



RACING FESTIVAL
**BELMONT
STAKES**
•151•

xb wager guide

June 8, 2019
Belmont Park

xpressbet

866.88XPRESS (866.889.7737)



Welcome to Xpressbet's Free Belmont Stakes Wager Guide!

Fellow Racing Fan,

With two different winners of the first two legs of the Triple Crown (ok, maybe three) this season's Belmont Stakes promises to be another wide-open affair. Expect a nearly full field of runners prepared to dispute the outcome. That means there will be oodles of wagering options and corresponding healthy payoffs. Horses and horseplayers will be challenged by the mile and one-half Test of the Champion. The equines are on their own, but Xpressbet is here to help players sort through Belmont Stakes contenders and pretenders.

Preakness winner War of Will and runner-up Everfast figure to join Kentucky Derby third-place finisher Tacitus as Belmont headliners. Trainer Todd Pletcher is expected to saddle a pair of wild cards in Kentucky Derby grad Spinoff and lightly-raced Intrepid Heart.

Xpressbet's Free Belmont Stakes Wager Guide, hopefully, will point readers in the right direction. That's why we've recruited top handicappers, writers and broadcasters to examine the race—Analysis, Main Contenders, Value Plays and \$100 Wagering Strategies. Inside the guide you'll also find useful Belmont Stats & Trends, a handy Exotic Wagering Chart and much more. This year we've even added Workout Analysis, too.

Wager on the Belmont Stakes and worldwide Thoroughbred and harness racing with Xpressbet online, by phone or via mobile device. New account holders are eligible for up to a \$500 bonus. Current account holders enjoy a variety of exciting and profitable seasonal promotions. Act now to open an account in time to wager on the Belmont Stakes. Complete details are available at Xpressbet.com.

Return to the Xpressbet web site daily beginning Tuesday, June 4, for free guide updates, including Johnny D's in-depth, horse-by-horse Belmont Stakes analysis available Thursday, June 6; revised expert opinions and selections based on scratches, post positions, weather, etc. and much more. An enhanced guide version, including NBC Sports analyst Eddie Olczyk's picks, will be available online Thursday, June 6.

The folks at Xpressbet wish you an entertaining and profitable 2019 Belmont Stakes and look forward to serving as your advance deposit wagering account provider for the big day and into the future.

Sincerely,
The Xpressbet Team

Belmont Wagering Facts

By **Jeremy Plonk**, Xpressbet
@HorsePlayerNow



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

Win-Place-Show Odds

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

Win Odds

Average: 9.87

High: 24.75 (Ruler On Ice, 2011)

Low: .75 (American Pharoah, 2015)

Notable: 3 of the last 4 winners were 5-to-1 odds or less.

Place Odds

Average: 10.84

High: 28.00 (Commissioner, 2014)

Low: 2.75 (Irish War Cry, 2017)

Notable: The favorite has finished 2nd just once since 2007 (Irish War Cry, 2017).

Show Odds

Average: 11.25

High: 24.75 (Medal Count, 2014)

Low: 1.25 (Mine That Bird, 2009)

Notable: Orb (2013) was the last Belmont favorite to finish 3rd.

Exacta Payoffs

(Last 10 Years, \$2 Payoff)

Average: \$231.32

High: \$928.00 (Ruler On Ice-Stay Thirsty, 2011)

Low: \$13.60 (American Pharoah-Frosted, 2015)

Notable: 3 of the last 4 Belmont Stakes \$2 exactas have paid \$89 or less.

Trifecta Payoffs

(Last 10 Years, \$1 Payoff)

Average: \$1,079.05

High: \$4,134.00

(Ruler On Ice-Stay Thirsty-Brilliant Speed, 2011)

Low: \$54.75 (American Pharoah-Frosted-Keen Ice, 2015)

Notable: The \$1 trifecta has paid \$1,000 or more in 5 of 19 years offered.

Superfecta Payoffs

(Last 10 years, \$1 Payoffs)

Average: \$7,835.28

High: \$37,026

(Ruler On Ice-Stay Thirsty-Brilliant Speed-Nehro, 2011)

Low: \$285

(American Pharoah-Frosted-Keen Ice-Mubtaahij, 2015)

Average Odds of Fourth-Place Finishers: 10.54-to-1

Notable: 6 of the last 10 Belmont superfectas paid at least \$5,329.

Winning Belmont Post Positions

(Since 1905)

Post	Wins	Post	Wins
1	24	8	6
2	12	9	4
3	15	10	2
4	10	11	3
5	15	12	1
6	7	13	1
7	12	14	0

Shortest-Priced Belmont Favorites

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

Year	Odds	Horse	Fin.
2008	.30	Big Brown	dnf
2015	.75	American Pharoah	1st
2018	.80	Justify	1st
2014	.85	California Chrome	4th
2009	1.25	Mine That Bird	3rd

Odds-On Belmont Favorites

(Since 1940)

Total Odds-On Favorites: 35

Winning Odds-On Favorites: 14

% of Winning Odds-On Favorites: 40%

Last Odds-On Favorite to Compete:

Justify (2018) .80-to-1

Last Odds-On Favorite to Win:

Justify (2018) .80-to-1

Expert	Bob Neumeier (HPNow)	Millie Ball (XBTV.com)	Jeff Siegel (XBTV.com)	Jon White (Santa Anita)	Dick Jerardi (DRF)	Steve Byk (SiriusXM Radio)
First	Intrepid Heart	Tacitus	Tacitus	War of Will	Tacitus	Intrepid Heart
Second	War of Will	War of Will	War of Will	Tacitus	Intrepid Heart	War of Will
Third	Tacitus	Intrepid Heart	Sir Winston	Sir Winston	Spinoff	Tacitus
Fourth	Sir Winston	Spinoff	Spinoff	Spinoff	War of Will	Sir Winston

Working It Out

By Zoe Cadman, XBTV.com
@zoecadman



Below is analysis of recent workouts for several Belmont contenders as of 5-30. Horse names link to video.

Visit XBTV.com for additional morning workouts as well as expert Analysis, Selections and much more.



<u>Horse</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Track</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>Tacitus</u>	5/26	Belmont	5 furlongs	fast	1:00.16
His work at Belmont Park on May 26 is the best I have seen from the son of Tapit. He worked in company with Multiplier, a very good work horse, and was outstanding. He wins the 'most improved horse' award on the Triple Crown trail. Watch this less-than-stellar pre-Tampa Bay Derby work . Tacitus looms as the fresh horse to beat.					
<u>Master Fencer</u>	5/29	Belmont	5 furlongs	fast	1:01.48
His May 29 work had people scratching their heads. It was his first work over 'Big Sandy' and minus jockey Julien Leparoux (whose flight was cancelled). An over-zealous (regular) exercise rider may have gotten carried away. The rider went to the whip and unbalanced 'Fencer, who then appeared to lose his footing behind at the eighth-pole. There also was some concern with his front-left foot after the work and he will be evaluated further in the coming days. This improving son of Just a Way continues to amaze me. Not one person thought he would best half the field in the Derby, yet he closed fastest of all to finish sixth. I will keep an eye on him as he could be very dangerous here as a fresh horse, if fit.					
<u>Sir Winston</u>	5/25	Belmont	5 furlongs	fast	101.48
A fresh face for trainer Mark Casse, his running style certainly will complement Casse's other colt and Preakness winner War of Will. Joel Rosario was up for the May 25 drill and will ride 'Winston in the Belmont. This is notable because Rosario rode Preakness runner-up Everfast last out. In the work, Sir Winston broke off behind stablemate Catch a Thrill and was always going well, while hitting his best stride late at the wire and galloping out tremendously.					
<u>Spinoff</u>	5/25	Belmont	5 furlongs	fast	59.91
He's an intriguing horse with a seemingly effortless work over a tiring track. However, I would have liked to see him win the gallop-out instead of going evenly with Last Judgment (ninth, Pat Day Mile). Spinoff should have good position in the early Belmont fray for a trainer who has won this race 3 times. To quote Todd Pletcher, "If you are going to run in the Belmont Stakes, you had better win it!"					
<u>Tax</u>	5/25	Belmont	4 furlongs	fast	49.87
The former claimer basically went through the motions in this solo maintenance work for trainer Danny Gargan. Tax is a big-framed horse who covers the ground and hits the poles on a dime. He could be a late-developing 3-year-old that does his best later in the season.					

Daily Guide Updates begin Tuesday, June 4

A revised guide, including Analysis, Selections and Wagering Strategies from Eddie Olczyk of NBC Sports and VSiN's Brent Musburger, will be available beginning Thursday, June 6.

Belmont Contenders

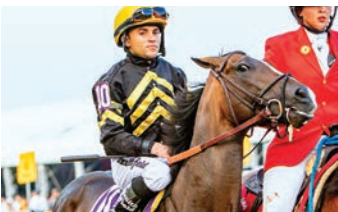
By Johnny D., Xpressbet
@XBJohnnyD



War of Will: The Preakness winner rolls into Belmont Park with a head of steam. Fouled in the Kentucky Derby, the son of War Front redeemed himself with a resounding 1 1/4-length Pimlico score. Out of Visions of Clarity, a daughter of Sadler's Wells, War of Will seems to be bred to handle the mile and one-half Belmont distance. He's now won 4 of 10 starts, earned nearly \$1.5 million and seems to have regained the form that led to a pair of early Fair Grounds stakes victories.



Tacitus: Similar to War of Will, Tacitus ripped off 3 consecutive wins earlier this season: an Aqueduct maiden; the Tampa Bay Derby and the Wood Memorial. Placed third in the Kentucky Derby, just 3 1/4-lengths behind Maximum Security, the original winner, Tacitus is trained by Hall-of-Fame conditioner Bill Mott—who also trains 2019 Kentucky Derby winner Country House. Tacitus comes from off the pace and will have regular rider Jose Ortiz for the Belmont.



Everfast: Dismissed at odds of nearly 30-1 in the Preakness Stakes, this son of Take Charge Indy roared home from off the pace to finish second. Trainer Dale Romans and owner Calument Farm made Everfast a late edition to the Preakness and the move paid dividends. He has a late-running style that suggests he can handle a mile and one-half. He's won just one race in 11 starts, but also lists a runner-up effort at 129-1 in the Holy Bull at Gulfstream Park.



Spinoff: Dismissed at 52-1 in the Kentucky Derby, Spinoff raced wide throughout and defeated just one other horse. Why does trainer Todd Pletcher wheel him back in the Belmont? Good question. Before Louisville, Spinoff had 2 wins, a second and a third from 4 starts with a runner-up try in the Grade 2 Louisiana Derby and a third in the Grade 2 Saratoga Special. With just five starts, the son of Hard Spun could have upside for a trainer who's won this race 3 times.



Tax: This son of Arch won the Grade 3 Withers Stakes at Aqueduct this winter and was second behind Tacitus in the Wood Memorial. He was dispatched at 35-1 odds in the Kentucky Derby and didn't do much running. Before that, he had been in the money in all 5 career starts with 2 wins and 2 seconds while racing at Churchill, Keeneland and Aqueduct. He was claimed for \$50,000 out of his second lifetime start—a winning maiden effort.



Intrepid Heart: He's the most lightly-raced entrant in the field and his Beyer Speed Figures continue to improve. He's trained by Todd Pletcher, a man that knows what level of talent this race demands. In 23 Belmont starts since 2006, Pletcher runners have accounted for 3 wins, 5 seconds and 4 thirds. This son of Tapit has 2 wins in 3 starts with a third in the Peter Pan as his only stakes experience. He stumbled at the start that afternoon, so the effort should be adjusted accordingly.

A Tidy Pedigree Package

By Bob Neumeier, HorsePlayerNow.com

Analysis: Imagine that the 2019 Belmont Stakes is a birthday or holiday gift, wrapped neatly with distinctive paper and a colorful bow atop. That image is a perfect metaphor for the run-up to this prestigious race. That's because the narrative is blatantly obvious – a showdown between the two top stallions of the world, Tapit (TACITUS) and War Front (WAR OF WILL), and the two most accomplished runners in the field. But in the mysterious and unpredictable world of horse racing, is there a third runner to crash the party, thus spoiling the obvious? Perhaps, if INTREPID HEART runs to his breeding (Tapit), sales price (\$750,000), crafty conditioner (Todd Pletcher), and the betting public, which has crushed his odds in all three runs.

Main Contenders: In a prospective field with only 6 graded stakes wins combined, WAR OF WILL (3) and TACITUS (2) dominate the lineup. Both offer contrasting styles; the Preakness winner runs on or near the lead, and TACITUS will grind away from the back markers. The race shape should favor pace-pressing WAR OF WILL. In the mile and one-half marathon distance, cruising speed and early position are critical, 2 ingredients possessed by 'WILL. It should be noted that 3 sons of Tapit (Tapwrit, 2017, Creator, 2016 and Tonalist, 2014), have won the Belmont Stakes, a factor that will buoy the backers of TACITUS. To consider INTREPID HEART, draw a line through the Peter Pan Stakes effort, where a stumbling start and an off-day cost him a chance at short odds. Please do not sleep on his dangerous trainer, Todd Pletcher, with a hat trick of wins in this event.

Value Plays: If you peruse the Derby chart, you'll find that 58-1 longshot MASTER FENCER finished on nearly even terms with TACITUS in beaten lengths. Regional bias will guarantee that the runner from Japan will be dismissed on the odds board in New York. SIR WINSTON is sharp, but the confirmed closer is disadvantaged by race shape and distance, a counter-intuitive fact known by most handicappers. SPINOFF (Todd Pletcher) and TAX (a graded winner) did not run a step in the Kentucky Derby, but both may be excused because of the sloppy track.

\$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$20 Exacta Key-Box: INTREPID HEART with TACITUS and WAR OF WILL (\$80)
- \$10 Exacta Box: TACITUS and WAR OF WILL (\$20)

Bob's Picks

1. INTREPID HEART
2. WAR OF WILL
3. TACITUS
4. SIR WINSTON



Stats & Trends

Preakness Winners in Belmont

(Last 10 Years)

Year	Horse	Fin
2018	Justify	1st*
2017	Cloud Computing**	-
2016	Exaggerator	11th*
2015	American Pharoah	1st*
2014	California Chrome	4th*
2013	Oxbow	2nd
2012	I'll Have Another**	-
2011	Shackelford	5th
2010	Lookin At Lucky**	-
2009	Rachel Alexandra**	-

*Favorite **Did Not Compete

Most Belmont Wins by Jockey

Wins	Jockey
6	Eddie Arcaro
6	Jim McLaughlin
5	Earl Sande
5	Bill Shoemaker
3	Mike Smith*
3	Gary Stevens
3	Braulio Baeza
3	Pat Day
3	Laffit Pincay, Jr.
3	James Stout

* Active

? Know This

Baltimore to Belmont for Baffert

In the last 20 Belmonts, 4 horses who raced in the Preakness returned to win the Belmont. 3 were trained by Bob Baffert (Justify, 2018; American Pharoah, 2015 & Point Given, 2001), including 2 Triple Crown winners. The lone non-Baffert Preakness veteran to win the Belmont during that span is Afleet Alex (2005) trained by Tim Ritchey.

Odds Against

Don't expect huge mutuel bombs in the Belmont Stakes. In the last 13 years, only once (2016) has an entrant started at odds of more than 40-1.

xpressbet
your way to play

Exotic Wagering Chart



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

Exacta Box: (\$1 Wager)

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: (\$1 Wager)

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: (\$.50 Wager)

3 Horse Box	\$3
4 Horse Box	\$12
5 Horse Box	\$30
6 Horse Box	\$60
7 Horse Box	\$105
8 Horse Box	\$168

Trifecta Wheel: (\$.50 Wager)

One Horse with All with All

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

7 Horse Field	\$15
8 Horse Field	\$21
9 Horse Field	\$28
10 Horse Field	\$36

One Horse with Two Horses with All

(Example: 1/2,3/All or 2,3/1/All or 1/All/2,3 or 2,3/All/1 or All/1/2,3 or All/2,3/1)

7 Horse Field	\$5
8 Horse Field	\$6
9 Horse Field	\$7
10 Horse Field	\$8

Trifecta Key: (\$.50 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others	\$3
(Example: 1/ 2, 3, 4/ 2, 3, 4)	
1 Horse with 4 others	\$6
(Example: 1/ 2, 3, 4, 5/ 2, 3, 4, 5)	
1 Horse with 5 others	\$10
(Example: 1/ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	
1 Horse with 6 others	\$15
(Example: 1/ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)	
1 Horse with 7 others	\$21
(Example: 1/ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)	

Superfecta Box: (\$1 Wager)

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

Superfecta Wheel: (\$1 Wager)

One Horse with All with All with All

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

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

One Horse with Two Horses with All with All

(Example: 1/2,3/All/All or 2,3/1/All/All or 1/All/All/ 2,3 or 2,3/All/All/1 or All/All/1/ 2,3 or All/All/2,3/ 1)

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

Superfecta Key: (\$1 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others	\$6
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)	
1 Horse with 4 others	\$24
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)	
1 Horse with 5 others	\$60
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	
1 Horse with 6 others	\$120
(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)	

Curb Your Enthusiasm

By Millie Ball, XBTV.com

@camillayakteen

Analysis: Since 2000, the average win payout for the Belmont stakes, discounting the two years when we had Triple Crowns, has been \$36. So history indicates there is plenty of opportunity for value if you pick the right 3-year-old! Two of the most important qualities to win the 1 1/2-mile Belmont Stakes are a sound disposition and a pedigree with more than a hint of stamina. In the Preakness Stakes, **WAR OF WILL** took a big step forward in learning to relax during the race. This colt loves to run up in the bridle, but he must curb his enthusiasm further if he's to give himself the best chance at this trip. He is the fastest horse in the race.

Main Contenders: It's hard to overlook **INTREPID HEART** and **TACITUS**, both sons of 3-time Belmont Stakes-winning sire Tapit. **INTREPID HEART'S** half-brother Commissioner ran second in the Belmont (2014) to Tonalist, completing a Tapit exacta; and his broodmare sire is Belmont winner Touch Gold (1997). [He breezed well May 25](#) with the addition of blinkers. Bill Mott's **TACITUS** was one of the few in the Kentucky Derby who appeared to relish 10 furlongs. He fits my Belmont criteria, he's a big, strong colt and his races have all been very progressive this year. He handled Multiplier, an older graded-stakes winner, in his [May 26 work](#). **WAR OF WILL** has a tough task ahead. Only 4 sops have swept the Preakness/Belmont after finishing off the board in the Kentucky Derby. Although **WAR OF WILL'S** grandsire Danzig produced a Belmont Stakes winner in Danzig Connection, the average winning distance for sire War Front is 8 furlongs. War Front has sired 5 winners in Europe over a distance of 12 furlongs or more.

Value Plays: **SPINOFF** was wide every step of the way in the Kentucky Derby and had little chance with that amount of ground loss. Pletcher also reported that his Hard Spun colt was spinning his wheels in the slop. Judging from [his May 25 work](#), the Derby is well in his rear-view mirror.

\$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$26 Win: **TACITUS** (\$26)
- \$25 Win: **WAR OF WILL** (\$25)
- \$25 Win: **INTREPID HEART** (\$25)
- \$2 Exacta Box: **WAR OF WILL, INTREPID HEART, TACITUS, SPINOFF** (\$24)

Millie's Picks

1. **TACITUS**
2. **WAR OF WILL**
3. **INTREPID HEART**
4. **SPINOFF**



Stats & Trends

Belmont Winners in Prior TC Races

(Since 2000)

Year	Horse	TC Race
2018	Justify	Derby, Preakness
2017	Tapwrit	Derby
2016	Creator	Derby
2015	American Pharoah	Derby, Preakness
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

Most Belmont Wins by Trainer

Wins	Trainer
8	James Rowe, Sr.
7	Sam Hildreth
6	Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons
5	Woody Stephens
4	D. Wayne Lukas*
4	R. W. Walden
4	Max Hirsch

7 trainers, including Todd Pletcher* and Bob Baffert* are tied with 3 wins each and 6 trainers, including Nick Zito* are tied with 2 wins each.

*Active

? Know This

Hot & Cold Favorites

The Belmont Stakes chalked up its mark to 42% all-time last year when Justify became the 63rd favorite to win in 150 editions of this race. However, favorites are just 2 for the last 13.

xpressbet
your way to play

Historian's Look at Belmont

By Jeff Siegel, XBTV.com

@jsiegelracing

Analysis: The spring classics of 2019 seem destined to produce 3 separate winners. Actually, it's an occurrence that is hardly unusual; since 2006, the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes have been won by a different horse no less than 8 times. After being placed third via disqualification in this year's Derby and then being held out of the Preakness, **TACITUS** – his namesake knew a little bit about the history of the Roman Empire – seems primed for a major performance in the Triple Crown's final jewel. Lightly raced, impeccably bred, improving with each outing and likely to thrive at 1 1/2-miles, the Bill Mott-trained son of Tapit has much on his resume to embrace.

Main Contenders: **TACITUS** doesn't have a great turn of foot; in fact, he is best described as a "grinder," but that's okay because at a 1 1/2-miles the colt able to produce an extended run, rather than a shorter burst of speed, has the advantage. In the Derby, **TACITUS** stayed on nicely through the stretch and was beaten just over 3 lengths while providing every indication that he'll continue to mature and develop. Preakness winner **WAR OF WILL** has the edge in tactical speed and can quicken with the best. However, there's a possibility that the Mark Casse-trained colt is not a true marathon-type.

Value Plays: Casse's "other" entrant, **SIR WINSTON**, ran surprisingly well when rallying from far back to finish an eager, but distant, second in the Peter Pan, and has trained impressively since. Based strictly on pedigree, he should love 12 furlongs and may provide trifecta players with some value in a race that has the potential to come up chalky. Though there is nothing in his form that would indicate he's of this level, **SPINOFF** is worth a small look simply because he projects as the controlling speed, and if not respected, may be able to carry the field to at least the top of the stretch.

\$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$70 Win: **TACITUS** (\$70)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **TACITUS**, **WAR OF WILL** and **SIR WINSTON** (\$30)



Stats & Trends

Belmont Launching Pads

(Final Preps Last 10 Belmonts)

Year	Winner	Race	Track	Fin.
2018	Justify	Preakness	Pim	1st
2017	Tapwrit	Ky Derby	CD	6th
2016	Creator	Ky Derby	CD	13th
2015	American Pharoah	Preakness	Pim	1st
2014	Tonalist	Peter Pan	Bel	1st
2013	Palace Malice	Ky Derby	CD	12th
2012	Union Rags	Ky Derby	CD	7th
2011	Ruler On Ice	F. Tesio	Pim	2nd
2010	Drosselmeyer	Dwyer	Bel	2nd
2009	Summer Bird	Ky Derby	CD	6th

Last 40 Belmont Winners

- 15 Skipped Derby & Preakness
- 13 Raced in Derby & Preakness
- 11 Raced in Derby & Skipped Preakness
(2 had middle preps)
- 1 Skipped Derby & Ran in Preakness

? Know This

Justifiable

Justify's (2018) wire-to-wire win was the third of its kind at Belmont since 1984. Previously, longshot Da' Tara (2008) stole the show.

Foreign Flavor

Recent Belmont Stakes have featured placed international runners including runner-up Gronkowski (2018) via England and third-place finisher Lani (2016) from Japan. Ireland's Go and Go (1990) is the last non-North American to win the Belmont.

Pimlico Imperfecta

The 1-2 finishers in the Preakness haven't repeated at Belmont since Point Given and AP Valentine (2001). The exacta reversal hasn't occurred since Victory Gallop thwarted Real Quiet's (1998) Triple Crown bid.

Jeff's Picks

1. **TACITUS**
2. **WAR OF WILL**
3. **SIR WINSTON**
4. **SPINOFF**

xpressbet
your way to play

'Will Can Win Another Jewel

By Jon White, Santa Anita Oddsmaker
@PostTimeJon

Analysis: WAR OF WILL could be the only horse to run in all three Triple Crown events this year. It's never easy for a horse to face fresher foes in the Belmont. But something that could help WAR OF WILL is the 6-week gap he had between the Louisiana Derby and the Kentucky Derby. Because WAR OF WILL didn't get much out of the Louisiana Derby, the Preakness really was only his second meaningful race since the Risen Star on Feb. 16. WAR OF WILL has never been beaten on dirt except when he misfired in the Louisiana Derby and when impeded in the Kentucky Derby. Also, since 1996, only Curlin (1:53.46, 2007) has won the Preakness in a faster time than WAR OF WILL (1:54.34). Tapit is the sire of TACITUS and INTREPID HEART. Tapit, remarkably, has sired 3 of the last 5 Belmont winners—Tonalist (2014); Creator (2016) and Tapwrit (2017). Exacta players should beware of SPINOFF and INTREPID HEART trained by Todd Pletcher. Pletcher has posted 8 Belmont Stakes exacta finishes in the last 13 years--3 winners & 5 runners-up. Perhaps a line can be drawn through SPINOFF'S Kentucky Derby because of the wet track. INTREPID HEART is being asked to go 1-1/2 miles with just 3 races under his belt.

Main Contenders: Preakness victor WAR OF WILL certainly merits much respect. So does TACITUS, who exhibited good late energy to finish fourth (placed third) in the Kentucky Derby after being 16th early. TACITUS' trainer, Bill Mott, won the 2010 Belmont with Drosselmeyer. TACITUS' owner, Juddmonte Farms, won the 2003 Belmont with Empire Maker. SIR WINSTON rallied for second in the 9-furlong Peter Pan and might relish going longer in the Belmont. SIR WINSTON is a grandson of 2005 Belmont winner Afleet Alex.

Value Plays: Japan's MASTER FENCER finished seventh at 58-1 in the Kentucky Derby, but he did close strongly to lose by only 4 lengths after being 23 lengths behind early. That effort makes him dangerous in the longer Belmont.

\$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$60 Win: WAR OF WILL (\$60)
- \$12 Exacta Box: WAR OF WILL and TACITUS (\$24)
- \$6 Exacta Part-Wheel: TACITUS over SIR WINSTON and SPINOFF (\$12)
- \$1 Exacta Part-Wheel: WAR OF WILL over EVERFAST, SIR WINSTON, SPINOFF and TAX (\$4)

Jon's Picks

1. WAR OF WILL
2. TACITUS
3. SIR WINSTON
4. SPINOFF



Stats & Trends

Active Jockeys to Win Belmont

Year	Jockey	Horse
2018	Mike Smith	Justify
2017	Jose Ortiz	Tapwrit
2016	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	Creator
2015	Victor Espinoza	American Pharoah
2014	Joel Rosario	Tonalist
2013	Mike Smith	Palace Malice
2012	John Velazquez	Union Rags
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	Jazile
2005	Jeremy Rose	Afleet Alex
2004	Edgar Prado	Birdstone
2002	Edgar Prado	Sarava

? Know This

The One & Only

The Belmont Stakes is the only Grade 1 dirt stakes race in America longer than 1 1/4 miles.

Baltimore Bridesmaids

The Preakness runner-up hasn't won the Belmont Stakes since Victory Gallop (1998). In the '80s, only Easy Goer (1989) and Bet Twice (1987) parlayed Preakness seconds into Belmont wins. Editor's Note (1996) is the last Preakness third-place finisher to win the Belmont Stakes.

Peter Panned

The Belmont Stakes' local prep, the Peter Pan, produced Belmont winner Tonalist and runner-up Commissioner (2014). Prior to that, no horse had swept both races since AP Indy (1992), and no horse exiting the Peter Pan had won the Belmont Stakes since Lemon Drop Kid (1999).

Measuring Up

The Belmont is 440 yards longer than the Kentucky Derby and 550 yards longer than the Preakness.

Lean to the Genes

By Dick Jerardi, Daily Racing Form
@DickJerardi

Analysis: Other than longshot JOEVIA, there is little early speed expected. The pace should be moderate, making this a true stamina test. TACITUS ran a sneaky-good race in the Derby when fourth before being moved up to third. It looked like the colt hated all the slop he was taking early, so he completely lost position. He was more or less trapped behind that slowly-moving wall until the quarter pole. He held off Game Winner and passed Improbable in the stretch when finally clear and was going best of all in the gallop out. WAR OF WILL was very good in the Preakness, but I thought he should have won by more with a dream trip against a pretty weak bunch. He could certainly win again, but I think he is a bet-against off that trip.

Main Contenders: Put a line through the Louisiana Derby when WAR OF WILL was eliminated at the start and the Preakness winner has won 4 of his other 5 dirt races, along with a troubled-trip eighth (placed seventh) in the Derby. TACITUS is by Tapit, a 3-time Belmont-winning sire (Tonalist 2014, Creator 2016 and Tapwrit 2017) out of Close Hatches, a multiple Grade 1 winner. This colt could not be bred better for the 1 1/2-miles. SIR WINSTON came from way back behind a hot pace to finish second in the Peter Pan, easily the best race of his career. SPINOFF was wide all the way in the Derby because he was not quite fast enough to get better position into the first turn. He fits the pattern of Todd Pletcher's 3 Belmont winners and 1 near miss: Run Derby weekend and then wait for the Belmont. MASTER FENCER came with an amazing final quarter run in Louisville after essentially galloping around behind the field for the first mile of the Derby, but turned in a disconcerting pre-Belmont workout.

Value Plays: INTREPID HEART, another son of Tapit, may be one of the few still running in the stretch. SPINOFF, also from the Todd Pletcher barn, figures to be a decent price and has some upside for a trainer with 3 Belmont victories.

\$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$60 Exacta: TACITUS over INTREPID HEART (\$60)
- \$40 Exacta: TACITUS over SPINOFF (\$40)

Dick's Picks

1. TACITUS
2. INTREPID HEART
3. SPINOFF
4. WAR OF WILL



Stats & Trends

Odds-On Belmont Starters

(Since 1979)

Year	Horse	Fin.	Odds
2018	Justify	1st	4-5
2015	American Pharoah	1st	3-5
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

Notable: 8 of the last 10 odds-on favorites have lost the Belmont Stakes.

Tapit Offspring in Belmont

(Since 2014)

Year	Horse	Fin.
2018	Hofburg	3rd
2017	Tapwrit	1st
2016	Creator	1st
2015	Frosted	2nd
2014	Tonalist	1st

Where Belmont Winners Were Bred

State	Number
Kentucky	99
Virginia	11
New Jersey	7
Florida	6
NY, PA, TN	3
CA, MD, TX	2

? Know This

Historic Hurdle

Only Hansel (1991) has won the Preakness and Belmont after finishing worse than 6th in the Kentucky Derby. War of Will, 7th in Louisville, attempts to join Hansel and become the 19th horse in history to win Preakness and Belmont without winning the Derby. Last was Afleet Alex (2005).

xpressbet
your way to play

You Gotta Have 'Heart

By Steve Byk, At the Races (SiriusXM)

@Steve_Byk

Analysis: It was clear immediately after the Derby that this year would be the third time in 4 years that there would be no Triple Crown attempt. But **WAR OF WILL** has the opportunity to become the first Preakness-Belmont dual classic winner since Afleet Alex (2005), with the last 4 attempts -- Curlin (2nd), Shackelford (5th), Oxbow (2nd) and Exaggerator (11th) -- having failed. Also noteworthy are the Derby winners/Preakness losers that sought a 2nd Crown in the Belmont with Orb third behind Palace Malice (2013) and Mine That Bird third behind Summer Bird (2009). Horses in **WAR OF WILL'S** unique position almost always run well. He seeks a significant achievement versus 4 fresh Derby players (**TACITUS**, **MASTER FENCER**, **TAX**, **SPINOFF**); the 2-3 finishers from the Peter Pan (**SIR WINSTON**, **INTREPID HEART**); Preakness runner-up **EVERFAST** and Long Branch winner **JOEVIA**.

Main Contenders: **WAR OF WILL** has the right running style for the Belmont. Juddmonte's **TACITUS** will vie for favoritism with **WAR OF WILL** and possesses countless attributes necessary for success in Elmont. Belmont victories by sons of Tapit (Tapwrit, Creator, Tonalist) helped herald the sire's rise to preeminent status and dam Close Hatches was a 3-time Grade 1 winner at 9 furlongs. Bill Mott won the race with Drosselmeyer in 2010 and was third last year with Hofburg. Jockey Jose Ortiz won his first Belmont 2 years ago on Tapwrit.

Value Plays: Trainer Todd Pletcher owns a record of 23: 3-5-4 in the Belmont since 2006 and lightly-raced **INTREPID HEART** (another son of Tapit) has been pointing for this opportunity since his maiden win. Third in the Peter Pan after a stumbling start, he is capable of laying down even quarters in this stayers standard. Bred top and bottom for the trip out of a mare by 1997 Belmont winner Touch Gold, he is a half to Commissioner (A.P. Indy), who at 28-1 was nailed at the wire by Tonalist (2014). He won't be a \$58 horse like his brother, but **INTREPID HEART** is the right square price contender.

\$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$50 Win: **INTREPID HEART** (\$50)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **INTREPID HEART**, **WAR OF WILL**, **TACITUS** (\$30)
- \$10 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **WAR OF WILL**, **TACITUS** with **WAR OF WILL**, **TACITUS** with **INTREPID HEART** (\$20)

Steve's Picks

1. **INTREPID HEART**
2. **WAR OF WILL**
3. **TACITUS**
4. **SIR WINSTON**



Stats & Trends

Fastest Belmont Final Times

Year	Time	Horse
1973	2:24	Secretariat
1989	2:26	Easy Goer
1992		A.P. Indy
2001	2:26 2/5	Point Given
1988		Risen Star
2015	2:26 3/5	American Pharoah
1978	2:26 4/5	Affirmed

Most Belmont Mounts

(1940-Present)

Jockey	Mounts
Eddie Arcaro	22
John Velazquez*	22
Angel Cordero	21
Jerry Bailey	20
Mike Smith*	20

*Active

2018 Belmont Handle in Millions

Pool	Handle
Win, Place, Show	\$ 27.3
Trifecta	\$ 18.8
Exacta	\$ 13.3
Superfecta	\$ 11.3
Pick 4	\$ 4.6
Pick 6	\$ 1.6

? Know This

Baltimore Bypass

15 of the last 19 Belmont winners skipped the Preakness. Preakness winners that also won the Belmont during that span were Justify (2018), American Pharoah (2015), Afleet Alex (2005), Point Given (2001).

Iron Mike

Jockey Mike Smith aboard Justify (2018) became the oldest jockey to pilot a Triple Crown winner, 9 years the senior of Victor Espinoza, American Pharoah's (2015) rider, and 15 years older than Jean Cruguet, who was aboard Seattle Slew (1977).

xpressbet
your way to play