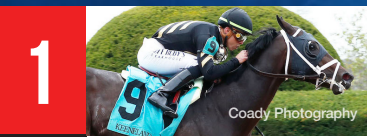


# MEET THE CONTENDERS

## 2024

### GOTHAM STAKES



Coady Photography

#### KHANATE



**PRO:** Experienced colt has already earned points in a pair of Road to the Kentucky Derby qualifiers at Aqueduct.  
**CON:** He faded to fifth place after setting the pace in Aqueduct's Withers (G3) last time out.



#### MAXIMUS MERIDIUS



**PRO:** Dominated a \$75,000 allowance optional claimer at Parx Racing last month with a strong 91 Brisnet Speed rating.  
**CON:** He's yet to run farther than 6 1/2 furlongs.



AC Photography

#### DETERMINISTIC



**PRO:** Won his debut at Saratoga last summer with a 90 Brisnet Speed rating.  
**CON:** Hasn't started since his debut and enters the Gotham off a seven-month layoff.



#### FACENDA



**PRO:** Won his debut in a \$30,000 maiden optional claimer at Turf Paradise.  
**CON:** The 73 Brisnet Speed rating from his debut looks light against the Gotham field.



Equiphoto/P

#### DEPOSITION



**PRO:** Closed ground nicely to finish fourth in the Withers last time out.  
**CON:** Needs improvement to turn the tables on fellow Withers alumni El Grande O and Lightline.



Coady Photography

#### AIR CAV



**PRO:** Finished fifth in a deep renewal of the one-mile Champagne (G1) at Aqueduct last fall, ahead of El Grande O and next-out Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) winner Fierceness.  
**CON:** Exits a distant third-place finish in the six-furlong Jimmy Winkfield S. against easier competition.



Walter Wlodarczyk Photography

#### EL GRANDE O



**PRO:** Speedy colt was beaten a nose in the 1 1/8-mile Withers and should appreciate cutting back to one mile for the Gotham.  
**CON:** He finished second in Aqueduct's one-mile Jerome S. two starts back, beaten 2 3/4 lengths even after setting a modest pace.



Coady Photography

#### BERGEN



**PRO:** Dominated the Jimmy Winkfield last time out, winning by 5 1/4 lengths with a 94 Brisnet Speed rating.  
**CON:** He was beaten to second place in his lone start racing one mile, in a \$100,000 allowance optional claimer at Churchill Downs.



AC Photography

#### ELIMINATE



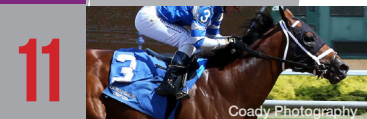
**PRO:** Closed from last to first to win a 6 1/2-furlong maiden special weight at Aqueduct last time out.  
**CON:** Lost his first three starts (including one against Deterministic) and is 0-for-2 running long.



#### JUST A TOUCH



**PRO:** Trounced his debut in a maiden special weight sprint at Fair Grounds, scoring by 4 1/4 lengths with a 97 Brisnet Speed rating.  
**CON:** He's yet to run farther than six furlongs.



Coady Photography

#### LIGHTLINE



**PRO:** Rallied to finish second in the Withers in his Road to the Kentucky Derby debut.  
**CON:** Finished 2 1/2 lengths behind El Grande O in the Withers and needs a step forward to turn the tables.



#### SLIDER



**PRO:** California raider finished third in a quality renewal of the seven-furlong San Vicente (G2) at Santa Anita.  
**CON:** He's bred for speed and has yet to run farther than seven furlongs.



AC Photography

#### CAPITAL IDEA



**PRO:** Obliterated a one-mile maiden special weight at Aqueduct last time out, winning by 8 1/4 lengths with a 95 Brisnet Speed rating.  
**CON:** He risks a wide trip while breaking from the far outside post position.