

MEET THE CONTENDERS

2025

ARKANSAS DERBY

1



BRERETON'S BAYTOWN



PRO: Has run best over wet tracks, something to consider if conditions arise.
CON: Appears significantly overmatched from class, speed perspective.

2



FIRST DIVISION



PRO: Has run well in all three starts to date, albeit at lower levels.
CON: Remains with potential, but this looks too tough a spot at this point.

3



PUBLISHER



PRO: Troubled starts proved costly in two earlier preps; adds blinkers.
CON: Maiden has promised more than delivered since debut.

4



BESTFRIEND ROCKET



PRO: First start for hot Lukas barn a photo-finish allowance win.
CON: Lacks stakes experience, so must improve considerably.

5



SPEED KING



PRO: Southwest (G3) hero threw clunker in Rebel (G2); has rebound potential.
CON: Perhaps reverts to front-running tactics, but can he keep up with Cornucopian?

6



SANDMAN



PRO: Solid tries in Southwest, Rebel; just needs some pace help.
CON: Can't afford to fall too far behind again, even at this longer distance.

7



MONET'S MAGIC



PRO: Outran expectations when splitting Rebel field at 44-1.
CON: Needs to take step forward, though more likely needs a softer spot.

8



COAL BATTLE



PRO: Blue collar hero of this cycle has won three straight preps, including Rebel.
CON: Although undefeated on dirt, speed figures haven't stood out so far.

9



CORNUCOPIAN



PRO: Off sparkling debut win on Rebel Day, \$1.1m Into Mischief colt could be any kind.
CON: Miserly odds await on horse taking a big class hike and stretching out 3f.