



xb wager guide

MAY 2, 2015 • CHURCHILL DOWNS



California Chrome and Jockey Victor Espinoza win the 2014 Kentucky Derby

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Fellow Racing Fan,

Welcome to Xpressbet's free Derby Wager Guide!

This season's Kentucky Derby appears to be one of the most competitive in recent years. American Pharoah, Dortmund, Carpe Diem, Materiality and others are incredibly talented sophomores. Solving this handicapping puzzle will be a real challenge. Hopefully, this Guide will help you enjoy the race from start to finish and maybe even cash a winning wager.

Xpressbet will offer online, phone and mobile wagering on the entire Triple Crown series—and produce Free Wager Guides for remaining events: Preakness (available May 8) and Belmont (available May 29).

As a current account holder you know Xpressbet is the best place to watch and wager on great racing from around the world. If you don't already have an Xpressbet account, act now to earn up to \$125 in bonus cash! That money will come in handy during the Triple Crown. Complete details are available on the website.

The Kentucky Derby is one of the most important racing days worldwide and Xpressbet is happy to arm horseplayers with valuable information. That's why we've recruited top handicappers, writers and broadcasters to examine the race—Analysis, Main Contenders, Value Plays and \$100 Wagering Strategies.

In addition to race-by-race expert commentary, inside you'll also find useful Stats and Trends, a handy Exotic Wagering Chart, exclusive workout information and much more.

This season, following the Kentucky Derby post-position draw, Xpressbet will produce an updated version of this Guide to reflect changes in expert opinions based on up-to-the-minute information. Make certain to return to the Xpressbet website Thursday, April 30 to get an updated version.

Xpressbet hopes your 2015 Kentucky Derby wagering experience is fruitful and we look forward to serving as your advance deposit account wagering provider for the big day and into the future.

Sincerely,
Ron Luniewski
President
Xpressbet

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See How They Prep

By Jeremy Plonk *Horseplayernow.com Analyst*

The 1-1/8 miles preps are all-important -- especially when you consider that since 1986, every Kentucky Derby champion except Charismatic exited a 9-furlong final tune-up. How strongly horses finish in these preps often is a key indicator as to how they might handle the extra furlong at Churchill Downs.

Sunland Derby (March 22): Over a fast strip, **FIRING LINE** crushed by more than 14 lengths in track-record time of 1:47.39. While the margin may taint his come-home time, note that the 38.37 final 3 furlongs was slower than that of recent winners of this race. A fourth-quarter breather was punctuated by a solid final furlong in 12.79.

Florida Derby (March 28): Over a loose and deep racetrack, **MATERIALITY** won a slow edition in 1:52.30. Trakus timing caught him in 39.79 for the final 3 furlongs and 13.73 for the final furlong. This is not what you expect to see at Gulfstream historically, but conditions did not play to fast times.

Louisiana Derby (March 28): **INTERNATIONAL STAR** rallied to beat pacesetter **STANFORD** in 1:50.67. The winner ran the final furlong in 12.73 and the final 3 furlongs in about 36.55 -- both splits are far quicker than the previous year's Fair Grounds showcase.

Wood Memorial (April 4): While the final time of 1:50.31 was on the slow side for the Wood historically, **FROSTED** heated up late in approximately 12.45 for the final furlong and 36.20 for the final 3 furlongs. Note that those behind him actually lost ground to the winner.

Santa Anita Derby (April 4): **DORTMUND** stopped the clock in 1:48.73 for a wire-to-wire victory. He ran a 12.95 final furlong and a 38.36 final 3 furlongs according to Trakus. This was nowhere near the 36.71 final 3 furlongs put up by California Chrome a year prior.

Blue Grass (April 4): **CARPE DIEM** took care of business with a press-and-pounce trip in 1:49.95 over Keeneland's new dirt surface. Trakus had his splits in 12.85 for the final furlong and 37.52 over the last 3 furlongs. Note that runner-up **DANZIG MOON** finished with nearly identical splits.

Arkansas Derby (April 11): Odds-on favorite **AMERICAN PHAROAH** got a first-over run and blew them away in 1:48.52. He tallied the final 3 furlongs in about 37.78 and the final furlong in 12.58 while eased up late. **FAR RIGHT**'s rally was not an illusion as he clocked about 37.68 and 12.28 splits while finishing up well.

Wood Not

Since Funny Cide and Empire Maker swept the Kentucky Derby exacta in 2003, Wood Memorial alumni are a combined 24: 0-0-0 in the race. Wicked Strong managed fourth in 2014.

Kentucky Derby Capsule

Year	Winner (\$2 payoff)	Jockey-Trainer Combo	Days Off	Prep Fin.- Prep Loc.	Pos. ¼ M Into Race	Pos. ½ M Into Race	Fav. Fin (Odds)
2014	California Chrome (\$7.00*)	Espinoza-Sherman	28	1-SA Derby	3rd-1-1/2 L	3rd-1/2L	1st (5/2)
2013	Orb (\$12.80*)	Rosario-McGaughey	35	1-Florida Derby	16th-18-3/4 L	17th-14-1/2L	1st (5/1)
2012	I'll Have Another (\$32.60)	Gutierrez-O'Neill	28	1-SA Derby	7th-8L	6th-6-1/2L	2nd (4/1)
2011	Animal Kingdom (\$43.80)	Velazquez-Motion	42	1-Spiral	12th- 6-1/4L	10th-6L	8th (5/1)
2010	Super Saver (\$18.00)	Borel-Pletcher	21	2-Arkansas Derby	6th- 5-1/2L	6th-8L	6th (6/1)
2009	Mine That Bird (\$103.20)	Borel-Woolley	34	4-Sunland Derby	19th- 14L	12th-7L	18th (7/2)

*Starting Favorite

Expert Selection Grid

Expert	Bob Neumeier (NBC Sports)	Mike Battaglia (NBC Sports)	Jeff Siegel (Racing Analyst)	Jon White (Santa Anita)	Dick Jerardi (Daily Racing Form)	Steve Byk (SiriusXM Radio)
First	Dortmund	Dortmund	American Pharoah	American Pharoah	Dortmund	Dortmund
Second	International Star	American Pharoah	Dortmund	International Star	American Pharoah	Tencendur
Third	Frosted	Firing Line	Frosted	Dortmund	Firing Line	Materiality
Fourth	Upstart	Mubtaahij	International Star	Carpe Diem	Materiality	Mubtaahij



Workout Analysis

By Gary Young *Private Clocker*

Gary Young, a notable southern California private clocker, will be at Churchill Downs reporting on early morning action. His exclusive observations and notes will be posted on this page. Complete workout analysis will be listed in the updated version of the Wager Guide available April 30.

Overall Impressions

Below are my thoughts as of Thursday, April 16. Earlier this season I thought the Kentucky Derby winner would come from west of the Rockies. I haven't seen anything so far to change my mind. Now, it's off to Louisville and training at Churchill Downs.

American Pharoah

He just might be the best horse to surface in a long time. I wasn't worried about him relaxing. He had a gate work before the Rebel that showed he could lay off a target and then kick. Fusaichi Pegasus and Point Given looked fantastic, but they had issues. American Pharoah could be the greatest since Spectacular Bid!

Dortmund

I've liked this one for a long time. In fact, I tried to buy him at the sale. He's an exceedingly big horse and he surprises people by being as quick as he is for a large horse. There's been some concern about what's going to happen if he breaks poorly because he's so big and all, but I've never seen him do anything but put that big head out of the gate first. He's a good horse.

Firing Line

I've seen him work a couple of times since he ran at Sunland and he looks good. He came out of that race unbelievably well.

Carpe Diem

He's a really good horse. There's some talk about soundness issues, but we haven't seen anything like that. His races have been fine.

Frosted

Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin had the throat surgery done on this one and, man, he looked good in the Wood. Joel Rosario never moved on him through the stretch. He ran terrific and wasn't asked.

Materiality & Upstart

The Florida Derby horses ran better than they looked. The figures support that. They looked tired coming down the stretch, but that may have been a function of the track more than anything else.

Derby Extras by Jeremy Plonk *NBC Sports Triple Crown Researcher*

Stats & Trends:

Fastest Derbies

Time	Horse	Year
1:59 2/5	Secretariat	1973
1:59 4/5	Monarchos	2001
2:00	Northern Dancer	1964
2:00 1/5	Spend A Buck	1985
2:00 2/5	Decidedly	1962

Derby Winners With Least 2yo Starts

Year	Horse	Starts
2008	Big Brown	1
2000	Fusaichi Pegasus	1
1965	Lucky Debonair	1
1958	Tim Tam	1
1883	Leonatus	1
1882	Apollo	0

Derby Starters Without 2yo Race

(Since 1944)

Sts.	1st	2nd	3rd
58	0	3	4

Know This:

Welcome Back, Boss

After missing out on the entire decades of the 1980s and 1990s, the Kentucky Derby post-time favorite now has won 6 times since 2000.

Dynamic Regions

Over the past decade, nine Derby winners wintered in Florida or California – all except Mine That Bird from New Mexico in 2009.

Insider Rip-Off

Not only has the rail horse failed to win the Derby since Ferdinand in 1986, no horse breaking from posts 1, 2 and 3 has scored since Real Quiet in 1998.

Rider's Up

Four active jockeys have won multiple Kentucky Derbies – Calvin Borel (3), Kent Desormeaux (3), Gary Stevens (3), Victor Espinoza (2).

Not So Sweet 17

Post 17 remains the only post position never to produce a Kentucky Derby champion. Candy Boy left from the unlucky starting spot in 2014.



Meet The 2015 Derby Contenders

by Johnny D *Xpressbet.com*

American Pharoah

He's the likely Kentucky Derby favorite off a scintillating win in the Arkansas Derby. Before that he galloped home more than six lengths clear in the Rebel Stakes. He has speed, but he's not a crazy front-runner and he can carry that speed a long way. Coming to the finish of the Arkansas Derby, he was virtually eased up while still striding out toward the finish. Except for a flat race first time out at Del Mar when he finished fifth, American Pharoah has been unbeaten in four subsequent starts, including three Grade 1 events, and he's won each of those races by at least three lengths. His trainer, Bob Baffert, has won three previous Kentucky Derbies—Silver Charm, Real Quiet and War Emblem—and his jockey has won two runs for the roses—War Emblem and California Chrome.

Dortmund

Bob Baffert trains Dortmund and regular rider Martin Garcia will be aboard again for the Kentucky Derby. That combination has been unbeatable so far with Dortmund, a perfect six for six, including a pair of Grade 1 victories in the Los Alamitos Futurity and the Santa Anita Derby. If you find it difficult to imagine that an unbeaten horse will not start as the favorite in the Kentucky Derby, you get how owner Kaleem Shah feels about this huge, muscular son of Big Brown. Dortmund has a racing style that should find him close to the early pace and not too far behind stable mate American Pharoah.

Carpe Diem

Trainer Todd Pletcher traditionally leads all trainers nationally in money earned. He's got a stable full of runners and, perhaps, will saddle up to five sophomores in this year's Kentucky Derby. Carpe Diem is the most accomplished of the Pletcher bunch. He won his first two starts before finishing a well-beaten second to Texas Red in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Earlier this year, Carpe Diem dominated the Tampa Bay Derby and then had a sterling final Derby prep when winning the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland. Carpe Diem is workmanlike in his races and lacks the flash of his California-based competitors. However, this one shouldn't be taken lightly in Louisville.

Mubtaahij

The winner of the UAE Derby in Dubai doesn't always come to Louisville to contest the Kentucky Derby. If he does ship halfway around the world to take on America's best 3-year-olds, he usually isn't taken very seriously. That's all a bit different this year as Mubtaahij is here for internationally renown trainer Mike de Kock. By virtue of a strong UAE Derby win, Mubtaahij has earned a shot

at roses. And he's got the right sit-and-kick style to be a threat. The distance doesn't appear as if it will bother him at all and his probable jockey Christophe Soumillon is top notch. One big question surrounds the quick early pace Mubtaahij is likely to face for the first time in his career. Another sticking point may be the questionable level of competition he's faced previously on the international stage.

Materiality

This accomplished son of Afleet Alex is unbeaten in three races. In fact, in those races no one's ever really been close to him at the finish. Materiality did get a stern test when he and Upstart tussled for a good part of the Florida Derby, but the decision went to this lightly-raced, Todd Pletcher-trained colt. Quickly moving forward from unknown to Derby contender, Materiality won his maiden on January 11 at Gulfstream going six furlongs in the slop. He then stepped out going a mile and one-eighth in a \$60,000 stakes race and dominated. That triumph led to his Florida Derby score. It must be noted that Materiality is running headfirst into one of the most potent Derby hexes. No horse since 1882 has won the Kentucky Derby without first racing as a 2-year-old.

Firing Line

Some would argue that if you like Dortmund, you must have a favorable opinion of Firing Line. The pair hooked up twice previously and were separated by a mere head on each occasion. Since their last meeting, Dortmund has won the San Felipe and Santa Anita Derby and Firing Line took down the Sunland Park Derby by over 14 lengths in track record time. Hall of Fame jockey Gary Stevens is expected to be in the saddle to aid Firing Line's Derby chances. Stevens has won the Louisville main event three times.

2015 KENTUCKY DERBY FUTURE WAGER POOL 4 (March 27-29)

Wagering Interest	Morning Line Odds	Final Odds	\$2 Will Pay
American Pharoah	9-2	5-1	\$13.00
Dortmund	5-1	6-1	\$14.00
Mubtaahij	30-1	8-1	\$19.80
Carpe Diem	6-1	10-1	\$22.40
All Other 3 YO's	8-1	11-1	\$24.80
Materiality	20-1	12-1	\$27.80
Firing Line	12-1	13-1	\$28.80
Far From Over	15-1	14-1	\$30.80
International Star	20-1	17-1	\$37.60

Morning Line Odds by Mike Battaglia

First Bayern, Now Dortmund

by Bob Neumeier *NBC Sports Reporter*



Analysis: Now that Bayern has swept the Breeders' Cup Classic, it's time for another German province to win the 2015 Kentucky Derby. **DORTMUND** is a huge, strapping, muscular colt who has never been beaten. Never! He's also a son of Derby winner Big Brown, who himself was unbeaten before his fiasco at Belmont Park.

Main Contenders: This will be **DORTMUND**'s toughest test. But he's whipped three horses that entered preparatory races with solid speed figures – **FIRING LINE**, **BOLO** and the since-sidelined Prospect Park. Trainer Bob Baffert's "other" runner, **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, looks terrific. Trainer Todd Pletcher ventures into Louisville with a stacked hand, but he's just 1-for-40 in Derby ventures.

Value Plays: Toteboard watching is crucial. Here are my pre-Derby odds at less than 20-1 (before post positions are drawn). **DORTMUND**, **AMERICAN PHAROAH** 9-2; **FIRING LINE**, **CARPE DIEM** 6-1; **MATERIALITY** 8-1; **FROSTED**, **UPSTART** 10-1; **INTERNATIONAL STAR** 12-1; and **MUBTAAHIJ** 15-1. Any runners that are higher odds than listed get my attention in the Win pool. On paper, **FROSTED** and **INTERNATIONAL STAR** should run off the pace, an advantage. Other front-running types will be compromised if they get the dreaded 1-2-3 posts or even the auxiliary gate (wide, outside).

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$35 Win and Place: **DORTMUND** (\$70)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **DORTMUND**, **FROSTED** and **INTERNATIONAL STAR** (\$30)

Kentucky Derby History: The Last...

Jockey to win back-to-back

Calvin Borel (2009-'10) on Mine That Bird and Super Saver; previously Eddie Delahoussaye (1982-'83) on Gato Del Sol & Sunny's Halo.

Jockey to win his debut

Mario Gutierrez (2012) on I'll Have Another; previously Stewart Elliott (2004) on Smarty Jones; and Ron Franklin (1979) on Spectacular Bid.

Jockey to win 2 career Derbies

Victor Espinoza (2014) California Chrome, (2002) War Emblem.

Stats & Trends:

Win-Place-Show Odds

(Last 25 years, Odds to \$1)

Win Odds

Average: 13.81

High: 50.60 (Mine That Bird, 2009)

Low: 2.30 (Fusaichi Pegasus, 2000)

Notable: Six of the last nine winners have been single-digit odds.

Place Odds

Average: 16.57

High: 71.60 (Closing Argument, 2005)

Low: .80 (Easy Goer-entry, 1989)

Notable: Longshots at 34-1 and 37-1 have been second in the last two years.

Show Odds

Average: 14.99

High: 86.90 (Mane Minister, 1991)

Low: .80 (Awe Inspiring-entry, 1989)

Notable: Only once in the last 22 years has the Show horse been over 16-1 odds.

Exacta Payoffs

(Last 25 years, \$2 Payoffs)

Average: \$821.99

High: \$9,814.80

(Giacomo-Closing Argument, 2005)

Low: \$15.20

(Sunday Silence-Easy Goer, 1989)

Notable: Four of the last five Derby exactas have paid \$340 or less.

Know This:

Home Cooking

Eight of the last 11 Derby winners, including California Chrome, were homebreds and not purchased at any sale. Recent Derby winners who were purchased are: I'll Have Another (\$11k yearling), Mine That Bird (\$9,500 yearling) and Big Brown (\$60k yearling).

Picks

1. DORTMUND

2. INTERNATIONAL STAR

3. FROSTED

4. UPSTART

Updated Wager Guide Available April 30

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Exotic Wagering Chart

Kentucky Derby exotic wagers usually produce hefty payoffs.
Use this handy Exotic Wagering Chart to help plan your attack.

EXACTA BOX: (\$2 Wager)

2 horse box.....	\$4
3 horse box.....	\$12
4 horse box.....	\$24
5 horse box.....	\$40
6 horse box.....	\$60
7 horse box.....	\$84
8 horse box.....	\$112

EXACTA WHEEL: (\$2 Wager)

One Horse with All

6 horse field.....	\$10
7 horse field.....	\$12
8 horse field.....	\$14
9 horse field.....	\$16
10 horse field.....	\$18

TRIFECTA BOX: (\$1 Wager)

3 Horse Box.....	\$6
4 Horse Box.....	\$24
5 Horse Box.....	\$60
6 Horse Box.....	\$120
7 Horse Box.....	\$210
8 Horse Box.....	\$336

TRIFECTA WHEELS: (\$1 Wager)

One Horse with All with All

(Example: 1/All/All or All/1/All or All/All/1)

7 Horse Field.....	\$30
8 Horse Field.....	\$42
9 Horse Field.....	\$56
10 Horse Field.....	\$72

One Horse with Two Horses with All

(Example: 1/2/All or 2/1/All or 1/All/2 or 2/a All/1/1 or All/1/2 or All/2/1)

7 Horse Field.....	\$10
8 Horse Field.....	\$12
9 Horse Field.....	\$14
10 Horse Field.....	\$16

TRIFECTA KEYS: (\$1 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others.....	\$6
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)</i>	
1 Horse with 4 others.....	\$12
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)</i>	
1 Horse with 5 others.....	\$20
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)</i>	
1 Horse with 6 others.....	\$30
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)</i>	
1 Horse with 7 others.....	\$42
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)</i>	

SUPERFACTA BOX: (\$1 Wager)

4 Horse Box.....	\$24
5 Horse Box.....	\$120
6 Horse Box.....	\$360

SUPERFACTA WHEELS: (\$1 Wager)

One Horse with All with All with All

7 Horse Field.....	\$120
8 Horse Field.....	\$210
9 Horse Field.....	\$336
10 Horse Field.....	\$504

(Example: 1/All/All/All or All/1/All/All or All/All/1/All or All/ All/ All/1)

One Horse with Two Horses with All with All

7 Horse Field.....	\$40
8 Horse Field.....	\$60
9 Horse Field.....	\$84
10 Horse Field.....	\$112

(Example: 1/2/ All/ All or 2/ 1/ All/ All or 1/ All/ All/ 2 or 2/ All/ All/ 1 or All/ All/ 1/ 2 or All/ All/ 2/ 1)

SUPERFACTA KEYS: (\$1 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others.....	\$6
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)</i>	
1 Horse with 4 others.....	\$24
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)</i>	
1 Horse with 5 others.....	\$60
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)</i>	
1 Horse with 6 others.....	\$120
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)</i>	
1 Horse with 7 others.....	\$210
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)</i>	

Perfect Season Rolls Along

by Mike Battaglia *NBC Sports Reporter*



Analysis: This year's Derby field looks like one of the strongest in recent years, but the first thing that jumps out at you when looking at the PPs is that all of the favorites have one thing in common – they do their best running on or near the lead. I normally would be looking for a closer to spring the upset, but the “speed” horses in this Derby are anything but normal. Bob Baffert's runners both look strong, and could be the first one-two Derby finishers for the same trainer since Citation and Coaltown in 1948.

Main Contenders: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** and **DORTMUND** have looked spectacular in their preps for Baffert and both seem to be coming into the Derby ready for their best efforts. **AMERICAN PHAROAH** hasn't been tested in either of his wins this year, while the Arkansas Derby was visually impressive.

DORTMUND is the more seasoned of the two, and is a proven fighter who doesn't know how to lose. **CARPE DIEM** hasn't shown the flash of the top two, but the Todd Pletcher charge has done very little wrong – and the presence of Johnny V always is a plus. **MATERIALITY** is undefeated in three career starts. The lack of seasoning makes him vulnerable, but he definitely has a ton of talent. **FROSTED** showed a new dimension coming off of the pace to win the Wood and may be peaking at the right time.

Value Plays: **DORTMUND** is a perfect 6-for-6, owns a win over the Churchill strip, and yet he may be the second choice behind his stablemate. He is worth a win bet if he stays around 4-1. **MUBTAAHIJ** may not have beaten much in Dubai, but he did it impressively and trainer Mike de Kock has won races all over the world and wouldn't be here if he didn't think he had a chance. **FIRING LINE** just missed against **DORTMUND** twice and his jockey, Gary Stevens, knows how to ride a Derby horse.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$20 Exacta Box: **DORTMUND** and **AMERICAN PHAROAH** (\$40)
- \$10 Trifecta Key: **DORTMUND** over **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, **FIRING LINE**, **MUBTAAHIJ** (\$60)

Kentucky Derby History: The Last...

Trainer to win his Debut

Art Sherman (2014) with California Chrome.

Trainer to win 2 career Derbies

Carl Nafzger (2007) with Street Sense, Unbridled (1990).

Picks

1. DORTMUND
2. AMERICAN PHAROAH
3. FIRING LINE
4. MUBTAAHIJ

Updated Wager Guide Available April 30

Stats & Trends:

Trifecta

(Since 1995, \$2 Payoffs)

Average: \$12,616.82

High: \$133,134.80

(Giacomo-Closing Argument-Afleet Alex, 2005)

Low: \$205.40

(Silver Charm-Captain Bodgit-Free House, 1997)

Notable: Seven straight Derby trifectas have paid \$2,337 or more.

Superfecta

(Since 1996, \$1 Payoffs)

Average: \$90,367.34

High: \$864,253.50

(Giacomo-Closing Argument-Afleet Alex-Don't Get Mad, 2005)

Low: \$350.00

(Silver Charm-Captain Bodgit-Free House-Pulpit, 1997)

Notable: 13 of 19 all-time \$1 superfectas have paid over \$24,000.

Highest-Priced Superfecta Finishers

(Last 20 Years, Odds to \$1)

Odds	Horse	Year	Fin.
71.60	Closing Argument	2005	2nd
50.60	Mine That Bird	2009	1st
50.30	Giacomo	2005	1st
41.70	Limehouse	2004	4th

Know This:

Only Semi-Super

Last year's \$7,691.90 \$1 superfecta payoff was the first time in more than a decade that the wager returned less than \$24,000.

Double, Triple, Single, Super

Each of the past two Derby superfectas has had three horses at single-digit odds.

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American Pharoah Dynasty Grows

by Jeff Siegel *Racing Analyst*



Analysis: The cold, hard form doesn't lie. The eye test confirms. **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, last year's champion two-year-old and apparently better at age three, appears to have become untouchable. He's won four consecutive graded stakes in thoroughly dominating style while earning triple-digit Beyer figures in each of his victories. Though he had little behind him in his two most recent wins, the Pioneerof the Nile colt destroyed high-quality competition twice during his juvenile campaign; so there should be no doubting his class. He's a gifted athlete with fluid, rhythmic action, and he possesses the mindset that allows for gate-to-wire dominance or a stalk-and-pounce approach. Of course, he could lose – anything can happen in a horse race – but as things currently stand, there is simply no way to beat him.

Main Contenders: It's almost impossible to find fault with **DORTMUND**'s perfect six-for-six record; he's already won over the Churchill Downs main track and he's fast enough on numbers to be considered within shouting distance of **AMERICAN PHAROAH**. He would seem to be every bit as talented as last year's Derby winner, California Chrome, and in most years an undefeated Santa Anita Derby winner would be a strong favorite to win the "Run for the Roses." Furthermore, the son of Big Brown is a strong, impressive specimen with a ceiling that may not yet have been reached. But here's the difference: when trainer Bob Baffert speaks of **DORTMUND**, he does so with respect and admiration. When Baffert speaks of **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, he does so with awe and disbelief.

Value Plays: If you can somehow get 5-2 on **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, take it and be happy. If you're looking for a slightly bigger hit, consider **FROSTED** and **INTERNATIONAL STAR** underneath in the trifecta. **FROSTED** won a stronger Wood Memorial than I originally gave him credit for, and employed a closing style that should work just fine at a mile and one-quarter. While his Fair Grounds form might not be something to completely trust, **INTERNATIONAL STAR** also should be finishing and projects for at least a minor award.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$80 Win: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** (\$80)
- \$10 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** with **DORTMUND** with **FROSTED** and **INTERNATIONAL STAR** (\$20)

Stats & Trends:

2014 Derby Handle Totals

(Handle in Millions Except High-Five)

<u>Pool</u>	<u>Handle</u>
Win/Place/Show	\$54.1
Trifecta	\$27.4
Exacta	\$23.1
Superfecta	\$11.7
Pick Four	\$ 2.9
Oaks/Derby Double	\$ 2.4
Pick Six	\$ 1.4
Pick Five	\$ 1.3
High Five	\$384k

Lowest-Priced Derby Favorites

(Last 20 Years, Odds to \$1)

<u>Odds</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
1.80	Point Given	2001	5th
2.40	Big Brown	2008	1st
2.50	California Chrome	2014	1st

Highest-Priced Derby Favorites

(Odds to \$1)

<u>Odds</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
6.30	Lookin At Lucky	2010	6th
6.00	Harlan's Holiday	2002	7th
5.50	Sweetnorthernst	2006	7th
5.40	Orb	2013	1st
5.20	Dialed In	2011	8th
4.90	Street Sense	2007	1st
4.80	General Challenge/ Excellent Meeting	1999	5th
4.40	Prairie Bayou	1993	2nd
4.20	Bodemeister	2012	2nd
4.10	Smarty Jones	2004	1st

Know This:

Beware the Bomb

The last time we had Kentucky Derby favorites seeking a three-peat was 2009 when 50/1 shot Mine That Bird blew the toteboard to smithereens.

Picks

1. **AMERICAN PHAROAH**
2. **DORTMUND**
3. **FROSTED**
4. **INTERNATIONAL STAR**

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Pharoah Rules

by Jon White *Santa Anita Morning Line Oddsmaker*



Analysis: If everyone runs his best race, I think the winner most likely will be **AMERICAN PHAROAH**. Even before **AMERICAN PHAROAH**'s first race, trainer Bob Baffert was raving about the son of Pioneerof the Nile (runner-up in the 2009 Derby) and grandson of Empire Maker (runner-up in the 2003 Derby). Ever since **AMERICAN PHAROAH** finished fifth in his career debut, he has been unstoppable while winning each race with authority and looking rather Seattle Slew-like to me in terms of pure talent. **INTERNATIONAL STAR**'s speed figures aren't as good as several, but his come-from-behind style in a race loaded with runners who typically race on or near the early lead makes him dangerous. Also, in **INTERNATIONAL STAR**'s most-recent two victories in Louisiana, he was first or second each time with a furlong to go. And 49 of the last 52 winners have been first or second with a furlong to go in the Kentucky Derby.

Main Contenders: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** (Arkansas Derby winner), **INTERNATIONAL STAR** (Louisiana Derby winner), **DORTMUND** (undefeated Santa Anita Derby winner) and **CARPE DIEM** (Blue Grass winner) are the main contenders as I see it. But I also think **MATERIALITY** (undefeated Florida Derby winner), **FROSTED** (Wood Memorial winner), **FIRING LINE** (Sunland Derby winner), **MUBTAAHIJ** (UAE Derby winner) and **UPSTART** (Florida Derby runner-up) should be accorded respect as members of what certainly appears to be the strongest class of three-year-olds in many years.

Value Plays: **INTERNATIONAL STAR** and **UPSTART** both figure to offer excellent value because they might make a lot of noise at probably higher than 10-1 and perhaps even in the neighborhood of 15-1.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$1 Exacta Key Box: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** and **ALL** (\$38)
- \$1 Exacta Key Box: **INTERNATIONAL STAR** and **ALL** (\$38)
- \$2 Exacta Box: **DORTMUND**, **FIRING LINE**, **FROSTED** and **UPSTART** (\$24)

Kentucky Derby History: The Last...

Favorite to win

California Chrome (2014) at 2.50-to-1

Favorite to finish out of the money

Dialed In (2011) 8th at 5.20-to-1

Stats & Trends:

Prior Career Starts for Derby Winners

(Last 10 years)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Derby Winner</u>	<u>Sts</u>	<u>2YO</u>	<u>3YO</u>
2014	California Chrome	10	7	3
2013	Orb	6	4	3
2012	I'll Have Another	5	3	2
2011	Animal Kingdom	4	2	2
2010	Super Saver	6	4	2
2009	Mine That Bird	8	5	3
2008	Big Brown	3	1	2
2007	Street Sense	7	5	2
2006	Barbaro	5	2	3
2005	Giacomo	7	4	3

Final Derby Winner Preps

<u>Race</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>
Arkansas Derby	Smarty Jones	2004
Blue Grass	Strike the Gold	1991
Florida Derby	Orb	2013
Fountain of Youth	Thunder Gulch	1995
Illinois Derby	War Emblem	2002
Lexington	Charismatic	1999
Louisiana Derby	Grindstone	1996
Santa Anita Derby	California Chrome	2014
Spiral	Animal Kingdom	2011
Sunland Derby	Mine That Bird	2009
Wood Memorial	Fusaichi Pegasus	2000

Days Between Last Prep & Derby

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Days</u>
2014	California Chrome	28
2013	Orb	35
2012	I'll Have Another	28
2011	Animal Kingdom	42
2010	Super Saver	21
2009	Mine That Bird	34
2008	Big Brown	35
2007	Street Sense	21
2006	Barbaro	35

Picks

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH
2. INTERNATIONAL STAR
3. DORTMUND
4. CARPE DIEM

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Baffert Derby Roar Resumes

by Dick Jerardi *Daily Racing Form Columnist*



Analysis: This is the most competitive Derby in years. Favorites won almost all of the major prep races. The best horses ran to their best form race after race. Many of the best horses have early speed, but none of them appear to be need-the-lead types. Trainers Bob Baffert and Todd Pletcher may have the top four favorites in the field. Nearly half the field has hit triple digits on the Beyer scale. The most intriguing question is: How will horses that have been dominant all spring deal with facing horses of similar talent? The horse that can survive that test is the most likely winner. Trips, good and bad, will be critical, because all of these similarly-styled horses can't all occupy the same in-the-clear, near-the-lead space.

Main Contenders: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** missed two months of training time, but confirmed his 2-year-old form with a pair of blowout wins in Arkansas. His Arkansas Derby win may have been the most visually impressive of the spring, but there was not much in the race. **DORTMUND** is unbeaten in six races and has won every kind of way – in front, just off the pace, wide rally, re-rally. There is no more tested horse in the race. **CARPE DIEM** has not hit triple digits on the Beyer scale yet, but has looked brilliant in his two 2015 wins. **MATERIALITY** arrives with the best Beyer (110) and the least experience. **UPSTART** has never run poorly in seven races and could be the beneficiary if there is a pace meltdown.

Value Plays: **FIRING LINE** is less than a length from being unbeaten in five starts. He lost to **DORTMUND** twice, each time by a head. **DORTMUND** is going to be the second choice. This horse could be 20-1 or more.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$100 Exacta: **DORTMUND** over **AMERICAN PHAROAH** (\$100)

Kentucky Derby History: The Last...

50-to-1 shot or higher to win

Mine That Bird (2009) at 50.60-to-1

75-to-1 shot or higher to win

Donerail (1913) at 91.45-to-1

50-to-1 shot or higher to hit the board

Mine That Bird (2009) at 50.60-to-1; Giacomo and Closing Argument (2005) at 50.30-to-1 and 71.60-to-1

Picks

1. DORTMUND
2. AMERICAN PHAROAH
3. FIRING LINE
4. MATERIALITY

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Stats & Trends:

Undefeated Kentucky Derby Winners

Year	Horse	Prev. Wins
2008	Big Brown	3
2006	Barbaro	5
2004	Smarty Jones	6
1977	Seattle Slew	6
1969	Majestic Prince	7
1922	Morvich	11
1915	Regret	3

Winning Derby Post Positions

(Since 1900)

Post	Wins	Post	Wins
1	12	11	3
2	9	12	3
3	8	13	4
4	11	14	2
5	13	15	4
6	6	16	4
7	8	17	0
8	10	18	1
9	4	19	1
10	10	20	2

Wire-to-Wire Derby Winners

(Last 50 Years)

Year	Horse	Choice	Field	Half
2002	War Emblem	9th	18	47
1988	Winning Colors	2nd	17	46 4/5
1985	Spend A Buck	2nd	13	45 4/5
1976	Bold Forbes	2nd	9	45 4/5
1972	Riva Ridge	Fav.	16	47 3/5
1966	Kauai King	Fav.	15	46 1/5

Know This:

Mix'n Match

In the last 10 Derbies, 15 of the top four finishers have been 20-1 odds or greater and 16 of the top four finishers have been single-digit odds. It would seem that price horses have as good a chance as favorites to fill the Derby superfecta.

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Walk Like An Egyptian?

by Steve Byk *At the Races with Steve Byk (SiriusXM) Host*



Analysis: Since 2000, heavy Derby favorites (those sent off between \$5-\$7) have had a 50% success rate with California Chrome (\$7), Big Brown (\$6.80) and Fusaichi Pegasus (\$6.60) winning, and Point Given (5th at 9-5), Empire Maker (2nd at 5-2) and Bellamy Road (7th at 5-2) falling short. Despite the '15 edition of this race boasting a distinctly talented set of sophomores, **AMERICAN PHAROAH** will carry the burden of being the strong public choice while earning the distinction via a path of modest resistance so far this year. He may prove out, but it's worth playing against him.

Main Contenders: **AMERICAN PHAROAH's** stablemate, **DORTMUND**, arrives for Derby undefeated, as did his sire Big Brown. Though on the lead in his 2015 starts, he can be comfortable without it and has shown authentic tenacity when confronted in the lane. He is the contender most recommended for use as a key in the top slots. Unraced at 2, unbeaten Florida Derby winner **MATERIALITY** is being compared to Curlin (3rd in '07 Derby in 4th career start) and may prove best long-term in this crop. Blue Grass hero **CARPE DIEM** will go off as the third choice and has met every expectation while building a 5: 4-1-0 record.

Value Plays: Three NY-breds will be attractive prices. **UPSTART** (longshot) is as brilliant and talented as any here, but a brief illness has cooled ardor for him. **INTERNATIONAL STAR** (longer-shot) has been accused of dream trips under Miguel Mena, but his relentless style can snare a piece. **TENCENDUR** (longest-shot) has improved with every start for proficient trainer George Weaver, returns to smart, emergent jockey Manny Franco and has a stalking gear to sit behind the speed. **MUBTAAHIJ** is a wild card for savvy international training star Mike de Kock and will be fit for the task after two 9.5F runs at Meydan.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$0.50 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **DORTMUND** with **TENCENDUR**, **MATERIALITY**, **MUBTAAHIJ**, **UPSTART**, **AMERICAN PHAROAH** with **ALL** (\$45)
- \$0.50 Trifecta part-wheel: **TENCENDUR**, **MATERIALITY**, **MUBTAAHIJ**, **UPSTART**, **AMERICAN PHAROAH** with **DORTMUND** with **ALL** (\$45)
- \$10 Win: **TENCENDUR** (\$10)

Stats & Trends:

Career High Pre-Derby Beyer Figure

(Last 10 years)

Year	Horse	Beyer	Fin.
2014	California Chrome	108	1st
2013	Goldencents	105	17th
	Verrazano	105	14th
2012	Bodemeister	108	2nd
2011	Soldat	103	11th
2010	Devil May Care	100	10th
	Sidney's Candy	100	17th
2009	Dunkirk	108	11th
2008	Bob Black Jack	109	16th
2007	Street Sense	108	1st
2006	Sinister Minister	116	16th
2005	Bellamy Road	120	5th

Winter/Spring Homes of Winners

Year	Horse	State
2014	California Chrome	California
2013	Orb	Florida
2012	I'll Have Another	California
2011	Animal Kingdom	Florida/Kentucky
2010	Super Saver	Florida/Arkansas
2009	Mine That Bird	New Mexico
2008	Big Brown	Florida
2007	Street Sense	Florida/Kentucky
2006	Barbaro	Florida
2005	Giacomo	California
2004	Smarty Jones	Arkansas
2003	Funny Cide	Florida/New York
2002	War Emblem	Louisiana/Illinois
2001	Monarchos	Florida/New York

Know This:

Millionaires Club

Following California Chrome's Derby win, horses with \$1 million or more in career earnings before the Kentucky Derby now have just two wins all-time. Street Sense (2007) was the only other previous pre-Derby millionaire to triumph.

Picks

1. DORTMUND
2. TENCENDUR
3. MATERIALITY
4. MUBTAAHIJ

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