





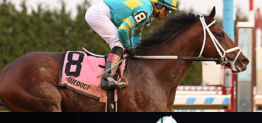

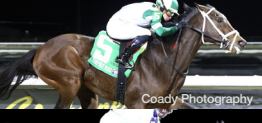



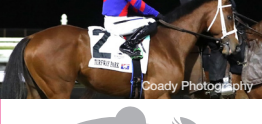


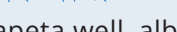


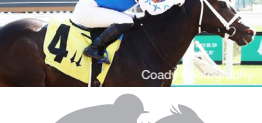
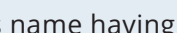

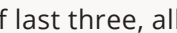

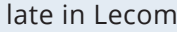
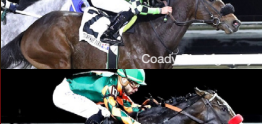
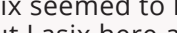
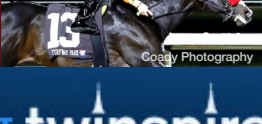
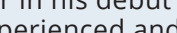


MEET THE CONTENDERS

2025

JOHN BATTAGLIA MEMORIAL STAKES

1		<p>SPIRIT RAGS </p> <p>PRO: Finally broke through with first win in 11 tries at double-digit price. CON: Hard to envision he'll back that maiden win up in a stakes.</p>
2		<p>SHAN </p> <p>PRO: Retreating third in stakes debut despite setting a tepid, uncontested pace. CON: Seven-start veteran concedes upside to others in here.</p>
3		<p>STUDLYDORIGHT </p> <p>PRO: Two-time stakes winner has been facing tougher fields in New York. CON: Has lost position late in last two and might have distance limitations.</p>
4		<p>CALLING CARD </p> <p>PRO: NY-bred should appreciate class drop after no-show in Lecomte (G3). CON: Needs to find more while adapting quickly to synthetic surface.</p>
5		<p>CALIFORNIA BURRITO </p> <p>PRO: Lulled rivals to sleep on front end for local allowance win. CON: Unlikely to get away with those tactics against a much stronger field.</p>
6		<p>BANKS </p> <p>PRO: Likely better than Leonatus S. clunker last time suggests. CON: Probably hurt by soft pace in stakes debut, so might need help with that.</p>
7		<p>BABY MAX </p> <p>PRO: Proved best in Leonatus while beating Risen Star (G2) runner-up. CON: Few apparent negatives other than faces stronger, deeper cast this time.</p>
8		<p>KING OF ASHES </p> <p>PRO: Has taken to Tapeta well, albeit only against maiden company so far. CON: Lack of experience facing winners the primary hurdle.</p>
9		<p>FIRST RESORT </p> <p>PRO: Class of the field as he exits a comfortable win in the Kentucky Jockey Club (G2). CON: Has had weather-related training interruptions and hasn't yet run over Tapeta.</p>
10		<p>COMING IN HOT </p> <p>PRO: Living up to his name having won two in a row, including Turfway Prevue. CON: All-or-nothing type hasn't yet run beyond 6 1/2 furlongs.</p>
11		<p>BRERETON'S BAYTOWN </p> <p>PRO: Has won two of last three, albeit against far easier and over wet dirt. CON: Hard to make a case class-wise, having just beaten \$40,000 claimers.</p>
12		<p>MAXIMUM PROMISE </p> <p>PRO: Closed the gap late in Lecomte, albeit in a slow edition of that race. CON: Slow starts have been a problem and not acquainted yet with this surface.</p>
13		<p>SPECIAL CALIBER </p> <p>PRO: Addition of Lasix seemed to help him post massive upset versus maiden foes. CON: AE goes without Lasix here and is taking a big hike in class.</p>
14		<p>MAITRE D </p> <p>PRO: Surprise winner in his debut over the track, and dull try in Swale S. looks a tossout. CON: Relatively inexperienced and two-deep on the AE list.</p>