

# ARLINGTON MILLION

## wager guide

AUGUST 15, 2015 • ARLINGTON PARK



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# Pucker Up Stakes

Grade 3 • \$100,000

Fillies, Three-Years-Old – 1 1/8 Miles (Turf)



**Analysis:** Backing class-droppers at the windows is often a profitable betting angle, and such is the case with MISS CHATELAINE here. She squared off against the dominant Lady Eli in each of her 2015 starts, including the Grade 1 Belmont Oaks last out, succumbing to her by margins of 3 and 5 1/4-lengths. The Christophe Clement-trained daughter of Pulpit reunites with Joel Rosario, who was aboard when she broke her maiden last October, and she's projected to be the filly moving fastest late.

**Main Contenders:** In addition to MISS CHATELAINE, AMERICA MON AMIE won Canterbury's Northbound Pride Stakes in June and gets back her preferred surface after a disappointing 4th place finish in Woodbine's Duchess Stakes, which was run on the Polytrack. PRADO'S SWEET RIDE, who picks up Jose Lezcano, ran down a very 'loose on the lead' Lady Zuzu at nearly 10/1 last out in Churchill's Grade 3 Regret Stakes. It's always a positive sign when a young horse is able to make up several lengths in the stretch to reel in and pass a lone pacesetter that appeared home free. Mark Casse's RETURN TO GRACE also exits that race. She was 3rd that day, beaten just 1 1/4-lengths, and is eligible to improve in just her fifth career start.

**Value Plays:** The highly-regarded AHH CHOCOLATE followed up a promising 3rd in the Grade 2 Black-Eyed Susan Stakes with a lackluster 4th in the Grade 2 Indiana Oaks at odds of 5/2. A switch to the turf, a surface on which she has never raced, could be what she needs to take the next step forward in her racing career. Chris Block is one of the area's top trainers, and his GIANT DEDUCTION, is a deep closer that has yet to get a quick pace to close into. That could change this afternoon, with several quick fillies entered. If Florent Geroux can work out a clean trip, and if she gets the pace she needs, she should be moving as well as anyone when the field hits the top of the stretch.

## Wagering Strategies (\$50):

- \$5 Trifecta: MISS CHATELAINE over AMERICA MON AMIE and GIANT DEDUCTION over AMERICA MON AMIE, GIANT DEDUCTION, AHH CHOCOLATE, PRADO'S SWEET RIDE and RETURN TO GRACE (\$40)
- \$10 Win: GIANT DEDUCTION (\$10)

## Stats & Trends:

### Front-Running Pucker Up Winners

(Since 1992)

Year	Horse	Odds
2013	I'm Already Sexy	1.10
2010	Dade Babe	6.60
2007	Dreaming of Anna	1.30
1997	Witchful Thinking	2.80
1992	Ziggy's Act	6.90
Front-Runner ROI		\$2.15

### Fastest Pucker Up Final Times

(Since 1976)

Year	Horse	Time
1991	Jinski's World	1:47.58
2009	Hot Cha Cha	1:47.67
2001	Snow Dance	1:47.93
2013	I'm Already Sexy	1:48.12
2007	Dreaming of Anna	1:48.20

## Know This:

### New Digs

Held in early/mid-September annually since 2001, this is the first time the Pucker Up Stakes will be contested on the Arlington Million undercard.

### Bombs Away

The longest-priced winner in the history of the Pucker Up, New Leaf in 1970, cashed in at odds of nearly 81/1. Her backers were rewarded with \$163.60!

### Trifecta Riches

Three of the past four \$2 Trifectas in the Pucker Up have paid more than \$1K, but none came close to touching the \$31,366.80 it returned to savvy bettors in 2003. The median \$2 Trifecta payout, since 2001, is \$501.30.

## Picks

1. MISS CHATELAINE
2. GIANT DEDUCTION
3. AMERICA MON AMIE
4. AHH CHOCOLATE

# American St. Leger

Grade 3 • \$400,000

Three-Year-Olds & Upward – 1 11/16 Miles (Turf)



**Analysis:** In its three-year brief history, the American St. Leger has twice been claimed by European-conditioned horses (see stats at right for a full list of European St. Leger entrants), which makes it all the more surprising that just two Europeans, PANAMA HAT and LUCKY SPEED, made the trip to Chicago for this year's edition. Team USA won this race for the first time last year, when The Pizza Man held off Dandino, but he is bypassing a repeat attempt to go in the Million, contributing to the already wide-open feel of this race.

**Main Contenders:** The projected favorite is HYPER, an eight-year-old trained by Chad Brown, who arrived in Chicago with an arsenal of formidable horses. HYPER has won 10-of-26 races in his career, but amazingly owns just one graded stakes victory. Furthermore, he hasn't smiled for the camera since September 2013, which is an exceptionally long time for a horse of his caliber. He does hold a class edge over this field, but his penchant for coming up just short in races cannot be overlooked. LUCKY SPEED is winless since taking the Group 1 German Derby in July 2013 and was a non-threatening 4th last out in Woodbine's Grade 2 Nijinsky Stakes, his first start of the year. If he can move forward from that effort, and there's no reason to believe he won't, he'll be right there at the wire. Team Valor's PANAMA HAT won a stakes race last out at Roscommon in Ireland, but has never been effective racing at this level. And yet, with such uncertainty regarding this year's field, he figures to be right there in the mix. CRUCERO won the Grade 3 San Juan Capistrano last time out at Santa Anita at 23/1 for brothers Keith (trainer) and Kent (jockey) Desormeaux.

**Value Plays:** ROMAN APPROVAL nearly lulled the field to sleep in the Grade 3 Stars and Stripes, Arlington's local prep for this. After setting comfortable fractions, he beat everyone but The Pizza Man home, and even he had trouble getting past that day, only doing so in the shadow of the wire. With that one opting for the Million, you can't put it past ROMAN APPROVAL and Joel Rosario to take this field a long way.

## Wagering Strategies (\$50):

- \$20 Win: LUCKY SPEED (\$20)
- \$1 Trifecta: HYPER, LUCKY SPEED over HYPER, LUCKY SPEED over ALL (\$16)
- \$7 Win, Place: ROMAN APPROVAL (\$14)

## Picks

1. LUCKY SPEED (IRE)
2. HYPER
3. ROMAN APPROVAL
4. CRUCERO

## Stats & Trends:

### Previous St. Leger Winners

(All Time; Odds to \$1)

Year	Horse	Odds
2014	The Pizza Man	5.30
2013	Dandino (GB)	0.80
2012	Jakkalberry (IRE)	1.60

### European-Conditioned Runners in the St. Leger (All Time)

Year	Horse	Finish
2014	Dandino (GB)	2nd
2014	Havana Beat (IRE)	3rd
2014	Moment in Time (IRE)	4th
2014	Eye of the Storm (IRE)	5th
2013	Dandino (GB)	1st
2013	Wigmore Hall (IRE)	5th
2012	Jakkalberry (IRE)	1st
2012	Zuider Zee (GER)	3rd
2012	Lake Drop	5th
2012	Bridge of Gold	9th

## Know This:

### New Kid on the Block

Inaugurated in 2012, this year's edition of the American St. Leger will be just the fourth in the race's history.

### Now Let's Keep It Here

Last year's American St. Leger winner, The Pizza Man, was the first US-based horse to win the race.

### Form Holds

In the history of the American St. Leger, just one of the nine total Trifecta finishers went postward at odds of 10/1 or higher. Needless to say, the \$2 Trifecta paid less than \$70 in two of the first three years of its existence.

# Secretariat Stakes

Grade 1 • \$500,000

Three-Year-Olds – 1 1/4 Miles (Turf)



**Analysis:** The Secretariat is one of North America's premier turf races for three-year-olds, and fields like this year's are why. With a sizable European contingent challenging the 'home team,' you can expect fireworks as Grade 1 Belmont Derby winner, FORCE THE PASS, squares off against undefeated Group 2 Italian Derby winner, GOLDSTREAM, and Aidan O'Brien's HIGHLAND REEL.

**Main Contenders:** Will the Secretariat prove to be a three-horse, trans-Atlantic slugfest between FORCE THE PASS, HIGHLAND REEL and GOLDSTREAM? Many bettors will play it that way. FORCE THE PASS has won four of his last five, capitalizing on a perfect, hedge-skimming trip to win the Belmont Derby by 3 3/4-lengths. Prior to that, he won the Grade 3 Penn Mile in more dramatic fashion, overcoming traffic to get up by a head on the wire. His Italian-bred adversary, GOLDSTREAM, has raced exclusively in his home country, but was purchased privately by Australian Thoroughbred Bloodstock for an undisclosed sum (that's code for a ton of cash) following his Italian Derby win. They have high hopes for GOLDSTREAM, already having named the marquee Australian races, including the Cox Plate and Melbourne Cup, as his long-term goals. HIGHLAND REEL goes out for the powerful Aidan O'Brien barn, and he is certainly no stranger to success in the Secretariat. O'Brien has finished in the Superfecta with 10 of his 12 Secretariat starters, with wins in 2014, 2011 and 2000 (see O'Brien's full list of Secretariat starts in the column to your right). HIGHLAND REEL won a Group 3 race at Goodwood last out and three races back he was second in France's Group I Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby).

**Value Plays:** With so much attention on FORCE THE PASS, HIGHLAND REEL and GOLDSTREAM, just about everybody else in the field should offer great value. Bill Mott's CLOSING BELL was 4th in the Belmont Derby in just his 3rd career start, and should move forward off that performance. Chad Brown's GRANNY'S KITTEN was just 3/4-length behind FORCE THE PASS in the Penn Mile, but was beaten 8 1/4-lengths in the Belmont Derby. If he can rebound, he may be dangerous.

### Wagering Strategies (\$50):

- \$20 Exacta: FORCE THE PASS over GOLDSTREAM and HIGHLAND REEL (\$40)
- \$5 Exacta: GOLDSTREAM and HIGHLAND REEL over FORCE THE PASS (\$10)

### Picks

1. FORCE THE PASS
2. HIGHLAND REEL (IRE)
3. GOLDSTREAM (ITY)
4. CLOSING BELL

### Stats & Trends:

#### Aidan O'Brien-Trained Secretariat Entrants (All-Time; Odds to \$1)

Year	Horse	Odds	Finish
2014	Adelaide (IRE)	1.10	1st
2012	Daddy Long Legs	5.80	8th
2011	Treasure Beach (GB)	1.50	1st
2009	Black Bear Isl'nd (IRE)	3.70	2nd
2008	Plan	2.60	2nd
2007	Admiralofthefleet	1.80	4th
2006	Ivan Denisovich (IRE)	5.80	2nd
2005	Grand Central (IRE)	4.70	4th
2004	Moscow Ballet (IRE)	7.40	3rd
2003	France (GB)	3.20	4th
2000	Ciro	4.80	1st
1996	His Excellence	36.20	10th

#### Winning Secretariat Post Positions (All-Time)

Post	Wins	Post	Wins
1	6	8	4
2	3	9	1
3	5	10	0
4	5	11	0
5	6	12	0
6	4	13	0
7	4	14	0

### Know This:

#### Draw is Key

In the history of the Secretariat Stakes, 67 horses have started from Post Positions 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14. Only one horse won the race from their outside draw, and only 14 (20.8%) hit the board.

#### Odds in Your Favor

Since 2004, the post-time favorite has won the Secretariat Stakes six times. Furthermore, the longest-priced winner in that span, Winchester in 2008, paid only \$17.

# Beverly D. Stakes

Grade 1 • \$750,000

Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Up – 1 3/16 Miles (Turf)



**Analysis:** The same two questions face everyone handicapping the Beverly D. – can anyone stop defending champion, EURO CHARLINE, and what do you do with STEPHANIE'S KITTEN? As a three-year-old last year, EURO CHARLINE capitalized on a perfect trip beneath all-world jockey, Ryan Moore, to win this race with relative ease over a hard-charging STEPHANIE'S KITTEN. Unfortunately 'CHARLINE was forced to miss the remainder of 2014 with injuries, is 0-for-2 this year and Ryan Moore is out with a neck injury. On the other hand, STEPHANIE'S KITTEN has been very disappointing in her last two races, indicating the six-year-old mare may have lost a step or two. She closed decently after falling too far out of contention in Saratoga's Grade 1 Diana last out, a race in which a new course record was set, but she simply would not be a major player here based on those last two races.

**Main Contenders:** EURO CHARLINE won't be near the 10/1 she was last year, and the target is squarely on her back as this year's projected favorite. She ran well enough in a pair of Group 1 races earlier this year, the Dubai Turf on World Cup night in March and the QIPCO Falmouth Stakes last month, to show she's still a top-level filly. Trainer Chad Brown may already be the top turf trainer in the States and sends out two here, the aforementioned STEPHANIE'S KITTEN and WATSDACHANCES. Both do their best running from the back of the pack, so they'll require an honest pace. Aidan O'Brien's WEDDING VOW and Dermot Weld's CARLA BIANCA are the best of the rest of a solid European contingent.

**Value Plays:** After finishing a no-show 7th in her US debut in Pimlico's Grade 3 Gallorette Handicap, MANGO DIVA took a major step forward last out over this course in the Grade 3 Modesty for trainer Mike Matz. She has ample back-class, including a Group 2 win at the Curragh in 2014, and is a mare you want to have on your ticket. You could do a lot worse than 15/1 on her with Florent Geroux aboard.

## Wagering Strategies (\$50):

- \$1 Trifecta Key: EURO CHARLINE over CARLA BIANCA, MANGO DIVA, SECRET GESTURE, STEPHANIE'S KITTEN, WATSDACHANCES, WEDDING VOW (\$30)
- \$5 Exacta Box: EURO CHARLINE and WEDDING VOW (\$10)
- \$10 Show: MANGO DIVA (\$10)

## Picks

1. EURO CHARLINE (GB)
2. WEDDING VOW (IRE)
3. CARLA BIANCA (IRE)
4. STEPHANIE'S KITTEN

## Stats & Trends:

### Beverly D. Winners by Country of Birth (All Time)

Winners	Country	Last Win
9	United States	2009
5	Ireland	2012
4	France	2008
4	Great Britain	2014
2	Germany	2010
1	South Africa	2004

### Winningest Current Beverly D. Jockeys (More than 1 Win, All-Time)

Winners	Jockey	Last Win
3	Kent Desormeaux	2009
2	Ryan Moore	2014
2	Corey Nakatani	2001
2	Gary Stevens	2005

### Winning Beverly D. Post Positions (All-Time)

Post	Wins	Post	Wins
1	3	8	2
2	3	9	1
3	2	10	1
4	5	11	2
5	1	12	0
6	1	13	0
7	4	14	0

## Know This:

### Closing Time

Since 1991, only one runner – England's Legend in 2001 – won the Beverly D. in wire-to-wire fashion.

### No Room for Longshots

Since 1991, only three Beverly D. winners – Euro Charline (2014 – 10.80/1), Crimson Palace (2004 – 9.90/1) and Royal Highness (2007 – 9.20/1) – paid more than \$20 to Win.

# Arlington Million XXXIII

Grade 1 • \$1,000,000

Three-Year-Olds & Up – 1 1/4 Miles (Turf)



**Analysis:** Welcome to the main event, the 33rd edition of the Arlington Million! With runners from Great Britain, France, Ireland, Germany and the United States signed on, this year's Million is, once again, a true international spectacle. Unlike past years, though, the US squad appears to have its bases covered, represented by a powerful contingent including BIG BLUE KITTEN, SLUMBER, TRIPLE THREAT and UP WITH THE BIRDS.

**Main Contenders:** Team Europe appears to lack its usual bite, which means anyone looking to take the Million will need to upset the formidable Chad Brown-trained 1-2 punch of BIG BLUE KITTEN and SLUMBER. The addition of blinkers propelled SLUMBER to run his two best races in several years, upsetting BIG BLUE KITTEN in Belmont's Grade 1 Manhattan before finishing second to him in the Grade 1 United Nations at Monmouth. And now that BIG BLUE KITTEN has his own personal 'rabbit' in the form of SHINING COPPER, he's sure to get a pace that suits his closing kick. This race definitely goes through them, as Europe's top contender, MAVERICK WAVE, isn't nearly as powerful when compared to the top horses that have previously crossed the Atlantic for this. He won the Group 3 Huxley Stakes at Chester in May for trainer John Gosden, who upset this race in 2010 with 11/1 outsider, Debussy. And while THE PIZZA MAN has never succeeded racing at the Grade 1 level, it's impossible to overlook his incredibly favorable record over the local sod – he's 9-for-12 at Arlington Park.

**Value Plays:** Besides MAVERICK WAVE, whose 8/1 morning line price feels fair, the rest of the Europeans - BELGIAN BILL, ELLEVAL, WAKE FOREST and BOOKRUNNER – are 12/1 or higher. If you like one, don't hesitate in running to the windows. Of the locals, the 12/1 morning line on the consistently inconsistent UP WITH THE BIRDS would be proper incentive to include him on your ticket. He was 6/1 in this race last year and even-money when 3rd in the Grade 3 Arlington Handicap last out. And don't forget THE PIZZA MAN, whose 10/1 morning line would be great value on a true 'horse for the course.'

## Wagering Strategies (\$50):

- \$10 Exacta Box: SLUMBER and BIG BLUE KITTEN (\$20)
- \$2 Exacta Box: SLUMBER, BIG BLUE KITTEN, MAVERICK WAVE and THE PIZZA MAN (\$24)
- \$2 Win, Place, Show: THE PIZZA MAN (\$6)

## Picks

1. SLUMBER (GB)
2. BIG BLUE KITTEN
3. MAVERICK WAVE
4. THE PIZZA MAN

## Stats & Trends:

### Longest Priced Million Winners

(Since 1991; Odds to \$1)

Year	Horse	Odds
1996	Mecke	15.50
1992	Dear Doctor (FR)	13.90
2008	Spirit One (FR)	13.70
2014	Hardest Core	11.50
2010	Debussy (IRE)	11.00

### Sub-Even Money Million Favorites

(Since 1991; Odds to \$1)

Year	Horse	Odds	Finish
2002	Beat Hollow (GB)	0.70	1st
1993	Star of Cozzene	0.80	1st
2010	Gio Ponti	0.90	2nd
2005	Kitten's Joy	0.90	2nd

### Winning Million Post Positions

(All-Time)

Post	Wins	Post	Wins
1	7	8	1
2	4	9	1
3	3	10	0
4	4	11	0
5	2	12	2
6	2	13	0
7	6	14	0

## Know This:

### Truly International

Since 2003, horses that made their final start outside of North America account for 50% of the 36 Trifecta finishers during that span (18-of-36). The last non-North American-conditioned horse to win the Million was Irish-bred Debussy in 2010.

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