

# MEET THE CONTENDERS

## 2024

### ARKANSAS DERBY

1



#### WILL TAKE IT



**PRO:** Showed improved early foot last time and just missed in stretch duel.  
**CON:** First two tries were poor, and he enters still a maiden.

2



#### TIMBERLAKE



**PRO:** Champagne (G1) and Rebel (G2) winner one of the classiest colts in the field.  
**CON:** Raced a bit erratically in stretch of the Rebel; lack of focus a potential issue.

3



#### DIMATIC



**PRO:** One of three in here for Asmussen, who has won this race four times.  
**CON:** Blinkers didn't help much in Rebel, where he was well-beaten fifth.

4



#### TIME FOR TRUTH



**PRO:** Stakes-placed colt handled two turns well winning allowance last time.  
**CON:** Hasn't faced a field of this quality yet and stamina will be tested.

5



#### LIBERAL ARTS



**PRO:** Distant third in Southwest (G3) and should improve second off the layoff.  
**CON:** Could use some pace and there isn't a ton of it here on paper.

6



#### INFORMED PATRIOT



**PRO:** Ran well here when third to Catching Freedom in Smarty Jones S. two back.  
**CON:** Better than poor try in Sunland Derby suggests, but likely not enough to upset.

7



#### MUTH



**PRO:** Never worse than second in five starts and among best of his generation at two.  
**CON:** Enters off layoff of nearly three months and has never run outside SoCal base.

8



#### JUST STEEL



**PRO:** Placed in first two local Derby preps before throwing a dud in the Rebel.  
**CON:** Proven to be a cut or two below the best three-year-olds on the grounds.

9



#### MYSTIK DAN



**PRO:** Romping winner of the Southwest would be the horse to beat if he repeats that effort.  
**CON:** Right trip and muddy strip flattered that big run; must prove he can do it over fast track.

10



#### IMPERIAL GUN



**PRO:** Son of Gun Runner won maiden well two back; remains with upside.  
**CON:** Interim allowance fourth suggests he needs a big step forward to contend here.