

# MEET THE CONTENDERS

2025

## BLUE GRASS STAKES

1

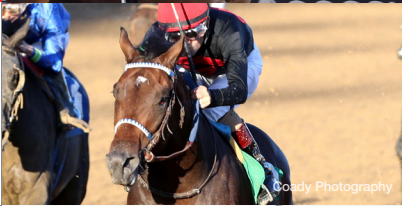


### RIVER THAMES



**PRO:** Solid stakes debut in Fountain of Youth (G2) following two easy wins.  
**CON:** Will relatively late start to his career catch up with him at some point?

2



### RENDER JUDGMENT



**PRO:** Has earned a couple minor checks along the Derby prep trail.  
**CON:** Distant second despite hot Va. Derby pace; doesn't seem quick enough.

3



### BURNHAM SQUARE



**PRO:** Topped future Florida Derby (G1) winner in Holy Bull (G3).  
**CON:** Wasn't as effective in Fountain of Youth; needs to find more.

4



### OWEN ALMIGHTY



**PRO:** Made all in Tampa Bay Derby (G3); has never crossed the wire worse than third.  
**CON:** Connections originally thought he was a miler type; they might have been right.

5



### EAST AVENUE



**PRO:** Loved this track last fall romping in Breeders' Futurity (G1).  
**CON:** Ugly efforts last two and possibly a need-the-lead type.

6



### CHANCER McPATRICK



**PRO:** Dual Grade 1 winner at two should benefit from Tampa Bay Derby comeback.  
**CON:** 0-for-2 around two turns; might prefer one-turn tests.

7



### ADMIRAL DENNIS



**PRO:** Trainer/jockey combo captured 2021 Blue Grass with Essential Quality.  
**CON:** Form has been hot or cold; well beaten in previous Derby prep tries.