



wager guide

JUNE 11, 2016 • BELMONT PARK



American Pharoah - America's 12th Triple Crown Winner

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Fellow Racing Fan,

Welcome to Xpressbet's Belmont Wager Guide!

Exaggerator upended Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist in the Preakness Stakes and wiped out any chance for the sport to celebrate back-to-back Triple Crown winners. Unfortunately, due to a slight illness, Nyquist will miss the Belmont Stakes and an exciting rubber match with Exaggerator won't materialize.

Horseplayers instead will attempt to sort out a balanced field of runners in the third leg of the Triple Crown. Exaggerator figures to be the starting Belmont favorite over several Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes veterans, as well as an assortment of new faces lured into the starting gate by the Derby champ's absence and an apparent lack of pace in the race.

Those looking for value in the Belmont Stakes will have many attractive wagering options. Hopefully, the contents of this guide will point readers toward several intriguing options liable to return juicy mutuel payoffs.

You can wager on the Belmont Stakes and worldwide Thoroughbred and harness racing with Xpressbet online, by phone or via mobile device. If don't already play with Xpressbet, please accept this complimentary guide and act now to open an account and to earn up to a \$125 bonus! Complete details are available at Xpressbet.com.

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

Plan to return to the Xpressbet web site daily beginning Tuesday, June 7, for free updates, including Johnny D's in-depth, horse-by-horse analysis and revised expert opinions and selections based on scratches, post positions, weather, etc. A revised version of the wager guide will be available online Friday, June 10.

The folks at Xpressbet wish you an entertaining and profitable 2016 Belmont Stakes and look forward to serving as your advance deposit wagering account provider for the big day and into the future.

Sincerely,
Ron Luniewski
President
Xpressbet



1 GOVERNOR MALIBU (12/1)

Owner: Jump Sucker Stable & Oak Bluff Stables
Trainer: Christophe Clement
Jockey: Joel Rosario



2 DESTIN (6/1)

Owner: Twin Creeks Racing Stables, LLC
Trainer: Todd Pletcher
Jockey: Javier Castellano



3 CHERRY WINE (8/1)

Owner: William Pacella & Frank L. Jones Jr.
Trainer: Dale Romans
Jockey: Corey Lanerie



4 SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS (10/1)

Owner: Samuel F. Henderson
Trainer: Donnie Von Hemel
Jockey: Mike Smith



5 STRADIVARI (5/1)

Owner: Tabor, Smith, Magnier & Gunther
Trainer: Todd Pletcher
Jockey: John Velazquez



6 GETTYSBURG (30/1)

Owner: WinStar Farm, LLC
Trainer: Steve Asmussen
Jockey: Paco Lopez



7 SEEKING THE SOUL (30/1)

Owner: Charles Fipke
Trainer: Dallas Stewart
Jockey: Florent Geroux



8 FOREVER D'ORO (30/1)

Owner: Charles Fipke
Trainer: Dallas Stewart
Jockey: Jose Ortiz



9 TROJAN NATION (30/1)

Owner: Julie Gilbert and Aaron Sones
Trainer: Patrick Gallagher
Jockey: Aaron Gryder



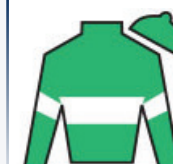
10 LANI (20/1)

Owner: Koji Maeda
Trainer: Mikio Matsunaga
Jockey: Yutaka Take



11 EXAGGERATOR (9/5)

Owner: Big Chief Racing, Head of Plains Partners, et al
Trainer: Keith Desormeaux
Jockey: Kent Desormeaux



12 BRODY'S CAUSE (20/1)

Owner: Albaugh Family Stable
Trainer: Dale Romans
Jockey: Luis Saez



13 CREATOR (10/1)

Owner: WinStar Farm, LLC
Trainer: Steve Asmussen
Jockey: Irad Ortiz, Jr.





Belmont Wagering Facts

by Jeremy Plonk *Horseplayernow.com Analyst*

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

Win-Place-Show Odds

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

Win Odds

Average: 12.52

High: 38.50 (Da' Tara, 2008)

Low: .75 (American Pharoah, 2015)

Notable: 6 of the last 8 winners were 9-to-1 or more.

Place Odds

Average: 8.57

High: 28.00 (Commissioner, 2014)

Low: 1.10 (Curlin, 2007)

Notable: Last year, at 4-1 Frosted was lowest-priced Belmont runner-up since Curlin (6-5, 2007).

Show Odds

Average: 12.70

High: 34.25 (Anak Nakal, 2008-DH)

Low: 1.25 (Mine That Bird, 2009)

Notable: 4 of the last 5 show horses were double-digit odds.

Exacta Payoffs

(Last 10 Years, \$2 Payoff)

Average: \$268.62

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

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

Notable: Last year's \$13.60 exacta was the smallest payoff since Easy Goer/Sunday Silence returned \$8.80 in 1989.

Trifecta Payoffs

(Last 10 Years, \$1 Payoff)

Average: \$1,100.85

High: \$4,134.00

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

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

Notable: Last year's \$54.75 trifecta return was the third-lowest in the 16-year history of the wager.

Superfecta Payoffs

(Last 10 years, \$1 Payoffs)

Average: \$8,834.38

High: \$37,026

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

Low: \$121.25

(Rags to Riches-Curlin-Tiago-Hard Spun, 2007)

Average Odds of Fourth-Place Finishers: 11.29-to-1

Notable: 5 of the last 8 Belmont Stakes superfectas paid at least \$5,000 for a \$1 wager.

Highest-Priced Runners In Superfecta

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

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

Shortest-Priced Belmont Favorites

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Odds</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2008	.30	Big Brown	dnf
2015	.75	American Pharoah	1st
2014	.85	California Chrome	4th
2007	1.10	Curlin	2nd
2009	1.25	Mine That Bird	3rd

Odds-On Belmont Favorites

(Since 1940)

Total Odds-On Favorites: 34

Winning Odds-On Favorites: 13

% of Winning Odds-On Favorites: 38%

Last Odds-On Favorite to Compete:

American Pharoah (.75-to-1, 2015)

Last Odds-On Favorite to Win:

American Pharoah (.75-to-1, 2015)

Expert Selection Grid

Expert	Bob Neumeier (NBC Sports)	Jeremy Plonk (Horseplayernow.com)	Jeff Siegel (XBTv)	Jon White (Santa Anita)	Dick Jerardi (Daily Racing Form)	Steve Byk (SiriusXM Radio)
First	Stradivari	Creator	Stradivari	Exaggerator	Destin	Governor Malibu
Second	Destin	Suddenbreakingnews	Exaggerator	Destin	Governor Malibu	Exaggerator
Third	Exaggerator	Exaggerator	Governor Malibu	Cherry Wine	Exaggerator	Lani
Fourth	Suddenbreakingnews	Stradivari	Lani	Suddenbreakingnews	Creator	Stradivari



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Meet The 2016 Belmont Contenders

by Johnny D *Xpressbet.com*

Exaggerator

Kentucky Derby runner-up and Preakness winner Exaggerator figures to be a solid favorite in the Belmont Stakes. With nemesis Nyquist sidelined, the slop-loving Santa Anita Derby hero will set sights on an assortment of old and new foes. Trainer Keith Desormeaux and Hall-of-Fame jockey and brother Kent have developed this son of Curlin magnificently since he broke his maiden second out at Del Mar last summer and then was shipped cross-country to win the Grade 2 Saratoga Special in his next start. Exaggerator has improved with nearly every race since, and that maturity has him on the cusp of joining an illustrious group of sops that have captured two out of three legs of the Triple Crown. Previously, Exaggerator, who employs a closing style, has benefitted from hot paces and/or 'off' tracks to do most of his damage. The anticipated Belmont lineup doesn't appear to have much speed signed on. Without a contentious early duel in front of him, will Exaggerator still be able to mount his closing charge? As to what the weather might be like in Elmont, New York on the second Saturday in June? That's anyone's guess. Will Exaggerator enjoy another soggy track beneath his hooves or does he even need one for his best? These are the questions that try men's souls... or at least they are the ones that need to be answered to cash in the Belmont Stakes.

Destin

Destin entered the Kentucky Derby off a victory in the Tampa Bay Derby and an eight-week rest. He attempted to become the first horse to win the Derby off such an extended layoff and performed respectably in that race when sixth out of 20. He should be fitter for the Belmont Stakes and, as a son of Giant's Causeway, should have no difficulty with the mile and one-half distance of the race. Trainer Todd Pletcher knows what it takes to win the Belmont Stakes and his entrants often enjoy a home-field advantage of sorts by training at Belmont Park prior to the third leg of the Triple Crown. Destin reflects that edge with recent solid four and five furlong 'Big Sandy' workouts under his belt. He also broke his maiden over the Belmont main track in October, so his affection for the surface is apparent. Destin also won the Grade 3 Sam F. Davis at Tampa Bay earlier this year.

Suddenbreakingnews

Fifth in the Kentucky Derby, while flying home with each and every stride, merely a nose and head from finishing third, Suddenbreakingnews was held out of the Preakness by veteran trainer Donnie K. Von Hemel with the Belmont Stakes winner's circle as the stated next target. Hall-of-Fame jockey Mike Smith will replace regular rider Luis Quinonez in the saddle for the Belmont Stakes. Suddenbreakingnews has just three wins from nine lifetime starts, but includes a victory in the Grade 3 Southwest Stakes among his accomplishments. He also finished second to **CREATOR** in the Arkansas Derby. This son of Mineshaft does his running from far back in the pack and that style often is subject to the whims of pace and racing luck. Suddenbreakingnews has encountered both in his racing career. The wide Belmont layout and mile and one-half distance of the race may work in his favor, but experts wonder if the early Big Apple pace will be as cooperative.

Stradivari

Fourth, about four lengths behind **EXAGGERATOR** in the Preakness Stakes, in just his fourth career start, Stradivari is one of two Todd Pletcher-trained runners expected in the Belmont. After a dull fourth in his first career start, Stradivari exploded for a scintillating 11 ¼-length triumph around two turns at Gulfstream. Stradivari parlayed that win into the demolition of first-level allowance foes at Keeneland. That 14 ½-length romp stamped Stradivari as a rising sophomore star. Pletcher, who often skips the Preakness Stakes with charges, couldn't resist giving Stradivari a chance in the second leg of the Triple Crown. This son

of Medaglia d'Oro ought to handle the mile and one-half distance of the Belmont and might also have an edge as one of the few horses in the race with a semblance of early foot. While not a confirmed speed horse, Stradivari figures to be closer to a pedestrian pace than some of his more accomplished foes. If inexperience doesn't do him in through the final furlong, he just might have something to say about the finish of the 2016 Belmont Stakes. Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez, who has ridden the colt in every start, returns seeking his third Belmont Stakes triumph.

BELMONT LAST TIMES...

The Last ...

Preakness Winner to Win:
American Pharoah (2015)

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

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

New Triple Crown Face to Win:
Tonalist (2014)

Prepped Last at Belmont to Win:
Tonalist (2014)

Wire-to-Wire Winner:
American Pharoah (2015)

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

Jockey to Win His Debut:
Jose Valdivia (2011, Ruler On Ice)

Trainer to Win His Debut:
Michael Matz (2012, Union Rags)

Playing a Stradivari

by Bob Neumeier *NBC Sports Reporter*



Analysis: Handicapping is educational guesswork. Over the long haul, the contrarian approach is essential. The mile and one-half marathon distance of the Belmont Stakes is highly unusual for three-year-olds or any age group – thus, the unpredictability of the results. A look at recent Belmont history reveals the inordinate amount of improbable longshots. But the show goes on. It appears that pace will be extremely important in this event, but it is difficult to quantify who will have or share the lead. That's typically a huge advantage in any distance race, grass (especially) or dirt. So, let's guess and put **EXAGGERATOR**, **DESTIN**, and **STRADIVARI** as those who have the early speed to be in the race at this critical, early juncture.

Main Contenders: The winner of the Preakness, **EXAGGERATOR**, will be the odds-on favorite. This versatile son of Curlin has the pedigree, adaptability, and experience (11 lifetime races) to win the prize. The two knocks on him are obvious: the negative wear and tear of competing in all three Triple Crown legs and the less than even-money price on the tote board. That's where the outside-the-box approach kicks in, **EXAGGERATOR'S** short price. I'm focused on two of trainer Todd Pletcher's runners, **DESTIN** and **STRADIVARI**. Both should be close to the lead and both are spotting the favorite race experience. But the even race run by **STRADIVARI** in the Preakness slop puts him in the mix for an upset. He's hardly a "lock," but who is?

Value Plays: Lots. Outside of the top three, one can make a reasonable case for **GOVERNOR MALIBU**, **CREATOR**, **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS**, or **CHERRY WINE**. It's the Belmont Stakes and memories of "who-dat?" winners like Birdstone, Sarava, Da'Tara, Ruler On Ice, Summer Bird, Drosselmeyer et al reverberate in my skull.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$30 Exacta Part-Wheel: **STRADIVARI** over **DESTIN** and **EXAGGERATOR** (\$60)
- \$20 Exacta Part-Wheel: **DESTIN** over **STRADIVARI** and **EXAGGERATOR** (\$40)

Half and Half

In the past decade, 5 of 10 Belmont winners made their Triple Crown event debuts – Tonalist (2014), Ruler On Ice (2011), Drosselmeyer (2010), Da' Tara (2008) and Rags to Riches (2007).

Stats & Trends:

Preakness Winners in Belmont

(Last 10 Years)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2015	American Pharoah	1st
2014	California Chrome	4th
2013	Oxbow	2nd
2012	did not compete	-
2011	Shackleford	5th
2010	did not compete	-
2009	did not compete	-
2008	Big Brown	dnf
2007	Curlin	2nd
2006	did not compete	-

Derby, No Preakness, Won Belmont

(Since 2000)

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

Know This:

Preakness-Belmont Double

Exaggerator attempts to become the 19th horse to win the Preakness and Belmont without winning the Kentucky Derby. The last to do so was Afleet Alex in 2005.

Juvenile Jubilation

The 2015 Breeders' Cup Juvenile produced this year's Kentucky Derby (Nyquist) and Preakness (Exaggerator) winners. That hasn't happened since Juvenile alum Alysheba won both in '87.

Picks

1. STRADIVARI
2. DESTIN
3. EXAGGERATOR
4. SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS

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Exotic Wagering Chart

Belmont Stakes exotic wagers usually produce hefty payoffs.

Use this handy Exotic Wagering Chart to 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: (\$.10 Wager)

4 Horse Box	\$2.40
5 Horse Box	\$12
6 Horse Box	\$36

SUPERFECTA WHEEL: (\$.10 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	\$12
8 Horse Field	\$21
9 Horse Field	\$33.60
10 Horse Field	\$50.40

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	\$4
8 Horse Field	\$6
9 Horse Field	\$8.40
10 Horse Field	\$11.20

SUPERFECTA KEY: (\$.10 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others	\$60
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)	
1 Horse with 4 others	\$2.40
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)	
1 Horse with 5 others	\$6
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	
1 Horse with 6 others	\$12
(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	\$21
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)	

Belmont Stakes Disconnect

by Jeremy Plonk *Horseplayernow.com Analyst*



Analysis: The great dilemma of the Belmont Stakes always remains its correlation to other races. Is the mile and one-half lap so much different than previous assignments that we should almost ignore the past performances and strictly project what could happen? History suggests mixed results. For every American Pharoah or Rags to Riches who runs to his or her highest established quality, the final jewel in the Triple Crown offers the likes of a Da' Tara, Ruler On Ice, Drosselmeyer, Palace Malice, Jazil or Sarava. These winners never had shown prior classic-winning ability, and only a few of those proved legitimate later. This considered, the so-called "Test of the Champion" feels more fluky than factual.

Main Contenders: **EXAGGERATOR'S** wear on the tires includes a Santa Anita Derby victory, Kentucky Derby runner-up and Preakness tally in the past nine weeks. While he's been superb, I can't help but think about trainer Keith Desormeaux's concern in mid-March that this colt may be better around one turn than two. The 12 furlongs over Big Sandy, after a torrid, 63-day run, stands a chance to expose any flaws. At what figures to be 9-5 odds, now is not the time to jump on the **EXAGGERATOR** express. Plus, his local drill did not impress on Belmont's expansive turns. **STRADIVARI** ran well at Pimlico despite fighting early restraint. Given his head from the start, he could be a tough hombre near the front of a paceless Belmont. Stablemate **DESTIN** won't be far off of it, and we've seen Todd Pletcher have far more success in this race than in the series' opening acts. But the eleventh-hour addition of a rabbit, **GETTYSBURG**, could neutralize the Pletcher pair.

Value Plays: Closers **CREATOR** and **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** have a better pace setup now than appeared to be the case a week ago. The former had the Derby's worst trip and the connections of each horse have turned to savvy Belmont riders, Irad Ortiz, Jr. and Mike Smith, respectively, to pilot in the Belmont Stakes. I begrudgingly admit that **GETTYSBURG** may address their deep-closing needs, but his presence also helps **EXAGGERATOR's** cause.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$20 Win and Place: **CREATOR** (\$40)
- \$10 Exacta Part-Wheel: **CREATOR** and **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** with **STRADIVARI**, **EXAGGERATOR**, **CREATOR** and **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** (\$60)

Xpressbet Belmont Stakes Wager Guide
STATS & TRENDS and **KNOW THIS** information is
provided by **JEREMY PLONK** (Horseplayernow.com).

Stats & Trends:

Belmont Winners in Prior TC Races

(Since 2000)

Year	Horse	TC Race
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

Derby, Preakness Top Four Finishers

(Since 2000)

Year	Horse	Bel. Fin.
2015	American Pharoah	1st
2014	California Chrome	4th
2013	Orb	3rd
2011	Shackleford	5th
2011	Animal Kingdom	6th
2009	Mine That Bird	3rd
2008	Big Brown	dnf
2007	Curlin	2nd
2007	Hard Spun	4th
2005	Afleet Alex	1st
2005	Giacomo	7th
2004	Smarty Jones	2nd
2003	Funny Cide	3rd
2002	War Emblem	8th
2002	Proud Citizen	5th
2000	Impeachment	5th

Picks

1. CREATOR
2. SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS
3. EXAGGERATOR
4. STRADIVARI

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Pletcher Poised to Win Another

by Jeff Siegel *XBTV Analyst*



Analysis: **EXAGGERATOR** has developed into an exceptional racehorse. He's strung together three superb performances, most recently in the Preakness when handing Nyquist his first career defeat in what was a career-top performance. While it was once believed that the Keith Desormeaux-trained colt might be most effective up to a mile, no such worry now exists. Yes, **EXAGGERATOR** is a mud freak, though he can act on dry footing as well. But a race at a mile and one-half is an entirely different ballgame. The son of Curlin might shrug off the challenge like water off his back. Or, like so many of similar quality before him, he might struggle to handle the trip.

Main Contenders: The complexion of the race changed when WinStar Farm entered front-running **GETTYSBURG** to ensure an active early pace to set up for his stablemate, the deep-closing **CREATOR**. Meanwhile, the two Todd Pletcher entrants, **DESTIN** and **STRADIVARI**, should draft into a comfortable stalking position, ready to pounce when asked. **DESTIN** will be making his second start in three months and appears suspect at 1 1/2-miles, but **STRADIVARI** seems ideally suited for the projected pace and marathon distance. With just four career starts, he has the most upside of anyone in the field. I'll be playing against **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS**, **CHERRY WINE** and **CREATOR**. As deep closers, they might not have the same type of late kick going this far.

Value Plays: **GOVERNOR MALIBU** has the benefit of a recent run over the track and employs a one-paced style that can be effective in long distance races. His trainer, Christophe Clement, won this race in 2014 with Tonalist and at 12/1 odds, **GOVERNOR MALIBU** is worth including in your vertical exotics. **LANI** seems to be acclimating to North American racing and could clunk up for a piece of the purse after producing a willing late bid to finish fifth in the Preakness.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$30 Win: **STRADIVARI** (\$30)
- \$10 Exacta Box: **EXAGGERATOR**, **STRADIVARI** and **GOVERNOR MALIBU** (\$60)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **STRADIVARI** and **LANI** (\$10)

43% Favorites

The favorite has won the Belmont Stakes 62 times out of 147 editions.

Picks

1. STRADIVARI
2. EXAGGERATOR
3. GOVERNOR MALIBU
4. LANI

Stats & Trends:

Tried All TC Races and Won Belmont

(Since 1990)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>
2015	American Pharoah
2005	Afleet Alex
2001	Point Given
1998	Victory Gallop
1996	Editor's Note
1995	Thunder Gulch
1994	Tabasco Cat
1991	Hansel

Tried Derby, No Preakness Won Belmont

(Since 2000)

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

Know This:

Pharoah Flash

American Pharoah's wire-to-wire win in 2015 was just the second runaway at Belmont since 1984. The previous came from longshot Da' Tara in 2008.

Better with Age

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

Big Bopper

Sarava set the Belmont Stakes record \$2 payoff in 2002 when scoring at a \$142.50 mutuel as War Emblem stumbled in his Triple Crown bid.

California Clout Continues?

by Jon White *Santa Anita Morning Line Oddsmaker*



Analysis: As noted in the Xpressbet Kentucky Derby Wager Guide, "the group in California appears to be the strongest this year." And what happened in the Kentucky Derby? When Nyquist and **EXAGGERATOR** finished one-two, the exacta consisted of horses based in California. And what happened two weeks later in the Preakness? It very nearly was another California one-two finish as **EXAGGERATOR** won, and Nyquist was nosed out for second. California-based runners now have won seven of the last eight Triple Crown races. **EXAGGERATOR** and the maiden, **TROJAN NATION**, are the two California-based horses in this year's Belmont Stakes.

Main Contenders: **EXAGGERATOR**, **DESTIN** and **STRADIVARI** are major players, particularly from a pace standpoint in a race loaded with deep closers. Remember the commercial back in the day that asked, "Where's the beef?" In this year's Belmont, the question is, "Where's the pace?" The late addition of **GETTYSBURG** answers that to some degree. Still, **EXAGGERATOR** demonstrated in the seven-furlong San Vicente Stakes that he can show early zip as he pressed a scorching pace and lost by only 1-½ lengths when the final time was fast (1:20.71). In the Preakness, even though **EXAGGERATOR** made an early move to get within striking distance, he still had sufficient energy late to draw away and win by 3-½ lengths. I will not be surprised to see **EXAGGERATOR** in a forward position early in the Belmont. **CHERRY WINE** (runner-up in the Preakness) and **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** (a grandson of Belmont winners A.P. Indy and Afleet Alex) also belong on the list of main contenders.

Value Plays: **LANI** actually ran well in the Preakness when he finished fifth. He was 27-lengths behind early, and closed ground well to lose by only five lengths. After the finish the son of Tapit galloped out strongly.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$30 Exacta: **EXAGGERATOR** over **DESTIN** (\$30)
- \$20 Exacta: **EXAGGERATOR** over **CHERRY WINE** (\$20)
- \$20 Exacta: **EXAGGERATOR** over **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** (\$20)
- \$20 Exacta: **EXAGGERATOR** over **STRADIVARI** (\$20)
- \$6 Exacta: **EXAGGERATOR** over **LANI** (\$6)
- \$4 Exacta: **DESTIN** over **EXAGGERATOR** (\$4)

Picks

1. EXAGGERATOR
2. DESTIN
3. CHERRY WINE
4. SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS

Stats & Trends:

Winning Belmont Post Positions

(Since 1905)

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

Active Jockeys to Win Belmont

Year	Jockey	Horse
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	Jazil
2005	Jeremy Rose	Afleet Alex
2004	Edgar Prado	Birdstone
2002	Edgar Prado	Sarava
2001	Gary Stevens	Point Given
1998	Gary Stevens	Victory Gallop
1995	Gary Stevens	Thunder Gulch

Know This:

Old Hilltop Hangover

The Preakness winner is just 6-for-29 in the Belmont since 1978 with 12 off-the-board finishes.

The Nose Knows

Only three times in its history has the 1 1/2 miles Belmont Stakes been decided by a nose. Most recently Victory Gallop edged Real Quiet in 1998.

Belmont Pace Destined for Upset

by Dick Jerardi *Daily Racing Form Columnist*



Analysis: Remember all that early speed in the Preakness. Last seen hassling Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist, those no-hope speed horses, along with Nyquist, have disappeared from the Triple Crown scene. Thus, there is almost no early speed in the Belmont Stakes so the closers that are the annual subject of so much unrequited Belmont love will be at an even bigger disadvantage than usual because of what almost has to be a very slow pace. Preakness winner **EXAGGERATOR** got his pace and his sloppy track in Baltimore. Combine that with the fact that **EXAGGERATOR** was already quite an accomplished horse, he almost had to win the Preakness. This race is 550 yards longer, but the pace scenario will be totally different. This looks similar to the Derby, where the winner always looked like it had to come from the first flight of horses, given that the pace just was not going to be very fast. Forget the Derby fractions. The Churchill Downs surface was incredibly fast, making those fractions look much faster than they were. The Pimlico surface, however, was quite slow so those very fast fractions were even faster than they looked, setting it up for closers.

Main Contenders: **EXAGGERATOR** will be a heavy favorite off his excellent body of work, including major stakes wins at Saratoga, Delta Downs, Santa Anita and Pimlico. The colt fires every time, even when he does not win. The caveats are the price, the pace and the possibility that the Triple Crown grind may catch up with him. **DESTIN** was taken out of his comfort zone early in the Derby, but still made a nice move in the race. His early speed should put him right in this race from the start.

Value Plays: **GOVERNOR MALIBU** was rolling at the end of the Peter Pan Stakes, nearly catching the unbeaten winner, Unified.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$50 Exacta: **DESTIN** over **GOVERNOR MALIBU** (\$50)
- \$30 Exacta: **GOVERNOR MALIBU** over **DESTIN** (\$30)
- \$20 Exacta: **DESTIN** over **EXAGGERATOR** (\$20)

Xpressbet Belmont Stakes Wager Guide free Daily Updates begin online Tuesday, June 7, and include revised expert Analysis, Wagering Strategies and Picks based on race additions, defections, post positions, etc. Updates include Johnny D's horse-by-horse Belmont analysis and much more.

Picks

1. DESTIN
2. GOVERNOR MALIBU
3. EXAGGERATOR
4. CREATOR

Stats & Trends:

Odds-On Belmont Busts

Year	Horse	Fin.	Odds
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

8 of the last 9 odds-on favorites to compete in the Belmont Stakes have lost.

Where Winners Were Bred

Wins	State
98	Kentucky
11	Virginia
7	New Jersey
6	England
5	Florida
3	New York
	Pennsylvania
	Tennessee
2	California
	Maryland
	Texas
	Ireland
1	Canada

Oldest Stakes Races in North America

Year	Race	Track
1867	Belmont Stakes	Belmont Park
1864	Travers Stakes	Saratoga
1860	Queen's Plate	Woodbine
1831	Phoenix Stakes	Keeneland

Know This:

Bye, Bye Baltimore

13 of the last 16 Belmont winners skipped the Preakness. American Pharoah bucked that a year ago, joining Point Given (2001) and Afleet Alex (2005) as Preakness veterans.

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Dual Crown or Third Wheel?

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



Analysis: Though there will be no Triple Crown try or clash between Derby and Preakness winners, this Belmont Stakes still offers intrigue. **EXAGGERATOR** can take charge as the division leader if he earns Dual Crown heroics in New York, while eight challengers out of Louisville and/or Baltimore line up against him with their own legacies at stake. In addition to the headliners exiting Churchill and Pimlico, Peter Pan runner-up, **GOVERNOR MALIBU**, will look to become the sixth Belmont winner since 2007 to have bypassed the first two legs.

Main Contenders: The key question in this edition of the Run for the Carnations is, 'Where's the pace?' Todd Pletcher's starters and **CREATOR**'s rabbit, **GETTYSBURG**, appear to be the answer. Pletcher, whose Belmont success counterbalances his Derby struggles, appears eager to run developing **STRADIVARI** back out of his sneaky good Preakness fourth and that is a strong endorsement. **DESTIN**, who ran better than most expected five weeks ago, will be tighter after his Derby try, but feels more like an Overanalyze than a Palace Malice. Both will race near the front and Pletcher has a win and two seconds in the last five Belmont runnings utilizing forward-going styles. **EXAGGERATOR**, of course, will go heavily favored, but is he an Afleet Alex in Elmont or a Shackleford? Those expecting Kent Desormeaux at Belmont to move as he did on Real Quiet, may want to watch him perform as he did on Summer Bird as a refresher.

Value Plays: NY-bred **GOVERNOR MALIBU**, by Malibu Moon--a son of Belmont winner A.P. Indy, owns a style that will have him in striking range when the real running starts. Christophe Clement has been angling towards this spot and note that the chestnut is 3-0-2-1 at Belmont and 4-1-3-0 with Joel Rosario. **LANI** has been a fascinating sideshow throughout the Triple Crown season, but appears to be settling down the way Tapit progeny are known to and already outperformed expectations in KY and MD.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$20 Win: **GOVERNOR MALIBU** (\$20)
- \$15 Exacta Box : **EXAGGERATOR** and **GOVERNOR MALIBU** (\$30)
- \$5 Exacta Part-Wheel: **GOVERNOR MALIBU** with **LANI**, **STRADIVARI**, **BRODY'S CAUSE**, **DESTIN**, **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** (\$25)
- \$5 Exacta Part-Wheel: **LANI**, **STRADIVARI**, **BRODY'S CAUSE**, **DESTIN**, **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** with **GOVERNOR MALIBU** (\$25)

Picks

1. GOVERNOR MALIBU
2. EXAGGERATOR
3. LANI
4. STRADIVARI

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

Belmont Winners Since Affirmed

(Last 37 Years)

- 15 Triple Crown Series Newcomers
- 12 Derby & Preakness Runners
- 9 Derby Runners that Skipped Preakness
- 1 Preakness Runner that Skipped Derby

Largest Belmont Crowds

Attendance	Winner	Year
120,139	Birdstone	2004
103,222	Sarava	2002
102,199	Tonalist	2014
101,864	Empire Maker	2003
94,476	Da' Tara	2008
90,000	American Pharoah	2015**
85,818	Lemon Drop Kid	1999
85,811	Union Rags	2012*

Largest Without Triple Crown Chance:

73,857 (Point Given, 2001)

*TC Candidate I'll Have Another Scratched

**Attendance Capped

Know This:

Riding the Rail

Post 1 boasts 23 Belmont winners since 1905, easily the most of any starting position. However, the last horse to win from the rail was Empire Maker in 2003.

Attention Shoppers

The Belmont winner has returned a \$20 mutuel in 6 of the last 8 years.

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