby starters nowadays don't enter with four starts at age 3 – and even though he's the most experienced member of the 20-horse field with 11 career starts, Just Steel appears to be finding his best form presently for a dangerous Kentucky Derby trainer who knows how to win with a late-blooming longshot (see Charismatic at 31-1 in 1999).

OWNER: Just Steel will be the first Kentucky Derby starter for owner BC Stables (John Bellinger and Brian Coelho).

TRAINER: Still going strong at age 88, D. Wayne Lukas continues to build upon his legacy. He's been part of the Kentucky Derby scene for 43 years, finishing third with his first starter, Partez in 1981, and Lukas has compiled a 49-4-1-5 record, tied for third all-time in wins. Just Steel will be his first Kentucky Derby starter since Bravazo finished sixth in 2018. A Wisconsin native, Lukas launched his trainer career with Quarter Horses in the late 1960s, training more than 20 champions over a decade before switching his focus to Thoroughbreds, and he's a member of the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse Hall of Fames. Known as "The Coach," Lukas became the first trainer to sweep the Triple Crown with different horses in 1995, winning a whopping 14 Triple Crown races, and Lukas owns a record 20 Breeders' Cup race wins. The living legend was in the spotlight two years ago, capturing the 2022 Kentucky Oaks (G1) with Secret Oath, and Lukas likes

JUST STEEL CONT.

to say that the pursuit of another Kentucky Derby win keeps him young.

JOCKEY: Keith Asmussen will make his first Kentucky Derby appearance aboard Just Steel. The 25-year-old started his career in 2020, riding at Lone Star Park and Remington, before returning to school to earn a master's degree in professional accounting in 2022. The son of Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen returned to the jockey ranks that fall, and Asmussen's career began to take off over this past winter at Oaklawn Park. He earned his first graded stakes win in late February aboard the Lukas-trained Lemon Muffin, who he will pilot in the Kentucky Oaks, and Asmussen ranks second in the Oaklawn jockey standings by wins and earnings.

BREEDER/SALES: Summerhill Farm (Tim Hyde Jr.) bred 2016 Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist, and Just Steel will become the second Kentucky Derby starter as a breeder for the Lexington, Kentucky farm. The Kentucky-bred colt sold for \$500,000 as a yearling at the 2022 Keeneland September sale.

SIRE: The only undefeated Triple Crown winner in 2018, Justify proved to be an immediate success at stud at Coolmore's Ashford Stud in Versailles, Ky., throwing graded stakes winners on all surfaces and distances, and Just Steel is from the second crop of the in-demand stallion. By Scat Daddy, who hails from the Storm Cat sire line, Justify also will be represented by Blue Grass (G1) runner-up Just a Touch in this year's field.

DAM: Just Steel is the first third stakes winner from the dam Irish Lights, an Australian-bred daughter of Fastnet Rock and winner of the 2009 Australian One Thousand Guineas (G1). Her other stakes winners came internationally. Irish Lights is by two-time Australian champion and successful sire Fastnet Rock, who has been represented by champions in Australia, Greece, France, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, and Turkey. Mostly known as a turf sire, Fastnet Rock produced 2021 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1) winner Pizza Bianca.



HONOR MARIE



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

When Honor Marie tackled a two-turn configuration for the first time in the 1 1/16-mile Kentucky Jockey Club (G2) at Churchill Downs, he rallied strongly to win by two lengths. Later, a runner-up finish in the 1 3/16-mile Louisiana Derby (G2) cemented his status as a 2024 Kentucky Derby (G1) contender.

Pedigree handicappers aren't surprised to see Honor Marie producing big efforts over route distances. After all, the bay colt is bred to shine running long.

Honor Marie is a son of 2015 champion older dirt male Honor Code, winner of the one-mile Metropolitan H. (G1) and 1 1/8-mile Whitney (G1). Honor Code peaked at age four, but he wasn't entirely a late-maturing type; as a juvenile he won the 1 1/8-mile Remsen (G2) and finished second in the one-mile Champagne (G1).

At stud, Honor Code has proven to be a source of stamina much like his own sire, 1 1/2-mile Belmont (G1) winner A.P. Indy. Honor Code's best runners include 1 1/8-mile Santa Anita Derby (G1) winner Honor A. P., 1 1/4-mile Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) hero Max Player, and 1 1/8-mile Coaching Club American Oaks (G1) winner Maracuja. Both Honor A. P. and Max Player competed in the 2020 Kentucky Derby, finishing fourth and fifth.

The bottom half of Honor Marie's pedigree is similarly stout. He's the third starter produced by Dame Marie, runner-up in the Churchill Distaff Turf Mile (G2) and a four-time winner racing one mile to 1 1/8 miles on grass. Dame Marie previously foaled Quaternion, winner of a 1 1/16-mile maiden special weight over the Churchill Downs dirt; and the capable turf competitor Abarta, a debut winner racing 1 1/16 miles and runner-up in Keeneland's 1 1/16-mile Bourbon (G2).

Dame Marie, in turn, is a daughter of Smart Strike out of Crystal Crossing. Smart Strike needs no introduction; the 1 1/16-mile Philip H. Iselin H. (G1) winner is the sire of two-time Horse of the Year Curlin, champion turf male English Channel, and two-time champion Lookin At Lucky. Those three were all long-winded runners who have passed on their stamina at stud, with Curlin siring Preakness (G1) winner Exaggerator and Belmont hero Palace Malice while Lookin At Lucky is responsible for Kentucky Derby winner Country House.

As for Crystal Crossing, she's the dam of Rule of Law, who showed sufficient stamina to win England's historic St. Leger (G1) racing

1 13/16 miles. Rule of Law also won the 1 1/2-mile Great Voltigeur (G2) and placed second in the 1 1/2-mile Derby (G1) at Epsom.

Now, there's such a thing as being too stoutly bred for the 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby. The great race is often won by horses with a combination of speed and stamina, with an emphasis on speed in recent years. Honor Marie's pedigree is so heavily stacked in favor of stamina that distances longer than 1 1/4 miles might be his true forte, though if the 2024 Derby turns into a test of stamina more than speed, Honor Marie figures to be a beneficiary.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

Honor Marie has shown an affinity for Churchill Downs, winning the Kentucky Jockey Club (G2) last November, and he will bring a closing kick to the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby (G1) on May 4. In his first start back this year, the bay colt didn't get uncorked until straightening into the stretch, rallying belatedly from the back of the field to be a clear fifth in a deep edition of the Risen Star (G2) over a sloppy track at Fair Grounds. Honor Marie turned in a much more encouraging final prep, launching his bid on the far turn of the 1 3/16-mile Louisiana Derby (G2) and closing determinedly while wide to be a length second. That performance netted him a career-best 99 Brisnet Speed rating, and Honor Marie may have more to offer in the final furlongs of the Kentucky Derby.

OWNER: Honor Marie will be the first Kentucky Derby starter for owners Ribble Farms (Alan Ribble), Michael Eiserman, Earl Silver, Kenneth Fishbein, and Dave Fishbein.

TRAINER: Raised in Louisville, Whit Beckman worked for trainers Chad Brown, Eion Harty, and Todd Pletcher before opening his own stable in 2021, and he's developed a reputation for being a hardworking and talented horseman. Along with providing his first graded winner, Honor Marie will be Beckman's initial Kentucky Derby starter.

JOCKEY: Ben Curtis picked up the mount in the Louisiana Derby, and Honor Marie will be his first Kentucky Derby starter if he retains the assignment. Based primarily in England previously, Curtis moved his tack to America this winter, riding the Fair Grounds meet, and the 34-year-old Irish native has won more than 1,000 races internationally.

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by Royce Pulliam, Honor Marie was purchased for \$40,000 as a yearling at the 2022 Keeneland September sale. He will be the first Kentucky Derby starter bred by Pulliam.

DOMESTIC PRODUCT



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

A fast finish from behind an incredibly slow pace carried Domestic Product to victory in the 1 1/16-mile Tampa Bay Derby (G3) on the Road to the Kentucky Derby.

Normally a fast finish in a short route race like the Tampa Bay Derby bodes well for stretching out over 1 1/4 miles in the Kentucky Derby (G1). But Domestic Product's pedigree suggests the Derby distance might be a furlong farther than his best.

Domestic Product's sire is Practical Joke, a talented sprinter/miler who won the Hopeful (G1), Champagne (G1), and H. Allen Jerkens (G1) over distances from seven furlongs to one mile. Practical Joke also managed to place in the 1 1/8-mile Haskell (G1) and finish fifth in the Kentucky Derby, but all of his victories came around one turn over distances of one mile or less, so speed was definitely his strong suit more than stamina.

The same can be said of Practical Joke's progeny to date. Some have done well in short routes—Practical Move won the 1 1/8-mile Santa Anita Derby (G1) and Chocolate Gelato took the one-mile Frizette (G1)—but many others (like Skelly, Tejano Twist, Wit, Little Vic, Girl With a Dream, and Becky's Joker) have done their best work sprinting. All told, the progeny of Practical Joke have won at the speed-oriented average distance of 6.5 furlongs.

Meanwhile, Domestic Product's dam is Goods and Services, an unraced daughter of Haskell winner Paynter out of Indian Legend. These bloodlines are a mixed bag as far as speed vs. stamina goes. Paynter was bred to shine running long and lived up to that expectation by finishing a close second in the 1 1/2-mile Belmont (G1). At stud, he's best known for siring the brilliant 2021 Horse of the Year Knicks Go, winner of the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1), Pegasus World Cup (G1), Whitney (G1), and Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) over distances from one mile to 1 1/4 miles.

The progeny of Paynter win at an average distance of 7.1 furlongs, indicating a stallion who sires a mix of sprinter, milers, and route racers. Since Goods and Services never raced, we can't say for sure what distance(s) she would have appreciated. But since Goods and Services is a half-sister to Kenda, winner of the Special Goddess S. sprinting about 6 1/2 furlongs over Santa Anita's downhill turf course, we'll venture to guess Goods and Services may have been a sprinter at heart. That makes sense since Indian Legend, the dam

of Goods and Services and Kenda, is a daughter of Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) winner Cherokee Run out of a mare by seven-furlong Carter H. (G1) winner Virginia Rapids.

Now, Cherokee Run managed to stretch his speed over 1 3/16 miles to finish second in the Preakness (G1), so there's enough stamina dotted throughout the pedigree of Domestic Product to suggest distances up to 1 1/8 miles are well within his wheelhouse. But tackling 1 1/4 miles against a deep field in the Kentucky Derby may stretch the limits of Domestic Product's stamina.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

A midpack stalker, Domestic Product overcame a tough trip in traffic behind a glacial pace in the Tampa Bay Derby (G3) on March 9, getting up determinedly to prevail by a neck. The dark bay colt broke his maiden going a 1 1/8-mile distance at Aqueduct last October and moved forward nicely this season from his first stakes attempt, a seventh in December's Remsen (G2). Domestic Product opened 2024 with a rallying second in the Holy Bull (G3) at Gulfstream, overtaking odds-on Fierceness in the stretch, and he's been caught behind slow paces in both stakes appearances this year. But he skipped a traditional prep for the 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby, training up to the race off an eight-week layoff, and Domestic Product's lower Speed ratings are also a concern.

OWNER: Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stakes is unplaced from three Kentucky Derby starts, Practical Joke's fifth in 2017 being the best result and coming in partnership. A billionaire financial expert and noted philanthropist, Klarman has campaigned a pair of Preakness (G1) winners under the recognizable Klaravich silks, Cloud Computing (2016) with William H. Lawrence and Early Voting (2022) as sole owner, and Chad Brown trains most of his horses.

TRAINER: Chad Brown finished fourth with his initial Kentucky Derby starter, Normandy Invasion in 2013, and the 45-year-old conditioner from upstate New York has compiled a 7-0-1-1 record in the Run for the Roses, finishing second (Good Magic in 2018) and third (Zandon in 2022) with two of his last three starters. A two-time winner of the Preakness, Brown has captured 18 Breeders' Cup races and earned four Eclipse Awards for leading trainer. He also will be represented Sierra Leone, a leading contender in the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby for a different ownership group.

JOCKEY: A five-time winner of the Eclipse Award for leading jockey, Irad Ortiz Jr. seems destined to eventually win a Kentucky Derby. The 31-year-old native of Puerto Rico has captured the Belmont (G1) twice and won 19 Breeders' Cup races, but the record-setting jockey has yet to hit the board from seven Kentucky Derby mounts, Improbable's fourth in 2019 being his best result.

BREEDER/SALES: A Kentucky-bred, Domestic Product will be the second Kentucky Derby starter as a breeder for Klaravich Stables, who also campaigned homebred Highly Motivated, ninth in the 2021 Kentucky Derby.

CATALYTIC



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Catalytic wasn't expected to factor in the Florida Derby (G1) on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, but a runner-up finish at odds of 29-1 earned him a ticket to compete in the 2024 Kentucky Derby (G1).

With only three starts (and only one route race) under his belt, Catalytic is a largely unproven commodity. It's difficult to say based off his racing record whether the Kentucky Derby's 1 1/4-mile distance is within his wheelhouse, and truth be told his pedigree is a tough read as well.

Catalytic is a son of Catalina Cruiser, a talented speedster who won five Grade 2 stakes over distances from 6 1/2 furlongs to 1 1/16 miles. Catalina Cruiser was best as a sprinter/miler, though his pedigree offered potential for success over longer trips, given that his sire (Union Rags) won the 1 1/2-mile Belmont (G1), his dam sire (Mineshaft) was a long-winded Horse of the Year, and his dam (Sea Gull) previously foaled the graded stakes-winning router racers Royal Flag and Eagle.

Catalina Cruiser's first foals hit the races in 2023, and so far he hasn't set the world on fire as a stallion, with Catalytic ranking as his best runner. But he's also the sire of Latte Lizzie, who placed third in the one-mile Juvenile Fillies S. on turf at Kentucky Downs, so Catalina Cruiser's progeny are showing some ability to run long.

Catalytic's dam is One Show Only, a 0-for-3 maiden who achieved her lone top-three placing when third in a 7 1/2-furlong maiden special weight on turf at Delaware Park. Her first three foals to hit the races recorded a single victory between them, with that triumph coming in a \$25,000 maiden claimer sprinting six furlongs at Aqueduct. Since neither One Show Only nor her foals prior to Catalytic showed much ability, there isn't a lot to analyze as far as distance preferences are concerned.

On the bright side, One Show Only's sire is Distorted Humor, a talented sprinter/miler who developed into a versatile stallion capable of siring major winners over a variety of distances. He's best known for siring Kentucky Derby and Preakness (G1) winner Funny Cide, Belmont (G1) and Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Drosselmeyer, and Travers (G1) winner Flower Alley, who is in turn the sire of Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner I'll Have Another.

As a broodmare sire, Distorted Humor has passed on class in

abundance and stamina with regularity. His daughters have foaled champion and Breeders' Cup Classic winner Arrogate, Pegasus World Cup (G1) heroes Art Collector and Life Is Good, Hong Kong superstar Golden Sixty, Alabama (G1) winner Elate, Belmont Oaks (G1) heroine New Money Honey, and Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) victor Happy Saver. All of those except Art Collector and Life Is Good have won Grade 1 or Group 1 races over 1 1/4 miles.

Analyzing Catalytic's pedigree isn't easy since Catalina Cruiser is still largely unproven at stud. But Catalina Cruiser's stout genetics, when combined with the class (and classic stamina) evident among Distorted Humors's descendants, may be enough to carry Catalytic over 1 1/4 miles in the Kentucky Derby.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

Catalytic earned a spot in the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby (G1) by finishing second in his stakes debut and third career start, the Florida Derby (G1). Most effective when able to race up close to the pace, Catalytic smartly captured his career debut at Gulfstream Park over 6 1/2 furlongs and entered the 1 1/8-mile Florida Derby off a runner-up effort in a six-furlong allowance at Tampa Bay Downs three weeks earlier. He followed Fierceness after the break in the Florida Derby, advancing wide into second on the first turn, and held his spot the rest of the way while losing significant ground to the winner in the stretch, as no runners made an impact from off the pace. Catalytic will face a serious class and distance check at Churchill Downs.

OWNER: Owned by Tami Bobo, Julie Davies, and George Isaacs, Catalytic will be the second Kentucky Derby starter owned in partnership for Bobo, who finished fourth with Simplification in 2022, and the first appearance for Davies and Isaacs.

TRAINER: Born and raised around horses in Barbados, Saffie Joseph Jr. became the youngest trainer to win the Barbados Triple Crown in 2009 and then began training in South Florida in 2011. Catalytic will be his third Kentucky Derby starter, with NY Traffic's eighth in 2020 the best result. The 37-year-old third-generation horseman won the recently concluded Gulfstream Championship meet for the third consecutive year.

JOCKEY: If he retains the mount, Julien Leparoux will make his 15th start in the Kentucky Derby, a fourth aboard Classic Empire in 2017 the best result. The 40-year-old French native launched his professional riding career stateside in 2005, earning the Eclipse Award for leading apprentice in 2006, and Leparoux received the same award for leading jockey in 2009.

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by Fred Hertrich III, Catalytic passed through the sales ring twice, bringing \$70,000 as a weanling and selling for \$125,000 as a yearling at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga August sale. He will be the first Kentucky Derby runner bred by Hertrich.

SOCIETY MAN



Coglianesse Photography

KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Running long is a strong suit for Society Man, runner-up in the 1 1/8-mile Wood Memorial (G2) and a maiden winner over the same distance. Stretching out over 1 1/4 miles for the Kentucky Derby (G1) should fit the chestnut gelding just fine.

After all, Society Man is a son of champion two-year-old male and Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) winner Good Magic, runner-up to Triple Crown winner Justify in the 2018 Kentucky Derby. A son of two-time Horse of the Year and stamina influence Curlin, Good Magic is off to a strong start at stud, siring 2023 Kentucky Derby winner Mage, 1 3/16-mile Preakness (G1) runner-up Blazing Sevens, and 1 1/8-mile Arkansas Derby (G1) hero Muth.

Good Magic is clearly capable of siring classic types, and Society Man has likely received additional stamina from the bottom half of his pedigree. His dam is You Cheated, a durable mare who counted a third-place finish in the one-mile Latonia S. as her best effort from 26 starts. She, in turn, is a daughter of Colonel John, winner of the 1 1/4-mile Travers (G1) and 1 1/8-mile Santa Anita Derby (G1).

Colonel John hasn't reached the highest ranks as a stallion, though the best of his progeny have been capable route racers. Mirth starred in the 1 1/4-mile Rodeo Drive (G1), La Coronel won the 1 1/8-mile Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1), Colonelsdarktemper took the 1 1/8-mile West Virginia Derby (G3), Gentle Ruler used her stamina to win the 1 3/8-mile Robert G. Dick Memorial (G3) and 1 1/2-mile Dowager (G3), Airoforce won the 1 1/16-mile Kentucky Jockey Club (G2), and Dalmore nabbed the 1 1/16-mile Affirmed (G3).

Colonel John's record as a broodmare sire isn't quite as flashy, though his daughters have foaled Pat Day Mile (G2) winner Rushie, who placed in the 1 1/8-mile Santa Anita Derby (G1); Bankit, a seven-time stakes winner over distances from one mile to 1 1/8 miles; and Southwest (G3) winner Mystik Dan, who is slated to join Society Man in the 2024 Kentucky Derby starting gate.

The pedigree cross of Good Magic and Colonel John is geared toward success running 1 1/8 miles and farther, stamping the Kentucky Derby as a logical target for Society Man.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

After winning a maiden race the fourth time out in mid-March, Society Man earned a spot in the Kentucky Derby (G1) field by finishing second in the Wood Memorial (G2) at 106-1 odds. The chestnut gelding had been more of a confirmed late runner in previous starts, but he worked out an ideal stalking trip just off the early leaders and surged wide into second in upper stretch of the Wood, holding his positioning to the wire while never threatening the winner. Society Man has yet to win at two turns, but he will bring improving form to the Kentucky Derby. However, the Wood wasn't the deepest prep and Society Man will be asked to back up a surprising result while stepping up in class.

OWNER: West Paces Racing (Larry Connolly), Danny Gargan, and GMP Stables are poised to make their first appearance as Kentucky Derby owners. West Paces Racing also will be represented by Fountain of Youth (G2) winner Dornoch in this year's Run for the Roses.

TRAINER: A Louisville native, Danny Gargan will make his second Kentucky Derby appearance, finishing 14th with Tax in 2019. His father, Danny Gargan, won the 1973 Kentucky Oaks aboard Bag of Tunes, and Gargan worked as an assistant trainer and jockey agent before launching his training career in 2013. He also has Dornoch in the 20-horse field for the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby on May 4.

JOCKEY: Luis Rivera Jr. has been up for the last two starts and if he retains the assignment, Society Man will be his first Kentucky Derby start.

BREEDER/SALES: Bred in Kentucky by SF Bloodstock (Gavin Murphy), who co-owned 2020 Kentucky Derby winner Authentic, Society Man will be the first Kentucky Derby starter as a breeder. The gelding sold for \$85,000 as a yearling at the Keeneland September sale.



MYSTIK DAN



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Mystik Dan impressed in the Southwest (G3) on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, saving ground over a muddy track before bursting through along the rail to dominate by eight lengths. In the process, he finished remarkably fast, running his final sixteenth of a mile in :05.93.

But a subsequent third-place finish in the 1 1/8-mile Arkansas Derby (G1) raises an important question—does Mystik Dan have the pedigree to stretch out over 1 1/4 miles in the Kentucky Derby (G1)?

Mystik Dan is a son of Goldencents, a two-time winner of the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1). Goldencents stretched his speed over 1 1/8 miles to win the Santa Anita Derby (G1), but classic distances proved out of reach; he finished 17th in the Kentucky Derby and fifth in the 1 3/16-mile Preakness (G1).

At stud, Goldencents is generally a source of speed. His progeny win at an average distance of just 6.5 furlongs, so at first glance he doesn't seem like the type of stallion to sire a Kentucky Derby winner.

But the most accomplished sons and daughters of Goldencents have proven reasonably long-winded. Going to Vegas won two editions of the 1 1/4-mile Rodeo Drive (G1) on turf. By My Standards won the Louisiana Derby (G2), Oaklawn H. (G2), and New Orleans Classic (G2) racing 1 1/8 miles. Phantom Currency handled 1 3/8 miles on turf to win the Mac Diarmida (G2), and Mr. Money cleaned up a quintet of Grade 3 stakes over distances from one mile to 1 1/8 miles.

In other words, we can't write off Goldencents as being "too speedy" to sire a Kentucky Derby winner. The sire of Goldencents, five-time leading North American sire Into Mischief, is likewise a source of speed whose progeny win at an average distance of 6.8 furlongs. Yet despite his reputation for passing on speed, Into Mischief has sired Kentucky Derby winners Authentic and Mandaloun.

Furthermore, Mystik Dan doesn't have to rely exclusively on Goldencents for stamina. His dam is Ma'am, a four-time winner over distances from one mile to 1 1/16 miles. Ma'am is a daughter of Colonel John, a long-winded runner who won the Santa Anita Derby and the 1 1/4-mile Travers (G1) during his accomplished career.

Colonel John hasn't set the world on fire at stud, though his progeny have won at the solid average distance of 7.1 furlongs, indicating he passes on at least some stamina. This is apparent among his most accomplished runners, like 1 1/4-mile Rodeo Drive (G1) winner Mirth, 1 1/8-mile Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1) winner La Coronel, 1 1/16-mile Kentucky Jockey Club (G2) victor Airoforce, 1 1/8-mile West Virginia Derby (G3) hero Colonelsdarktemper, and 1 1/2-mile Dowager (G3) winner Gentle Ruler.

Daughters of Colonel John have also foaled a few noteworthy route racers, such as the Grade 1-placed Pat Day Mile (G2) winner Rushie, 1 1/16-mile New York Derby winner Bankit, and 1 1/8-mile Wood Memorial (G2) runner-up Society Man. The latter is expected to join Mystik Dan in the 2024 Kentucky Derby starting gate.

Mystik Dan might not have the stoutest pedigree among the 2024 Kentucky Derby contenders, but there's enough stamina mixed in to suggest victory over 1 1/4 miles is at least a possibility.

KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEXT

After racing on or close to the lead in his first four starts, Mystik Dan became more effective when switching to rating tactics two starts back, and the bay colt will look to make a serious impact from off the pace in the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby (G1). He raced midpack in the Southwest (G3) over a muddy track at Oaklawn in early February, cutting the corner to strike the front and draw away to a stirring eight-length win, registering a commendable 102 Brisnet Speed rating for his initial stakes win. Mystik Dan raced farther back in the Arkansas Derby (G1), advancing wide on the far turn, and he got up late for third to earn the necessary points for a Kentucky Derby bid.

OWNER: Owned by Lance Gasaway, 4 G Racing (Brent Gasaway), and Valley View Farm, Mystik Dan will be the first Kentucky Derby starter for all parties.

TRAINER: Raised in Lexington, Ky., Kenny McPeek will send out a Kentucky Derby runner for the third consecutive year. The 61-year-old finished second with his first starter, Tejano Run in 1995, and is unplaced from eight other starts. McPeek has captured the other two legs of the Triple Crown, taking the 2020 Preakness (G1) with the filly Swiss Skydiver and 2002 Belmont (G1) with Sarava.

JOCKEY: Brian Hernandez Jr. made the first of four Kentucky Derby starts in 2016 and his best result is an eighth aboard McCracken in 2017. Named champion apprentice jockey in 2004, the Louisiana native counts 2012 Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Fort Larned among his best mounts.

BREEDER/SALES: A Kentucky-bred, Mystik Dan will be the first Kentucky Derby starter as a breeder for Lance Gasaway, 4 G Racing (Brent Gasaway), and Daniel Hamby.

ENCINO



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Versatility is a strong suit for Encino. After joining the Road to the Kentucky Derby with a stretch-running score in the John Battaglia Memorial S. on Tapeta at Turfway Park, he switched to dirt for Keeneland's Lexington (G3) and prevailed in gate-to-wire fashion.

Pedigree handicappers could have predicted Encino would handle the switch to dirt just fine. He's bred top and bottom to shine on dirt, which bodes well for his chances of factoring in the 2024 Kentucky Derby (G1) at Churchill Downs.

Encino is a son of 2016 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Nyquist, who won five Grade 1 races on dirt during a decorated career that saw him voted champion two-year-old male of 2015. He's passed on that dirt prowess at stud, with his best foals including Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) winner and champion two-year-old filly Vequist, Awesome Again (G1) winner Slow Down Andy, Alabama (G1) heroine Randomized, and graded stakes winners like Turnerloose, Xigera, New York Thunder, Scalding, and Nysos.

The bottom half of Encino's pedigree is likewise geared toward success on dirt. His dam, Glittering Jewel, scored her lone victory on synthetic in a 1 3/16-mile maiden race at Wolverhampton in the United Kingdom, but on dirt in the U.S. she cracked the trifecta in a trio of allowance optional claimers at Tampa Bay Downs.

That's hardly surprising since Glittering Jewel is a daughter of Bernardini out of Bedazzle. Bernardini needs no introduction; the champion three-year-old male of 2006 counted the Preakness (G1) among his three Grade 1 wins on dirt, and at stud he's sired top-tier dirt campaigners like Travers (G1) winners Stay Thirsty and Alpha, Woodward (G1) hero To Honor and Serve, Pegasus World Cup (G1) winner Art Collector, and three-time Grade 1 winner Cavorting. As a broodmare sire, he's responsible for Kentucky Oaks (G1) winner Serengeti Empress, Saudi Cup (G1) victor Emblem Road, Travers winner Catholic Boy, and other Grade 1 dirt winners like Clairiere, Maxfield, Dunbar Road, Matareya, and Speaker's Corner.

The name Bedazzle might not be as instantly recognizable, but she's in the history books as the dam of 2007 Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense. In other words, Encino is a son of a Kentucky Derby winner (Nyquist) out of a mare who's a half-sister to a Kentucky Derby winner (Street Sense).

That's really all we need to know about the pedigree of Encino. Any way you slice it, he's bred for success in the Run for the Roses.

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GRAND MO THE FIRST



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

Versatility is a strong suit for Grand Mo the First. Third-place finishes in the Florida Derby (G1) and Tampa Bay Derby (G3) have stamped him as a contender for the 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby (G1), but he's also won twice on synthetic and placed third in the Zuma Beach (G3) on turf.

A glance at Grand Mo the First's pedigree reveals the source of his surface versatility. Or rather, the sources, because his pedigree is packed with multi-surface influences.

Grand Mo the First is a son of Uncle Mo, a tried-and-true dirt star voted champion two-year-old male of 2010 after winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) and Champagne (G1). Many of Uncle Mo's progeny have followed his example with success on dirt, including 2016 Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist and 2022 Belmont (G1) hero Mo Donegal.

But Uncle Mo is also perfectly capable of siring top-class turf horses. Golden Pal won the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1) and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (G2), while Mo Forza and Mo Town each won the Hollywood Derby (G1).

Grand Mo the First's dam is Lilies So Fair, who scored her lone victory in a maiden special weight racing about one mile over the Arlington Park turf course. But her foals prior to Grand Mo the First have won almost exclusively on dirt, including multiple winners World Party, Super Twenty Seven, Palladium, and My Good Man.

That Lilies So Fair was best on turf, but produces mostly dirt horses, isn't surprising since she's a daughter of three-time leading North American sire Giant's Causeway. A multiple Group 1 winner on grass, Giant's Causeway finished a close second in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) on dirt and sired major winners across all surfaces during his decorated stud career. One of the best was 2019 U.S. Horse of the Year Bricks and Mortar, winner of the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) and numerous other Grade 1 grass prizes. But Giant's Causeway also sired 10 Kentucky Derby starters, including Grade 1 dirt winners like Carpe Diem, Creative Cause, and Brody's Cause.

To describe all of Giant's Causeway's major winners on dirt and turf would require a book, and it wouldn't even touch on his synthetic-track standouts like Woodbine Oaks winner Irish Mission and Lane's End (G2) hero Hold Me Back. Suffice to say, Giant's Causeway passes on talent regardless of surface.

The same versatility can be seen in Giant's Causeway's record as a broodmare sire. His daughters have foaled elite dirt racers like 2017 Horse of the Year Gun Runner and Pegasus World Cup (G1) hero Mucho Gusto, but also top-tier grass racers like three-time Dubai Turf (G1) winner Lord North and globetrotting Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) winner Hawkbill.

If there's one trait unifying the descendants of Giant's Causeway, it's their tendency to shine racing one mile and farther. Giant's Causeway is a strong stamina influence, and since Uncle Mo is likewise known for siring class route racers, Grand Mo the First is bred to shine racing 1 1/4 miles on dirt, turf, or even synthetic.

T O PASSWORD



KENTUCKY DERBY PEDIGREE PROFILE

A hard-fought head triumph in the Fukuryu S. at Nakayama Racecourse in Japan thrust T O Password into the picture as a Kentucky Derby (G1) contender.

Held over 1,800 meters (about 1 1/8 miles) on dirt, the Fukuryu served as the final stop on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby. T O Password's narrow triumph brought his career record to 2-for-2, so if he prevails in the Run for the Roses he'll become the first Derby winner since Leonatus in 1883 to prevail off such a light racing record.

T O Password's relative lack of experience is a question mark, but at least he has a solid Kentucky Derby pedigree in his corner. Even though much of the best racing in Japan takes place on turf, T O Password has already shown an affinity for dirt, and there's no reason to think the Derby's 1 1/4-mile distance will be an obstacle.

T O Password has doubtlessly inherited dirt prowess from his sire, Copano Rickey, a two-time winner of the February (G1) racing 1,600 meters (about one mile) in Japan. Across 33 starts on dirt, Copano Rickey recorded 16 victories. In addition to his triumphs in the February on the Japan Racing Association (JRA) circuit, Copano Rickey won nine local Group 1 races on Japan's National Association of Racing (NAR) circuit.

Copano Rickey was versatile from a distance standpoint; while his signature victories came racing 1,600 meters, a quartet of his local Group 1 wins came over 2,000 meters (about 1 1/4 miles). His leading progeny to date have followed that example, winning over a wide variety of distances while doing their best work on dirt.

All this dirt success isn't surprising given that Copano Rickey is a son of Gold Allure out of Copano Nikiti. Gold Allure has sired top-tier JRA Group 1 dirt racers like Espoir City and Gold Dream and is a son of 1989 Kentucky Derby and Preakness (G1) winner Sunday Silence, while Copano Nikiti is a daughter of 1995 Preakness victor Timber Country.

The bottom half of T O Password's pedigree contains dirt influences as well, though they're outnumbered by grass form. His dam is T O Rachel, a speedy filly who twice won sprinting 1,400 meters (about seven furlongs) on dirt, in addition to breaking her maiden over 1,200 meters (about six furlongs) on turf. She, in turn, is a daughter

of King Kamehameha out of Nike Favor.

King Kamehameha was an elite grass racer in Japan, counting the Tokyo Yushun (G1, Japanese Derby) and NHK Mile Cup (G1) among his seven wins from eight starts. A Group 1 winner over distances from 1,600 meters to 2,400 meters (about 1 1/2 miles), King Kamehameha has sired plenty of quality grass winners at stud, though dirt winners have popped up too. Earlier this year, King Kamehameha's son Peptide Nile posted an upset victory against Group 1 competition in the February.

As for Nike Favor, she won three times sprinting 1,200 meters on dirt and turf. Many of her foals have done their best work on turf (including the multiple winners Knight Bannerete and Argente) but Nike Trick joined T O Rachel as a dirt winner, and it's worth noting Nike Favor's sire—Favorite Trick—was voted 1997 U.S. Horse of the Year after compiling an 8-for-8 season highlighted by wins in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) and Hopeful (G1) on dirt. Favorite Trick was also capable on turf, winning the Keeneland Breeders' Cup Mile (G2) the following year.

When you combine all these pedigree elements together—the classic dirt influences of Copano Rickey with the versatile, but somewhat speedier and more turf-oriented genetics of T O Rachel—we can only conclude T O Password has the right blend of speed, stamina, and dirt ability to shine on the first Saturday in May.

KENTUCKY DERBY INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING REPORT

Forever Young isn't the only unbeaten Japanese hope in the 150th Kentucky Derby (G1). Japan Road invitee T O Password brings a 2-for-2 record into Churchill Downs, but he's yet to race at anywhere near this level. With a lesser resume than his highly-regarded compatriot, T O Password enters with even more to prove.

JAPAN ROAD'S LIMITED IMPACT

The Japan Road itself has not been a noteworthy source of Derby contenders. The premier Japanese shippers typically arrive via the UAE Derby (G2), a pattern exemplified by Forever Young. In contrast, horses who qualified on the Japan Road in the past have often declined the invitation.

The only Japan Road invitee to compete in the Kentucky Derby so far was Master Fencer, who crossed the wire seventh (promoted to sixth) in 2019. Last year, Continuar earned his way into the Derby field just because of his Japan Road points. Yet Continuar also tried his luck in Dubai for Yoshito Yahagi (Forever Young's trainer), who ended up using the Japan Road invitation as a fallback when he didn't bank enough points in the UAE. That proved to be moot in any event, as Continuar scratched on Thursday night of 2023 Derby week.

TRAINER/OWNER TEAMED UP FOR PAST DIRT CHAMPION

T O Password's trainer, Daisuke Takayanagi, also developed Japanese dirt champion T O Keynes for the same owner. Tomoya Ozasa's colorbearers are recognizable by his "T O" initials in their names.

T O PASSWORD CONT.

As a sophomore in 2020, T O Keynes was second in the same Japan Road race that T O Password would win (the Fukuryu S.). He reached his peak as an older horse, putting an exclamation point on his 2021 campaign in the Champions Cup (G1) and adding the JBC Classic in 2022. Despite a winless 2023, T O Keynes continued to perform admirably, with his efforts including a close second to Ushba Tesoro and a fourth in the Dubai World Cup (G1).

Takayanagi, who sent out his first runner in 2018, has compiled a 15.4% win rate in 2024, and 29.2% of his horses have finished in the money (as of April 1). He was previously an assistant to Takayuki Yasuda, trainer of such major international runners as turf sprint phenom Lord Kanaloa and dirt champion Transcend.

T O Password is picking up a fine North American-based jockey in Kazushi Kimura. After winning Eclipse and Sovereign Awards as an apprentice, Kimura has ranked as Woodbine's top rider for the past three consecutive years. He nearly upset last year's Santa Anita Derby (G1) aboard Japanese shipper Mandarin Hero, who also became his first Kentucky Derby mount, and wound up 12th at Churchill Downs.

T O PASSWORD'S PEDIGREE

T O Password is by Japanese champion dirt horse Copano Rickey, a prolific performer who won 16 of 33 lifetime starts. Copano Rickey's titles include back-to-back wins in the February (G1), JBC Classic, and Mile Championship Nambu Hai; three trophies in the Kashiwa Kinen; and one apiece in the Tokyo Daishoten and the Teio Sho, to hit the biggest highlights. Himself a son of Gold Allure, a key dirt influence by Sunday Silence, Copano Rickey has yet to come up with a black-type winner from his first three crops.

T O Password's dam, T O Rachel, is by champion and outstanding sire King Kamehameha, who's responsible for champions on both dirt and turf (the aforementioned Lord Kanaloa among the latter). Although her immediate family is a little light, T O Rachel descends from the influential matron Self Control, ancestress of Hall of Famer Open Mind, Excellent Meeting, and Peaks and Valleys.

T O PASSWORD'S RACE RECORD

A May 20 foal, T O Password did not make his debut until Jan. 6 at Kyoto, in an about 1 1/8-mile test for newcomers. The slight 2.60-1 second choice was asked in the opening strides to press the slow pace. He responded to hound the leader, under a hold from Ryusei Sakai, until he was let loose turning into stretch. Traveling best of those in contention, he rattled off his last 600 meters (about three furlongs) in :37.5 and drew away by two lengths.

T O Password was entitled to finish strongly, given the early crawl. That's reflected in his final time of 1:57.1, which was much slower than the opening three-year-old maiden on the card (1:55.4). As of this writing, four of the vanquished have since broken their maidens. Of them, the two who've run back in allowances have lost.

Hence the form was not exactly the type to make T O Password a clear threat in the Fukuryu, the final race on the Japan Road. The Fukuryu does not carry black-type status, but the about 1 1/8-mile contest did represent a class hike versus experienced rivals, including a few who'd already won an allowance.

T O Password accordingly went off as a 13-1 shot – the seventh choice in an 11-horse Fukuryu field. On the plus side, his gaining weight between starts suggested physical development; he was up to 480 kilograms (1,056 pounds) from 474 on debut, and his improved performance on the track validated that idea.

Going straight to the lead at Nakayama, T O Password was very comfortable with no one engaging early. The pursuers began to gang up leaving the backstretch and entering the final turn, but jockey Katsuma Sameshima was just waiting to give him the cue.

T O Password spurred away again upon straightening and established a decisive advantage in the stretch. The further they went, though, the more he was looking for the wire. His margin evaporated as he tired at end, clocking his final furlong in :13.2 (and last 600 meters in :37.9).

But the wire came in the nick of time, and T O Password just lasted by a head from the barnstorming Arare Tabashiru. If he'd kicked into gear fractionally sooner, maybe Arare Tabashiru, a fellow Triple Crown nominee, would have won the 40 points to secure the Japan Road invitation.

T O Password's time of 1:54.1 was much faster than the preceding maiden (1:55.3) and an older allowance (1:55.1), and those nearest him early all dropped back. On the other hand, for whatever it's worth, the later dirt races were quicker. And



T O PASSWORD CONT.

the proximity of 146-1 longshot Amber Doll in third casts a further cloud over the value of the Fukuryu form.

THE LINGERING WHAT-IF FROM THE JAPAN ROAD

T O Password's bare form is below the standard set by Forever Young at home, let alone abroad. Only two of his Fukuryu rivals had previously competed on the Japan Road, a pair of also-rans from the Nov. 25 Cattleya (itself an allowance race at Tokyo).

There were no runners from the listed stakes races on the Japan Road – neither from the Dec. 13 Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun won in spectacular style by Forever Young, nor the Feb. 18 Hyacinth S. won by Ramjet.

Indeed, Ramjet would have been a logically stronger addition for Team Japan. Unfortunately, the Koji Maeda homebred didn't run again in the interim, and T O Password supplanted him on the Japan Road leaderboard.

THE CURSE OF LEONATUS?

As if the class level and international challenges weren't enough, T O Password faces another daunting hurdle in the Kentucky Derby: the lack of racing experience. The unraced juvenile angle has lost its saliency in recent years, with Justify (2018) and Mage (2023) both exorcising the "curse of Apollo" (so named from the 1882 Derby winner who didn't race at two).

But having only two career starts going into the Derby remains an anomaly. According to the media guide (crediting Jay Privman and Keeneland librarian Becky Ryder), Leonatus (1883) is the only horse to win the Kentucky Derby while making the third start of his life. And the first of those came as a juvenile.

Thus T O Password has to defy both Apollo and Leonatus, in addition to trying to make history for Japan. The number of historical obstacles keeps increasing, and intensifying the questions posed, like so many additional circles in the Ptolemaic universe.



T O Password's forward style implies that he'll try to be in the early mix with Fierceness and Track Phantom. It's tough to see how he copes with their speed, or does so well enough to hang around at the finish. While his lack of experience leaves open the possibility of tactical experiments, it would be a rather radical makeover for him to unleash a closing kick from off the pace. Chances are that this comes too soon for the still-maturing sophomore, who stands to get stronger over time.



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12 Cathryn Sophia (E/P 5) ⁹										7 B. f. 3 FTMSEP 2014 \$30k										8 Prime Power: 147.1 (1st)										12 Life: 5 4 - 0 - 1 \$385,520 102										10 Fst (109) 5 4 - 0 - 1 \$385,520 102									
9/2 Own: Cash Is King Llc										Sire: Street Boss (Street Cry (IRE)) \$12,500										L 121										2016 3 2 - 0 - 1 \$295,520 99										Off (109) 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0									
Green, Multi-colored Crown, Green Shamrocks On White										Dam: Sheave (Mineshaft)										CD 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0										2015 2 2 - 0 - 0 \$90,000 102										Dis (108) 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0									
CASTELLANO JAVIER (0 0-0-0 0%)										Bdr: Robert T Manfuso (MD)										Sire Stats: AWD 6.7 15%Mud 241MudSts 1.57spi										AW (110) 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0																			
+2016 494 22% 54% -0.54										+2016 69 33% 57% +0.92										Dam's Sire: AWD 7.3 15%Mud 820MudSts 2.23spi										Trf (110) 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0																			
+JKYw/EP types 591 26% 57% -0.15										Graded Stakes 28 7% 36% -1.84										1w 1sw 18.02dpi										AW 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0																			
+JKYw/ Trn L60 2 50% 100% +10.60										+Btn favorite 74 30% 54% +0.13										SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014 \$30.0k (27/47) SireAvg: \$53.3k StudFee: \$15,000																													
+JKYw/ Routes 107 22% 54% -0.28										+Routes 482 18% 43% -0.05																																							
★ Finished 3rd in last race ★ Best Dirt Speed is fastest among today's starters										● Failed as favorite in last race ● Poor 'Graded Stakes' trainer record: 7% wins 28 sts																																							
★ Hot Jockey in last 7 days (13 4-5-1)																																																	
DATE TRK	DIST	FR	RR	RACETYPE	CR	E1	E2	LP	1c	2c	SPD	PP	ST	1C	2C	STR	FIN	JOCKEY	ODDS	Top Finishers	Comment																												
09Apr16Kee ⁶	1 ¹⁶ ft	:24	:47	1:11	1:43 ²	117	117	①Ashland-G1	118	92	106/	80	+7	+13	94	3	3 ¹ ₂	3 ² ₂	3 ¹	1 ^{hd}	3 ¹ ₂	CastellanoJJ ¹²¹	L *0.50 WpNmRkRclsVIntn ^{nk} CtrnSp ²	Bold bid 4w; hung 5																									
27Feb16GP ⁵	1m ft	:24	:47	1:11 ⁴	1:36 ³	117	117	②DvonaDal-G2	122	83	88/	103	-4	-7	96	4	3 ¹ ₂	4 ¹ ₂	3 ¹ ₂	1 ² ₂	1 ⁷	CastellanoJJ ¹²²	Lf *0.20 CthrynSph ⁷ LwsBy ² Drst ¹³ ₁	Pressed3w;bid1/4;handy 6																									
30Jan16GP ³	7f ft	:22 ³	:45 ²	1:09 ⁴	1:22	116	116	③FrwdGal-G2	121	84	91/	104	-5	-11	99	1	6	4 ⁴	3 ¹ ₂	1 ¹ ₂	1 ⁵ ₂	RosarioJ ¹²⁰	Lf *0.10 CthrynSph ⁵ IslndSn ⁴ ₂ BaltDiva ³	Off step slow;in hand 6																									
05Dec15LH ⁵	7f ft	:23	:46 ³	1:11	1:23	114	114	④GinTalkngB	100k	121	97/	101/	98	-1	-6	102	5	1	1 ¹ ₂	1 ² ₂	1 ⁸	1 ¹⁶	RosadoRJ ¹¹⁹	Lf *0.10 CthrynSph ¹ 6Prgnss ⁵ ₁ ThndrngSk ¹³ ₁	On left lead; handy 6																								
30Oct15Prx ⁵	6f ft	:22 ²	:46 ³	:58 ³	1:11 ¹	112	112	⑤Mdn 50k	119	94	94/	102	-3	-11	99	2	3	1 ¹ ₂	1 ² ₂	1 ⁵	1 ¹²	RosadoRJ ¹²²	L *2.40 CtrnSp ¹² AWnndSn ⁵ ₂ Wrblbrsfl ² ₁	Sharp; handy fashion 9																									
²⁵ ●23Apr Kee 5f ft :59 ³ B 1/36 03Apr Kee 4f ft :48 ¹ B 5/37 26Mar Pmm 6f ft 1:13 B 1/1 13Mar Pmm 4f ft :48 ² B 2/42 ●20Feb Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/66 24Jan Pmm 4f ft :50 ² B 89/103 ●16Jan Pmm 5f ft :59 ³ B 1/13 08Jan Pmm 5f ft 1:00 ³ B 2/23 ●31Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/76 ●20Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48 ¹ B 1/37 ●25Nov15 Prx 5f ft 1:00 ³ B 1/14 ●16Nov15 Prx 5f ft :59 ³ B 1/13																																																	

13 Land Over Sea (S 1)										Ch. f. 3 OBSAPR 2015 \$130k										Prime Power: 139.7 (4th)										Life: 8 2 - 4 - 1 \$472,000 97										Fst (107) 7 1 - 4 - 1 \$430,000 97									
Own: Reddam Racing Llc										Sire: Bellamy Road (Concerto) \$7,500										L 121										2016 3 1 - 2 - 0 \$324,000 93										Off (106) 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0									
White, Purple Belt, White Band On Purple Sleeves, Purple										Dam: Belle Watling (Pulpit)										CD 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0										2015 5 1 - 2 - 1 \$148,000 97										Dis (107) 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0									
GUTIERREZ MARIO (0 0-0-0 0%)										Bdr: Jack Swain III (KY)										Sire Stats: AWD 7.2 20%Mud 482MudSts 1.22spi										Trf (108) 1 1 - 0 - 0 \$42,000 82																			
2016 214 14% 45% -0.40										+2016 228 19% 45% -0.13										Dam's Sire: AWD 7.6 17%Mud 1422MudSts 2.23spi										AW 0 0 - 0 - 0 \$0																			
JKYw/ EP types 114 11% 44% -0.20										+Shipper 155 20% 38% -0.25																																							

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