



PREAKNESS

BETTING GUIDE

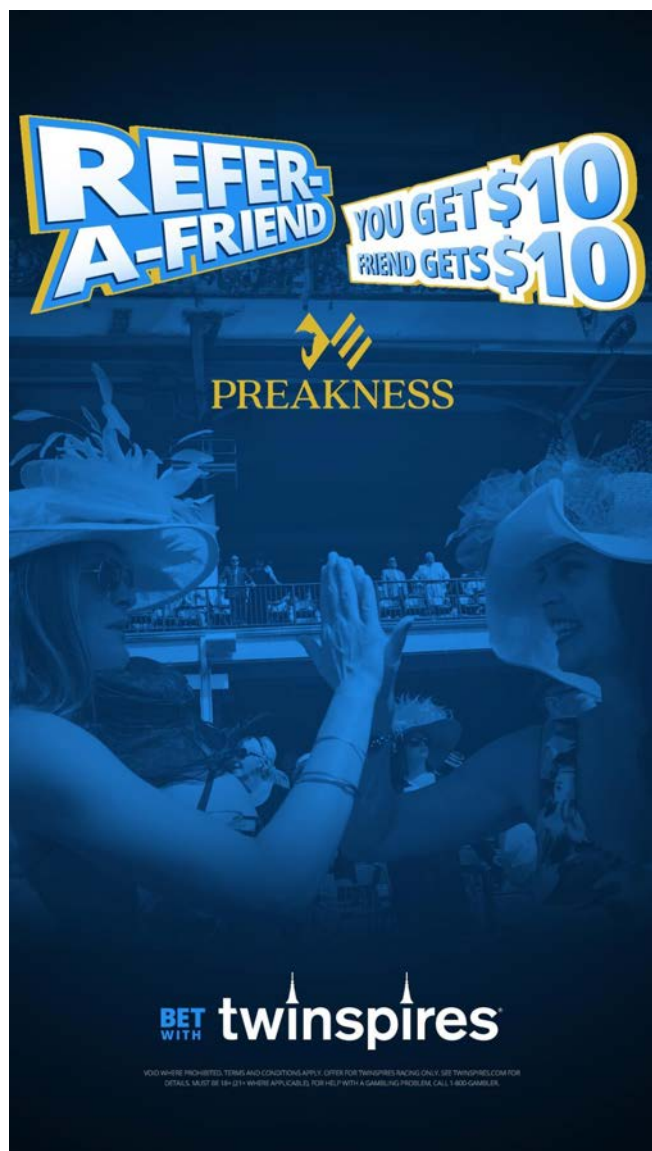
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PREAKNESS 149 BETTING GUIDE



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STAKES SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024

The Allaire Dupont Distaff Stakes	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Hilltop Stakes	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Miss Preakness Stakes (GIII)	\$150,000 Guaranteed
The Very One Stakes	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Pimlico Special (GIII)	\$250,000 Guaranteed
The Black-Eyed Susan Stakes (GII)	\$300,000 Guaranteed

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

The Chick Lang Stakes	\$200,000 Guaranteed
The Gallorette Stakes (GIII)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Maryland Sprint Stakes (GIII)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The James W. Murphy Stakes	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Sir Barton Stakes	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Jim McKay Turf Sprint	\$100,000 Guaranteed
The Dinner Party Stakes (GIII)	\$500,000 Guaranteed
The Preakness Stakes (GI)	\$2,000,000 Guaranteed



A promotional graphic for the Preakness Stakes. On the left, a jockey in a blue and white checkered silks is riding a brown horse. The horse's saddle cloth features the word 'TREASURE'. The background is a dark blue with a repeating pattern of the word 'PREAK' in a lighter blue. On the right, the text '\$10 MONEY BACK' is written in large, bold, white letters with a yellow outline. Below this, '2ND & 3RD' is written in white. At the bottom right, the 'twinspires' logo is displayed in white, with 'BET WITH' in smaller white text above it. At the very bottom, there is a line of small, illegible text.

AT A GLANCE

Pimlico At A Glance September 25, 2023

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 3.96 - 1

FAVORITE WIN%: 35% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 77%

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	59.06
Daily Double	54.20
Trifecta	292.63
Pick 3	273.49
Superfecta	2,724.95
Pick 4	1,339.83
Pick 5	31,077.18
Pick 6 Jackpot	18,127.88
Super High Five	221.40
X-5 Super High Five	266.70



TRACK BIAS MEET (9/8 - 09/24)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.0fDirt	10	50%	E	Middle
6.0fDirt	34	35%	E/P	Mid/Out
1 1/16mDirt	10	30%	E	Outside
1 1/8mDirt	3	67%	E	Rail/Ins
Turf Sprint	7	43%	E	Middle
Turf Routes	13	15%	P	Rail/Ins

TRACK BIAS WEEK (9/18 - 9/24)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.0fDirt	2	50%	E/P	Middle
6.0fDirt	9	0%	E/P	Outside
1 1/16mDirt	3	33%	E	Outside
1 1/8mDirt	1	100%	E	Rail/Ins
Turf Sprint	1	0%	P	Outside
Turf Routes	4	0%	S	Outside

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	WINNING FAVORITES	'22-'23 WIN %
McMahon Hugh I.	11	5	0	1	9.45	1	16%
Milosevic Milan	6	3	0	1	14.33	0	11%
Serey, Jr. Mario	7	3	1	1	5.70	2	13%
Delgado Jorge	3	2	0	0	1.47	2	24%
Capuano Phillip	5	2	1	0	5.62	1	18%
Lynch Cathal A.	6	2	0	0	9.47	1	22%

HOT JOCKEYS	STARTS	WINS	PLACE	SHOW	AVG. ODDS	BEATEN FAVORITES	'22-'23 WIN %
Barbosa Jeiron	12	3	1	2	8.33	0	19%

MEET THE CONTENDERS

1

MUGATU



PRO: Owns 1-for-2 record going two turns on dirt, which is the primary plus.
CON: Enters with questionable form and still eligible for first-level allowance.

2

UNCLE HEAVY



PRO: Withers (G3) winner moves up the rankings if the track comes up wet.
CON: Lack of tactical foot a concern, especially if pace isn't a fast one.

3

CATCHING FREEDOM



PRO: Ran well behind top three in Kentucky Derby (G1); form solid all season.
CON: Like Mystik Dan, will he be effective returning on relatively short rest?

SCR

MUTH

SCRATCHED

5

MYSTIK DAN



PRO: Worked out a great trip in the Kentucky Derby, just held on in a thriller.
CON: Tired-looking horse at Derby's end and not effective the last time he ran back on short rest.

6

SEIZE THE GREY



PRO: Pulled off surprise in Pat Day Mile (G2), albeit in modest time.
CON: Concedes significant back class to the top players.

7

JUST STEEL



PRO: Barn has a history of winning this with colts who threw in duds at Churchill Downs.
CON: Seems a couple cuts below, and still hasn't won beyond 6 1/2 furlongs.

8

TUSCAN GOLD



PRO: Barn has won this twice with colts who bypassed Kentucky Derby.
CON: A demanding test to win this off eight-week break against more experience foes.

9

IMAGINATION



PRO: San Felipe (G2) winner a hard knocker, first or second in all six starts.
CON: Tends to come up on the short end of photo finishes, losing three times by a neck.



EXPERT PICKS FOR THE PREAKNESS

We've assembled an expert team of handicappers to give their top picks for each graded stakes race for both Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby days.

FRIDAY, MAY 17 Pimlico



MISS PREAKNESS STAKES

3 Youalmosthadme
7 Carmelina
9 Cap Classique

3 Youalmosthadme
4 Launch
5 Lady Moscato

4 Launch
3 Youalmosthadme
7 Carmelina

9 Cap Classique
1 Mystic Lake
10 Discreet Ops

7 Carmelina
3 Youalmosthadme
1 Mystic Lake

BLACK-EYED SUSAN STAKES

4 Call Another Play
5 Gun Song
7 Corposo

5 Gun Song
7 Carposo
3 Lemon Muffin

7 Corposo
3 Lemon Muffin
6 Whocouldaskformo

7 Corposo
4 Call Another Play
5 Gun Song

8 Recharge
5 Gun Song
3 Lemon Muffin

SATURDAY, MAY 18 Pimlico



SIR BARTON STAKES

8 Tuscan Sky
5 Corporate Power
10 Imperial Gun

5 Corporate Power
8 Tuscan Sky
10 Imperial Gun

5 Corporate Power
8 Tuscan Sky
10 Imperial Gun

5 Corporate Power
8 Tuscan Sky
6 Gould's Gold

8 Tuscan Sky
5 Corporate Power
10 Imperial Gun

JIM MCKAY TURF SPRINT

11 Witty
12 Beer Can Man
9 That's Right

9 That's Right
11 Beer Can Man
1 Grooms All Bizness

11 Witty
12 Beer Can Man
8 Boat's a Rockin

11 Witty
10 Charging
9 That's Right

9 That's Right
11 Witty
12 Beer Can Man

DINNER PARTY STAKES

9 Beatbox
5 Running Bee
3 Balnikhov

5 Running Bee
3 Balnikhov
10 Emmanuel

9 Beatbox
5 Running Bee
4 Atone

1 Highland Chief
10 Emmanuel
7 Adhamo

5 Running Bee
9 Beatbox
10 Emmanuel

THE PREAKNESS STAKES

9 Imagination
3 Catching Freedom
5 Mystik Dan

8 Tuscan Gold
5 Mystik Dan
9 Imagination

8 Tuscan Gold
3 Catching Freedom
5 Mystik Dan

3 Catching Freedom
8 Tuscan Gold
6 Seize the Grey

8 Tuscan Gold
5 Mystik Dan
9 Imagination

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



BLACK-EYED SUSAN STAKES AT PIMLICO

Gr 2 – 1-1/8 Miles – PURSE \$300,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Jeanne Marie	20-1
2	Ringy Dingy	10-1
3	Lemon Muffin	4-1
4	Call Another Play	8-1
5	Gun Song	9-2
6	Whocouldaskformo	6-1
7	Corposo	5-2
8	Recharge	7-2

TOP PICKS

#7 Corposo

#5 Gun Song

#3 Lemon Muffin

#6 Whocouldaskformo

WAGERS

\$20 win and place #7 Corposo

\$5 trifecta key 7 with 3,5,6

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An octet of sophomore fillies will travel 1 1/8 miles on the Pimlico dirt in Friday's \$300,000 Black-Eyed Susan S. (G2).

#1 JEANNE MARIE: Stakes-winning daughter of Speightster has been first or second in each of her four lifetime tries and gets the rail for her local debut. This Butch Reid pupil was a stakes second in a prep for this affair, and she has some exotics appeal with Mychel Sanchez in the stirrups.

#2 RINGY DINGY: Dialed In filly will make her seasonal debut in this offering for conditioner Danny Gargan. The stakes heroine flashed a lot of potential as a two-year-old, and she will be in the mix to grab a share if she runs to her juvenile form. Katie Davis has the call.

#3 LEMON MUFFIN: Honeybee S. (G3) queen has been outrun in two straight while facing better and will relish the measure of class relief in the contest. The D. Wayne Lukas trainee will handle the distance with ease, and she gets a nice rider upgrade to Flavien Prat, as well. The daughter of Collected will stalk the pace in the early going.

#4 CALL ANOTHER PLAY: Michael Trombetta trainee has romped home in three straight by a combined 14 lengths and will make her first run on the Pimlico strip. This peaking daughter of Audible has obviously never been better, and she will be a major contender with another step forward. Regular pilot Jaime Rodriguez will be in the irons.

#5 GUN SONG: Talented miss from the Mark Hennig shedrow dueled for the lead before tiring to fourth in the Gulfstream Park Oaks (G2) most recently and will receive a more favorable trip on Friday. The Gun Runner chestnut is a bit of a question mark at two turns, but she is training well and might find herself on the front end in this endeavor. John Velazquez retains the ride.

#6 WHOCOULDAKFORMO: Suncoast S. second has failed to hit the board in two straight graded outings, but she is not impossible in the event from off of the early tempo. The dark bay daughter of Uncle Mo will make one run in the lane with Luis Saez taking the reins.

#7 CORPOSO: Top pick was a clear third behind a superb winner in the Santa Anita Oaks (G2) last time out and I expect her to take a big step forward in her second graded attempt. The Peter Eurton trainee has solid tactical speed in a field lacking multiple pace players, and the move to nine furlongs should be right in the wheelhouse of the Vino Rosso filly. Tyler Gaffalione inherits the mount.

#8 RECHARGE: Fantasy S. (G2) fifth will dispute the lead from the break and might be the one to catch turning for home if she clears early. This Steve Asmussen pupil suffered her first setback from four tries at Oaklawn Park last time out, but she has trained well in the interim and wouldn't be a surprise in the well-matched cast. Joel Rosario picks up the mount.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



THE PREAKNESS STAKES 149 AT PIMLICO

Gr 1 – 1-3/16 Miles – PURSE \$2,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Mugatu	20-1
2	Uncle Heavy	20-1
3	Catching Freedom	6-1
SCR	Muth	SCRATCHED
5	Mystik Dan	5-2
6	Seize the Grey	15-1
7	Just Steel	15-1
8	Tuscan Gold	8-1
9	Imagination	6-1

TOP PICKS

#9 Imagination

#3 Catching Freedom

#5 Mystik Dan

#8 Tuscan Gold

WAGERS

\$20 win and place #9 Imagination

\$1 trifecta box 3,5,8,9

50-cent superfecta 3,9 with 3,5,8,9 with 3,5,8,9 with all

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An excellent field of nine three-year-olds will travel 1 3/16 miles on the Pimlico dirt in the second leg of the Triple Crown on Saturday, the \$2 million Preakness S. (G1).

#1 MUGATU (20-1): Outsider has failed to hit the board from a trio of stakes races in succession and looks to be in a tough spot on Saturday. The Jeff Engler trainee did rally to place fifth in the Blue Grass S. (G1) last time out, but he would be a big surprise with Joe Bravo in the silks.

#2 UNCLE HEAVY (20-1): Withers S. (G3) victor finished fifth in the Wood Memorial S. (G2) in his latest performance and will look to improve off of that with Irad Ortiz Jr. riding. The Butch Reid pupil looks like he can handle the trip, and a career best performance could have him challenge for a placing in this spot.

#3 CATCHING FREEDOM (6-1): Louisiana Derby (G2) star rallied well to be a close fourth in the Kentucky Derby (G1) and looms large with even minor improvement on this occasion. The Brad Cox charge has arguably the best turn of foot in the field, and he will be moving best of all in the lane with Flavien Prat retaining the ride.

#4 MUTH (SCRATCHED)

#5 MYSTIK DAN (5-2): Kentucky Derby star will aim for two straight in the classics for conditioner Kenny McPeck. The Goldencents colt has solid tactical speed combined with a quick turn of foot, and the race will go through him with Brian Hernandez Jr. in the silks once again.

#6 SEIZE THE GRAY (15-1): First of two for D. Wayne Lukas was a game winner of the Pat Day Mile S. (G2) in his latest offering. The improving son of Arrogate was outrun in his prior top-level race leading up to this but still has top-four appeal with Jaime Torres in the irons.

#7 JUST STEEL (15-1): Arkansas Derby (G1) runner-up was close to a solid pace in Louisville before giving way in the stretch and will hope for a more favorable voyage in the Preakness. Stakes-winning son of Justify can be very good on his best day, and if the expensive colt fires his best shot, then he can be in the mix late at a big number. Joel Rosario inherits the ride.

#8 TUSCAN GOLD (6-1): The Chad Brown trainee was a very good third in the deep Louisiana Derby while making his stakes debut, and the colt rates a big chance if he moves forward off that endeavor. The son of Medaglia d'Oro is bred to handle the distance, and he combined useful tactical speed with a nice turn of foot that should play well on this course. The win threat will have Tyler Gaffalione in the stirrups.

#9 IMAGINATION (6-1): The Bob Baffert trainee just missed in the recent Santa Anita Derby (G1) and has been first or second in each lifetime appearance to date. The son of Into Mischief has gate speed and stays a route of ground, and my opinion is that he will flourish with the added distance on Saturday. Frankie Dettori will pilot the colt who breaks from the outside post.

BRISNET SPEED RATING REPORT FOR 2024 PREAKNESS

by James Scully *Analysis written prior to Preakness Draw*

Nine three-year-olds are set for the middle jewel of the Triple Crown, Saturday's 149th running of the \$2 million Preakness (G1) at Pimlico. We will preview Brisnet Speed ratings and run styles for this year's contestants.

SPEED RATINGS

Catching Freedom is the only entrant to register a triple-digit Speed figure in the last two starts, but Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Mystik Dan (three starts back) and multiple Grade 1 victor Muth (twice in juvenile stakes) reached the threshold previously.

Thirteen of the last 15 Preakness winners registered a triple-digit Speed rating in previous starts.

Here are the two most recent Speed ratings, ranked by the top last-out number, for the 2024 Preakness field.

HORSE	MOST RECENT SPEED RATINGS
MUTH	99
	94
TUSCAN GOLD	98
	89
MYSTIK DAN	97
	92
IMAGINATION	97
	92
CATCHING FREEDOM	95
	100
MUGATU	93
	80
SEIZE THE GREY	92
	89
UNCLE HEAVY	92
	94
JUST STEEL	61
	97

Muth ran faster at age two, registering a 100 Speed rating for a convincing win in the American Pharoah (G1) and a 105 for a runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), and his numbers are trending in the right direction from a pair of 2024 starts, earning a 94 for his comeback win in the seven-furlong San Vicente (G2) and a 99 for his two-length score in the Arkansas Derby (G1).

Catching Freedom overcame a troubled start to win the Louisiana Derby (G2) at Fair Grounds, a deep prep race that produced recent Peter Pan (G2) winner Antiquarian, but he got shuffled back early in the Kentucky Derby and couldn't make up enough ground from far off the pace, rallying well to be a clear fourth. His Speed ratings have progressed nicely in recent starts, and Catching Freedom is eligible to receive a better trip in upcoming starts.

Mystik Dan received a whopping 101 Speed rating for his eight-length score in the Southwest (G3) three back, but he couldn't run back to it when checking in a non-threatening third in the Arkansas Derby next out. One could make the argument he regressed off a whopping

career-best number, but Mystik Dan also experienced trouble on the first turn that may have impacted his performance. The Kenny McPeck-trained colt rebounded commendably in the Kentucky Derby, and Mystik Dan has the potential to keep moving forward.

Tuscan Gold earned lower numbers in his first two starts, but the maiden winner merits respect after generating a 98 Speed rating for a close third in the Louisiana Derby. Chad Brown has the Preakness twice in the last seven years with horses who missed the Kentucky Derby (Cloud Computing and Early Voting).

Imagination's Speed ratings are on the upswing after generating a 97 for his neck second in the Santa Anita Derby (G1), and the speedy colt is trained by eight-time Preakness winner Bob Baffert.

The remaining four Preakness entrants appear up against it from a Speed rating perspective.

RUN STYLES

The Preakness did not attract an abundance of speed. Early – Seize the Grey led all the way breaking his maiden last year and exits a sharp win where he displayed high early speed, chasing a hot pace (:22 and :44 3/5) in the Pat Day Mile (G2) before prevailing by 1 1/4 lengths. With Muth scratching, Seize the Grey has the chance to be inside speed.

Imagination does his best running on or close to the lead and will be hustling from his outside post with Frankie Dettori, probably first or second entering the first turn.

Early/Presser – Imagination does his best running on or close to the lead and with Muth being his stablemate, he's probably look to settle into an up-close stalking trip.

Just Steel showed surprising speed contesting the early lead in the Kentucky Derby and weakened to 17th. Look for new jockey Joel Rosario to employ different tactics, but Just Steel still figures to be within striking range with his speed.

Mystik Dan raced within five lengths of the last in the Kentucky Derby and has the versatility to race up close or toward midpack. And considering the lack of speed signed on, Brian Hernandez Jr. may try to save ground from a prominent position.

Presser – A rallying maiden winner, Tuscan Gold raced closer to the pace in the Louisiana Derby and could show more speed than expected following a 56-day freshening. But he's also eligible to be stalking the action in sixth or seventh in a bunched field.

Sustained – Catching Freedom packs a formidable late punch.

Uncle Heavy, a fast-closing winner of the Withers (G3) two back, will look to make an impact in the final furlongs with new rider Irad Ortiz Jr.

Mugatu has displayed no positional speed in recent starts.

Good luck in the Preakness!

PREAKNESS: HOW DO DERBY ALUMNI VS. NEW SHOOTERS COMPARE?

by Keeler Johnson

For many years, the Preakness (G1) at Pimlico was dominated by horses exiting the Kentucky Derby (G1) two weeks prior. But trends are shifting, and now “new shooters” who did not compete in the Derby are winning the Preakness with regularity.

The last 40 years of Preakness history tell the story. Between 1984 and 2016, 30 out of 33 Preakness winners came out of the Kentucky Derby. Only Red Bullet (2000), Bernardini (2006), and Rachel Alexandra (2009) managed to defy the trend.

But then in 2017, Cloud Computing upset the Preakness after finishing third in the Wood Memorial (G2) and skipping the Kentucky Derby. In 2020, Swiss Skydiver came off a runner-up effort in the Kentucky Oaks (G1) to beat colts in the Preakness. She was followed by Blue Grass (G2) third-place finisher Rombauer (2021), Wood Memorial runner-up Early Voting (2022), and Santa Anita Derby (G1) fourth-place finisher National Treasure (2023), all of whom won the Preakness after skipping the Derby.

That’s four wins in a row for new shooters at Pimlico. So what’s changed? To a large extent it’s a numbers game. Horses don’t run as often as they did years ago, and the two-week gap between the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness prompts many Derby alumni to skip the Preakness. It used to be common for a bevy of Derby starters to run back two weeks later in the Preakness, but in 2023, Kentucky Derby winner Mage was the only Derby starter to tackle the Preakness.

There’s another subtle advantage in favor of new shooters. They can specifically target the Preakness from five or six weeks out, helping them deliver a peak performance at Pimlico. For Derby alumni, the Preakness can be something of an afterthought, and some horses struggle to reproduce their best form while running back two weeks after the Derby.

KENTUCKY DERBY ALUMNI IN THE 2024 PREAKNESS

Entries and post positions for this year’s Preakness were confirmed on Monday, with three Kentucky Derby starters slated to take part. That’s triple the contingent from 2023, but still not a huge number.

The Derby brigade is led by #5 Mystik Dan (5-2), who saved ground every step of the way to win the 150th Kentucky Derby in a three-horse photo finish. Louisiana Derby (G2) winner #3 Catching Freedom (6-1), who closed ground nicely to finish fourth by 1 3/4 lengths in the Kentucky Derby, is another major player. The group is rounded out by #7 Just Steel (15-1), who finished ahead of Mystik Dan when second in the Arkansas Derby (G1) before fading from a pace-pressing position to finish 17th in the Kentucky Derby.

NEW SHOOTERS IN THE 2024 PREAKNESS

New shooters in the 2024 Preakness outnumber the Derby alumni 2-to-1. What’s more, they represent one of the strongest groups of newcomers in recent Preakness memory. Their roster includes:



#1 Mugatu (20-1): Veteran of a dozen starts exits a fifth-place finish in the Blue Grass (G1) behind Sierra Leone, who went on to finish second in the Kentucky Derby. Mugatu was an also-eligible entrant in the Kentucky Derby, but failed to draw in and was scratched.

#2 Uncle Heavy (20-1): Finished fifth in the Wood Memorial (G2) off a two-month break. He’d previously unleashed a big homestretch rally to take the Withers (G3) on the Road to the Kentucky Derby.

#4 Muth (8-5): The American Pharoah (G1), San Vicente (G2), and Arkansas Derby winner is 2-for-2 this year. In the Arkansas Derby, he pressed the pace before taking command to beat Just Steel by two lengths and Mystik Dan by 6 1/4 lengths. Muth is the morning line favorite to take the Preakness for trainer Bob Baffert, who has won the Preakness a record eight times.

#6 Seize the Grey (15-1): Improving Road to the Kentucky Derby veteran cut back in distance for the Pat Day Mile (G2) on Kentucky Derby Day at Churchill Downs, where he charged down the homestretch to beat a strong field by 1 1/2 lengths.

#8 Tuscan Gold (8-1): Lightly raced colt exits a third-place finish in the Louisiana Derby, where he finished only 1 3/4 lengths behind Catching Freedom. That effort yielded a promising 98 Brisnet Speed rating, suggesting Tuscan Gold is a serious contender for two-time Preakness-winning trainer Chad Brown.

#9 Imagination (6-1): Never out of the exacta in six starts, California raider Imagination won the San Felipe (G2) during the winter and exits a close runner-up finish in the Santa Anita Derby (G1).

It’s possible Mystik Dan, Catching Freedom, or Just Steel will become the first Derby starter since 2019 to succeed in the Preakness. But recent history suggests this year’s strong group of new shooters will be formidable at Pimlico.

EVERYTHING TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 PREAKNESS POST POSITIONS

by Keeler Johnson

Post positions for the 2024 Preakness (G1) at Pimlico were drawn on Monday, with a nine-horse field slated to contest the second leg of the Triple Crown.

The post draw for the first Triple Crown jewel, the Kentucky Derby (G1), draws a lot of attention since the giant 20-horse field is filled with intriguing post position statistics. Several of the Derby's post positions haven't produced winners since the 1980s, 1970s, or even the 1960s, and post 17 hasn't produced a single winner in history.

In contrast, the Preakness is currently limited to 14 starters and frequently draws considerably smaller fields, so post positions play less of a role in the outcome. Nevertheless, historical post position data suggests that at least one horse in the 2024 field is at a disadvantage.

Here are the 2024 Preakness post positions, along with historical data pertaining to each post since the starting gate was introduced to the Preakness in 1909:

POST POSITION	STARTS	WIN %	WINS	WIN %	LAST WINNER	2024 PREAKNESS ENTRANT
1	116	10.3%	12	10.3%	National Treasure (2023)	Uncle Heavy
2	116	10.3%	12	10.3%	Cloud Computing (2017)	Catching Freedom
3	116	10.3%	12	10.3%	California Chrome (2014)	Muth
4	116	12.1%	14	12.1%	Swiss Skydiver (2020)	Mystik Dan
5	114	11.4%	13	11.4%	Early Voting (2022)	Seize The Grey
6	113	15.0%	17	15.0%	Rombauer (2021)	Just Steel
7	104	13.5%	14	13.5%	Justify (2018)	Tuscan Gold
8	92	10.9%	10	10.9%	Bernardini (2006)	Imagination
9	78	5.1%	4	5.1%	I'll Have Another (2012)	None
10	59	3.4%	2	3.4%	Real Quiet (1998)	None
11	41	4.9%	2	4.9%	Point Given (2001)	None
12	27	11.1%	3	11.1%	Afleet Alex (2005)	None
13	16	6.3%	1	6.3%	Rachel Alexandra (2009)	None
14	8	0.0%	0	0.0%	None	None
15	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	None	None
16	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	None	None
17	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	None	None
18	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	None	None

The winningest post position in Preakness history is post 6, which has yielded 17 winners. It also boasts the highest win percentage at 15%. The adjacent post 7 has also been favorable, producing 14 winners (tied for second with post 4) and the second-best win rate at 13.5%.

There aren't any post positions with bad stats from post 1 through post 8, but for the most part there's a falloff in win percentages from post 9 outward. This is partly because as field sizes grow, any given post position is less likely to produce a winner. In a six-horse field, any post has a 16.7% chance at producing the winner; in a 12-horse field that drops to 8.3%.

So which horses drew best in the 2024 Preakness? #6 Seize the Grey (15-1), winner of the Pat Day Mile (G2) at Churchill Downs two weeks ago, landed favorably in post 6. So too did Arkansas Derby (G1) runner-up #7 Just Steel (15-1) in post 7. Both are conditioned by Hall

of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas, a six-time winner of the Preakness. Kentucky Derby (G1) winner #5 Mystik Dan (5-2) can't complain about post 5, and post 4 should be suitable for #4 Muth (8-5), who defeated Just Steel and Mystik Dan in the Arkansas Derby.

Arguably the only horse who drew poorly from a statistical standpoint is #9 Imagination (6-1), winner of the San Felipe (G2) and runner-up in the Santa Anita Derby (G1). Post 9's 5.1% win rate is less than half of post 8's 10.9% rate, and 5.1% is considerably lower than would be mathematically expected based on field sizes through the years.

Will Seize the Grey extend the record-setting success of post 6? Can Mystik Dan bolster the respectable stats of post 5? Will Imagination overcome the challenge of post 9? We'll find out this Saturday.



PREAKNESS STAKES PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

by Kellie Reilly

Five of the nine entrants in Saturday's Preakness (G1), including Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Mystik Dan and scratched favorite Muth, are by horses who themselves competed in the middle jewel of the Triple Crown at Pimlico.

Tuscan Gold boasts arguably the most Preakness-centric pedigree. Although his sire, \$5.7 million-earner Medaglia d'Oro, threw in the worst race of his life when eighth in the 2002 Preakness, he's avenged that result as a stallion. Medaglia d'Oro sired Hall of Famer Rachel Alexandra, who defeated males in the 2009 Preakness, as well as Treasure, the dam (mother) of 2023 winner National Treasure. Tuscan Gold's mother, Valadorna, is herself by Hall of Famer Curlin, the 2007 Preakness star. Curlin joined an exclusive club by also siring a Preakness winner, Exaggerator (2016). Two more sons of Curlin placed in the Preakness, Ride on Curlin (2014) and Tenfold (2018). Valadorna, runner-up in the 2016 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1), would go on to earn a graded laurel in the 2018 Doubledogdare (G3) at Keeneland. Later that same year, Valadorna's younger half-brother, Complexity, scored his signature win in the Champagne (G1). Complexity was trained by Chad Brown, who now has his "nephew," Tuscan Gold.

Tuscan Gold belongs to the maternal family labeled 4-m that's responsible for four Preakness winners – Bernardini (2006), Timber Country (1995), Faultless (1947), and Harold (1879) – although he descends from a blue-collar branch.

Preakness rival Just Steel comes from the same family, but as a much nearer relative of Timber Country. Just Steel has Timber Country's trainer too, Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas.

But Just Steel's part of the family took a detour to Australia, where his mother, Irish Lights, was bred. Irish Lights won the 2009 Thousand Guineas (G1) at Caulfield and produced two previous stakes winners, Australian Group 2 vixen Omei Sword and the Kentucky-bred Lipizzaner, a useful juvenile sprinter for Aidan O'Brien.

Just Steel is by Triple Crown champion Justify, who will try to become the 11th Preakness winner to sire one. Justify's old foe Good Magic, the runner-up in the 2018 Derby and fourth in the Preakness, was to have been represented by Muth, until he was withdrawn.

Imagination comes from the family of reigning Preakness winner National Treasure. By Into Mischief and out of Grade 2 winner Magical Feeling, Imagination is a full brother to Monmouth Oaks (G3) romper Occult, the third-placer in last season's Acorn (G1) and Cotillion (G1). They descend from a full sister to 1946 Triple Crown sweeper Assault, who in turn traces to a full sister to the legendary Man o' War, the 1920 Preakness conqueror.

As a son of Into Mischief and an Empire Maker mare, Imagination is bred along the same lines as 2021 Derby victor Mandaloun and current Dubai World Cup (G1) romper Laurel River. Leading sire Into Mischief has yet to furnish a Preakness winner, but his 2020 Derby hero Authentic missed by inches, and Owendale placed third in 2019. Into Mischief also factors as the paternal grandsire of Mystik Dan, whose sire, Goldencents, finished fifth in the 2013 Preakness and later relished turning back in trip. But Mystik Dan gets stamina on his dam's side.

Mystik Dan's maternal grandfather, Colonel John, is by Hall of Famer Tiznow, who sired the mother of 2022 Preakness scorer Early Voting. While Mystik Dan's female line, the clan labeled 4-r, has produced six Preakness winners, the connection is tenuous; they all came more than a century ago, the most recent being Watervale (1911). Seize the Grey likewise has a very distant matrilineal link to Preakness success, in his case with 1941 Triple Crown legend Whirlaway, as a member of the 8-h family. Their common ancestress dates back to the 19th century.

By the late Hall of Famer Arrogate, who didn't make his stakes debut until his track record-setting Travers (G1), Seize the Grey is out of a mare by key influence Smart Strike.

In addition to siring the aforementioned Curlin, Smart Strike is responsible for another Preakness-winning champion in Lookin at Lucky (2010). The close second in that running, First Dude, is himself out of a Smart Strike mare; so was 2009 Derby upsetter and Preakness runner-up Mine That Bird.

Pioneerof the Nile, best of the rest behind Mine that Bird in the Derby, regressed to 11th in the Preakness and never raced again. But he's left a permanent legacy by siring 2015 Triple Crown champion American Pharoah, and now Pioneerof the Nile has two grandsons in Saturday's field.

Uncle Heavy is by Pioneerof the Nile's son Social Inclusion, the 2014 Preakness third. Like Mystik Dan, Uncle Heavy has Tiznow on his dam's side; he's out of a mare by Tiznow's son Tiz Wonderful. Uncle Heavy's female line belongs to the 2-n family that's delivered Preakness winners Point Given (2001) and Whimsical (1906), but his is a different branch.

Catching Freedom is out of a Pioneerof the Nile mare, and his great-grandmother (third dam in the female line) is by 1994 Preakness and Belmont (G1) victor Tabasco Cat. Catching Freedom's sire, Constitution, is by the patriarch Tapit. Although a Tapit descendant has yet to win the middle jewel, a couple of other scions of the A.P. Indy sire line have prevailed, Bernardini (2006) and the 2014 Derby/Preakness hero California Chrome.

Mugatu will try to become the second straight Preakness winner from the Quality Road sire line. A year ago, National Treasure scored a first Triple Crown race victory for sire Quality Road. Mugatu is by another son of Quality Road, Blofeld.

To broaden the picture and look at overall sire lines, Quality Road is one representative of supersire Mr. Prospector's male line. Uncle Heavy and Seize the Grey are others from the "Mr. P" sire line in the Preakness, and Muth would have made it four.

Breed-shaper Northern Dancer, the 1964 Derby and Preakness champion, has four male-line descendants in Mystik Dan, Imagination, Just Steel, and Tuscan Gold. Catching Freedom flies the flag for the sire line of 1977 Triple Crown star Seattle Slew.



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