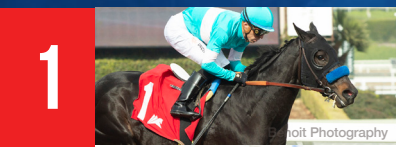


MEET THE CONTENDERS

2025

WOOD MEMORIAL STAKES



RODRIGUEZ



PRO: Placed in a pair of Santa Anita preps against much stronger foes.
CON: Baffert trainees have struck out in non-California Derby preps of late.



CAPTAIN COOK



PRO: Undefeated since joining Dutrow barn, including snappy Withers (G3) score.
CON: Hasn't been beating the toughest competition and price still figures low.



TIGER TWENTY FOUR



PRO: Has shown gradual improvement each start for Hall of Fame trainer.
CON: Making big leap from maiden company to competitive Derby prep.



MY MITOLE



PRO: Adds blinkers after running an even fourth in Gotham (G3).
CON: Based on last run, others have stronger class claims.



SAND DEVIL



PRO: NY-bred was second best in Gotham in first try versus open company.
CON: Didn't appear last time as if more distance would be his strong suit.



HILL ROAD



PRO: BC Juvenile (G1) third should move forward off his season debut at Tampa.
CON: Hasn't shown much tactical speed in either U.S. start; needs strong pace.



GRANDE



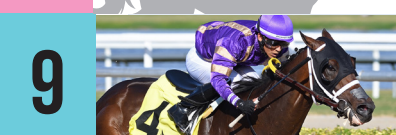
PRO: Repole/Pletcher a potent combo, and this son of Curlin has shown promise.
CON: Stakes newcomer doesn't figure to offer much value, given connections.



PASSION RULES



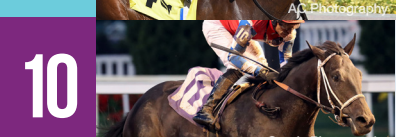
PRO: Brad Cox trainee enters undefeated and all around two turns.
CON: Beat much softer in first two, and this will be his first serious class test.



BEAR CLAW NECKLACE



PRO: Barn won this two years ago with a 59-1 outsider.
CON: Speed ratings simply don't stack up with those of the main players.



MCAFEE



PRO: The "other" Dutrow trainee might benefit from comeback run in Gotham.
CON: Given the competition he's faced, appears a cut or two below on class.



STATESMAN



PRO: Much improved this season going two turns on dirt.
CON: Hasn't faced a field of this caliber yet and speed ratings a bit low.



OMAHA OMAHA



PRO: Has earned a piece of the purse in all three prior Derby prep attempts.
CON: One-dimensional closer will be reliant on a swift pace that's not assured.