BELMONT STAKES

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JUN11/2022

BELMONT

BELMONT PARK

BELMONT STAKES

1	**WE THE PEOPLE (2/1)** Owner: WinStar Farm, CMNWLTH & Siena Farm Trainer: Rodolphe Brisset Jockey: Flavien Prat

2	**SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING (20/1)** Owner: Daniel Alonso Trainer: Saffie Joseph Jr. Jockey: Manuel Franco

3	**NEST (8/1)** Owner: Repole Stable, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners & Michael House Trainer: Todd Pletcher Jockey: Jose Ortiz

4	**RICH STRIKE (7/2)** Owner: RED TR-Racing Trainer: Eric Reed Jockey: Sonny Leon

5	**CREATIVE MINISTER (6/1)** Owner: Fern Circle Stables, Magdalena Racing & Back Racing Trainer: Ken McPeek Jockey: Brian Hernandez Jr.

6	**MO DONEGAL (5/2)** Owner: Donegal Racing & Repole Stable Trainer: Todd Pletcher Jockey: Irad Ortiz Jr.

7	**GOLDEN GLIDER (20/1)** Owner: Gary Barber, Manfred Conrad & Penny Conrad Trainer: Mark Casse Jockey: Dylan Davis

8	**BARBER ROAD (10/1)** Owner: WSS Racing Trainer: John Ortiz Jockey: Joel Rosario

*Odds listed are Belmont morning line odds.*

MEET THE BELMONT CONTENDERS

RICH STRIKE: The Kentucky Derby winner became the first healthy horse to bypass the Preakness after such a victory since Spend a Buck in 1985. Now he'll try to become the first Derby-Belmont (only) winner since Thunder Gulch in 1995 and the first in history to do so without running in the Preakness. His scintillating rally in the Kentucky Derby from 17 lengths back may have to be curbed at Belmont, where it's been since 2006 that a winner closed more than 10 lengths.

MO DONEGAL: The Wood Memorial winner posted the second-fastest final quarter-mile in the Kentucky Derby behind Rich Strike and takes the typical Todd Pletcher path from the Derby to the Belmont with 5 weeks in-between. Three-time Belmont winner Pletcher can join a list of only 8 trainers to win this race 4 or more times. The last Wood winner to add the Belmont was Empire Maker in 2003.

CREATIVE MINISTER: The lightly raced Preakness third-place finisher did so in just his third start, earning back the confidence and dollars of his $150,000 late Triple Crown supplemental fee. Now in the black, his connections will look for Belmont success. Trainer Kenny McPeek upset this race with 70-1 shot Sarava 20 years ago.
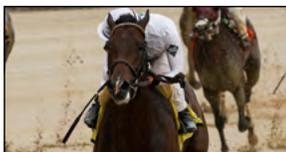
WE THE PEOPLE: Cruise-control winner of the local Peter Pan Stakes, this Oaklawn spring sophomore has either blossomed or flourished over the wet track last out at Belmont. Sir Winston used the Peter Pan to score here in 2019, but no horse has swept the Peter Pan and Belmont since Tonalist upset California Chrome's Triple Crown bid in 2014.

BARBER ROAD: One of the strongest finishers in the Kentucky Derby, this late runner exits a sixth-place finish in Louisville. While he's lost 6 races in a row, each has come with commendable effort. His 20-length early deficit in the Derby likely will have to be truncated to be effective at Belmont.
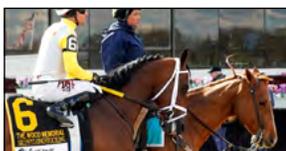
SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING: Third in the Wood Memorial to Belmont rival Mo Donegal, he exits a fifth-place finish in the Preakness Stakes while making his Triple Crown debut. He joins Creative Minister as the only holdovers from Baltimore to Belmont. His signature win to date is a Gulfstream allowance at 1-1/8 miles.
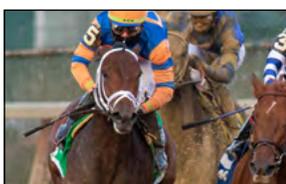
NEST: The Kentucky Oaks runner-up ran one of spring's most impressive races when cruising in the Ashland at Keeneland. She has a distance pedigree for this race, and we've seen Todd Pletcher win this race with a filly, Rags to Riches in 2007. Pletcher also has Mo Donegal in this race and it's interesting that Nest has been working toe-to-toe in company with that one in the mornings.

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HANDICAP THE BELMONT LIKE EDDIE OLCZYK

Similar to this year's Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes, we asked renowned 1/ST and NBC handicapper Eddie Olczyk which handicapping angles he applies when analyzing the Belmont Stakes. Now, for the first time, you can reconstruct Edzo's Belmont Stakes approach and put it to work for yourself by combining forces with the 1/ST BET app.

"Almost everything for me when it comes to the Belmont Stakes zeroes in on the mile and one-half distance," Olczyk explained. "You certainly have to realize there are limitations and restrictions for some horses who simply can't get the distance. Past running lines, running style and breeding can tell us the most."

BREEDING MATTERS

Eddie leans heavily on pedigree in the Belmont, and the 1/ST BET algorithm could not agree more. How important is pedigree to the Belmont? Consider:
Top 1/ST BET Belmont Stakes Distance Pedigree Ratings
- 2021   Essential Quality   WON
- 2020   Tiz the Law   WON
- 2017   Tapwrit   WON

1/ST BET FACTORS TO APPLY

🐴	DISTANCE PEDIGREE RATING
🐴	DIRT PEDIGREE RATING

FINISHING ABILITY

As the longest Triple Crown race by 440 yards, horses with an ability to finish strong over the previously shorter distances are coveted. That's not necessarily come-from-behind horses, but rather those who have a sustained late kick from any spot in the race. The factors here lean less toward the early (E1, E2) pace of the Derby and Preakness and more to those who can sustain it. Overall speed is still important, but given we've seen so many poor Derby performances improved upon at Belmont, give a horse a mulligan for a poor showing.

1/ST BET FACTORS TO APPLY

📈	LAST LATE PACE
📈	AVG. LAST 3 LATE PACE
📈	LAST TURN TIME
📈	AVG. LAST 3 TURN TIMES
📈	AVG. BEST 2 OF LAST 3 SPEED

EXTRA POINTS

"Past experience at Belmont Park can be a decider when choosing between evenly-matched horses who never raced at Belmont versus ones who have," Olczyk said. "Good Belmont experience gets some preference on the horse-for-course if runners are of similar ability. And, always prepare for an off track. If it comes up wet, consider the wet track factors."

1/ST BET FACTORS TO APPLY

📈	BEST SPEED TODAY'S TRACK
🏆	AVG. EARNINGS TODAY'S TRACK
📈	BEST SPEED OFF TRACK
🐴	MUD PEDIGREE RATING

FACTORS THROUGH HISTORY
BELMONT STAKES 2018-2021

We searched the 1/ST BET archives to re-examine the last four editions of the Belmont Stakes. See where the winners ranked best in their respective fields in terms of handicapping factors, and look for those commonalities with this year's runners when using the 1/ST BET app to handicap the final jewel in the Triple Crown. Learn more.

2021

WINNER: ESSENTIAL QUALITY
RANKED 1ST IN 18 CATEGORIES

🐎	DISTANCE PEDIGREE RATING
🏆	AVG. OFF TRACK EARNINGS
📈	SPEED SPEED OFF TRACK
🐎	AVG. RACES CLASSES
🏆	AVG. LIFETIME EARNINGS
📈	HORSES BEATEN %
📈	WIN %
📈	AVG. SPEED LAST 3
🏆	AVG. LAST 3 PURSE
👥	TRAINER CURRENT YEAR
👥	TRAINER WIN % 6 MO.
📈	IN THE MONEY %
📈	AVG. BEST 2 OF LAST 3 SPEED
👥	TRAINER WIN % 1 YR.
👥	TRAINER CURRENT MEET
👥	TRAINER-JOCKEY WIN % 2 YRS.
📈	AVG. OF LAST 3 LATE PACE
👥	TRAINER JOCKEY ROI MEET

HORSES WHO LED MOST FACTORS:
ESSENTIAL QUALITY (18),
ROMBAUER (9), BOURBONIC (6)

Essential Quality (2021)

2020

WINNER: TIZ THE LAW
RANKED 1ST IN 13 CATEGORIES

📈	AVG. BEST 2 OF LAST 3 SPEED
📈	BEST SPEED LAST 3
🏆	WIN PERCENT
📈	BEST LIFETIME SPEED
📈	BEST SPEED FAST TRACK
🏆	AVG. LIFETIME EARNINGS
👥	TRAINER CURRENT YEAR
🏆	AVG. EARNINGS TODAY'S DISTANCE
🏆	AVG. EARNINGS TODAY'S TRACK
📈	BEST SPEED OFF TRACK
📈	BEST SPEED THIS DISTANCE
🐎	DISTANCE PEDIGREE RATING
📈	TRAINER WIN % 6 MONTHS

HORSES WHO LED MOST FACTORS:
TIZ THE LAW (13), SOLE VOLANTE (8),
TAP IT TO WIN (8)

2019

WINNER: SIR WINSTON
RANKED 1ST IN 6 CATEGORIES

🏆	AVG. ALL WEATHER EARNINGS
📈	BEST SPEED ALL WEATHER
📈	SPEED LAST RACE
📈	BEST SPEED TRACK
🏆	AVG. EARNINGS TRACK
👥	TRAINER CURRENT MEET

HORSES WHO LED MOST FACTORS:
JOEVIA (9), TAX (7), SIR WINSTON (6),
TACITUS (6)

2018

WINNER: JUSTIFY
RANKED FIRST IN 28 FACTORS

📈	SPEED LAST RACE
📈	LAST E2 PACE
📈	LAST E1 PACE
📈	BEST SPEED LAST 3
🏆	AVG. LAST 3 PURSE
📈	LAST TURN TIME
📈	AVG. OF LAST 3 E1 PACE
👥	TRAINER WIN % 2 YRS
📈	BEST LIFETIME SPEED
📈	AVG. OF LAST 3 E2 PACE
📈	BEST SPEED OFF TRACK
🏆	AVG. OFF TRACK EARNINGS
📈	BEST SPEED FAST TRACK
📈	AVG. LAST 3 RACES CLASSES
🏆	WIN PERCENT
👥	TRAINER CURRENT YEAR
🏆	LAST FINISH POSITION
🏆	AVG. LIFETIME EARNINGS
📈	AVG. SPEED LAST 3
🏆	HORSES BEATEN %
👥	TRAINER WIN % 1 YEAR
🏆	IN THE MONEY %
📈	DAYS SINCE LAST RACE
📈	AVG. BEST 2 OF LAST 3 SPEED
👥	JOCKEY WIN % 1 YEAR
👥	TRAINER-JOCKEY WIN % 2 YEARS
🏆	AVG. EARNINGS TODAY'S DISTANCE
📈	BEST SPEED THIS DISTANCE

HORSES WHO LED MOST FACTORS:
JUSTIFY (28), HOFBURG (6),
FREE DROP BILLY (3)

FACTOR CATEGORIES:

📈	= PERFORMANCE	👥	= JOCKEY+ TRAINER
🏆	= RESULTS	🐎	= PEDIGREE

1/ST BET: BELMONT STAKES
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	HORSE	WIN%	PLACE%	SHOW%	FAIR ODDS
1	WE THE PEOPLE	29%	58%	74%	5/2
2	SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING	7%	15%	19%	13/1
3	NEST	10%	22%	46%	10/1
4	RICH STRIKE	8%	19%	35%	12/1
5	CREATIVE MINISTER	13%	22%	35%	7/1
6	MO DONEGAL	19%	39%	51%	9/2
7	GOLDEN GLIDER	6%	10%	21%	15/1
8	BARBER ROAD	7%	15%	19%	13/1

Race # - Post Time		Win%	Fair Odds

RACE 1 (11:20 AM ET) // ALLOWANCE ($80K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
7	WIN FOR GOLD	23%	7/2
4	SAFALOW'S MISSON	20%	4/1
3	MY LAST MISSION	14%	6/1
8	UNIQUE UNIONS	14%	6/1

RACE 2 (11:55 AM ET) // ALLOWANCE ($92K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
1A	BRIGHT FUTURE	27%	5/2
6	THREE JOKERS	15%	6/1
7	ALADO	13%	7/1
2	UNCLE MOONLIGHT	11%	9/1

RACE 3 (12:33 PM ET) // G1 ACORN ($500K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
5	ECHO ZULU	33%	2/1
4	MATAREYA	29%	5/2
3	DIVINE HUNTRESS	15%	6/1
2	INVENTING	13%	7/1

RACE 4 (1:08 PM ET) // G1 JUST A GAME ($500K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
2	REGAL GLORY	31%	2/1
1	LEGGS GALORE	21%	4/1
3	SPEAK OF THE DEVIL	18%	9/2
5	WAKANAKA	16%	5/1

RACE 5 (1:47 PM ET) // G2 BROOKLYN ($400K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
5	FIRST CONSTITUTION	30%	5/2
3	WARRANT	21%	4/1
7	FEARLESS	14%	6/1
1	LONE ROCK	11%	9/1

RACE 6 (2:22 PM ET) // G1 WOODY STEPHENS ($400K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
1	JACK CHRISTOPHER	31%	2/1
4	MORELLO	22%	7/2
6	PROVOCATEUR	16%	5/1
2	PAPPACAP	11%	9/1

RACE 7 (3:05 PM ET) // G1 PHIPPS ($500K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
3	MALATHAAT	32%	2/1
4	CLAIRIERE	29%	5/2
1	LETRUSKA	18%	9/2
2	BONNY SOUTH	12%	8/1

RACE 8 (3:53 PM ET) // G1 JAIPUR ($400K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
9	FILO DI ARIANNA	17%	5/1
13	GREGORIAN CHANT	17%	5/1
5	ARREST ME RED	17%	5/1
8	SCUTTLEBUZZ	9%	10/1

RACE 9 (4:43 PM ET) // G1 MET MILE ($1M)

		Win%	Fair Odds
1	FLIGHTLINE	33%	2/1
3	ALOHA WEST	29%	5/2
2	SPEAKER'S CORNER	15%	6/1
4	HAPPY SAVER	13%	7/1

RACE 10 (5:38 PM ET) // G1 MANHATTAN ($750K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
7	TRIBHUVAN	23%	7/2
6	ROCKEMPEROR	18%	9/2
9	SANTIN	13%	7/1
3	TOKYO GOLD	11%	8/1

RACE 11 (6:44 PM ET) // G1 BELMONT STAKES ($1.5M)

		Win%	Fair Odds
1	WE THE PEOPLE	29%	5/2
6	MO DONEGAL	19%	9/2
5	CREATIVE MINISTER	13%	7/1
3	NEST	10%	10/1

RACE 12 (7:29 PM ET) // MAIDEN CLAIMING ($55K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
7	FLOKI'S FLIGHT	23%	5/2
12	NORTH CAROLINA	14%	6/1
8	AL'S ROCKET	14%	6/1
5	ZUZUDINI	11%	9/1

RACE 13 (8:05 PM ET) // ALLOWANCE ($80K)

		Win%	Fair Odds
10	ACT OF CONGRESS	20%	4/1
12	PALACE GOSSIP	15%	6/1
4	SHAMALAMADINGDONG	15%	6/1
6	FONTANAFREDDA	10%	9/1

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BELMONT STAKES
WAGERING FACTS

Below are some informative wagering tidbits from past Belmont events.

WIN-PLACE-SHOW ODDS
(Last 20 Years, Odds to $1)
Average Win Odds: 13.46-to-1
High Win Odds: 70.25-to-1 (Sarava, 2002)
Low Win Odds: .75-to-1 (American Pharoah, 2015)
Notable: 4 of the last 7 winners were 6-to-5 or less, including Essential Quality a year ago.

Average Place Odds: 8.71-to-1
High Place Odds: 28-to-1 (Commissioner, 2014)
Low Place Odds: 1.95-to-1 (Tacitus, 2019)
Notable: 6 of the last 7 runners-up have been single-digit odds.

Average Show Odds: 12.78-to-1
High Show Odds: 34.25-to-1 (Anak Nakal, 2008)
Low Show Odds: 1.00-to-1 (Funny Cide, 2003)
Notable: Orb in 2013 was the last Belmont favorite to finish third.

EXACTA PAYOFFS
(Last 20 years, $2 Payoffs)
Average $2 Exacta Payoff: $295.05
High $2 Exacta Payoff: $2454.00 (Sarava-Medaglia d'Oro, 2002)
Low $2 Exacta Payoff: $13.60 (American Pharoah-Frosted, 2015)
Notable: 6 of the last 7 Belmont Stakes $2 exactas have paid $96 or less.

TRIFECTA PAYOFFS
(Last 20 years, $1 Payoffs)
Average $1 Trifecta Payoff: $1412.41
High $1 Trifecta Payoff: $12,504.50 (Sarava-Medaglia d'Oro-Sunday Break, 2002)
Low $1 Trifecta Payoff: $21.70 (Essential Quality-Hot Rod Charlie-Rombauer, 2021)
Notable: The $1 trifecta has paid $312 or less in 4 of the last 5 years.

SUPERFECTA PAYOFFS
(Last 20 years, $1 Payoffs)
Average $1 Superfecta Payoff: $9,904.40
High $1 Superfecta Payoff: $72,667 (Sarava-Medaglia d'Oro-Sunday Break-Magic Weisner, 2002)
Low $1 Superfecta Payoff: $60.70 (Essential Quality-Hot Rod Charlie-Rombauer-Known Agenda, 2021)
Average Odds of Fourth-place finishers: 10.86-to-1
Notable: Last year's superfecta was the smallest in Belmont history.

BELMONT STAKES FAVORITES (LAST 10 YEARS)

Year	Horse	Odds	Fin.
2021	Essential Quality	6-5	1st
2020	Tiz the Law	4-5	1st
2019	Tacitus	9-5	2nd
2018	Justify	4-5	1st
2017	Irish War Cry	5-2	2nd
2016	Exaggerator	7-5	11th
2015	American Pharoah	3-5	1st
2014	California Chrome	4-5	4th
2013	Orb	2-1	3rd
2012	Dullahan	5-2	7th

HIGHEST-PRICED SUPERFECTA FINISHERS
(Last 20 Years, Odds to $1)

Odds	Horse	Year	Fin.
70.25	Sarava	2002	1st
38.50	Da'Tara	2008	1st
36.00	Birdstone	2004	1st
34.25	Anak Nakal	2008	3rd/DH
28.75	Ready's Echo	2008	3rd/DH
28.00	Commissioner	2014	2nd

-No horse over 25-1 in superfecta since 2008.

KENTUCKY DERBY-BELMONT WINNERS (NO TRIPLE CROWN)

Year	Horse
1995	Thunder Gulch
1984	Swale
1976	Bold Forbes
1972	Riva Ridge
1963	Chateaugay
1956	Needles
1950	Middleground
1942	Shut Out
1939	Johnstown
1931	Twenty Grand
1923	Zev

--All also competed in Preakness

2021 BELMONT HANDLE (IN MILLIONS)
WPS: $22.0
Trifecta: $11.1
Exacta: $10.2
Super: $6.9
Pick 4: $2.4
Pick 6: $1.6

BELMONT STAKES

GRADE 1 - $1,500,000
3YO – 1 1/2 MILES (DIRT)

FADE THE FAIRY TALE

By Patrick Meagher, @TheWrapRadio

ANALYSIS: RICH STRIKE shockingly stormed past the betting favorites down the stretch at Churchill Downs to win the Kentucky Derby as an 80-1 longshot. I happened to be on site at Churchill for this historic upset and to say onlookers were stunned is an understatement! When RICH STRIKE, ridden brilliantly by Sonny Leon, crossed the finish line you could hear a pin drop as very few in attendance were familiar with the trainer, the jockey or even the horse. Immediately, the fairy tale of this unknown horse with unknown connections running for a Triple Crown was dashed when it was announced RICH STRIKE would not run in the Preakness Stakes. RICH STRIKE appears to be up to the challenge in the 'Test of the Champion.' He has been focused and professional in his training leading up to the 154th running of the Belmont Stakes.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Let's put this in perspective: RICH STRIKE went off at 80-1 in the Derby and one race later he'll be sub 4-1 vs multiple horses who have won graded stakes. THAT'S INSANE! I love the Cinderella story as much as everyone, but this pricing on RICH STRIKE forces me to fade him. Peter Pan winner WE THE PEOPLE is your morning line favorite at 2-1 and hopes to go wire-to-wire win as the speed of the race. WE THE PEOPLE feels short here as he has a TON to prove, though the No. 1 gate has produced the most winners in Belmont Stakes history. The more outstanding resume belongs to MO DONEGAL at 5-2. MO DONEGAL won the Wood Memorial impressively chasing down, and beating, the eventual Preakness winner Early Voting. This impeccably bred colt should be fresh for the Belmont.

VALUE PLAYS: NEST (8-1), the lone filly in the race, is trained by Todd Pletcher (also trainer of MO DONEGAL), who has won the Belmont three times in his Hall of Fame career (including filly Rags to Riches in 2007). Pletcher has repeatedly said NEST wants the mile and one-half. Her daddy is the great Curlin which points to stamina and favoring the distance. NEST has won 4 of her 6 races and finished top 3 in the other 2. CREATIVE MINISTER (6-1) is out of the Tapit mare Tamboz. Tapit has sired 4 winners of the Belmont Stakes, including last year's winner Essential Quality.

$100 WAGERING STRATEGY:
- $100 Exacta: MO DONEGAL over WE THE PEOPLE

EDDIE OLCZYK'S $100 BELMONT STRATEGY

- **$52 WIN:** WE THE PEOPLE
- **$10 EXACTA PART-WHEEL:** WE THE PEOPLE over MO DONEGAL, CREATIVE CAUSE, BARBER ROAD ($30)
- **$2 TRIFECTA KEY:** WE THE PEOPLE over MO DONEGAL, CREATIVE CAUSE and BARBER ROAD ($12)
- **$1 TRIFECTA KEY:** MO DONEGAL, CREATIVE CAUSE, BARBER ROAD with WE THE PEOPLE with MO DONEGAL, CREATIVE CAUSE, BARBER ROAD ($6)

BELMONT BETTING MENU

In addition to the traditional wagering menu, consider this weekend:
- **Friday-Saturday** | 20-cent all-stakes pick 6 (True North, New York + Woody Stephens, Jaipur, Manhattan, Belmont) | 15% takeout
- **Friday-Saturday** | $2 all-stakes pick four (New York, Intercontinental + Manhattan, Belmont) | 24% takeout
- **Friday-Saturday** | $1 daily doubles (New York-Met Mile; Intercontinental-Ogden Phipps; True North-Jaipur; Belmont Gold Cup-Belmont) | 18.5% takeout
- **Saturday** | $1 daily double (Met Mile-Belmont) | 18.5% takeout
- **Saturday** | $3 turf pick three (Just A Game, Jaipur, Manhattan) | 19% takeout

? KNOW THIS

No horse has won the Kentucky Derby, skipped the Preakness and won the Belmont, as Rich Strike will attempt. The last to try it was Gato del Sol in 1982, who finished second in his quest.

TOP 4 PICKS

1. MO DONEGAL	3. CREATIVE MINISTER
2. WE THE PEOPLE	4. NEST

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1/ST TECHNOLOGY

BELMONT STAKES

GRADE 1 - $1,500,000
3YO – 1 1/2 MILES (DIRT)

WHAT IF THE DERBY NEVER HAPPENED?

By Jeremy Plonk, @HorsePlayerNow

ANALYSIS: Picture yourself handicapping this year's Belmont Stakes without May 7 on the calendar. Like an episode of 'The Twilight Zone,' the Kentucky Derby didn't happen. (Heck, that was the case in May 2020, so maybe this exercise isn't THAT crazy.) RICH STRIKE is just a common horse who chewed the bottom of some gimmicks at Turfway and is working fast at Churchill. MO DONEGAL is coming off a Wood Memorial victory against the new divisional leader, Preakness winner Early Voting. His trainer Todd Pletcher is going for a fourth Belmont score. MO DONEGAL might be the odds-on favorite in that scenario. As a handicapper, sometimes you benefit most when you simply draw a line through a race. Few will have the gumption to do that when it's the Kentucky Derby.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Derby winner RICH STRIKE did, in fact, win the big one with a big late move. His final quarter in Louisville, timed by Trakus, was the best by any horse in that race since Animal Kingdom in 2011. MO DONEGAL wasn't far off that with 2022's second-fastest come-home time. RICH STRIKE stayed inside, MO DONEGAL went outside after being shuffled back from his rail draw earlier on. With a smaller field and different race shape, it's not inconceivable to make up the 3-3/4 lengths needed. Remember, MO DONEGAL has won at Belmont already; RICH STRIKE's record reads like a Churchill horse-for-course until proven otherwise. Beyond those, Pletcher stablemate NEST was awesome in the Ashland and may have bounced a bit in the Kentucky Oaks when still good enough for second. She, too, has won over the track and is bred to run all day. WE THE PEOPLE likely gets overbet off the wet track dominance in the Peter Pan. On a dry track, we'll see if that effort was reality or Disney.

VALUE PLAYS: None projected. I see this race strictly running through the quartet of main players.

$100 WAGERING STRATEGY:
- $60 Exacta: MO DONEGAL over RICH STRIKE
- $40 Exacta: MO DONEGAL over NEST

📊 STATS & TRENDS

BELMONT WINNERS' LAYOFFS (SINCE 2012)

Days	Horse (Year)
35	Essential Quality (2021)
84	Tiz the Law (2020)
28	Sir Winston (2019)
21	Justify (2018)
35	Tapwrit (2017)
35	Creator (2016)
21	American Pharoah (2015)
28	Tonalist (2014)
35	Palace Malice (2013)
35	Union Rags (2012)

BELMONT WINNERS' POSITION AFTER 1 MILE

Lengths	Horse (Year)
-1/2	Essential Quality (2021)
-3 3/4	Sir Winston (2019)
+2	Justify (2018)
-2	Tapwrit (2017)
-3 1/2	Creator (2016)
+1 1/2	American Pharoah (2015)
-1	Tonalist (2014)
- 1/2	Palace Malice (2013)
-3 1/2	Union Rags (2012)
-1	Ruler On Ice (2011)

TAPIT FACTOR
Offspring of Tapit in Recent Belmont S.

Year	Horse	Fin.
'14	Tonalist	1st
'15	Frosted	2nd
'16	Creator	1st
'17	Tapwrit	1st
'18	Hofburg	3rd
'19	Tacitus	2nd
'21	Essential Quality	1st

TOP 4 PICKS

1. MO DONEGAL	3. NEST
2. RICH STRIKE	4. WE THE PEOPLE

1/ST BET

BELMONT STAKES
GRADE 1 - $1,500,000
3YO – 1 1/2 MILES (DIRT)

REAL DEAL "RICHIE" IS NO ONE-HIT WONDER

By Jeff Siegel @jsiegelracing

ANALYSIS: The key element in handicapping the 2022 Belmont Stakes is an accurate evaluation of the performance of RICH STRIKE in the Kentucky Derby. Was the victory by the "no chancer" merely a product of an extreme and unique set of circumstances that are highly unlikely to be duplicated at a different track and distance and under a pace scenario that projects to be the polar opposite? Or will RICH STRIKE verify the strength of that victory when facing a field that will not be nearly as deep or talented as the one he disposed of five weeks ago, when after being stymied in severe traffic from the far turn to the head of the lane he produced one of the most devastating late kicks ever seen in the Run for the Roses?

MAIN CONTENDERS: It may be difficult for many players to accept a short number on the same colt that just paid off at 80-1, but if price is preventing you from backing RICH STRIKE in the Belmont Stakes, we suggest you get over it. Simply stated and despite a deep-closing style that usually is a disadvantage at a marathon trip, RICH STRIKE is likely to win again. He's fresh, improving, bred to run all day, and looking terrific in the morning. The Todd Pletcher-trained pair of MO DONEGAL and NEST are as well, and it will be surprising if both don't produce career-top efforts. These are the three main contenders in a race with a relatively small field that promises to be cleanly run and offer a fair chance to all.

VALUE PLAYS: Anybody who can read a set of past performances knows that WE THE PEOPLE will be the controlling speed. And if catches the same type of wet track that propelled him to a 10-length win in the Peter Pan last month, the once-beaten son of Constitution could pull a "Conquistador Cielo" and wire the field. As this is penned, there is a chance for precipitation on Belmont Stakes day. If the skies open up, you have to toss him in.

$100 WAGERING STRATEGY:
- $60 Win: RICH STRIKE ($60)
- $5 Exacta Box: RICH STRIKE, MO DONEGAL, NEST ($30)
- $5 Exacta Box: RICH STRIKE, WE THE PEOPLE ($10)

BELMONT "LAST TIMES"

LAST...
KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER TO WIN:
Justify (2018)

PREAKNESS 3RD-PLACE FINISHER TO WIN:
Editor's Note (1996)

SKIPPED DERBY AND PREAKNESS TO WIN:
Sir Winston (2019)

PREPPED LAST AT BELMONT TO WIN:
Sir Winston (2019)

JOCKEY TO WIN BACK-TO-BACK:
Laffit Pincay, Jr. 1982-'84 three-peat on Conquistador Cielo, Caveat and Swale.

JOCKEY TO WIN HIS DEBUT:
Manny Franco (2020 Tiz the Law)

TRAINER TO WIN BACK-TO-BACK:
D. Wayne Lukas (1994-'96) three-peat with Tabasco Cat, Thunder Gulch and Editor's Note.

TRAINER TO WIN HIS DEBUT:
Brad Cox (2021 Essential Quality; prior Mark Casse (2019 Sir Winston)

FILLY TO WIN: Rags to Riches (2007)

FILLY TO COMPETE: Unlimited Budget (2013, 6th)

GELDING TO WIN: Ruler Once Ice (2011), prior to that Crème Fraiche (1985)

WIRE-TO-WIRE WINNER: Justify (2018)

WINNER TO CLOSE FROM MORE THAN 10 LENGTHS BACK: Jazil (2006)

TOP 4 PICKS

1. RICH STRIKE	3. NEST
2. MO DONEGAL	4. WE THE PEOPLE

xpressbet
1/ST TECHNOLOGY

BELMONT STAKES TOURNAMENT SERIES

THU//JUN9:

$80 FEEDER TOURNAMENT

- $50 BANKROLL + $30 ENTRY
- ONE $1,500 BELMONT STAKES CHALLENGE
  SEAT FOR EVERY 50 ENTRIES

FRI//JUN10:

$80 FEEDER TOURNAMENT

- $50 BANKROLL + $30 ENTRY
- ONE $1,500 BELMONT STAKES CHALLENGE
  SEAT FOR EVERY 50 ENTRIES

SAT//JUN11

$1,500 1/ST BELMONT STAKES CHALLENGE HANDICAPPNIG TOURNAMENT

- $1,000 BANKROLL + $500 ENTRY
- WIN NHC SEATS, BCBC SEATS, PWCBC SEATS & CASH

XBTV BELMONT STAKES WORKOUT ANALYSIS

By Milie Ball

HORSE	DATE	TRACK	DISTANCE	TIME
RICH STRIKE	5/21	CD	4F	:47.20 (7/138)

On May 21, Kentucky Derby winner Rich Strike had his first work since his crowning moment at the same venue, Churchill Downs. His exercise rider Gabe Lagunes hustled him away aggressively from the half-mile pole, clocking the first quarter in :22.80 (according to track clockers). It took Rich Strike two furlongs to find his rhythm, when turning for home, he dropped his head, changed leads on cue and leveled out nicely. He galloped out five-eighths in 1:00.60 with his ears pinned, but with minimal encouragement necessary.
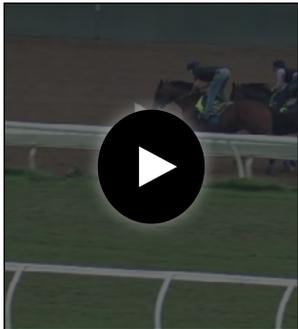
HORSE	DATE	TRACK	DISTANCE	TIME
RICH STRIKE	5/30	CD	5F	:59.00 (1/11)

Nine days later, as planned by trainer Eric Reed, Rich Strike worked back at Churchill Downs, this time between races during the afternoon. Again, Gabe Lagunes stayed busy, encouraging Rich Strike to reach top gear, more indicative of a horse working without company. He was timed in :11.80, :23.20 and 34.80, according to Churchill Downs clockers, reaching the wire in :59 flat. This meant he came home in 24.20 then galloped out 6 furlongs in 1:12 and 7 furlongs in 1:26. Those are solid fractions. He did show a little more objection this time, visible by his body language, when asked to continue galloping out. Rich Strike earned the bullet and looked sound and healthy in his stride when doing so. I cannot fault him based off these works.

Video provided by XBTV, the home of the latest workouts, analysis and more this Triple Crown Season and every other race day of the year.

BELMONT 154 EXPERT PICKS

We tasked our expert racing analysts across the 1/ST family to provide their selections for this year's third jewel in the Triple Crown.

JEFF SIEGEL	ASHLEY MAILLOUX	MICHELLE YU	NAOMI TUKKER
@jsiegelracing	@ashley_mailloux	@themichelleyu	@NaomiTukker
RICH STRIKE	MO DONEGAL	MO DONEGAL	CREATIVE MINISTER
MO DONEGAL	CREATIVE MINISTER	RICH STRIKE	SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING
NEST	RICH STRIKE	WE THE PEOPLE	MO DONEGAL
WE THE PEOPLE	WE THE PEOPLE	NEST	WE THE PEOPLE

JEREMY PLONK	TOM QUIGLEY	MILLIE BALL	RON NICOLETTI
@Horseplayernow	@quigleys_corner	@camillayakteen	@ronic17
MO DONEGAL	CREATIVE MINISTER	WE THE PEOPLE	WE THE PEOPLE
RICH STRIKE	WE THE PEOPLE	MO DONEGAL	MO DONEGAL
NEST	BARBER ROAD	BARBER ROAD	CREATIVE MINISTER
WE THE PEOPLE	MO DONEGAL	NEST	NEST

BRIAN NADEAU	MATT DINERMAN	ZOE CADMAN	JON WHITE
@Brian_J_Nadeau	@3coltshandicap	@zoecadman	@PostTimeJon
WE THE PEOPLE	MO DONEGAL	RICH STRIKE	RICH STRIKE
RICH STRIKE	WE THE PEOPLE	MO DONEGAL	WE THE PEOPLE
MO DONEGAL	NEST	NEST	MO DONEGAL
CREATIVE MINISTER	BARBER ROAD	WE THE PEOPLE	CREATIVE MINISTER

PETER LURIE	DUSTIN FABIAN	GEORGE ORTUZAR	EDDIE OLCZYK
@Peterlurievo	@1STBET	@georgeortuzar	@1STBET
WE THE PEOPLE	WE THE PEOPLE	MO DONEGAL	WE THE PEOPLE
MO DONEGAL	MO DONEGAL	NEST	MO DONEGAL
NEST	NEST	WE THE PEOPLE	BARBER ROAD
RICH STRIKE	CREATIVE MINISTER	RICH STRIKE	CREATIVE MINISTER

BELMONT 154
NEED-TO-KNOW

RACE DATE:	SATURDAY, JUNE 11
FIRST RACE POST TIME:	11:20 A.M. ET
PREAKNESS STAKES POST TIME:	6:44 P.M. ET
WATCH FREE AND WAGER:	ALL RACES ON 1/ST BET APP & XPRESSBET.COM
TELEVISION:	NBC, 5-7 PM ET; CNBC 3-5 PM ET
WAGERING NOTES:	SEE PAGE 11 FOR COMPLETE LIST OF ADDITIONAL WAGERS

BELMONT STAKES DAY LINEUP

Grade 1 Belmont Stakes	$1,500,000	3YO	1-1/2 miles
Grade 1 Metropolitan	$1,000,000	3&UP	1 mile
Grade 1 Manhattan Stakes	$750,000	3&UP	1-1/4 miles (turf)
Grade 1 Ogden Phipps	$500,000	4&UP FM	1-1/16 miles
Grade 1 Just A Game	$500,000	4&UP FM	1 mile (turf)
Grade 1 Acorn	$500,000	3YO F	1 mile
Grade 1 Woody Stephens	$400,000	3YO	7 furlongs
Grade 1 Jaipur	$400,000	3&UP	6 furlongs (turf)
Grade 2 Brooklyn	$400,000	4&UP	1-1/2 miles