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Pimlico® Baltimore May 16, 2015  
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# **x**b wager guide

MAY 16, 2015 • PIMLICO



California Chrome and Jockey Victor Espinoza win the 2014 Preakness Stakes

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Fellow Racing Fan,

## Welcome to Xpressbet's free Xpressbet.com Preakness Stakes Wager Guide

Congratulations to the connections of 2015 Kentucky Derby winner American Pharoah—owner Ahmed Zayat and his family, trainer Bob Baffert and his crew and jockey Victor Espinoza. The Kentucky Derby, first leg of the Triple Crown, is in the books and American Pharoah is headed to Pimlico in an attempt to move one step closer to becoming the 12th Triple Crown winner in history. Based on all the hype surrounding this colt and his convincing score in Louisville, he appears quite formidable at Old Hilltop.

It's probably prudent to leave Preakness handicapping to the experts and Xpressbet's free Preakness Wager Guide has a group of veterans who know their way around the track. We've recruited top handicappers, writers and broadcasters to examine the race—Analysis, Main Contenders, Value Plays and \$100 Wagering Strategies. Additionally, just about everything you'll need to handicap the race like a pro is in the guide. You'll also find useful Stats & Trends, a handy Exotic Wagering Chart and much more.

Xpressbet, official title sponsor of the Xpressbet.com Preakness Stakes, covers the race from top to bottom in the Guide and on our web site. Don't miss anything Xpressbet has to offer between now and when the horses break from the gate.

Xpressbet will offer online, phone and mobile device wagering on the final two legs of the Triple Crown—Preakness and Belmont Stakes. We invite you to wager with us during these outstanding events and throughout the racing year.

As a current account holder you already know that Xpressbet is the best place to watch and wager on worldwide harness and Thoroughbred racing. If you don't already have an Xpressbet account, act now and earn up to \$125 in bonus wagering credit! Complete details are available at Xpressbet.com.

Please enjoy this complimentary Preakness Wager Guide and make sure to return to the Xpressbet site for daily guide updates and to wager on Preakness, Belmont and worldwide racing action.

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

Sincerely,  
Ron Luniewski  
President  
Xpressbet

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## AMERICAN PHAROAH (4/5)

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



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## TALE OF VERVE (30/1)

Owner: Charles E. Fipke  
Trainer: Dallas Stewart  
Jockey: Joel Rosario



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## DORTMUND (7/2)

Owner: Kaleem Shah, Inc.  
Trainer: Bob Baffert  
Jockey: Martin Garcia



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## BODHISATTVA (20/1)

Owner: Jose Corrales  
Trainer: Jose Corrales  
Jockey: Trevor McCarthy



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## MR. Z (20/1)

Owner: Calumet Farm  
Trainer: D. Wayne Lukas  
Jockey: Corey Nakatani



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## DIVINING ROD (12/1)

Owner: Lael Stables  
Trainer: Arnaud Delacour  
Jockey: Javier C. Castellano



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## DANZIG MOON (15/1)

Owner: John C. Oxley  
Trainer: Mark E. Casse  
Jockey: Julien R. Leproux



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## FIRING LINE (4/1)

Owner: Arnold Zetcher, LLC  
Trainer: Simon Callaghan  
Jockey: Gary L. Stevens



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# Xpressbet.com Preakness Wagering Facts

By Jeremy Plonk *Horseplayernow.com*

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

## Win-Place-Show Odds

(Last 15 years, Odds to \$1)

## Win Odds

Average: 4.64

High: 15.40 (Oxbow, 2013)

Low: .20 (Big Brown, 2008)

Notable: Preakness winner has been 3-1 or less 11 of the last 15 years.

## Place Odds

Average: 13.28

High: 45.70 (Magic Weisner, 2002)

Low: .30 (Fusaichi Pegasus, 2000)

Notable: 5 of the last 6 runner-ups have been 10-1 or less.

## Show Odds

Average: 11.32

High: 29.40 (Hemingway's Key, 2006)

Low: 2.80 (Congaree, 2001)

Notable: No show horse under 4-1 odds since 2001.

## Longshot Winners

(10-1 or more, Since 1911)

<u>\$2 Payoff</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>
\$48.80	Master Derby	1975
\$45.60	Coventry	1925
\$40.70	Display	1926
\$39.40	Bee Bee Bee	1972
\$32.80	Oxbow	2013
\$31.00	Deputed Testamony	1983
\$28.20	Little Current	1974
\$27.80	Bernardini	2006
\$26.20	Nellie Morse	1924
\$26.00	Polynesian	1945
\$24.30	Pillory	1922
\$23.80	Greek Money	1962
\$22.20	Elocutionist	1976

## Exacta Payoffs

(Last 15 years, \$2 Payoffs)

Average: \$109.49

High: \$327.00 (War Emblem-Magic Weisner, 2002)

Low: \$18.20 (California Chrome-Ride On Curlin, 2014)

Notable: 2 of the last 3 Exactas paid \$18 and change.

## Trifecta Payoffs

(Last 15 years, \$1 Payoffs)

Average: \$654.53

High: \$3,912.80

(Bernardini-Sweetnorthernst-Hemingway's Key, 2006)

Low: \$35.40

(I'll Have Another-Bodemeister-Creative Cause, 2012)

Notable: Twice in the last 3 years the Preakness Trifecta returned \$38 or less.

## Superfecta Payoffs

(Last 15 years, \$1 Payoffs)

Average: \$3,813.85

(Average Odds of Fourth-place finishers is 12.1-1)

High: \$11,151.20 (Bernardini-Sweetnorthernst-Hemingway's Key-Brother Derek, 2006)

Low: \$173.80

(California Chrome-Ride On Curlin-Social Inclusion-General A Rod, 2014)

Notable: Last year's Preakness Super was the first to pay less than \$230.

## Highest-Priced Superfecta Finishers

(Last 15 Years, Odds to \$1)

<u>Odds</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
45.70	Magic Weisner	2002	2nd
39.90	Macho Again	2008	2nd
29.40	Hemingway's Key	2006	3rd
25.40	Flying Private	2009	4th
25.10	Racecar Rhapsody	2008	4th

## Expert Selection Grid

<b>Expert</b>	<b>Bob Neumeier</b> (NBC Sports)	<b>Mike Battaglia</b> (NBC Sports)	<b>Jeff Siegel</b> (Racing Analyst)	<b>Jon White</b> (Santa Anita)	<b>Dick Jerardi</b> (Daily Racing Form)	<b>Steve Byk</b> (SiriusXM Radio)
<b>First</b>	Firing Line	American Pharoah	American Pharoah	American Pharoah	American Pharoah	American Pharoah
<b>Second</b>	American Pharoah	Firing Line	Firing Line	Firing Line	Dortmund	Dortmund
<b>Third</b>	Dortmund	Dortmund	Dortmund	Dortmund	Firing Line	Danzig Moon
<b>Fourth</b>	Danzig Moon	Danzig Moon	Divining Rod	Divining Rod	Divining Rod	Firing Line

# Meet the Xpressbet.com Preakness Contenders

by Johnny D Xpressbet.com

## American Pharoah

The Kentucky Derby winner lived up to pre-race hype with a strong stretch run to outduel **FIRING LINE** to the finish.

**AMERICAN PHAROAH** and jockey Victor Espinoza enjoyed a trouble-free stalking trip in the Derby, but raced wide for much of the journey, including an especially wide path off the final turn. With the win, trainer Bob Baffert scored

his fourth Kentucky Derby tally and Espinoza earned number three out of just seven starts. Owner Ahmed Zayat won his first Kentucky Derby after an amazing trio of runner-up efforts by his horses. Baffert has won with five of 15 previous Preakness starters, so his Old Hilltop record in the second leg of the Triple Crown is solid. Three times he has trained the winner of the Derby and Preakness, but then failed to win the Belmont Stakes.

## Firing Line

The good news is that this one finished second in the Kentucky Derby. The bad news is that things really couldn't have gone much better for **FIRING LINE** than they did in Louisville...and he still couldn't hold off the relentless late thrust of **AMERICAN PHAROAH**. How can their finish positions be reversed in Baltimore in just two weeks? Well, the Preakness is a shorter distance than the Kentucky Derby. At one mile and three-sixteenths perhaps **FIRING LINE** will have a better chance to survive when the Derby winner comes calling.

Also, since **AMERICAN PHAROAH** raced much wider than **FIRING LINE**, it's possible that **'PHAROAH** may have over-exerted himself. That all might add up to a hill of beans when the gates open at Pimlico. **FIRING LINE**'s trainer Simon Callaghan maintains that his horse has earned a chance to square off against **AMERICAN PHAROAH** once more in the second leg of the Triple Crown, and he's got a valid point.

## Dortmund

Unbeaten in six starts, **DORTMUND** entered the Kentucky Derby with plenty in his favor. A shining copper coat, massive size, surprising quickness and a determined attitude all suggested that **DORTMUND** figured. There was a school of thought that argued anyone who 'liked' **DORTMUND**'s chances to win the race had to fancy **FIRING**

**LINE**'s just as much. They were as inseparable as BFF's in two Derby prep races—the Los Alamitos Futurity and Bob Lewis at Santa Anita. On each occasion, at the conclusion of a mile and one-sixteenth, a mere head separated them with **DORTMUND** on top. Things didn't turn out a whole lot differently between the two going the extended distance of a mile and one-quarter at Churchill Downs. **DORTMUND** and **FIRING LINE** again finished one position apart—second and third with **FIRING LINE** gaining the upper hand.

## Divining Rod

'New shooters'—horses that did not compete in the Kentucky Derby—always are an interesting aspect of handicapping the Xpressbet.com Preakness Stakes. This year one of those is Lexington Stakes winner **DIVINING ROD**, from the successful Arnaud Delacour stable. This son of Tapit began his career at Laurel Park in Maryland by breaking his maiden by nearly three lengths in a wire-to-wire score. He then shipped to

Tampa Bay Downs for the winter where he finished third in an allowance race, second by a neck to Ocean Knight in the Sam F. Davis and then third, beaten over seven lengths, in the Tampa Bay Derby. In the Lexington Stakes at Keeneland, **DIVINING ROD** stalked the early pacesetters, swept to the lead off the final turn and drew clear for a three-length tally. Expect him to attempt similar tactics in the Xpressbet.com Preakness Stakes.

## PREAKNESS WINNERS AS HORSE OF THE YEAR

<i>Year</i>	<i>Horse</i>
2015 . . . .	CALIFORNIA CHROME
2009 . . . .	RACHEL ALEXANDRA
2007 . . . .	CURLIN
2001 . . . .	POINT GIVEN
1999 . . . .	CHARISMATIC
1989 . . . .	SUNDAY SILENCE
1978 . . . .	AFFIRMED
1977 . . . .	SEATTLE SLEW
1973 . . . .	SECRETARIAT
1967 . . . .	DAMASCUS
1957 . . . .	BOLD RULER
1955 . . . .	NASHUA
1950 . . . .	HILL PRINCE
1949 . . . .	CAPOT
1948 . . . .	CITATION
1946 . . . .	ASSAULT
1943 . . . .	COUNT FLEET
1941 . . . .	WHIRLAWAY
1939 . . . .	CHALLEDON
1937 . . . .	WAR ADMIRAL

# America's Greatest (LOL)

by Bob Neumeier *NBC Sports Reporter*



**Analysis:** After reading and hearing about the exploits of **AMERICAN PHAROAH** in the Kentucky Derby, it is clear that the Derby winner is as great as: sliced bread, LeBron James, a MAC laptop, a cold beer after golf in the hot sun, rock n' roll music, a first-class seat, HD flat-screen televisions and a green flag from your neighborhood doctor. Is it fact or fiction that winning jockey Victor Espinoza had to whip **'PHAROAH** over 30 times before he won the race? And he's the greatest?!

**Main Contenders:** Winning the Derby gets any horse an automatic bid for the Preakness Stakes as a main contender. **AMERICAN PHAROAH** won the dash on the square – he was stalking, he was wide, he unleashed a kick when it counted, and he won the first jewel by a measured length over **FIRING LINE**, who failed to switch leads. Certainly, the second finisher deserves to be in the conversation. Despite setting a decent pace, **DORTMUND** failed to sustain in the stretch in Louisville, but must be respected in Baltimore. He lost (I lost), plain and simple.

**Value Plays:** With the favorite **AMERICAN PHAROAH** at 3/5 or 4/5, anything else must be viewed as a value play in the Xpressbet.com Preakness Stakes. John Q. Public was indeed correct to knock down **'PHAROAH** from 3/1 to 5/2 in a bulky field. That move takes money and conviction. Now, a win pool that includes **FIRING LINE** and **DORTMUND** at 5/2 or 3/1 (or maybe higher) gives that duo a chance to upset the favorite. All others may be viewed as value, but they are pie-in-the-sky. **BODHISATTVA** is a great tune, but the horse on my line should be 25/1. Unless you love the horse, **'PHAROAH** is no bargain in the win pool. In my view, a chalk must "lay over" the field to be considered. Both **FIRING LINE** and **DORTMUND** have a chance. If the former switches his lead on cue, then he's the one to beat. Here's hoping that could indeed be the case.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$60 Win: **FIRING LINE** (\$60)
- \$20 Exacta Box: **FIRING LINE** and **AMERICAN PHAROAH** (\$40)

## All Time Richest Preakness Entrants

Year	Horse	Earnings	Preakness Finish
2007	Street Sense	\$2,958,200	2nd
2015	American Pharoah	\$2,839,300	TBD
<b>2014</b>	<b>California Chrome</b>	<b>\$2,552,650</b>	<b>1st</b>

## Picks

1. FIRING LINE
2. AMERICAN PHAROAH
3. DORTMUND
4. DANZIG MOON

## Stats & Trends:

### Derby Winners in Preakness

(Last 12 Years)

Year	Horse	Fin.	Odds
<b>2014</b>	<b>California Chrome</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>1-2*</b>
2013	Orb	4th	3-5*
<b>2012</b>	<b>I'll Have Another</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>3-1</b>
2011	Animal Kingdom	2nd	2-1*
2010	Super Saver	8th	9-5*
2009	Mine That Bird	2nd	6-1
<b>2008</b>	<b>Big Brown</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>1-5*</b>
2007	Street Sense	2nd	6-5*
2006	Barbaro	dnf	1-2*
2005	Giacomo	3rd	6-1
<b>2004</b>	<b>Smarty Jones</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>3-5*</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>Funny Cide</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>9-5*</b>

\*Preakness Favorite

### Derby Runner-Ups in Preakness

(Last 12 Years)

Year	Horse	Fin.	Odds
2014	did not compete	--	--
2013	did not compete	--	--
2012	Bodemeister	2nd	8-5*
2011	did not compete	--	--
2010	did not compete	--	--
2009	Pioneerof The Nile	11th	6-1
2008	did not compete	--	--
2007	Hard Spun	3rd	4-1
2006	did not compete	--	--
2005	Closing Argument	9th	7-1
2004	Lion Heart	4th	9-2
2003	did not compete	--	--

## Know This:

### Half & Half

In the last 18 years, 9 times the Kentucky Derby winner has added the Preakness to his resume. California Chrome and I'll Have Another completed the parlay in the past 3 years.



# Exotic Wagering Chart

Preakness Day can produce some juicy exotic payoffs.  
Use this handy Exotic Wagering Chart to plan your attack.

## **EXACTA BOX:** (\$2 Wager)

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

## **EXACTA WHEEL:** (\$2 Wager)

One Horse with All	
6 horse field.....	\$10
7 horse field.....	\$12
8 horse field.....	\$14
9 horse field.....	\$16
10 horse field.....	\$18

## **TRIFECTA BOX:** (\$1 Wager)

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

## **TRIFECTA WHEELS:** (\$1 Wager)

One Horse with All with All	
(Example: 1/All/All or All/1/All or All/All/1)	
7 Horse Field.....	\$30
8 Horse Field.....	\$42
9 Horse Field.....	\$56
10 Horse Field.....	\$72

One Horse with Two Horses with All  
(Example: 1/2/All or 2/1/All or 1/All/2 or 2/a All II/1 or All/1/2 or All/2/1)

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

## **TRIFECTA KEYS:** (\$1 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others.....	\$6
(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)	

## **SUPERFACTA BOX:** (\$1 Wager)

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

## **SUPERFACTA WHEELS:** (\$1 Wager)

One Horse with All with All with All	
7 Horse Field.....	\$120
8 Horse Field.....	\$210
9 Horse Field.....	\$336
10 Horse Field.....	\$504
(Example: 1/All/All/All or All/1/All/All or All/All/1/All or All/ All/ All/1)	

One Horse with Two Horses with All with All

7 Horse Field.....	\$40
8 Horse Field.....	\$60
9 Horse Field.....	\$84
10 Horse Field.....	\$112
(Example: 1/2/ All/ All or 2/ 1/ All/ All or 1/ All/ All/ 2 or 2/ All/ All/ 1 or All/ All/ 1/2 or All/ All/ 2/ 1)	

## **SUPERFACTA KEYS:** (\$1 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others.....	\$6
(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)	



# 'Pharoah the 'No Cinch' Pick

by Mike Battaglia *NBC Sports Reporter*



**Analysis:** **AMERICAN PHAROAH** lived up to all the pre-race hype and proved that he doesn't need to have everything go his way to win a race. **FIRING LINE** looked him in the eye and **'PHAROAH** dug down and was a game winner in the Derby. That being said, it also must be noted that **FIRING LINE** and **DORTMUND** proved that they were no easy marks. Either one is capable of upsetting the favorite if he doesn't come back at 100% with just two weeks' rest. **DANZIG MOON**, who was fifth in the Derby, and 'new shooter,' **DIVINING ROD**, probably aren't as good as the top three but could be usable in your exotic wagers.

**Main Contenders:** It's tough to get past the top three Derby finishers. **AMERICAN PHAROAH** will be a deserved, short-priced favorite to win the Xpressbet.com Preakness Stakes. If he trains at Pimlico later this week the way he trained at Churchill, he figures to win. **FIRING LINE** just keeps getting better. Simon Callaghan did a great job bringing him into the Derby and the presence of Gary Stevens makes him formidable. **DORTMUND** went to the lead at Churchill, but a run from just off of the pace may be more to his liking this week.

**Value Plays:** **FIRING LINE** may be the value play in here. He seems to be improving with every start, and if anyone can upset **AMERICAN PHAROAH** it may be him. **DANZIG MOON** had a rough trip in the Derby and should be a good price.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$40 Exacta Box: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** and **FIRING LINE** (\$80)
- \$10 Exacta Part-Wheel: **DANZIG MOON** over **AMERICAN PHAROAH** and **FIRING LINE** (\$20)

## Less than 3-1 Derby Favorites In Preakness Since '90

Year	Favorite	D-odds	D-Fin	P-Odds	P-Fin
2015	American Pharoah	2.90	1st	TBD	TBD
2014	California Chrome	2.50	1st	.50	1st
2008	Big Brown	2.40	1st	.20	1st
2001	Point Given	1.80	5th	2.30	1st
2000	Fusaichi Pegasus	2.30	1st	.30	2nd
1991	Hansel	2.50	10th	9.00	1st

## Picks

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH
2. FIRING LINE
3. DORTMUND
4. DANZIG MOON

## Stats & Trends:

### Race of Champions

(Preakness Winner has been voted Champion 3-year-old in 12 of the last 14 years.)

Year	Horse
2014	California Chrome
2012	I'll Have Another
2010	Lookin At Lucky
2009	Rachel Alexandra (filly)
2008	Big Brown
2007	Curlin
2006	Bernardini
2005	Afleet Alex
2004	Smarty Jones
2003	Funny Cide
2002	War Emblem
2001	Point Given

### Where Winners Were Bred

Wins	State
95	Kentucky
8	Maryland
7	Florida
6	Pennsylvania
6	Virginia

### Winners Who Skipped Derby

(Since 1970)

Year	Horse
2009	Rachel Alexandra
2006	Bernardini
2000	Red Bullet
1983	Deputed Testamony
1982	Aloma's Ruler
1980	Codex
1972	Bee Bee Bee

### Know This:

#### Rail-Roaded

The last horse to break from post 1 and light the Preakness exacta was 1994 victor Tabasco Cat.

# Rinse & Repeat in Preakness

by Jeff Siegel *Racing Analyst*



**Analysis:** We're beyond comparing the respective abilities of the main contenders, the Kentucky Derby having produced a definitive result. Instead, handicapping the Xpressbet.com Preakness Stakes involves projecting what the effects of a taxing effort followed by a quick 14-day turnaround will have on each contender's current condition. Because **AMERICAN PHAROAH** took it easy prior to the Derby – his two preps were nothing more than paid afternoon workouts – Bob Baffert's colt could react one way or the other; the Derby might sap him, or it could toughen him up. It's the latter theory that I subscribe to. If **'PHAROAH** actually was a short horse in Louisville and benefits from the run, he'll win again in Baltimore.

**Main Contenders:** **FIRING LINE** also had been trained with kid gloves leading up to the Derby – it was his first start in six weeks and just his second in three months – so he, like **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, might have been a bit short in Kentucky. He didn't change leads in the Derby and it had to cost him; if he can get his footwork corrected, it may make a difference in the rematch. **DORTMUND** probably has the least room to improve among the first three Derby finishers; he arrived with the proper foundation and enjoyed a soft, front-running, ground-saving trip, but simply wasn't good enough. These should be the main players once again. It appears that none of the fresh faces have the credentials to produce an upset.

**Value Plays:** The value play in the Derby – a straight wager on **AMERICAN PHAROAH** at what I considered to be a substantial overlay (5/2) – won't exist in the Xpressbet.com Preakness Stakes. A cold exacta to **FIRING LINE** won't get you rich, either. But you have to play the hand that's dealt. They may not be Affirmed and Alydar, but **AMERICAN PHAROAH** and **FIRING LINE** have risen to the top of the class and I'm thinking they'll remain that way at least for another race.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$80 Exacta: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** over **FIRING LINE** (\$80)
- \$20 Exacta: **FIRING LINE** over **AMERICAN PHAROAH** (\$20)

## Baffert's Derby Winners in Preakness

Year	Horse	Finished	Odds
2002	War Emblem	1st	5/2 (favorite)
1998	Real Quiet	1st	3/1 (2nd choice)
1997	Silver Charm	1st	3/1 (3rd choice)

## Picks

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH
2. FIRING LINE
3. DORTMUND
4. DIVINING ROD

## Stats & Trends:

### Wire-to-Wire Winners

(Last 50 Years)

Year	Horse
2013	Oxbow *
2009	Rachel Alexandra *
1996	Louis Quatorze *
1982	Aloma's Ruler
1972	Bee Bee Bee
1960	Bally Ache

\*Did not lead at start call.

### Failed Derby Winners

Year	Horse	Fin.
2010	Super Saver	8th
2006	Barbaro	dnf
2001	Monarchos	6th
1991	Strike The Gold	6th
1984	Swale	7th
1983	Sunny's Halo	6th
1970	Dust Commander	9th
1965	Lucky Debonair	7th
1962	Decidedly	8th
1923	Zev	12th

## Know This:

### Everybody Loves a Winner

The Kentucky Derby winner has been the Preakness favorite in 10 of the last 14 years, including California Chrome at 1-to-2 odds last year.

### Rebellious Prep

Oaklawn's Rebel Stakes in March has been a tremendous Preakness prep in recent years. Its alumni since 2004 include Smarty Jones, Afleet Alex, Curlin, Lookin At Lucky and Oxbow – all winners of the middle jewel – and last year's 10-1 runner-up Ride On Curlin.

# Another Jewel for 'Pharoah

by Jon White *Santa Anita Morning Line Oddsmaker*



**Analysis:** In my weekly Xpressbet.com column before the Kentucky Derby, I wrote that **AMERICAN PHAROAH** "is so talented he just might sweep the Triple Crown." I have not changed my mind. Prior to the Derby, **AMERICAN PHAROAH** had been dominant in all four of his victories, winning by an average of 5 ½ lengths. Though he won the Derby by "only" a length, he did prove (a) he can win a race he doesn't dominate and (b) he can succeed against a strong field. Also keep in mind that **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, according to Trakus, ran approximately 3 ½ lengths farther than **FIRING LINE** and 8 lengths farther than **DORTMUND** in the Derby. Trainer Bob Baffert is 3-for-3 with Kentucky Derby winners in the Xpressbet.com Preakness. **AMERICAN PHAROAH** makes it 4-for-4.

**Main Contenders:** As I see it, the three main contenders are the first three finishers in the Derby, **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, **FIRING LINE** and **DORTMUND**. History tells us that it's extremely likely the Preakness winner ran in the Kentucky Derby. That's because only three of the last 31 Preakness winners (Red Bullet in 2000, Bernardini in 2006 and Rachel Alexandra in 2009) did not compete in the Derby.

**Value Plays:** **DIVINING ROD**, three-length winner of the Lexington Stakes at Keeneland for Lael Stables (Roy and Gretchen Jackson, who owned Barbaro), is improving and might get into the superfecta at a good price.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$50 Exacta Part-Wheel: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** over **FIRING LINE** and **DORTMUND** (\$100)

## West Coast Derby Winners in Preakness Since '89

Year	Horse	Finish
2015	American Pharoah	TBD
<b>2014</b>	<b>California Chrome</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>I'll Have Another</b>	<b>1st</b>
2005	Giacomo	3rd
2000	Fusaichi Pegasus	2nd
<b>1999</b>	<b>Charismatic</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>Real Quiet</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>Silver Charm</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>1989</b>	<b>Sunday Silence</b>	<b>1st</b>

## Stats & Trends:

### Fastest

Year	Horse	Time
1973	Secretariat	1:53
1985	Tank's Prospect	1:53 2/5
1996	Louis Quatorze	1:53 2/5
2007	Curlin	1:53 2/5
1984	Gate Dancer	1:53 3/5
1990	Summer Squall	1:53 3/5
1989	Sunday Silence	1:53 4/5
1991	Hansel	1:54
1971	Cannonero II	1:54

### Half-Mile Leaders Since 2008

Year	Horse	Finish
2014	Pablo Del Monte	6th
<b>2013</b>	<b>Oxbow</b>	<b>1st</b>
2012	Bodemeister	2nd
2011	Flashpoint	14th
2010	First Dude	2nd
<b>2009</b>	<b>Rachel Alexandra</b>	<b>1st</b>
2008	Gayego	11th

### Fastest Fractions

Dist.	Time	Horse
1/4	:22 2/5	tied 3 times
1/2	:45	Bold Forbes, 1976
3/4	1:09	Bold Forbes, 1976
Mile	1:34 1/5	Sunday Silence, 1989 Chief's Crown, 1985
Final	1:53	Secretariat, 1973

## Know This:

### Three For the Big Three

Three active jockeys have won all 3 Triple Crown races – Gary Stevens, Kent Desormeaux and Mike Smith.

### Too Little, Too Late

Only four Preakness winners since 1910 rallied from dead last in the field to win – and none since Little Current in 1974.

## Picks

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH
2. FIRING LINE
3. DORTMUND
4. DIVINING ROD

# Baffert Gets His 1-2 Punch

by Dick Jerardi *Daily Racing Form Columnist*



**Analysis:** There was very little complicated about the Kentucky Derby. The best horses had the top early speed and dominated the race from start to finish, changing places in the stretch, but not changing what was obvious when the first two moderate fractions went up and the top three began to separate from the field. It was just a question of which of the three was going to win. **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, with much less preparation than **FIRING LINE** or **DORTMUND**, was able to win, which strongly suggests he is every bit the rare talent trainer Bob Baffert has been quietly telling close friends he is. If **AMERICAN PHAROAH** could win the Derby after having to be rushed this winter just to get ready for a spring campaign, there is no telling what he might do now that he has caught up to his rivals in fitness.

**Main Contenders:** **AMERICAN PHAROAH** has now won five straight after that bizarre debut last summer at Del Mar. He has been favored four consecutive times and will be favored again, but the days of 5/2 are over. **FIRING LINE** was perfectly prepared for the Derby by going to Sunland Park, avoiding a tough race and getting six weeks to gear up for the biggest race of his life. **DORTMUND** lost for the first time after winning his first six races. He did not have any apparent excuse in the running; his Santa Anita form is dangerous.

**Value Plays:** This may very well be a Derby repeat with favorites dominating, but **DIVINING ROD**, a son of the great Tapit, is getting better with each start.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

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

### Preakness Stakes History: The Last...

#### Horse that prepped at Pimlico to win

Bee Bee Bee (1972)

#### Jockey to win back-to-back

Pat Day 1995-'96 on Timber Country and Louis Quatorze

Day won 3 straight including '94 aboard Tabasco Cat.

#### Jockey to win his debut

Mario Gutierrez (2012) aboard I'll Have Another

#### Trainer to win his debut

Art Sherman (2014) with California Chrome

## Stats & Trends:

### 2014 Preakness Handle

(Millions, except for Double)

Pool	Handle
Win, Place, Show:	\$19.8
Exacta:	\$12.2
Trifecta:	\$14.0
Superfecta:	\$6.8
Pick Four:	\$2.2
Special/Preakness Double:	\$495,486

### Lowest-Priced Favorites

(Last 15 Years, Odds to \$1)

Odds	Horse	Year	Fin.
.20	<b>Big Brown</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>1st</b>
.30	Fusaichi Pegasus	2000	2nd
.50	<b>California Chrome</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>1st</b>
.50	Barbaro	2006	dnf
.70	<b>Smarty Jones</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>1st</b>
.70	Orb	2013	4th
1.30	Street Sense	2007	2nd
<b>1.80</b>	<b>Rachel Alexandra</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>1.90</b>	<b>Funny Cide</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>1st</b>
1.90	Super Saver	2010	8th

## Know This:

### Rare Rematch

The Derby runner-up hasn't won the Preakness since Prairie Bayou in 1993. In fact, 4 of the last 5 Derby seconds did not travel on to Pimlico.

### Public Served

9 of the last 13 Kentucky Derby favorites have finished first or second in the Preakness.

### Discount Winners

Only 2 horses since 1911 have won the Preakness at odds of 20-1 or more.

## Picks

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH

2. DORTMUND

3. FIRING LINE

4. DIVINING ROD

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# Limited Options to Derby Trio

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



**Analysis:** In advance of the Xpressbet.com Preakness, it's imperative to remind that runners exiting favorable (or forgivable) Derby runs should be the foundation of your Preakness wagers. In the last 13 editions of the Preakness, 11 winners of the Woodlawn Vase arrived from Louisville after plus efforts. Bernardini (2006) and Rachel Alexandra (2009) were the exceptions with obvious extenuating circumstances involved. The 2015 Xpressbet.com Preakness decisions start with the dominant Derby trifecta and **DANZIG MOON**.

**Main Contenders:** **AMERICAN PHAROAH**'s rail draw may not hurt him in the Xpressbet.com Preakness as he has the opportunity to set up shop behind as many as five pace horses, and I believe the Derby simply tightened him for a 'best yet' type of effort at Pimlico. I expect his stablemate, **DORTMUND**, to run his usual 'game' race and earn another significant check. **FIRING LINE**'s 'far outside' draw may force Gary Stevens to use him early to secure position and he could lose ground into the first turn. It's a fallacy that Pimlico has tight turns, but its turns do have less banking, meaning outside horses could have trouble cornering. **FIRING LINE** runs that risk if marooned wide.

**Value Plays:** **DANZIG MOON** (15/1) encountered trouble when he was a hard-trying 5th at Churchill and can boost the exotics if Julien Leparoux returns to one-run closing tactics with him. Trainer, Arnaud Delacour, has been pointing **DIVINING ROD** to this race since his Lexington win.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$5 Trifecta Part Wheel: **AMERICAN PHAROAH** with **FIRING LINE, DORTMUND, DANZIG MOON** with **FIRING LINE, DORTMUND, DANZING MOON, DIVINING ROD, MR. Z** (\$60)
- \$8 Exacta Part Wheel: **DANZIG MOON** with **AMERICAN PHAROAH, FIRING LINE, DORTMUND, DIVINING ROD, MR. Z** (\$40)

## Derby Runner-Ups in Preakness Since 2000

Year	Horse	Finish
2012	Bodemeister	2nd
2009	Pioneerof the Nile	11th
2007	Hard Spun	3rd
2005	Closing Argument	9th
2004	Lion Heart	4th
2002	Proud Citizen	3rd

## Picks

1. AMERICAN PHAROAH
2. DORTMUND
3. DANZIG MOON
4. FIRING LINE

## Stats & Trends:

### Successful Locals

(Last 20 Years)

Year	Horse	Fin.
2006	Sweetnorthernsaint	2nd
2005	Scrappy T	2nd
2002	Magic Weisner	2nd
1997	Captain Bodgit	3rd
1995	Oliver's Twist	2nd

## Know This:

### Just Like Pops

Nine Preakness winners have sired Preakness winners. They are: Bold Ruler (Secretariat); Bold Venture (Assault); Gallant Fox (Omaha); Man o' War (War Admiral); Polynesian (Native Dancer); Citation (Fabius); Native Dancer (Kauai King), Secretariat (Risen Star) and Summer Squall (Charismatic).

## Preakness 'Last Times'

### The last...

#### Kentucky Derby winner to win:

California Chrome (2014)

#### Kentucky Derby runner-up to win:

Prairie Bayou (1993)

#### Kentucky Derby show horse to win:

Curlin (2007)

#### Derby off the board finisher to win:

Oxbow (2013)

#### Derby exacta to repeat 1-2 in Preakness:

I'll Have Another-Bodemeister (2012), prior to that Charismatic-Meniffee (1999)

#### Derby trifecta to repeat 1-2-3 in Preakness:

Affirmed-Alydar-Believe It (1978)

#### Non-Kentucky Derby alum to win:

Rachel Alexandra (2009)

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