

# xb wager guide

JUNE 6, 2015 • BELMONT PARK





866.88XPRESS (866.889.7737)

Fellow Racing Fan,

# Welcome to Xpressbet's free Belmont Wager Guide!

We are on the verge of a possibly history-making event in the Belmont Stakes. Again. Just like last year, only different. American Pharoah's Kentucky Derby tally and splashing Xpressbet.com Preakness triumph have the entire sports world poised for the June 6 Belmont Stakes, in anticipation of crowning the 12th Triple Crown winner and the first since Affirmed in 1978!

Pardon the pun, but the Belmont seldom is a walk in the 'Park.' At this writing, it appears a large, solid field of challengers will meet American Pharoah, and the connections of each runner would be happy to derail his bid for immortality.

While the majority will root for the free-running star to clear this final hurdle, there are those hoping for an upset and accompanying boxcar mutuel payoffs. Perhaps the contents of this Wager Guide will point readers in the proper wagering direction. Inside this Guide you will find just about everything you need to watch and wager on the race like an expert.

Of course, you can wager on the Belmont Stakes and worldwide Thoroughbred and Harness racing with Xpressbet online, by phone or via mobile device.

If you don't already have an Xpressbet account, please accept this complimentary guide and act now to open an account and to earn up to \$125 in bonus cash! Complete details are available at Xpressbet.com.

We've recruited top handicappers, writers and broadcasters to examine the race—Analysis, Main Contenders, Value Plays and \$100 Wagering Strategies. You'll also find useful Stats & Trends, a handy Exotic Wagering Chart and much more.

Plan to return to the Xpressbet web site daily beginning Thursday, June 4, for free updates and a revised Wager Guide. These will include Johnny D's in-depth, horse-by-horse analysis and revised expert opinions and selections based on scratches, post positions, weather, etc.

The folks at Xpressbet wish you an entertaining and profitable 2015 Belmont Stakes and look forward to serving as your advance deposit wagering account provider for the big day and into the future.

Sincerely, Ron Luniewski President Xpressbet





1

# MUBTAAHIJ (IRE) (10/1)

Owner: Sheikh Mohammed bin

Khalifa Al Maktoum Trainer: Mike de Kock Jockey: Irad Ortiz Jr.



# 5

# AMERICAN PHAROAH

Owner: Zayat Stables, LLC Trainer: Bob Baffert Jockey: Victor Espinoza



2

# TALE OF VERVE (15/1)

Owner: Charles E. Fipke Trainer: Dallas Stewart Jockey: Gary Stevens



# 6

# FROSTED (5/1)

Owner: Godolphin Racing, LLC Trainer: Kiaran McLaughlin Jockey: Joel Rosario



3

# MADEFROMLUCKY (12/1)

Owner: Cheyenne Stables, LLC

& Mac Nichol

Trainer: Todd Pletcher Jockey: Javier Castellano



# 7

# **KEEN ICE (20/1)**

Owner: Donegal Racing Trainer: Dale Romans Jockey: Kent Desormeaux



4

# FRAMMENTO (30/1)

Owner: Mossarosa Trainer: Nick Zito Jockey: Mike Smith





# MATERIALITY (6/1)

Owner: Alto Racing, LLC Trainer: Todd Pletcher Jockey: John Velazquez











# xpressbet

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# **Belmont Wagering Facts**





Below are some interesting and informative wagering tidbits from past Belmont Stakes events.

Win-Place-Show Odds

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

Win Odds
Average: 12.56

High: 38.50 (Da' Tara, 2008) Low: 1.15 (Afleet Alex, 2005)

Notable: 6 of the last 7 winners were 9-to-1 or more.

**Place Odds** 

**Average:** 9.35

High: 28.00 (Commissioner, 2014)

**Low:** 1.10 (Curlin, 2007)

**Notable:** Commissioner at 28-1 last year was highest-priced

Belmont runner-up since 1999 (Vision and Verse, 54-1).

**Show Odds** 

**Average:** 13.03

High: 34.25 (Anak Nakal, 2008-DH) Low: 1.25 (Mine That Bird, 2009)

**Notable:** 4 times in the past decade the show horse has been

20-1 or more.

**Exacta Payoffs** 

(Last 10 Years, \$2 Payoff)

**Average:** \$271.66

*High:* \$928.00 (Ruler On Ice - Stay Thirsty, 2011) *Low:* \$25.20 (Rags to Riches - Curlin, 2007)

Notable: 6 of the last 7 exactas have paid \$121 or more.

**Trifecta Payoffs** 

(Last 10 Years, \$1 Payoff) *Average:* \$1,157.83

High: \$4,134.00 (Ruler On Ice - Stay Thirsty

- Brilliant Speed, 2011)

Low: \$218 (Jazil - Bluegrass Cat - Sunriver, 2006)

Notable: Last year's \$3,390.50 trifecta payout was the third-

highest since 2000.

**Superfecta Payoffs** 

(Last 10 years, \$1 Payoffs) *Average:* \$9,566.83

*High:* \$37,026 (Ruler On Ice - Stay Thirsty

- Brilliant Speed - Nehro, 2011)

Low: \$121.25 (Rags to Riches - Curlin - Tiago

- Hard Spun, 2007)

Notable: 5 of the last 7 superfectas paid \$5,329 or more.

**Highest-Priced Runners In Superfecta** 

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Odds</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2008	38.50	Da' Tara	1st
2008	34.25	Anak Nakal	3rd (dead heat)
2008	28.75	Ready's Echo	3rd (dead heat)

# **Shortest-Priced Belmont Favorites**

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

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### **Odds-On Belmont Favorites**

(Since 1940)

Total Odds-On Favorites: 32
Winning Odds-On Favorites: 12

% of Winning Odds-On Favorites: 37.5% Last Odds-On Favorite to Compete: California Chrome (.85-to-1, 2014) Last Odds-On Favorite to Win: Affirmed (.60-to-1, 1978)

# **Expert Selection Grid**

Expert	Bob Neumeier	Mike Battaglia	Jeff Siegel	Jon White	Dick Jerardi	Steve Byk
	(NBC Sports)	(NBC Sports)	(Xpressbet.com)	(Santa Anita)	(Daily Racing Form)	(SiriusXM Radio)
First	Frosted	American Pharoah	American Pharoah	American Pharoah	Materiality	American Pharoah
Second	American Pharoah	Materiality	Frosted	Materiality	American Pharoah	Materiality
Third	Materiality	Keen Ice	Materiality	Frosted	Frosted	Keen Ice
Fourth	Madefromlucky	Frosted	Keen Ice	Tale of Verve	Madefromlucky	Frosted



# Meet The 2015 Belmont Contenders

by Johnny D Xpressbet.com

### American Pharoah

The Kentucky Derby and Xpressbet.com Preakness winner is headed toward racing immortality in the Belmont Stakes. All he needs to do is add the third and final Triple Crown jewel to his crown and he will join a select group of just 11 other Thoroughbreds in the sport's most exclusive club as Triple Crown winners! It won't be easy. It never is. No horse since Affirmed in 1978 has been able to do what **AMERICAN** 

**PHAROAH** will attempt at Belmont Park. AMERICAN PHAROAH certainly has performed splendidly in the first two classics. He raced at least five wide throughout the entire mile and onequarter of the Kentucky Derby and was able to reel-in two accomplished foes after they had galloped along in sensible fractions. In the Preakness **AMERICAN PHAROAH** ignored a pre-race rainstorm, a wet track and just about everything else to splash to victory with a comfortable sevenlength tally. As much as the odds are with AMERICAN PHAROAH to win the Belmont Stakes and, by extension, the Triple Crown--he will be a heavy favorite in the race--there are many stats and trends stacked against him in his bid for immortality.

# **Frosted**

The impressive Wood Memorial winner was dismissed as fifth choice in the Kentucky Derby at just over 10-1. He raced wide in Louisville and rallied from far back early to finish with interest, fourth, just over three lengths behind **AMERICAN PHAROAH**. Trainer Kiaran

McLaughlin elected to rest **FROSTED** after the Derby, so he would be fresh for the Belmont Stakes. **FROSTED**'s late interest in the Kentucky Derby stretch suggests he will enjoy the mile and one-half Belmont distance. Before his score in the Wood, **FROSTED** had lost three consecutive races around two turns. However, supporters contend, he had excuses for some of those defeats. In the Remsen, which he lost by a scant halflength, he was wide; in the Holy Bull, he needed the race off a layoff; and in the Fountain of Youth he suffered from a throat issue. So, where is **FROSTED**'s physical condition these days?

# Materiality

A winner of three of four lifetime starts, **MATERIALITY** was rushed a bit into the Kentucky Derby. He got a late start in his racing career and romped in the Gulfstream slop in January to break his maiden. He then returned in March to stretch out successfully from six furlongs to a mile and one-eighth for a \$60k stakes win by nearly six lengths. The Grade 1 Florida Derby was his next triumph, winning by over a length from a

highly-regarded Upstart. Racing against the potent Apollo Jinx, which says that a horse that didn't start at age two can't win the Kentucky Derby, MATERIALITY made a favorable impression in Louisville when sixth, less than eight lengths behind AMERICAN PHAROAH. That afternoon MATERIALITY broke slowly from the challenging three post, made up ground along the way and finished with some interest. Under the guiding hand of multiple Eclipse Award-winning trainer Todd Pletcher, MATERIALITY might be ready to flash the form that saw him win the Florida Derby and earn the highest Beyer Speed Figure ever attained by any horse in this year's Belmont.

# **BELMONT LAST TIMES...**

The Last ...

**Kentucky Derby Winner to Win:** Thunder Gulch (1995)

**Preakness Winner to Win:** Afleet Alex (2005)

**Preakness Runner-Up to Win:** Victory Gallop (1998)

Horse to Lay-Off Since Derby to Win: Palace Malice (2013)

**New Triple Crown Face to Win:** Tonalist (2014)

**Prepped Last at Belmont to Win:** Tonalist (2014)

*Wire-to-Wire Winner:* Da' Tara (2008)

*Winner to Close From 10+ Lengths:* Jazil (2006)

Jockey to Win Back-to-Back: Laffit Pincay, Jr. 1982-'84

# Madefromlucky

Todd Pletcher will have two starters from his stable in the Belmont Stakes, this colt and the above-mentioned **MATERIALITY**. This son of Lookin At Lucky won the Peter Pan Stakes at Belmont Park last time out. That's important for a couple of reasons: First, he's in great shape. Second, he appears to love the Belmont surface. Last year, Tonalist parlayed a Peter Pan tally into

a Belmont score and an upset of California Chrome's bid for a Triple Crown. **MADEFROMLUCKY** hasn't really ever run fast enough to topple **AMERICAN PHAROAH** or a few others in here, but his Beyer Speed Figures have improved in six consecutive races! That's rare and a positive sign for an improving 3-year-old. However, this field is deeper than the one **MADEFROMLUCKY** faced in the Peter Pan and he'll need to improve on his Rebel and Arkansas Derby efforts which found him six and nine lengths behind **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, respectively.



# Now What?

by Bob Neumeier NBC Sports Reporter



Analysis: On the First Saturday in May, you could make an intellectual case against AMERICAN PHAROAH in the Kentucky Derby. FROSTED was peaking at the proper time; MATERIALITY and Carpe Diem had impeccable records; Dortmund and/or Firing Line had the style, the speed figures, and the proper breeding to beat the 'PHAROAH. And yet, none of them did. Two weeks later at Pimlico, you could make a case against AMERICAN PHAROAH based on the betting board, an absurd 4-5 against quality horses like Dortmund and Firing Line. Alas, 'PHAROAH jogged; Dortmund and Firing Line are still running; and TALE OF VERVE and Divining Rod clunked up second and third on a sloppy track.

Main Contenders: Obviously, AMERICAN PHAROAH is at the top of the list. He's been the busiest of all recent contenders...in 2015, five races in 12 weeks You certainly could guess worse than taking anything trainer Todd Pletcher threw out on the track – MATERIALITY and MADEFROMLUCKY both start from his powerful barn. The high win-strike of trainer Kiaran McLaughlin makes FROSTED a win factor. Value players may be all over Frosted, if he goes 3-1 or higher. The favorite will be bet. Todd will take action as well. Enough said.

Value Plays: So, just who will be the second choice? And at what price? FROSTED and MATERIALITY are 5/1 and 6/1, respectively, only the morning line, but once you get past the under-priced AMERICAN PHAROAH, anything is possible. History plays against the favorite. But handicapping is not done on the yellow-stained pages of the past. It should be done in the present. That said, value players are likely to pass the race. You could go all-rogue hoping that longshots clunk up and win (i.e.Birdstone, Sarava, D'Tara et al). But not for me. It is un-American to take the 3-5 on AMERICAN PHAROAH. However, that may be the safest route. Guessing on just who completes the exacta is fools' gold. If you came up with 'PHAROAH - TALE OF VERVE in the Preakness exacta, I tip my cap. I might have played 10,000 different numbers before I came up with that sequence.

### Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$80 Win: FROSTED (\$80)
- \$20 Exacta: AMERICAN PHAROAH over FROSTED (\$20)

### American Pharoah Xtras

- He is the 35th horse to win the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes.
- He will be the 32nd horse with a chance at a Triple Crown in the Belmont.
- Every Triple Crown winner has had at least one prior race at Belmont.

# **Picks**

1. FROSTED

2. AMERICAN PHAROAH

3. MATERIALITY

4. MADEFROMLUCKY

# Stats & Trends:

# **Derby Winners in Belmont**

(Last 10 Years)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>		
2014	California Chrome	4th		
2013	Orb	3rd		
2012	did not compete	-		
2011	Animal Kingdom	6th		
2010	did not compete	-		
2009	Mine That Bird	3rd		
2008	Big Brown	dnf		
2007	did not compete	-		
2006	did not compete	-		
2005	Giacomo	7th		
Last Derby winner to win Belmont:				
Thunder Gulch, 1995				

# **Preakness Winners in Belmont**

(Last 10 Years)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2014	California Chrome	4th
2013	Oxbow	2nd
2012	did not compete	-
2011	Shackleford	5th
2010	did not compete	-
2009	did not compete	-
2008	Big Brown	dnf
2007	Curlin	2nd
2006	did not compete	-
2005	Afleet Alex	1st

# **Know This:**

# **Baltimore Bypass**

13 of the last 15 Belmont Stakes winners skipped the Preakness. Since 2000, only Point Given (2001) and Afleet Alex (2005) parlayed a Preakness score into a Belmont celebration.

# **Heavy Betting**

25 of 31 Triple Crown hopefuls have been even-money or less; Gallant Fox (1930) and Assault (1946) were not post-time favorites.





# **Exotic Wagering Chart**



Belmont Stakes exotic wagers usually produce hefty payoffs. Use this handy Exotic Wagering Chart to plan your attack.

All wagers based on \$1 denominations.

EXACTA BOX:         2 horse box       \$2         3 horse box       \$6         4 horse box       \$12         5 horse box       \$20         6 horse box       \$30         7 horse box       \$42         8 horse box       \$56
EXACTA WHEEL: One Horse with All
6 horse field       \$5         7 horse field       \$6         8 horse field       \$7         9 horse field       \$8         10 horse field       \$9
TRIFECTA BOX:         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 WHEEL:         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 II/1 or All/1/2 or All/2/1)       \$10         7 Horse Field       \$12         9 Horse Field       \$14         10 Horse Field       \$16

TRIFECTA KEY:
1 Horse with 3 others
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)
1 Horse with 4 others\$12
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)
1 Horse with 5 others\$20
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
1 Horse with 6 others\$30
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
1 Horse with 7 others\$42
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)
SUPERFECTA BOX:
4 Horse Box\$24
5 Horse Box\$120
6 Horse Box\$360
SUPERFECTA WHEEL:
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
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)
5.7.1., 711) 17 2 01 711) 711) Z7 1)
SUPERFECTA KEY:
1 Horse with 3 others
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)
1 Horse with 4 others
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)
1 Horse with 5 others
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
1 Horse with 6 others
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
1 Horse with 7 others\$210
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)



# Hit the Vertical Exotics

by Mike Battaglia NBC Sports Reporter



Analysis: AMERICAN PHAROAH has proven to be the best 3-year-old in the country and he will be odds-on to win the Belmont. There isn't a horse in the lineup that should beat him. The only thing that can keep him from winning the Triple Crown is the Triple Crown itself. Can he get the mile and one-half? Can he handle Big Sandy? Those are the only questions. But those, as always, are big questions.

Main Contenders: Other than 'PHAROAH, it looks like MATERIALITY is the main threat. I have watched his Derby several times and when he drops back on the far turn, it looks like he is going to finish last. He finished up extremely well to wind up sixth, and Todd Pletcher will have him in top form. FROSTED is capable of another good effort, but I still don't think he's anywhere close to AMERICAN PHAROAH. And while Nick Zito pulled off the upset of Smarty Jones in 2004, note that Birdstone had much better credentials than FRAMMENTO.

Value Plays: With AMERICAN PHAROAH at 3/5 on the morning line and MATERIALITY (in my opinion) a strong second choice, I don't see much value. Maybe KEEN ICE. He figures to be a huge price and he is training well at Churchill Downs. Dale Romans always has thought a lot of him and he could improve at a mile and one-half. I don't think he can win; but he could add value to the gimmicks.

# Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$20 Trifecta Key: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** over **MATERIALITY** and **KEEN ICE** (\$40)
- \$10 Superfecta Key: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** over **MATERIALITY, KEEN ICE** and **FROSTED** (\$60)

# American Pharoah Xtras

- He is 6-for-6 with jockey Victor Espinoza, the same record favored California Chrome/Espinoza had going into the 2014 Belmont Stakes.
- Winning 1-length Derby margin is narrowest since Giacomo in 2005.
- Winning 7-lengths Preakness margin was largest since Smarty Jones in 2004 (11-1/2 lengths).
- Only Affirmed (head) has won a Triple Crown in a close finish.
- The 11 Crown winners have won the Belmont by an average of 7.8 lengths.

# **Picks**

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH

2. MATERIALITY

3. KEEN ICE

4. FROSTED

# Stats & Trends:

# **Belmont Winners in Triple Crown Races** (Since 2000)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	TC Race
2014	Tonalist	none
2013	Palace Malice	Derby
2012	Union Rags	Derby
2011	Ruler On Ice	none
2010	Drosselmeyer	none
2009	Summer Bird	Derby
2008	Da' Tara	none
2007	Rags to Riches	none
2006	Jazil	Derby
2005	Afleet Alex	Derby, Preakness
2004	Birdstone	Derby
2003	Empire Maker	Derby
2002	Sarava	none
2001	Point Given	Derby, Preakness
2000	Commendable	Derby

# **Derby, Preakness Top 4 in Belmont**

(Since 2000)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2014	California Chrome	4th
2013	Orb	3rd
2011	Shackleford	5th
2011	Animal Kingdom	6th
2009	Mine That Bird	3rd
2008	Big Brown	dnf
2007	Curlin	2nd
2007	Hard Spun	4th
2005	Afleet Alex	1st
2005	Giacomo	7th
2004	Smarty Jones	2nd
2003	Funny Cide	3rd
2002	War Emblem	8th
2002	Proud Citizen	5th
2000	Impeachment	5th

### **Know This:**

### **Front-End Rarities**

Since Swale in 1984, the only wire-to-wire Belmont winner has been Da' Tara in 2008.



# The Drought Ends

by Jeff Siegel Xpressbet.com Handicapper



Analysis: All seven 3-year-olds preparing to face AMERICAN PHAROAH in the Belmont Stakes have experienced a trouncing by this year's Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner. Clearly, in order for this race to be even remotely competitive, either this magnificent son of Pioneerof the Nile must inexplicably plummet to the competition's level, or at least one of the others suddenly must produce unforeseen, massive improvement. True, there has not been a Triple Crown winner in 37 years, and 13 colts have tried and failed to sweep the series since Affirmed achieved immortality in 1978. But none of those 13 colts – with the possible exception of Spectacular Bid – was as talented as AMERICAN PHAROAH. California Chrome last year? Not even close.

Main Contenders: FROSTED and MATERIALITY, fourth and sixth behind AMERICAN PHAROAH in the Derby with less-than-ideal trips, both skipped the Preakness to specifically prepare for the Triple Crown's final jewel. Both are likely to enjoy the Belmont's grueling mile and one-half journey; however, their only chance at success hinges solely on the hope and a prayer that AMERICAN PHAROAH fails to stay the distance. Given the fact that there is nobody in the projected Belmont field that can deprive AMERICAN PHAROAH of the easiest of front-running trips, the most logical result seems inevitable. Sure, you can anticipate that MATERIALITY and FROSTED (and maybe a couple of the others) will move within striking position as the field enters the final, long, sweeping Belmont turn, but getting close to, and then actually catching AMERICAN PHAROAH, are two different matters. See: Preakness, 2015.

Value Plays: I will concede the race to AMERICAN PHAROAH. And I'm going to take a stand with FROSTED in the exacta. The son of Tapit has a bit more seasoning and, according to my projections, is less likely than MATERIALITY to inherit the task of having to make the first, fatal run at AMERICAN PHAROAH. You don't want to be wagering on the colt that is asked to launch that first challenge. He won't wind up second.

# Wagering Strategies (\$100):

• \$100 Exacta: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** over **FROSTED** (\$100)

Xpressbet Belmont Stakes Wager Guide

STATS & TRENDS, KNOW THIS and AMERICAN PHAROAH XTRAS
information provided by JEREMY PLONK (Horseplayernow.com).

# **Picks**

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH 2.

3. MATERIALITY 4. KEEN ICE

2. FROSTED

# Stats & Trends:

# All 3 Triple Crown Races & Won Belmont (Since 1990)

Year Horse 2005 Afleet Alex 2001 Point Given 1998 Victory Gallop 1996 Editor's Note 1995 Thunder Gulch 1994 Tabasco Cat 1991 Hansel

# **Derby, No Preakness, Won Belmont**

(Since 2000)

Year Horse 2013 Palace Malice 2012 Union Rags 2009 Summer Bird 2006 Jazil 2004 Birdstone 2003 **Empire Maker** 2000 Commendable

# **Belmont Winner Preps**

(Last 10 Winners)

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Fin.</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Track</u>
Tonalist	1st	Peter Pan	BEL
Palace Malice	12th	<b>KY</b> Derby	CD
Union Rags	7th	<b>KY</b> Derby	CD
Ruler On Ice	2nd	Tesio	PIM
Drosselmeyer	2nd	Dwyer	BEL
Summer Bird	6th	Ky Derby	CD
Da' Tara	2nd	Barbaro	PIM
Rags to Riches	1st	KY Oaks	CD
Jazil	4th	<b>KY</b> Derby	CD
Afleet Alex	1st	Preakness	PIM
	Tonalist Palace Malice Union Rags Ruler On Ice Drosselmeyer Summer Bird Da' Tara Rags to Riches Jazil	Tonalist 1st Palace Malice 12th Union Rags 7th Ruler On Ice 2nd Drosselmeyer 2nd Summer Bird 6th Da' Tara 2nd Rags to Riches 1st Jazil 4th	Tonalist 1st Peter Pan Palace Malice 12th KY Derby Union Rags 7th KY Derby Ruler On Ice 2nd Tesio Drosselmeyer 2nd Dwyer Summer Bird 6th Ky Derby Da' Tara 2nd Barbaro Rags to Riches 1st KY Oaks Jazil 4th KY Derby

# **Know This:**

### **Favorites Fare Well**

Of the 147 previous runnings of the Belmont Stakes, 61 have been won by the betting favorite (41 percent).



# Triple Crown? Vote 'Yes!'

by Jon White Santa Anita Morning Line Oddsmaker



Analysis: It has been 37 years since Affirmed swept the Triple Crown, the last horse to accomplish the coveted feat. Will the long drought finally end this year? My vote is 'yes.' In my weekly Xpressbet.com column before the Kentucky Derby, I wrote, "AMERICAN PHAROAH is so talented he just might sweep the Triple Crown." And now, following his victories in the Derby and the Xpressbet.com Preakness, I think he has an excellent chance to become the sport's 12th Triple Crown winner. Keep in mind that six of the last seven Triple Crown winners had been voted 2-year-old male champion. Prior to this year, 13 horses since Affirmed took the Derby and Preakness, but then were unable to complete a Triple Crown sweep. But only one of those 13, Spectacular Bid, had been voted 2-year-old male champion. So I really like the fact that Derby and Preakness winner AMERICAN PHAROAH goes into the Belmont as a 2-year-old male champion.

Main Contenders: AMERICAN PHAROAH is, of course, the main contender. MATERIALITY, who hesitated at the start and actually did well under the circumstances to rally from 17th to finish sixth in the Derby, and FROSTED, who ran fourth in the Derby, are the main threats to AMERICAN PHAROAH. Another reason AMERICAN PHAROAH has an excellent chance to become a Triple Crown winner is because he has earned six Beyer Speed Figures of 100 or higher. MATERIALITY and FROSTED are the only other Belmont candidates to have ever earned a Beyer of 100 or higher, twice each.

Value Plays: Before last year's Belmont, I wrote that "the value play, as I see it, is Tonalist." Tonalist won and paid \$20.40. But this year, because I believe AMERICAN PHAROAH has an excellent chance to win the Belmont as a heavy favorite and I really don't have a strong opinion as to who is going to finish second, third and fourth, I have to be honest and say that I just don't see any wagering value in this particular instance. Consequently, I simply will bet my entire \$100 bankroll on AMERICAN PHAROAH to win and be satisfied with whatever payoff he returns if he completes the Triple Crown sweep.

# Wagering Strategies (\$100):

• \$100 Win: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** (\$100)

# **American Pharoah Xtras**

He is the 14th horse since Affirmed (1978) to win the Derby & Preakness, but would be the 13th Belmont starter since Affirmed. I'll Have Another won both, but did not start in the 2012 Belmont.

# **Picks**

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH

2. MATERIALITY

3. FROSTED

4. TALE OF VERVE

# Stats & Trends:

# Winning Belmont Post Positions

(Since 1905)

<u>Post</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Wins</u>
1	23	8	6
2	11	9	4
3	15	10	2
4	10	11	3
5	14	12	1
6	7	13	0
7	12	14	0

# **Active Jockeys to Win Belmont**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Horse</u>
2014	Joel Rosario	Tonalist
2013	Mike Smith	Palace Malice
2012	John Velazquez	<b>Union Rags</b>
2011	Jose Valdivia, Jr.	Ruler On Ice
2010	Mike Smith	Drosselmeyer
2009	Kent Desormeaux	Summer Bird
2008	Alan Garcia	Da' Tara
2007	John Velazquez	Rags to Riches
2006	Fernando Jara	Jazil
2005	Jeremy Rose	Afleet Alex
2004	Edgar Prado	Birdstone
2002	Edgar Prado	Sarava
2001	Gary Stevens	Point Given
1998	Gary Stevens	Victory Gallop
1995	Gary Stevens	Thunder Gulch

# **Know This:**

### Unheavenly Seven

No Triple Crown winner has ever beaten more than 7 rivals in the Belmont Stakes clincher. A field of at least 9 is expected to face American Pharoah this year.

# Over 32 Won't Do

Each of the 11 Triple Crown winners faced a total of 32 or fewer rivals in the 3-race series. So far, American Pharoah has survived 24 foes combined in the Derby and Preakness.



# A Material World

by Dick Jerardi Daily Racing Form Columnist



Analysis: AMERICAN PHAROAH has an incredible, possibly unbeatable, tactical advantage. The Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner has gone wire-to-wire four times. None of his rivals at Belmont has ever gone wire-to-wire or ever been in front at the first call of any race. Only MATERIALITY in his Florida Derby win was ahead at the second call. So, the best horse with the perfect stride on a clear lead in reasonable fractions should be able to gallop this field into submission. That is the most reasonable to way to look at the race, but... AMERICAN PHAROAH is the only horse in the race to contest all three Triple Crown races and this will be his fourth race in eight weeks. That is the issue, not talent and perhaps not even tactics. FROSTED and MATERIALITY fit the recent winning Belmont profile – make some impact in the Derby, skip the Preakness and fire big in the Belmont.

Main Contenders: AMERICAN PHAROAH has won six straight, including five Grade 1 stakes. He is the first 2-year-old champion with a chance at the Triple Crown since Spectacular Bid's bizarre loss (after a bizarre ride from Ronnie Franklin) in the 1979 Belmont – which ironically began this whole no Triple Crown streak. FROSTED was the only horse to make any kind of a threatening move from the back in the Derby. His solid fourth proved his Wood Memorial win was every bit as good as it looked. MATERIALITY was put in an impossible situation when he missed the break in the Derby, but was still able to pass seven horses in the stretch. Given how many deep closers are in the race, the son of 2005 Belmont winner Afleet Alex should be in the top three or four early in the Belmont, and get back to his best form.

**Value Plays: KEEN ICE** made a big, if deceptive, improvement in the Kentucky Derby when seventh after some traffic issues on the far turn.

# Wagering Strategies (\$100):

• \$50 Exacta Box: MATERIALITY and AMERICAN PHAROAH (\$100)

# American Pharoah Xtras

- He is the 3rd California-based horse to win the Derby & Preakness in the last 4 years. I'll Have Another ('12) and California Chrome ('14) are the others.
- He also is the 5th horse since Affirmed ('78) to win the Derby & Preakness as favorite in both. Spectacular Bid ('79), Smarty Jones ('04), Big Brown ('08) and California Chrome ('14) are the others.

# **Picks**

1. MATERIALITY

2. AMERICAN PHAROAH

3. FROSTED

4. MADEFROMLUCKY

# Stats & Trends:

### **Odds-On Belmont Busts**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	Fin.	<u>Odds</u>	
2014	California Chrome	4th	4-5	
2008	Big Brown	dnf	1-5	
2004	Smarty Jones	2nd	1-5	
1998	Real Quiet	2nd	4-5	
1989	Sunday Silence	2nd	4-5	
1987	Alysheba	4th	4-5	
1981	Pleasant Colony	3rd	4-5	
1979	Spectacular Bid	3rd	1-5	
Note: Last 8 odds-on choices have lost.				

# **Where Winners Were Bred**

Wins	<u>State</u>
97	Kentucky
11	Virginia
7	New Jersey
6	England
5	Florida
3	New York
	Pennsylvania
	Tennessee
2	California
	Maryland
	Texas
	Ireland
1	Canada

# **Triple Crown Winner Belmont Odds**

(Odds to \$1)

(				
<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Odds</u>		
1978	Affirmed	.60		
1977	Seattle Slew	.40		
1973	Secretariat	.10		
1948	Citation	.20		
1946	Assault	1.40		
1943	Count Fleet	.05		
1941	Whirlaway	.25		
1937	War Admiral	.80		
1935	Omaha	.90		
1930	<b>Gallant Fox</b>	1.60		
1919	Sir Barton	.40		



# **Best Crown Chance Yet?**

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



Analysis: Excitement abounds once again this classic season as for the 14th time in 37 years, a 3-year-old colt stands on the brink of Triple Crown immortality. By overcoming a juvenile hoof issue that forced him to miss the Breeders' Cup and delayed the start of his sophomore campaign, AMERICAN PHAROAH has in many ways exceeded expectation, arriving in New York as a dual-classic winner. The Zayat Stables' homebred worked hard to earn the rose blanket in Kentucky and followed it a fortnight later with the facile wet-track scamper for the Woodlawn Vase that likely offered a blueprint for his effort in the Belmont. The 12-furlong 'Test of the Champion' will demand one final quiz regarding possible distance limitations of the Pioneerof the Nile son, but nothing has been displayed thus far that indicates the appealing bay is more vulnerable here than he has been amassing a 6-race win streak. In fact, after sparkling workouts May 26 and June 1, the case could be made that AMERICAN PHAROAH continues to improve.

Main Contenders: Despite ongoing frustrations in the Derby, Todd Pletcher continues to build an enviable record of accomplishment in the Belmont. With Commissioner's harrowing second in last year's Belmont, Pletcher has a 15: 2-4-3 mark in the race since 2006. For this edition, he sends MATERIALITY (sixth after a poor start in the Kentucky Derby) and Peter Pan hero, MADEFROMLUCKY, who is bred particularly well for this assignment. Kiaran McLaughlin ran fourth in the 2006 Derby with late-running Jazil, who subsequently won the Belmont. Late-running FROSTED was fourth at the Downs and is well-suited to the mile and one-half.

**Value Plays:** While there always are rough starts and troubled trips in the Derby, no rose runner had more issues to deal with than **KEEN ICE**, who settled for seventh, beaten eight lengths. Dale Romans has been third in the Belmont with Nolan's Cat (2005), First Dude (2010) and Medal Count (2014), and this Curlin colt is another whose one-paced, grind-it-out style suits the event. Kent Desormeaux rides **KEEN ICE** back and is 8: 1-2-1 in the Belmont.

# Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$2 Trifecta Part-Wheel: AMERICAN PHAROAH with MATERIALITY, KEEN ICE, FROSTED, MADEFROMLUCKY, TALE OF VERVE with ALL (\$60)
- \$2 Exacta Box: MATERIALITY, KEEN ICE, FROSTED, MADEFROMLUCKY, TALE OF VERVE (\$40)

# **Picks**

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH

2. MATERIALITY

3. KEEN ICE

4. FROSTED

# Stats & Trends:

# **Fastest Belmont Final Times**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Horse</u>
2:24	Secretariat
2:26	Easy Goer
	A.P. Indy
2:26-2/5	Point Given
	Risen Star
2:26-4/5	Affirmed
	2:24 2:26 2:26-2/5

# **Belmont Winners Since Affirmed**

(Last 36 Years)

- 15 Newcomers to Triple Crown Trail
- 11 Veterans of Both Derby and Preakness
- 9 Derby Runners Who Skipped Preakness
- 1 Preakness Runner Who Skipped Derby

# **Largest Belmont Crowds**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Winner</u>
2004	120,139	Birdstone
2002	103,222	Sarava
2014	102,199	Tonalist
2003	101,864	<b>Empire Maker</b>
2008	94,476	Da' Tara
1999	85,818	Lemon Drop Kid
2012*	85,811	Union Rags
v TC	1. 1	

<sup>\*</sup>TC candidate I'll Have Another scratched.

### **Know This:**

# **Big Belmont Fields**

Six consecutive Belmont Stakes have had at least 10 starters, averaging 11.7 per race.

### The \$20-Plus Club

Six of the last seven Belmont winners have paid \$20 to win for each \$2 play, including Tonalist (\$20.40) a year ago.

### Oldie But Goodie

The Belmont Stakes, first run in 1867, is the oldest of the Triple Crown events. It predates the Preakness Stakes by six years and the Kentucky Derby by eight.



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