



# KENTUCKY DERBY

## **x**b wager guide

MAY 7, 2016 • CHURCHILL DOWNS



American Pharoah and jockey Victor Espinoza win the 2015 Kentucky Derby.

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Fellow Racing Fan,

## Welcome to Xpressbet's Kentucky Derby Wager Guide!

Will Nyquist extend his unbeaten streak to include the 2016 Kentucky Derby? Early returns say it's his race to lose. However, backers of **CREATOR, EXAGGERATOR, GUN RUNNER, BRODY'S CAUSE** and others might disagree. And that's what horse racing's all about: A difference of opinion. 'My horse is faster than your horse!'

Of course, proceedings become infinitely more interesting when fans have a buck or two riding on the outcome. And that's where Xpressbet comes in. We're the best online and mobile wagering service in the nation and we're proud to present this FREE Kentucky Derby Wager Guide in order to help you cash a ticket on this year's race.

Xpressbet will offer online, phone and mobile wagering on the entire Triple Crown series—and produce free wager guides for remaining events: Preakness (available May 13) and Belmont (available June 3). As a current account holder you know Xpressbet is the best place to watch and wager on great racing from around the world. If you don't already have an Xpressbet account, act now and earn up to \$125 in bonus cash! That, certainly, will come in handy during the Triple Crown. Complete details are available at [Xpressbet.com](http://Xpressbet.com).

The Kentucky Derby is one of the most important racing days worldwide and Xpressbet is happy to arm horseplayers with valuable information. That's why we've recruited top handicappers, writers and broadcasters to examine the race—Analysis, Main Contenders, Value Plays and \$100 Wagering Strategies.

In addition to race-by-race expert commentary, inside you'll also find oodles of useful Stats & Trends, 'Know This' material, a handy Exotic Wagering Chart and much more.

Following the Kentucky Derby post-position draw, Xpressbet will produce an updated version of this guide to reflect alterations in expert opinions based on up-to-the-minute information. Make certain to return to the Xpressbet website to obtain an updated version.

Xpressbet hopes your 2016 Kentucky Derby wagering experience is fruitful and we look forward to serving as your advance deposit account wagering provider for the big day and into the future.

Sincerely,  
Ron Luniewski  
President  
Xpressbet





# KENTUCKY DERBY

1

## TROJAN NATION (50/1)

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



2

## SUDDENBREAKING-NEWS (20/1)

Owner: Samuel F. Henderson  
Trainer: Donnie Von Hemel  
Jockey: Luis Quinonez



3

## CREATOR (10/1)

Owner: WinStar Farm, LLC  
Trainer: Steve Asmussen  
Jockey: Ricardo Santana Jr.



4

## MO TOM (20/1)

Owner: G M B Racing  
Trainer: Tom Amoss  
Jockey: Corey Lanerie



5

## GUN RUNNER (10/1)

Owner: Winchell Thoroughbreds, LLC & Three Chimneys Farm  
Trainer: Steve Asmussen  
Jockey: Florent Geroux



6

## MY MAN SAM (20/1)

Owner: Sheep Pond Partners, Newport Stables, LLC and Jay Bligh  
Trainer: Chad Brown  
Jockey: Irad Ortiz Jr.



7

## OSCAR NOMINATED (50/1)

Owner: Ken & Sarah Ramsey  
Trainer: Mike Maker  
Jockey: Julien Leparoux



8

## LANI (30/1)

Owner: Ms. Yoko Maeda  
Trainer: Mikio Matsunaga  
Jockey: Yutaka Take



9

## DESTIN (15/1)

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



10

## WHITMORE (20/1)

Owner: Robert V. LaPenta & Harry T. Rosenblum  
Trainer: Ron Moquett  
Jockey: Victor Espinoza



11

## EXAGGERATOR (8/1)

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



12

## TOM'S READY (30/1)

Owner: G M B Racing  
Trainer: Dallas Stewart  
Jockey: Brian Hernandez Jr.



**13****NYQUIST (3/1)**

Owner: Reddam Racing, LLC  
 Trainer: Doug O'Neill  
 Jockey: Mario Gutierrez

**18****MAJESTO (30/1)**

Owner: Grupo 7C Racing Stable  
 Trainer: Gustavo Delgado  
 Jockey: Emisael Jaramillo

**14****MOHAYMEN (10/1)**

Owner: Shadwell Stable  
 Trainer: Kieran McLaughlin  
 Jockey: Junior Alvarado

**19****BRODY'S CAUSE (12/1)**

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

**15****OUTWORK (15/1)**

Owner: Repole Stable  
 Trainer: Todd Pletcher  
 Jockey: John Velazquez

**20****DANZING CANDY (15/1)**

Owner: Halo Farms & Jim and Dianne Bashor  
 Trainer: Clifford Sise Jr.  
 Jockey: Mike E. Smith

**16****SHAGAF (20/1)**

Owner: Shadwell Stable  
 Trainer: Chad Brown  
 Jockey: Joel Rosario

**21****LAOBAN (50/1)**

Owner: McCormick Racing, LLC and Southern Equine Stable, LLC  
 Trainer: Eric Guillot  
 Jockey: Cornelio Velasquez

**17****MOR SPIRIT (12/1)**

Owner: Michael Lund Petersen  
 Trainer: Bob Baffert  
 Jockey: Gary Stevens

**22****CHERRY WINE (30/1)**

Owner: William Pacella & Frank L. Jones Jr.  
 Trainer: Dale Romans  
 Jockey: Robby Albarado

**Winningest Kentucky Derby Post Positions - Since 1930**

Post	5	10	1	8	2	7	3	4	15	9	16	12	13	6	11	14
Wins	9	9	8	8	7	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	2

Posts 18, 19 and 20 have 1 winner each. No Kentucky Derby winner has ever started in Post 17.





# See How They Prep

By Jeremy Plonk *Horseplayernow.com Analyst*

Since 1986, every Kentucky Derby champion except Charismatic exited a 9-furlong final tune-up. How strongly horses finish in these preps often is a key indicator as to how they might handle the extra furlong at Churchill Downs.

**Louisiana Derby** (March 26): **GUN RUNNER** drew away by 4-1/2 lengths in 1:51.06, with the final three furlongs in :38.12 and the final furlong in :12.94. This was about a length or two slower on both counts than the last Louisiana Derby runner to hit the board at Churchill Downs, Revolutionary's, effort here in 2013. Runner-up **TOM'S READY** actually lost ground to the winner over the last three furlongs and clocked in the mid to upper :38s. Troubled **MOTOM** only made up a half-length on **GUN RUNNER** over the final three-eighths.

**Xpressbet.com Florida Derby** (April 2): Kentucky Derby favorite **NYQUIST** scored a 3 1/4-length victory in 1:49.11. Florida Derby times have fluctuated in recent years due to track conditions, but his :37.82 final three furlongs and :12.73 final eighth look eerily similar to Orb's numbers in 2013.

**Spiral Stakes** (April 2): Upsetter **OSCAR NOMINATED** stalked midpack and pounced over Polytrack to score in a blanket finish. All quickened with solid :37.50 and :12.38 splits over the final three furlongs and one furlong, respectively. The final time of 1:51.12 rates well and the come-home splits are among the best in recent Spiral editions.

**Santa Anita Derby** (April 9): It's clear **DANZING CANDY** went too fast early with a :45.24 opening half-mile. That was about 10 lengths faster to the half than champion 2YO filly Songbird managed in the same-day Santa Anita Oaks.

**EXAGGERATOR** rallied 9-1/2 lengths over the final three furlongs to win going away by 6-1/4 lengths in 1:49.66 over a sloppy track. His final three furlongs were covered in :38.09 and :13.36. **MOR SPIRIT** was an even 40 seconds for the final three-eighths.

**Blue Grass** (April 9): Horses 11th, 12th and 14th after the opening quarter wound up running 1st, 2nd and 3rd as **BRODY'S CAUSE** got the distance in 1:50.20. His final three furlongs went in :37.94 and the final furlong in :12.98. All times were slower than front-runner Carpe Diem posted in last year's Blue Grass.

**Wood Memorial** (April 9): A quagmire sloppy track led to the slowest Wood in history at 1:52.92. There's nothing to take away from these splits due to the conditions, but, for the record, **OUTWORK** came home in :40.61 and :14.02 to hold on from **TROJAN NATION**, who closed nine lengths over the last three furlongs in :39.10.

**Arkansas Derby** (April 16): The top three finishers all rallied 9-plus lengths over the final three furlongs as **CREATOR** scored in 1:50.14. So, while the race splits were :39.53 and :12.66 during the late stages, the come-home times for **CREATOR**, **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** and **WHITMORE** were within a few ticks of each other around :37.70-:38.10. They appear to be genuine closers.

## Kentucky Derby Capsule

Year	Winner (\$2 payoff)	Jockey-Trainer	Days Off	Prep Fin./Loc.	¼ M Pos.	½ M Pos.	Fav. Fin (Odds)
2015	American Pharoah (\$7.80*)	Espinoza-Baffert	21	1-Arkansas Derby	3rd-1L	3rd-2L	1st (5/2)
2014	California Chrome (\$7.00*)	Espinoza-Sherman	28	1-SA Derby	3rd-1-1/2L	3rd-1/2L	1st (5/2)
2013	Orb (\$12.80*)	Rosario-McGaughey	35	1-Florida Derby	16th-18-3/4L	17th-14-1/2L	1st (5/1)
2012	I'll Have Another (\$32.60)	Gutierrez-O'Neill	28	1-SA Derby	7th-8L	6th-6-1/2L	2nd (4/1)
2011	Animal Kingdom (\$43.80)	Velazquez-Motion	42	1-Spiral	12th- 6-1/4L	10th-6L	8th (5/1)
2010	Super Saver (\$18.00)	Borel-Pletcher	21	2-Arkansas Derby	6th- 5-1/2L	6th-8L	6th (6/1)

\*Starting Favorite

## 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)
<b>First</b>	Nyquist	Brody's Cause	Nyquist	Nyquist	Nyquist	My Man Sam
<b>Second</b>	Exaggerator	Whitmore	Mo Tom	Exaggerator	Mor Spirit	Majesto
<b>Third</b>	Destin	Nyquist	Mohaymen	Lani	Destin	Creator
<b>Fourth</b>	Mohaymen	Creator	Creator	Mor Spirit	Tom's Ready	Suddenbreakingnews



# Derby Extras

Derby Extras by Jeremy Plonk *NBC Sports Triple Crown Researcher*

## Know This:

### Pitch 'Til You Win

Trainer Steve Asmussen has started the most runners in the Kentucky Derby (13) without winning the race. **CREATOR** and **GUN RUNNER** are Asmussen's probable representatives this year. Trainer Todd Pletcher is tied with his mentor D. Wayne Lukas and Nick Zito for most starters in a single Derby with 5. Pletcher did it twice, in 2013 and 2007.

### April Vacay

Since 1920, 86 starters have competed in the Kentucky Derby without a prep race in April. They are: 86: 5-6-4.

In seven of the last eight editions (2012 is only exception) at least one horse without an April prep race has finished in the Derby top three. Four out of five 'no April prep' Derby winners have come since 2008—Orb, 2013; Animal Kingdom, 2011; Mine That Bird, 2009 and Big Brown, 2008. Needles, 1956, rounds out the list of winners. Potential 'no April prep' Derby starters this year are **GUN RUNNER, LANI, DESTIN, TOM'S READY** and **MO TOM**.

### Outside Looking 'Win'

Following the filly Genuine Risk's 1980 Derby victory, the massive Derby field era began in earnest. The 1981 Derby gate ballooned to 21 starters and has been filled to near-capacity almost every season since. In that time, posts 5-16 have won 28 of 35 editions. Also, 25 horses have finished in the Louisville top three in the past 35 years from the auxiliary gate.

### Struggles with 17

Post 17 remains the only post position to never produce a Kentucky Derby winner.

### 21 Pays

Not only does 21 pay off in blackjack, but also in the Kentucky Derby. Horses with 21 days between their final prep and the big race have won roses 15 times--most of any prep path since record keeping began in 1929.

## Stats & Trends:

### Prior Career Starts for Derby Winners

(Last 10 years)

Year	Derby Winner	Sts	2YO	3YO
2015	American Pharoah	5	3	2
2014	California Chrome	10	7	3
2013	Orb	7	4	3
2012	I'll Have Another	5	3	2
2011	Animal Kingdom	4	2	2
2010	Super Saver	6	4	2
2009	Mine That Bird	8	5	3
2008	Big Brown	3	1	2
2007	Street Sense	7	5	2
2006	Barbaro	5	2	3

### Most Derby Starters

Sts.	Trainer
48	D. Wayne Lukas
43	Todd Pletcher
26	Bob Baffert
26	Nick Zito
26	Dick Thompson

### Birthplaces of Derby Winners

Winners	State/Country
107	Kentucky
6	Florida
4	Virginia
4	California
3	Tennessee
2	New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Canada, England

### Prior Derby Records of Derby Winners

(Since 2008)

Year	Trainer	Record
2015	Bob Baffert	24: 3-3-2
2014	Art Sherman	0: 0-0-0
2013	Shug McGaughey	6: 0-1-1
2012	Doug O'Neill	2: 0-0-0
2011	Graham Motion	2: 0-0-0
2010	Todd Pletcher	24: 0-2-1
2009	Chip Woolley	0: 0-0-0
2008	Rick Dutrow	0: 0-0-0

### Winter/Spring Homes of Winners

Year	Horse	State
2015	American Pharoah	CA/Arkansas
2014	California Chrome	California
2013	Orb	Florida
2012	I'll Have Another	California
2011	Animal Kingdom	Florida/Kentucky
2010	Super Saver	Florida/Arkansas
2009	Mine That Bird	New Mexico
2008	Big Brown	Florida
2007	Street Sense	Florida/Kentucky
2006	Barbaro	Florida
2005	Giacomo	California
2004	Smarty Jones	Arkansas
2003	Funny Cide	Florida/New York
2002	War Emblem	Louisiana/Illinois
2001	Monarchos	Florida/New York





# Meet The 2016 Derby Contenders

by Johnny D *Xpressbet.com*

## Nyquist

Unbeaten in seven lifetime starts, reigning 2-year-old champion and winner of the 2015 Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Keeneland, Nyquist has earned Kentucky Derby favoritism. He's whipped several of today's contenders on the square and even when he's had the worst of it—like in the BC Juvenile when he began from the 12 post in a 14-horse field, was fanned wide on the first turn and still won. This year in two starts he's won at seven furlongs in rapid time in Santa Anita's San Vicente Stakes and at a mile and one-eighth in Gulfstream's Florida Derby. He's got speed and can rate, so tactically he fits well in the Derby lineup. For some reason, though, he's never garnered the mutual support his record demands. He's been favored four out of seven times and was second choice to **MOHAYMEN** in his most recent start in the Florida Derby.

## Mohaymen

He's pretty much the forgotten horse in this year's Kentucky Derby. He's won five-of-six lifetime starts and was favored over **NYQUIST** in the Florida Derby where he finished a disappointing fourth. Before that he won a pair of Grade 2 stakes at age 2 (Nashua and Remsen) and at age 3 (Holy Bull and Fountain of Youth). One poor outing at Gulfstream Park on a humid afternoon over a soggy track is all it took for legions to evacuate his bandwagon. Can he rebound with a strong effort in Louisville? Inquiring minds will be watching Derby week workouts over the Churchill strip hoping to find that answer.

## Mor Spirit

Trainer Bob Baffert and jockey Gary Stevens, winners of seven total Kentucky Derbies, combined forces in 1997 to help Silver Charm earn roses. Prior to that victory, Silver Charm had finished second behind Free House in the Santa Anita Derby. Baffert and Stevens hope lightning strikes again this season as they champion Mor Spirit, runner-up to **EXAGGERATOR** in the Santa Anita Derby last out. Mor Spirit now has finished second (4 times) more often than he's won (3 times), but that won't matter if he puts it all together in the Kentucky Derby. He won the Robert B. Lewis at Santa Anita and then didn't threaten runaway winners **DANZING CANDY** in the San Felipe or **EXAGGERATOR** in the Anita Derby over a wet surface he presumably didn't appreciate. Mor Spirit has a grinding style that ought to work well over a mile and one-quarter, but he'll need to do much better than his recent stuff to win.

## Gun Runner

This colt was last seen March 26 running away from nine Louisiana Derby foes, four and one-half lengths clear of his nearest threat. That victory completed a Pelican State parlay, as he had taken the Risen Star, also at Fair Grounds, in his previous start. As a 2-year-old, he won the first two starts of his career—a mile maiden race at Churchill Downs (Derby site) and an allowance route test at Keeneland. The only blemish on his record is a fourth-place finish

in the Kentucky Jockey Club at Churchill over a sloppy track. He's not the prettiest of movers and ducks and dives and changes leads through the stretch, but, so far, he's gotten the job done. The Louisiana Derby has not been fertile ground for Kentucky Derby winners—the last hero of that race to take the Louisville version was Grindstone in 1996!

## Danzing Candy

Until his last outing Danzing Candy had shown promise as a force to be reckoned with in the Kentucky Derby. He blitzed through December maidens and January first-level allowance foes with ease and then dominated highly regarded **MOR SPIRIT** in the San Felipe Stakes. In the Santa Anita Derby,

Danzing Candy took jockey Mike Smith's cue to 'go,' but ignored his instructions to 'whoa' and set a ridiculously hot pace over an 'off' track. When it came time for the real running to start, Danzing Candy was finished—he wound up fourth, 13 lengths behind **EXAGGERATOR**. Like with **MOHAYMEN**, horseplayers will wonder if Danzing Candy can rebound from a disappointing last race.

## Destin

It's been a while since we've seen Destin perform. Actually, it's been since March 12, when he won the Tampa Bay Derby from stablemate and subsequent Wood Memorial winner **OUTWORK**. Trainer Todd Pletcher, one of the nation's best for more than a decade, and conditioner of Kentucky Derby winner Super Saver, will bring Destin into the main event off an eight-week layoff. That's an unconventional path to the Kentucky Derby—both for the trainer and in the overall history of the race—but Pletcher wants to keep Destin fresh and feels the colt can train up to the mile and one-quarter test. Destin's versatile running style should fit well into what appears to be a Kentucky Derby lacking much early pace.

### 2016 KENTUCKY DERBY FUTURE WAGER POOL 4 (April 1-3)

Wagering Interest	Morning Line Odds	Final Odds	\$2 Will Pay
Nyquist	8-1	3-1	\$8.00
Mohaymen	7-2	8-1	\$19.40
All Other 3 YO's	10-1	10-1	\$22.40
Mor Spirit	12-1	11-1	\$25.40
Gun Runner	15-1	13-1	\$29.40
Danzing Candy	12-1	16-1	\$34.00
Destin	12-1	16-1	\$35.80
Mo Tom	15-1	17-1	\$36.40
Shagaf	30-1	17-1	\$36.80

Morning Line Odds by Mike Battaglia

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# More Than Meets the Eye

By Eddie Olczyk *NBC Sports Analyst*



**Analysis:** This edition of the Derby could have a lot more early pace than most people think. With the way the post position draw played out, and with speedball **DANZING CANDY** starting from the 20 hole, I expect him, **OUTWORK** and **NYQUIST** to come out running. I'm looking for a few mid-pack horses to take advantage of a perfect setup and I'll use some stone-cold closers underneath in my exotics to pick up the pieces..

**Main Contenders:** I love the versatility of **NYQUIST**. He has won every way possible, having taken fields wire-to-wire, as he did last out in the Xpressbet.com Florida Derby, but also closing from mid-pack, as he did in last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile. That and his cozy draw in the middle of the starting gate gives him a big tactical advantage. **GUN RUNNER** is also very versatile. I expect him to sit a few lengths off the lead from his inside post. He'll get first jump on the closers. I can't argue the connections of **MOR SPIRIT** – Bob Baffert and Gary Stevens are as good as it gets – and if it rains, they won't beat **EXAGGERATOR**. The weatherman hasn't decided if rain is in the forecast or not on Saturday, but weather is always a wildcard in races like this. If it rains, I'll be reexamining my bets.

**Value Plays:** While I don't think the stone-cold closers are quite good enough to take this edition of the Run for the Roses, the majority offer great value and should be on your Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta tickets. They'll be on mine. If they go too fast early, somebody like **MO TOM** or **EXAGGERATOR** could pick up all of the pieces. If they don't go fast enough – and I'm leaning this direction – those horses are still very valuable to horseplayers. **MO TOM** tops my list of deep-closers, and he should be a fair price after enduring two rough trips in Louisiana. I'm not as high on **BRODY'S CAUSE**. He could rally, but I'm not as confident in him, especially since he drew the 19 post.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$.50 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **NYQUIST** with **MO TOM**, **GUN RUNNER**, **EXAGGERATOR** with **ALL** (\$27, buy it 3 times for \$81)
- \$1 Exacta Back-Wheel: **ALL** with **NYQUIST** (\$19).

## Know This:

### California Crushers

Horses based in California have won at least 2/3 of the Triple Crown in three of the last four years – I'll Have Another (2012), California Chrome (2014) and American Pharoah (2015). They account for three of the last four Kentucky Derbies.

### Wood Woes

Since Funny Cide and Empire Maker swept the Derby exacta in 2003, Wood Memorial alumni are 26: 0-0-0 in the race. Wicked Strong, Frosted and Normandy Invasion were fourth the past three years.

### Why Buy?

In 2015, American Pharoah became the 9th home-bred to win the Kentucky Derby in the last 12 years.

### Fantastic Four

The top four finishers in last year's Kentucky Derby were 10-1 or less odds, the first time that's happened in a Derby field of 15 or more starters since 1946. From 2013 to 2015 10-of-12 Kentucky Derby superfecta finishers had single-digit odds.

## Picks

1. NYQUIST
2. MO TOM
3. GUN RUNNER
4. EXAGGERATOR

# Compared to Whom? Slew?

by Bob Neumeier *NBC Sports Reporter*



**Analysis:** Seattle Slew is to racing what Frank Sinatra was to singing; what Thomas Wolfe is to writing; and what Tom Hanks is to acting. That **NYQUIST** can be compared to Slew is the ultimate compliment. If this son of Uncle Mo wins the Kentucky Derby, **NYQUIST** will become the first undefeated Champion Two-Year-Old to do so since Seattle Slew in 1977. That's 39 years – or half the life of a conventional human being!

**Main Contenders:** **NYQUIST** is 7-for-7 lifetime with wins at five different distances over four different tracks. He has four wins in Grade 1 stakes events and his pace-pressing style seems suited to the race. The favorite has his detractors: the 1 ¼-mile distance; the abnormally high white blood cell count incident; and the unpredictability of the Kentucky Derby. Three-year-olds can blossom overnight, which makes handicapping against the favorite a mysterious task. **EXAGGERATOR** has his own questions to answer, but he has lost three times to **NYQUIST**. **DESTIN** owns a flashy speed figure in the Tampa Bay Derby, but his eight-week layoff would be the longest to win the Kentucky Derby in the modern era. The balance of the 20-horse field? Spin the wheel.

**Value Plays:** By my math, there are six runners who should fall between the 15 and 20-to-1 threshold. They are **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS**, **BRODY'S CAUSE**, **WHITMORE**, **MO TOM**, **CREATOR** and **MY MAN SAM**. I had **MOHAYMEN** pegged at 12-1, given his setback in the Florida Derby. He does have stout breeding, a popular trainer and a fast workout at Churchill Downs. **GUN RUNNER** is hopelessly slow but will be bet anyway.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

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

## Kentucky Derby History: The Last...

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

Victor Espinoza, California Chrome (2014) & American Pharoah (2015)

### Jockey to win his debut

Mario Gutierrez, I'll Have Another (2012); previously Stewart Elliott, Smarty Jones (2004); Ron Franklin, Spectacular Bid (1979)

### Jockey to win Oaks & Derby same year:

Calvin Borel, Rachel Alexandra and Mine That Bird (2009)

## Stats & Trends:

### Win-Place-Show Odds

(Last 25 years, Odds to \$1)

### Win Odds

**Average:** 13.49

**High:** 50.60 (Mine That Bird, 2009)

**Low:** 2.30 (Fusaichi Pegasus, 2000)

**Notable:** 7 of the last 10 winners have been single-digit odds.

### Place Odds

**Average:** 16.87

**High:** 71.60 (Closing Argument, 2005)

**Low:** 2.50 (Empire Maker, 2003)

**Notable:** 7 times in the last 25 years the runner-up has been at least 20-1 odds.

### Show Odds

**Average:** 13.53

**High:** 86.90 (Mane Minister, 1991)

**Low:** 2.70 (Indian Charlie, 1998)

**Notable:** Only once in the last 23 years has the show horse been over 20-1 odds.

### Exacta Payoffs

(Last 25 years, \$2 Payoffs)

**Average:** \$822.26

**High:** \$9,814.80

(Giacomo-Closing Argument, 2005)

**Low:** \$31.00

(Silver Charm-Captain Bodgit, 1997)

**Notable:** 5 of the last 6 Derby exactas have paid \$340 or less.

## Picks

1. NYQUIST
2. EXAGGERATOR
3. DESTIN
4. MOHAYMEN



# Exotic Wagering Chart

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

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

2 horse box.....	\$2
3 horse box.....	\$6
4 horse box.....	\$12
5 horse box.....	\$20
6 horse box.....	\$30
7 horse box.....	\$42
8 horse box.....	\$56

## **EXACTA WHEEL:** (\$1 Wager)

### One Horse with All

6 horse field.....	\$5
7 horse field.....	\$6
8 horse field.....	\$7
9 horse field.....	\$8
10 horse field.....	\$9

## **TRIFECTA BOX:** (\$.50 Wager)

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

## **TRIFECTA WHEEL:** (\$.50 Wager)

### One Horse with All with All

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

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

### One Horse with Two Horses with All

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

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

## **TRIFECTA KEY:** (\$.50 Wager)

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

## **SUPERFECTA BOX:** (\$1.00 Wager)

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

## **SUPERFECTA WHEEL:** (\$1.00 Wager)

### One Horse with All with All with All

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

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

### One Horse with Two Horses with All with All

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

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

## **SUPERFECTA KEY:** (\$1.00 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)	



# Cause for Pause and Celebration

by Jeremy Plonk *Horseplayernow.com Analyst*



**Analysis:** No horse ever has entered the Kentucky Derby starting gate with a resume as impressive as **NYQUIST**'s. Consider the unbeaten Two-Year-Old Champ has record pre-Derby earnings of \$3.3 million, more than \$500k higher than any other horse ever, even if you ignore bonus money earned at Gulfstream. He's also won in California, Florida and Kentucky in graded stakes company. So the obvious conclusion must be that it's **NYQUIST** and then everyone else, right? Not so fast. Seriously, not so fast.

**Main Contenders:** **NYQUIST** has been busy since the Florida Derby, working five furlongs twice and a mile on closing day at Keeneland before the fans. His last work clearly was the better of his three, but it leaves some wonder if he's moving forward off his big win at Gulfstream. Watching him train Thursday in Louisville, he was a tad rank for my taste, so you may try to beat him, but absolutely respect him regardless and don't get brazen. But I won't take 3-to-1. The west has been best in this prep season and three of the last four Kentucky Derby renewals, so that's not a bad place to look with **EXAGGERATOR**, **MOR SPIRIT** and speedball **DANZING CANDY** representing the Garden State. But a sloppy Santa Anita Derby leaves me twisted and could make those horses undervalued on the tote. Plus, **MOR SPIRIT** has looked dull to me this week and **DANZING CANDY** drew the 20-hole. On another note, no one has looked sharper than **DESTIN** in the lead up to the Derby.

**Value Plays:** The laundry list of Derby closers this year feels unprecedented. Every year has late-pluggers, but this year boasts high-quality finishers. **BRODY'S CAUSE** tops that list off his Blue Grass score, regained 2-year-old form and home-field edge at Churchill. Luis Saez has had a dream April, too, pushing all the right buttons. He looked awesome to me in the flesh on Thursday. The Arkansas Derby trio of **CREATOR**, **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** and **WHITMORE** really appeal for the exotics. Respect that crew, who patently rejected Cupid from the west coast and earn high marks for it. All 3 Oaklawn alumni looked sharp training Thursday, particularly **CREATOR**.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$.50 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **BRODY'S CAUSE** with **CREATOR**, **WHITMORE** and **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** with **ALL** (bet it twice, \$54)
- \$26 Win: **BRODY'S CAUSE** (\$26)
- \$5 Exacta Part-Wheel: **BRODY'S CAUSE**, **CREATOR**, **WHITMORE** and **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** over **NYQUIST** (\$20)

## Stats & Trends:

### Trifecta

(Since 1995, \$2 Payoffs)

**Average:** \$12,025.64

**High:** \$133,134.80

(Giacomo-Closing Argument-Afleet Alex, 2005)

**Low:** \$202.00

(American Pharoah-Firing Line-Dortmund, 2015)

**Notable:** Last year's result snapped a run of 7 straight trifectas paying at least \$2,300.

### Superfecta

(Since 1996, \$1 Payoffs)

**Average:** \$85,880.68

**High:** \$864,253.50

(Giacomo-Closing Argument-Afleet Alex-Don't Get Mad, 2005)

**Low:** \$350.00

(Silver Charm-Captain Bodgit-Free House-Pulpit, 1997)

**Notable:** Last year's \$634.10 superfecta payout was the second lowest in Derby history.

## Highest-Priced Superfecta Finishers

(Last 20 Years, Odds to \$1)

Odds	Horse	Year	Fin.
71.60	Closing Argument	2005	2nd
50.60	Mine That Bird	2009	1st
50.30	Giacomo	2005	1st
41.70	Limehouse	2004	4th

## Picks

1. BRODY'S CAUSE
2. CREATOR
3. NYQUIST
4. WHITMORE

# The Trend Continues

by Jeff Siegel *XBT* Analyst



**Analysis:** Beginning in 1980, the Kentucky Derby favorite failed to win for 20 straight years. That was then, yet many public handicappers, some wanting to be wise guys, have continued to make a conscious effort to steer clear of what on paper has been the most logical winner (see Pharoah, American, 2015). Here's a news flash: the favorite has captured six of the past 12 renewals, including the last three. It's perfectly okay to view the cold dope and conclude that the unbeaten Eclipse Award-winning Breeder's Cup Juvenile champion and slam dunk favorite, **NYQUIST**, will win this year's Run for the Roses.

**Main Contenders:** A legit case can be made for at least a half-dozen price chances, though each comes with a caveat. **MOHAYMEN** was favored over **NYQUIST** in the Xpressbet.com Florida Derby but wound up a well-beaten fourth. Can he bounce back? **GUN RUNNER** has been beaten just once in five starts and has done everything right this year, except (according to the speed figure experts) run fast. **EXAGGERATOR**'s Santa Anita Derby win was visually impressive but was accomplished on an off track and with the benefit of an extreme race-shape. **CREATOR** will love the 10-furlong distance but in a 20-runner field can he avoid severe traffic? **DESTIN** is fast enough on numbers, but where has he been in the last two months? **MOR SPIRIT** has been a beaten favorite in three out of his last five starts. Trust him?

**Value Plays:** Trouble-prone (or simply unlucky) **MO TOM** employs a Silky Sullivan-type style that invites traffic problems, but if there's a pace meltdown and the Red Sea parts, he may be the most dangerous deep closer in the field. Conversely, if everybody takes back and allows **DANZING CANDY** to stroll on the front end, the California invader could get brave and take the field a very long way.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$5 Exacta Box: **NYQUIST**, **MO TOM**, **MOHAYMEN** and **CREATOR** (\$60)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **NYQUIST** and **MO TOM** (\$10)
- \$5 Exacta: **NYQUIST** over **MOHAYMEN**, **MO TOM**, **GUN RUNNER**, **CREATOR**, **EXAGGERATOR** and **DANZING CANDY** (\$30)

## Stats & Trends:

### 2015 Derby Handle Totals

(Handle in Millions Except High-Five)

Pool	Handle
Win/Place/Show	\$56.5
Trifecta	\$30.7
Exacta	\$24.3
Superfecta	\$13.3
Pick Four	\$2.8
Oaks/Derby Double	\$2.6
Pick Five	\$1.5
Pick Six	\$1.1
High-Five	\$583k

### Lowest-Priced Derby Favorites

(Last 20 Years, Odds to \$1)

Odds	Horse	Year	Fin.
1.80	Point Given	2001	5th
<b>2.40</b>	<b>Big Brown</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>2.50</b>	<b>California Chrome</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>1st</b>

### Highest-Priced Derby Favorites

(Odds to \$1)

Odds	Horse	Year	Fin.
6.30	Lookin At Lucky	2010	6th
6.00	Harlan's Holiday	2002	7th
5.50	Sweetnorthernsaint	2006	7th
<b>5.40</b>	<b>Orb</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>1st</b>
5.20	Dialed In	2011	8th
<b>4.90</b>	<b>Street Sense</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>1st</b>
4.80	General Challenge/ Excellent Meeting	1999	5th
4.40	Prairie Bayou	1993	2nd
4.20	Bodemeister	2012	2nd
<b>4.10</b>	<b>Smarty Jones</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>1st</b>

## Picks

1. NYQUIST
2. MO TOM
3. MOHAYMEN
4. CREATOR

# California Clout

by Jon White *Santa Anita Morning Line Oddsmaker*



**Analysis:** The group in California appears to be the strongest this year, an impression seemingly affirmed by what happened in the Xpressbet.com Florida Derby. California-based **NYQUIST** won the Florida Derby by 3 ¼ emphatic lengths to remain undefeated in seven career starts while beating fourth-place finisher, **MOHAYMEN**, by 8 ¼ lengths. Even the performances by a couple of maidens in graded stakes races nationwide would seem to be an indication of California's strength this year: **TROJAN NATION** very nearly won the Wood, while another California-based maiden, **LAOBAN**, ran second in the Gotham Stakes and fourth in the Blue Grass Stakes. Meanwhile, it appears the pace in the Kentucky Derby this year might not be all that fast, and if that turns out to be the case, **DANZING CANDY** becomes a threat to lead past every pole.

**Main Contenders:** California-based **NYQUIST**, **EXAGGERATOR** and **MOR SPIRIT** are the main contenders. **NYQUIST** has defeated **EXAGGERATOR** all three times they have met. So it certainly made the Two-Year-Old Champion **NYQUIST** look even better when **EXAGGERATOR** won the Santa Anita Derby by 6 ¼ lengths, with **MOR SPIRIT** finishing second. When **MOHAYMEN** lost the Florida Derby, the track was wet and he traveled much farther than **NYQUIST**. Can **MOHAYMEN** rebound and win roses? I would not rule it out. And even though **BRODY'S CAUSE** (Blue Grass winner), **CREATOR** (Arkansas Derby winner), **GUN RUNNER** (Louisiana Derby winner) and **OUTWORK** (Wood Memorial winner) do not make my list of "main contenders," I view them as bona fide candidates to win.

**Value Plays:** **LANI**, who has been sent to the U.S. from Japan via a victory in Dubai's UAE Derby, is an intriguing sleeper. **LANI** is a son of premier U.S. sire, Tapit, and Heavenly Romance. Heavenly Romance, an earner of \$3,527,120 in Japan, is a daughter of 1989 Kentucky Derby winner Sunday Silence. **LANI** won the UAE Derby despite stumbling badly at the start and racing wide.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$2 Exacta Wheel: **NYQUIST** with ALL (\$38)
- \$2 Exacta Box: **NYQUIST**, **LANI**, **EXAGGERATOR**, **MOR SPIRIT** and **SHAGAF** (\$40)
- \$2 Exacta Box: **MOR SPIRIT** and **MOHAYMEN** (\$4)
- \$10 Win: **LANI** (\$10)
- \$8 Win: **DANZING CANDY** (\$8)

## Stats & Trends:

### Undefeated Kentucky Derby Winners

Year	Horse	Prev. Wins
2008	Big Brown	3
2006	Barbaro	5
2004	Smarty Jones	6
1977	Seattle Slew	6
1969	Majestic Prince	7
1922	Morvich	11
1915	Regret	3

### Prep Race Winners to Win Derby

Race	Horse	Year
Arkansas Derby	American Pharoah	2015
Blue Grass	Strike the Gold	1991
Florida Derby	Orb	2013
Fountain of Youth	Orb	2013
Lexington	Charismatic	1999
Louisiana Derby	Grindstone	1996
Santa Anita Derby	California Chrome	2014
Spiral	Animal Kingdom	2011
Tampa Bay Derby	Street Sense	2007
Wood Memorial	Fusaichi Pegasus	2000

### Days Between Last Prep & Derby

(Last 10 Years)

Year	Horse	Days
2015	American Pharoah	21
2014	California Chrome	28
2013	Orb	35
2012	I'll Have Another	28
2011	Animal Kingdom	42
2010	Super Saver	21
2009	Mine That Bird	34
2008	Big Brown	35
2007	Street Sense	21
2006	Barbaro	35

## Picks

1. NYQUIST
2. EXAGGERATOR
3. LANI
4. MOR SPIRIT



# Nyquist Fast Enough For These

by Dick Jerardi *Daily Racing Form Columnist*



**Analysis:** We could make this simple like the last three years, focus on the solid favorite and try to construct bets around that notion or try to make sense of several contenders that look very similar. Many of the final preps were won by deep closers after pace meltdowns. The Kentucky Derby race shape looks very different, however, as most of those speed horses have dropped off the Derby Trail and the actual race is left with very little obvious pace. The winner could get similar stalking trips to California Chrome and American Pharoah as the top flight really looks like the most advantageous spot.

**Main Contenders:** **NYQUIST** has a single wonderful trait – he wins every time he runs, 7-for-7. With more than \$3.3 million in earnings already banked, the Two-Year-Old Champ has four Grade 1 wins. It is a powerful resume with just one missing ingredient. The colt just is not very fast, but the good news is that neither are the vast majority of horses he is running against. The Champ is just one of four horses with a triple-digit Beyer, very unusual for the Derby. **EXAGGERATOR** won the prep of the year when he crushed the field in the Santa Anita Derby, but the setup was perfect and he could not catch **NYQUIST** the three times he tried him. **DESTIN** won a key prep race in the Tampa Bay Derby. The eight-week layoff is typical for Todd Pletcher, but atypical for Derby winners. **MOHAYMEN** is certainly better than his fourth in the Florida Derby. **OUTWORK** has received high marks from the clockers since he arrived at Churchill Downs.

**Value Plays:** **MOR SPIRIT** is **NYQUIST** without all the wins. The colt is super consistent, with three wins and four seconds in seven starts, the last five in graded stakes. And **MOR SPIRIT**'s trainer, Bob Baffert, knows how to get a horse ready to win the Derby.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$50 Exacta Box: **NYQUIST** and **MOR SPIRIT** (\$100)

## Kentucky Derby History: The Last...

### Trainer to win back-to-back:

Bob Baffert, Silver Charm (1997) & Real Quiet (1998)

### Trainer to win his Debut:

Art Sherman, California Chrome (2014)

### Trainer to win Oaks & Derby same year:

Ben Jones, Real Delight & Hill Gail (1952)

## Stats & Trends:

### Winning Derby Post Positions

(Since 1900)

Post	Wins	Post	Wins
1	12	11	3
2	9	12	3
3	8	13	4
4	11	14	2
5	13	15	5
6	6	16	4
7	8	17	0
8	10	18	1
9	4	19	1
10	10	20	2

### Wire-to-Wire Derby Winners

(Last 50 Years)

Year	Horse	Choice	Field	Half
2002	War Emblem	9th	18	47
1988	Winning Colors	2nd	17	46 4/5
1985	Spend A Buck	2nd	13	45 4/5
1976	Bold Forbes	2nd	9	45 4/5
1972	Riva Ridge	Fav.	16	47 3/5
1966	Kauai King	Fav.	15	46 1/5

### Fastest Derbies

Time	Horse	Year
1:59 2/5	Secretariat	1973
1:59 4/5	Monarchos	2001
2:00	Northern Dancer	1964
2:00 1/5	Spend A Buck	1985
2:00 2/5	Decidedly	1962

## Know This:

### Favorites' Roll

The current three year run of winning favorites in the Kentucky Derby is tied for the third-longest such streak in the event's history. The last time four consecutive favorites won was 1972-'75. The record of six straight winning favorites dates back to 1891-'96.

## Picks

1. NYQUIST
2. MOR SPIRIT
3. CREATOR
4. OUTWORK

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your way to play

# Reach for Prices in Derby Chaos

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



**Analysis:** After American Pharoah's Triple Crown sweep, an underwhelming prep season brings us to Derby 142 with a cloud of uncertainty. The classic candidates consistently earned speed figures well below historical pars for the traditional lead up stakes while coming home modestly. Several preps run over wet surfaces further complicate assessments of talent and projections for improvement, while a murky group of pacesetters makes conclusions on a big group of late runners more difficult. Planning your attack requires deciding and living with the pace scenario you expect. If the opening three quarters go in 1:10 or less, the big closers (**CREATOR, SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS, MO TOM, BRODY'S CAUSE**) will succeed. Six furlongs in 1:11 or more means quality near-the-lead types (**NYQUIST, OUTWORK, GUN RUNNER, MOHAYMEN**) get their opportunity to win and impact the pay slots. A fair for all pace between 1:10-1:11 gives stalkers and just-off-the-pace players (**EXAGGERATOR, MAJESTO, MY MAN SAM, MOR SPIRIT**) their best chance.

**Main Contenders:** Undefeated Juvenile Champion **NYQUIST** carries the burden of favoritism answering every question posed to him, but remains uninspiring. **EXAGGERATOR** will be second choice and needs to find a way to topple the favorite, who has bested him three times already. **BRODY'S CAUSE** justified Dale Romans' confidence with a big Blue Grass run. **GUN RUNNER** aced the Fair Grounds sophomore exams, but needs to step forward yet.

**Value Plays:** **MY MAN SAM** and **MAJESTO** are price keys in a race hinting at a chaotic result. **MY MAN SAM** is an emerging runner who has harnessed behavior issues and won't have to be as far back early as he was in the Blue Grass. Mid-pack stalker **MAJESTO**, the field's best looker, tangled with tigers en route to Louisville and is the lone entrant that negotiated 9f three times this year. **SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS** keeps improving for Von Hemel, but like **CREATOR**, will need to pass most or all of his rivals for laurels. **OUTWORK**, one of the Derby's trio of Uncle Mo sons with **NYQUIST** and **MO TOM**, is being dismissed after an eyesore Wood win, but is dangerous at what will be big odds for a Pletcher-Velazquez player.

## Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$0.50 Trifecta Box: **MY MAN SAM, MAJESTO, CREATOR, SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS, NYQUIST** and **EXAGGERATOR** (\$60)
- \$1 Exacta Box: **MY MAN SAM, MAJESTO, CREATOR, SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS, NYQUIST** and **EXAGGERATOR** (\$30)
- \$5 Win: **MY MAN SAM** and **MAJESTO** (\$10)

## Picks

1. MY MAN SAM
2. MAJESTO
3. CREATOR
4. SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS

## Stats & Trends:

### Career High Pre-Derby Beyer Fig

(Last 10 years)

Year	Horse	Beyer	Fin.
2015	Materiality	110	6th
<b>2014</b>	<b>California Chrome</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1st</b>
2013	Goldencents	105	17th
	Verrazano	105	14th
2012	Bodemeister	108	2nd
2011	Soldat	103	11th
2010	Devil May Care	100	10th
	Sidney's Candy	100	17th
2009	Dunkirk	108	11th
2008	Bob Black Jack	109	16th
<b>2007</b>	<b>Street Sense</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1st</b>
2006	Sinister Minister	116	16th

### Active Jockeys Most Derby Wins

Wins	Jockey
3	Kent Desormeaux
3	Victor Espinoza
3	Gary Stevens

### Active Jockeys Most Derby Mounts

Mounts	Jockey
21	Gary Stevens
21	Mike Smith
19	Kent Desormeaux
18	Corey Nakatani
17	John Velazquez
15	Alex Solis
14	Robby Albarado
11	Edgar Prado

## Know This:

### Far From the Maddening Crowd

Since 2008, five of the last eight and four of the last five Derby winners have started from the auxiliary gate: American Pharoah (2015) and Orb (2013) post 15; Animal Kingdom (2011) post 16; I'll Have Another (2012) post 19; and Big Brown (2008) post 20.