

MEET THE CONTENDERS

2025

VIRGINIA DERBY

1



CALLING CARD



PRO: His very best form possibly good enough to earn a minor slice.

CON: Made little impact in Lecomte (G3) and Gotham (G3); might need easier.

2



JOHN HANCOCK

SCR

3



AMERICAN PROMISE



PRO: Unplaced in two more difficult spots, so class drop should help.

CON: Past one-turn attempts weren't very good, though they were very early in his career.

4



OMAHA OMAHA



PRO: Placed in both Aqueduct preps this year and possible faster pace here can help.

CON: Lacks tactical foot and often leaves himself with much ground to make up.

5



STUDLYDORIGHT



PRO: Has done his best work around one turn; blinkers off potentially a plus.

CON: Recent form on dirt leaves something to be desired.

6



GETAWAY CAR



PRO: Dual stakes winner the horse to beat on class and accomplishment.

CON: So far hasn't run like a horse that's going to love increasing distances.

7



RAPTURE



PRO: Exits big maiden win at Fair Grounds and fits well here despite inexperience.

CON: Said inexperience is the main drawback and unlikely to offer much value.

8



AUTHENTIC GALLOP



PRO: Starting to figure things out of late with two wins in his last three starts.

CON: Tested for class as he concedes stakes experience to most.

9



RENDER JUDGMENT



PRO: Consistently earns Brisnet Speed ratings in the 80s for McPeck barn.

CON: No real excuse in the Risen Star (G2); might need stiffer class drop.

10



GEORGIA MAGIC



PRO: Figures prominent from the outset and recently posted a bullet work.

CON: Previous stakes attempt was poor; faded badly against allowance foes last time.