

# Kentucky Derby 2022 Weekend Analysis

## KENTUCKY DERBY (G1) | CHURCHILL DOWNS

RACE 12 | 6:57PM ET | 3YO | 1 ¼ MI | DIRT

1 10-1		<b>Mo Donegal</b> Irad Ortiz Jr / Todd Pletcher <i>Wood Memorial Winner</i>
2 30-1		<b>Happy Jack</b> Rafael Bejarano / Doug O'Neill <i>Santa Anita Derby Third</i>
3 7-2		<b>Epicenter</b> Joel Rosario / Steve Asmussen <i>Louisiana Derby Winner</i>
4 30-1		<b>Summer Is Tomorrow</b> Mickael Barzalona / Bhupat Seemar <i>UAE Derby Runner-Up</i>
5 20-1		<b>Smile Happy</b> Corey Lanerie / Kenneth McPeck <i>Blue Grass Runner-Up</i>
6 8-1		<b>Messier</b> John Velazquez / Tim Yakteen <i>Santa Anita Derby Winner</i>
7 20-1		<b>Crown Pride</b> Christophe Lemaire / Koichi Shintani <i>UAE Derby Winner</i>
8 20-1		<b>Charge It</b> Luis Saez / Todd Pletcher <i>Florida Derby Runner-Up</i>
9 30-1		<b>Tiz the Bomb</b> Brian Hernandez Jr / Kenneth McPeck <i>Jeff Ruby Winner</i>
10 3-1		<b>Zandon</b> Flavien Prat / Chad Brown <i>Blue Grass Winner</i>
11 30-1		<b>Pioneer of Medina</b> Joe Bravo / Todd Pletcher <i>Louisiana Derby Third</i>
12 12-1		<b>Talba</b> Mike Smith / Tim Yakteen <i>Santa Anita Derby Winner</i>
13 20-1		<b>Simplification</b> Jose Ortiz / Antonio Sano <i>Fountain of Youth Winner</i>
14 30-1		<b>Barber Road</b> Reylu Gutierrez / John Ortiz <i>Arkansas Derby Runner-Up</i>
15 10-1		<b>White Abarrio</b> Tyler Gaffalione / Saffie Joseph Jr <i>Florida Derby Winner</i>
16 20-1		<b>Cyberknife</b> Florent Geroux / Brad Cox <i>Arkansas Derby Winner</i>
17 30-1		<b>Classic Causeway</b> Julien Lejaroux / Brian Lynch <i>Tampa Bay Derby Winner</i>
18 30-1		<b>Tawny Port</b> Ricardo Santana Jr / Brad Cox <i>Lexington Winner</i>
19 20-1		<b>Zozos</b> Manuel Franco / Brad Cox <i>Louisiana Derby Runner-Up</i>
20 30-1		<b>Ethereal Road</b> Luis Contreras / D. Wayne Lukas <i>Lexington Third</i>

## FRIDAY STAKES RACES

R5 | Modesty (G3) | 4UP FM | 1800D

1	Fluffy Socks	Ortiz Jr/Brown	3/1
2	Stand Tall	Geroux/Arnold	12/1
3	Mona Stella	Gaffalione/Biancone	30/1
4	She Can't Sing	Castellano/Block	8/1
5	Lake Lucerne	Barzalona/Walsh	15/1
6	Hendy Woods	Ortiz/Casse	5/1
7	Curly Ruth	Saez/Kenneally	6/1
8	Bleecker Street	Prat/Brown	9/5
9	Pass the Plate	Hernandez/McGee	8/1

R6 | La Troienne (G1) | 4UP FM | 1700D

1	Jilted Bride	Saez/Asmussen	6/1
2	Shedaresthedevil	Geroux/Cox	6/5
3	Temper Time	Gaffalione/Romans	12/1
4	Battle Bling	Ortiz Jr/Atras	6/1
5	She's All Wolfe	Smith/Von Hemel	12/1
6	Pauline's Pearl	Rosario/Asmussen	2/1
7	Ava's Grace	Cohen/Diodoro	15/1

R7 | Alysheba (G2) | 4UP | 1700D

1	Max Player	Santana/Asmussen	5/2
2	Weyburn	Gaffalione/Walsh	5/1
3	Militarist	Ortiz/Vaccarezza	20/1
4	Soy Tapatio	Prat/O'Neill	15/1
5	Olympiad	Alvarado/Mott	9/5
6	Fulsome	Geroux/Cox	8/1
7	Happy Saver	Ortiz Jr/Pletcher	7/2
8	Title Ready	Velazquez/Stewart	20/1

R8 | Edgewood (G2) | 3YO F | 1700T

1	Tap Dancing Lady	Jimenez/Kahles	20/1
2	My Philly Twist	Leparoux/Walsh	10/1
3	McKulick	Prat/Brown	7/2
4	Kneeships	Graham/Amoss	12/1
5	Dolce Zel	Ortiz Jr/Brown	5/2
6	An Agent Mistake	Gutierrez/O'Neill	15/1
7	Beechnut Trophy	Gaffalione/Joseph	10/1
8	Spicer	Ortiz/Brown	3/1
9	New Year's Eve	Saez/Walsh	12/1
10	Dream Lith	Vazquez/Diodoro	8/1

R9 | Eight Belles (G2) | 3YO F | 1400D

1	Sweet as Pie	Saez/Pletcher	12/1
2	Pretty Birdie	Geroux/N Casse	4/1
3	Marissa's Lady	Bejarano/Morey	7/2
4	Ain't Easy	Gaffalione/D'Amato	12/1
5	Wicked Halo	Ortiz Jr/Asmussen	10/1
6	Gerrymander	Rosario/Brown	8/1
7	Lac Vieux Desert	Cohen/Diodoro	30/1
8	Matareya	Prat/Cox	5/2
9	Awake At Midnyte	Gutierrez/O'Neill	15/1
10	Sweet Dani Girl	Ortiz/Vaccarezza	6/1

R10 | Twin Spires (G2) | 3UP | 1100T

1	Gregorian Chant	Rosario/D'Amato	10/1
2	The Lir Jet	Rispoli/Walsh	12/1
3	Caravel	Gaffalione/Cox	5/1
4	Chasing Artie	Ortiz/Joseph	20/1
5	Cowan	Saez/Asmussen	15/1
6	Bran	Cheminaud/Sadler	10/1
7	Diamond Oops	Geroux/Biancone	12/1
8	Gear Jockey	Hernandez/Arnold	5/1
9	Pyron	Prat/Stall	6/1
10	Arrest Me Red	Ortiz Jr/Ward	4/1
11	Just Might	Bejarano/Lovell	10/1
12	Johnny Unleashed	Corrales/Foster	12/1
13	Whattmakessammyrun	Velazquez/Glatt	20/1

R11 | Kentucky Oaks (G1) | 3YO F | 1800D

1	Secret Oath	Saez/Lukas	6/1
2	Nostalgic	Ortiz/Mott	15/1
3	Hidden Connection	Gutierrez/Calhoun	20/1
4	Nest	Ortiz Jr/Pletcher	5/2
5	Goddess of Fire	Velazquez/Pletcher	15/1
6	Yuugiri	Geroux/Brisset	30/1
7	Echo Zulu	Rosario/Asmussen	4/1
8	Venti Valentine	Gaffalione/Abreu	20/1
9	Desert Dawn	Rispoli/D'Amato	20/1
10	Kathleen O.	Castellano/McGaughey	7/2
11	Cocktail Moments	Lanerie/McPeek	30/1
12	Candy Raid	Bejarano/Desormeaux	30/1
13	Shahama	Prat/Pletcher	15/1
14	Turnerloose	Franco/Cox	20/1

## SATURDAY STAKES RACES

R5 | Distaff Turf (G2) | 4UP FM | 1600T

1	She Can't Sing	Franco/Block	10/1
2	Flower Point	Rosario/McGaughey	8/1
3	Mona Stella	Geroux/Biancone	20/1
4	Absond	Gaffalione/Kenneally	20/1
5	Wakanaka	Ortiz/Mott	6/1
6	Lady Speightspeare	Saez/Atfield	5/2
7	In Italian	Ortiz Jr/Brown	3/1
8	Speak of the Devil	Prat/Brown	2/1

R6 | Knicks Go | 4UP | 1600D

1	A C Expressway	Ortiz Jr/N Casse	15/1
2	Shared Sense	Geroux/Cox	3/1
3	Three Technique	Bejarano/Cook	30/1
4	Dream Shake	Prat/Eurton	5/2
5	Gun It	Saez/Asmussen	10/1
6	Perfectly Speighty	Velazquez/Stewart	20/1
7	South Bend	Rosario/Mott	8/1
8	Injunction	Ortiz/Vaccarezza	15/1
9	Frosted Grace	Graham/Amoss	15/1
10	Major Fed	Leparoux/Foley	10/1
11	Necker Island	Murrill/Hartman	6/1
12	Endorsed	Gaffalione/Maker	12/1

R7 | Pat Day Mile (G2) | 3YO | 1600D

1	Major General	Ortiz Jr/Pletcher	9/2
2	Trademark	Bejarano/Oliver	20/1
3	Pappacap	Prat/Casse	6/1
4	Ben Diesel	Court/Stewart	20/1
5	Jack Christopher	Ortiz/Brown	2/1
6	Tejano Twist	Rocco/Calhoun	10/1
7	Howling Time	Talamo/Romans	30/1
8	Kavod	Murrill/Hartman	20/1
9	Trafalgar	Hernandez/Stall	20/1
10	Doppelganger	Velazquez/Yakteen	6/1
11	My Prankster	Saez/Pletcher	4/1
12	O Captain	Gaffalione/Delgado	20/1

R8 | DC Distaff (G1) | 4UP FM | 1400D

1	Lady Rocket	Ortiz Jr/Cox	5/1
2	Just One Time	Prat/Cox	3/1
3	Center Aisle	Gaffalione/Lobo	15/1
4	Kimari	Rosario/Ward	9/2
5	Obligatory	Ortiz/Mott	7/2
6	Bell's the One	Lanerie/Pessin	5/1
7	Edgeway	Velazquez/Sadler	4/1
8	Four Graces	Leparoux/Wilkes	15/1

R9 | American Turf (G2) | 3YO | 1700T

1	Smokin' T	Velazquez/McGaughey	15/1
2	Main Event	Ortiz/Weaver	5/1
3	Red Run	Hernandez/Asmussen	15/1
4	Red Danger	Saez/Lynch	10/1
5	Balnikhov	Franco/D'Amato	5/1
6	Portfolio Company	Rosario/Brown	9/2
7	Sy Dog	Ortiz Jr/Motion	7/2
8	Royal Spirit	Gaffalione/Pletcher	15/1
9	Stolen Base	Prat/Maker	12/1
10	Coinage	Geroux/Casse	6/1
11	Dowagiac Chief	Graham/Amoss	10/1

R10 | Churchill Downs (G1) | 4UP | 1400D

1	Aloha West	Ortiz/Catalano	7/2
2	Long Range Toddy	Saez/Stewart	30/1
3	Jackie's Warrior	Rosario/Asmussen	5/2
4	Sir Alfred James	Court/Cash	30/1
5	Reinvestment Risk	Ortiz Jr/Brown	7/2
6	Prevalence	Gaffalione/Walsh	6/1
7	Mind Control	Velazquez/Pletcher	5/1
8	Cezanne	Prat/Pletcher	4/1

R11 | Turf Classic (G1) | 4UP | 1800T

1	Ivar	Talamo/Lobo	4/1
2	Bizzee Channel	Corrales/Rivelli	30/1
3	Public Sector	Ortiz Jr/Brown	5/1
4	Tribhuvan	Franco/Brown	5/1
5	Mira Mission	Leparoux/Wilkes	10/1
6	Shirl's Speight	Saez/Atfield	3/1
7	Cavalry Charge	Hernandez/Stewart	12/1
8	Adhamo	Prat/Brown	9/2
9	Kentucky Ghost	Bejarano/Oliver	20/1
10	Santin	Gaffalione/Walsh	6/1

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## KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDER PROFILES

1	<b>Mo Donegal</b>	Irada Ortiz, Jr.	Todd Pletcher	10/1
	Uncle Mo-Callingmissbrown (Pulpit) Midpack/Closer	Wood Memorial (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Holy Bull (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), Remsen (1 <sup>st</sup> ) DI: 3.00 CD: 0.63 Avg Figure: 99	5   3-0-2 \$621,800	
Solid breaker out of the gate; doesn't mind the rail spot Bit small in size Big closing kick; gets better as he gets older Much better coming off the pace – should not be placed too close to the lead Jockey change from Joel Rosario back to Irada Ortiz Jr might not be the best move Stuck going wide and in traffic during Holy Bull – just didn't have a shot; still coming on super strong late Wants the inside path Super-fast with push button speed Have trouble saying win contender, but must have in all exotics Just barely edged Zandon as a 2yo in the Remson – both very game and both very close				
2	<b>Happy Jack</b>	Rafael Bejarano	Doug O'Neill	30/1
	Oxbow-Tapistry (Tapit) Midpack	Santa Anita Derby (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), San Felipe (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), Robert B. Lewis (5 <sup>th</sup> ) DI: 2.38 CD: 0.45 Avg Figure: 86	4   1-0-2 \$182,200	
Inconsistent starter and doesn't always break well Short stride and very small Doesn't have a clear running style that he favors Just a lot of steps slower than the rest of the field – no chance				
3	<b>Epicenter</b>	Joel Rosario	Steven Asmussen	7/2
	Not This Time-Silent Candy (Candy Ride) Front Runner/Stalker	Louisiana Derby (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Risen Star (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Lecomte (2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Gun Runner (1 <sup>st</sup> ) DI: 0.60 CD: -0.42 Avg Figure: 97	6   4-1-0 \$1,010,639	
Professional out of the gate Settles in nicely Longstrider and calm in the stalking spot Just easily cruises down the stretch Beat some tiring horses in the LA Derby Takes a bit down the stretch to get into stride Might not do well in too much traffic Has not been working out well leading into the Derby Such a solid cruising speed when leading Impressive in victory at Fair Grounds Looks to get better as the races get longer				
4	<b>Summer Is Tomorrow</b>	Mickael Barzalona	Bhupat Seemar	30/1
	Summer Front-Always Tomorrow (Badge of Silver) Front Runner	UAE Derby (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) DI: 2.11 CD: 0.57 Avg Figure: --	7   2-3-0 \$267,606	
Runs very free on the lead Might go too fast to early More of a sprinting type; pedigree suggests mile at most Likely speed in the Derby So professional and definitely a mature horse – can see the War Front in him Stamina was the issue in the UAE Derby – will be the issue in the Derby				
5	<b>Smile Happy</b>	Corey Lanerie	Kenneth McPeck	20/1
	Runhappy-Pleasant Smile (Pleasant Tap) Stalker	Blue Grass (2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Risen Star (2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Kentucky Jockey Club (1 <sup>st</sup> ) DI: 1.91 CD: 0.38 Avg Figure: 98	4   2-2-0 \$549,810	
Had a wide trip all the way around in the Blue Grass Needed everything he had in the Blue Grass and faced trouble for a great finish Was still a bit young at Keeneland Has a short stride Getting better with each run – not too far off from the leaders Not a win contender, but an exotics contender for sure Will be one in the mix late – never runs a bad race; not one to doubt.				

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## KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDER PROFILES

6	Messier	John Velazquez	Tim Yakteen	8/1
	Empire Maker-Checkered Past (Smart Strike) Stalker	Santa Anita Derby (2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Robert B. Lewis (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Los Al Futurity (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) DI: 3.44 CD: 0.80 Avg Figure: 104	6   3-3-0 \$435,600	
Former Bob Baffert trainee Muscular – looks to be putting on muscle well between races Strong on the front end, but not a need to speed type Beat a tired group two back in Robert B. Lewis Pressured pace well but was too tired late to win last out Should improve coming into the Derby and will be a horse to watch Can stalk pace well and pounce late Not great finishing skills				
7	Crown Pride (JPN)	Christophe Lemaire	Koichi Shintani	20/1
	Reach The Crown- <b>Emmy's Pride (King Kamehameha)</b> Stalker	UAE Derby (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Hyacinth JPN (6 <sup>th</sup> ) DI: 1.55 CD: 0.57 Avg Figure: --	4   3-0-0 \$734,569	
Coming in from Japan via the UAE Derby Would likely have been 4 for 4 had the Hyacinth not started on turf Getting better as races get longer Always puts in a good effort UAE Derby was deceivingly weak, as he passed and beat lots of tiring horses May show more if challenged in a duel late, but yet to be tested Strong runner down the stretch Not always the cleanest breaker – may not like the course if wet Looks a bit overmatched here, but has been putting in good workouts An international horse will win the Derby in the near future, just won't be him				
8	Charge It	Luis Saez	Todd Pletcher	8/1
	Tapit-I'll Take Charge (Indian Charlie) Stalker	Florida Derby (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) DI: 3.00 CD: 0.67 Avg Figure: 94	3   1-2-0 \$230,400	
Needs a bit of asking to break well Has good stalking speed Improving in each start Still pretty young and green – should do better here On the up and training really well Going to be in the mix late – just have to wonder if he is toughened enough for this spot Not too much late speed; that might be his kryptonite here				
9	Tiz the Bomb	Brian Hernandez, Jr.	Kenneth McPeck	30/1
	Hit It a Bomb-Tiz the Key (Tiznow) Midpack Closer	Jeff Ruby Steaks (1 <sup>st</sup> ), John Battaglia (1 <sup>st</sup> ), BC Juv. Turf (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) DI: 1.86 CD: 0.45 Avg Figure: 96	8   5-1-0 \$1,044,401	
Has done very little over conventional dirt; mostly a turf and synthetic type – like his sire Is a mirror image of his sire, Hit It a Bomb Doesn't have the highest of cruising speeds early Has been beaten by many in this field already Coming out of a weak Jeff Ruby Workouts have been sup-par Would be better suited elsewhere				
10	Zandon	Flavien Prat	Chad Brown	3/1
	Upstart-Memories Prevail (Creative Cause) Deep Closer	Blue Grass (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Risen Star (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), Remson (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) DI: 2.11 CD: 0.50 Avg Figure: 97	4   2-1-1 \$713,000	
Long striding horse – able to overcome distances quickly Strong turn of foot late; battle tested and able to shake off contact Dangerous closer with or without a fast pace Has been getting better with each race – see if he got better than Epicenter Should keep improving with second straight Flavien Prat ride Has best late kick in the field Not sure a win contender, but will be closing late to try and grab a piece				

# Kentucky Derby 2022 Weekend Analysis

## KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDER PROFILES

11	<b>Pioneer of Medina</b> Pioneer of the Nile-Lights of Medina (Eskendereya) Presser	Joe Bravo Louisiana Derby (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), Risen Star (4 <sup>th</sup> ) DI: 3.00    CD: 0.75    Avg Figure: 92	Todd Pletcher 6   2-1-2 \$181,350	30/1
<p>Smooth runner – very fluid stride throughout            Still green – has issues switching leads around turns and heading down the stretch            Held well in Louisiana Derby on a speed favoring track            Has been putting in good works at Churchill Downs – may have a liking for the track            Always puts in a solid effort; will be around in the exotics mix in the end</p>				
12	<b>Taiba</b> Gun Runner-Needmore Flattery (Flatter) Presser	Mike Smith Santa Anita Derby (1 <sup>st</sup> ) DI: 2.00    CD: 0.50    Avg Figure: 106	Tim Yakteen 2   2-0-0 \$490,200	12/1
<p>Former Bob Baffert trainee            Hard to make heads or tails beating a weak group in California            Very young but not showing any greenness            Improving and continuing to look better            Will be intriguing            Wish there was more to see against better company; just beat such weak horses</p>				
13	<b>Simplification</b> Not This Time-Simply Confection (Candy Ride) Presser	Jose Ortiz Florida Derby (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), Fountain of Youth (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Holy Bull (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) DI: 1.22    CD: 0.20    Avg Figure: 93	Antonio Sano 7   3-1-2 \$515,350	20/1
<p>Beautiful out of the gate – such a fluid stride up to stalk the pace            Passed tired horses and look better due to an on-track incident in Fountain of Youth            Might not have the stamina to make the race            Consistent runner who never runs a bad race – always in it in the end            Has potential here and, while not a win contender, must play in exotics</p>				
14	<b>Barber Road</b> Race Day-Encounter (Southern Image) Deep Closer	Rey Lu Gutierrez Arkansas Derby (2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Rebel (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), Southwest (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) DI: 3.80    CD: 0.83    Avg Figure: 91	John Ortiz 8   2-4-1 \$650,720	30/1
<p>Drop back closer, makes move on backstretch            Needs constant urging to keep interested            Doesn't have the same get up speed on the backstretch and around the far turn as other closers            Passes tired horses late to make his races look better than they are            Needs a lot to get his speed up to full capacity late            Just a cut below this group; might be better at shorter</p>				
15	<b>White Abarrio</b> Race Day-Catching Diamonds (Into Mischief) Presser	Tyler Gaffalione Florida Derby (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Holy Bull (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Kentucky Jockey Club (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) DI: 3.80    CD: 0.75    Avg Figure: 95	Saffie Joseph, Jr. 5   4-0-1 \$823,650	10/1
<p>Takes a bit of urging to get going out of the gate, then smooths into a good spot near lead            Showed lots of early speed while at Gulfstream Park            Ran alongside a speed favoring bias in last two            Looks to be a horse for course at Gulfstream; just not impressive performances            Needs to be up towards the lead to have a chance            Toss here</p>				
16	<b>Cyberknife</b> Gun Runner-Awesome Flower (Flower Alley) Stalker	Florent Geroux Arkansas Derby (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Lecomte (6 <sup>th</sup> ) DI: 1.67    CD: 0.25    Avg Figure: 90	Brad Cox 6   3-2-0 \$860,000	20/1
<p>Runs very free at the front and has lots of energy            Definite improvement with blinkers off            Has been getting better since the Lecomte            Beat a relatively weak field in Arkansas Derby            A live threat, but not a huge contender            Training well at Churchill Downs            Looks really nice in the mornings – lots of speed            Could be in the mix if he gets a clean trip</p>				

# Kentucky Derby 2022 Weekend Analysis

## KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDER PROFILES

17	Classic Causeway	Julien Leparoux	Brian Lynch	30/1
	Giant's Causeway-Private World (Thunder Gulch) Front Runner	Florida Derby (11 <sup>th</sup> ), Tampa Bay Derby (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Sam F. Davis (1 <sup>st</sup> ) DI: 1.43 CD: 0.29	Avg Figure: 94	6   3-1-1 \$521,100
Just got caught in too early of a pace in Florida Derby and didn't care for Gulfstream Hard to bet after such a poor performance Quick early - gets out of the gate the best of this field Hard to get past when he sets an easy lead; doesn't love dueling Never challenged in Tampa Bay Derby and left to lead clear Biggest challenge of his career by far Just a cut below the top contenders				
18	Tawny Port	Ricardo Santana, Jr.	Brad Cox	30/1
	Pioneerof the Nile-Livi Makenzie (Macho Uno) Midpack	Lexington (1 <sup>st</sup> ), Jeff Ruby Steaks (2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Risen Star (5 <sup>th</sup> ) DI: 4.00 CD: 0.90	Avg Figure: 93	5   3-1-0 \$427,000
Has natural gate speed Smart but wide trip in the Lexington Ran bit green last time and lugged late but was enough to pass tired horses Going to need to put up a huge improvement to win here Is a flat runner down the stretch Has not been working out well at Churchill Downs Just not coming into this race with a lot of promise				
19	Zozos	Manuel Franco	Brad Cox	20/1
	Munnings-Papa's Forest (Forestry) Pacesetter	Louisiana Derby (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) DI: 4.00 CD: 0.80	Avg Figure: 96	3   2-1-0 \$291,000
Sharp breaker A developing runner for Brad Cox; continues to get better Lot of controlling speed in his races; wants to get to the lead Needs to improve by about 5 lengths to get a win here, but is getting close Peaking at the right time A live longshot with a huge chance to upset if left alone on the lead Doesn't mind coming from outside, although this will be a huge test from the 19 hole Dangerous				
20	Ethereal Road	Luis Contreras	D. Wayne Lukas	30/1
	Quality Road-Sustained (War Front) Midpack	Lexington (4 <sup>th</sup> ), Blue Grass (7 <sup>th</sup> ), Rebel (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) DI: 1.91 CD: 0.44	Avg Figure: 89	7   1-1-1 \$294,545
Even out of the gate, doesn't do too much Made big moves to get in striking distance in Lexington, just used too much going wide Was flat late last out to be unable to make up enough distance on leaders Needs to improve a lot over last few races for a chance Best performance game against far weaker Has good late speed at times, but so inconsistent hard to get a read Just doesn't seem to be ready for this test				

### Betting Groups

#### Contenders (A)

- (3) Epicenter
- (10) Zandon
- (19) Zozos

#### In the Mix (B)

- (1) Mo Donegal
- (5) Smile Happy
- (7) Crown Pride
- (8) Charge It
- (11) Pioneer of Medina
- (13) Simplification

#### Exotics (C)

- (4) Summer Is Tomorrow
- (6) Messier
- (12) Taiba
- (16) Cyberknife

#### Toss (X)

- (2) Happy Jack
- (9) Tiz the Bomb
- (14) Barber Road
- (15) White Abarrio
- (17) Classic Causeway
- (18) Tawny Port
- (20) Ethereal Road



# Kentucky Derby 2022 Weekend Analysis

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## EIGHT BELLES PRESENTED BY TWINSPIRES (GRADE II)

4:04PM ET \$500,000 3YO FILLIES 7 FURLONGS DIRT  
 (2) PRETTY BIRDIE (6) GERRYMANDER (8) MATAREYA

Speed is the name of the game for Pretty Birdie. She is going to get the lead and it may be all over for the rest of this pack. This Norm Casse trainee is all speed and a gate-to-wire type that shouldn't be forgotten. She is really hard for me to get past if she can get to the front early and maintain a clear advantage. I don't see anyone trying to stop her. However, rain could be the thing that ends her chances, and a muddy track might be her undoing. If the pace does fall apart, watch out for Gerrymander to pick up the pieces – this one for Chad Brown can rate if needed and should improve on the cut back in distance. Finally, Matareya for Brad Cox and Godolphin is full of class and definitely towers over this field coming off an 8.5 length win in the Beaumont. She has been strong and deserves respect. I will add – don't leave Wicked Halo off the tickets if it is still muddy – she's proven over an off track and fits really well with the top horses in this race.

10

## TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT STAKES PRESENTED BY SYSCO (GRADE II)

4:51PM ET \$500,000 3UP 5.5 FURLONGS TURF  
 (3) CARAVEL (12) JOHNNY UNLEASHED (8) GEAR JOCKEY

I really find it hard to get past the Queen Stakes victory from Caravel last out at Turfway Park. That race showed a completely different Caravel that looked impressive and smooth from gate-to-wire. While she might not be the best horse in this field, I see great improvement by her from four to five and think she could be sitting on a huge race here. Her versatility will help her, and she is just one tough horse to pass once she gets on the lead. This could be her spot as she switches to the Brad Cox barn for 2022. However, she will need to deal with a sprinter that is really coming on to his own in Johnny Unleashed – Eric Foster had him ready for a phenomenal race last out to finish second behind never-in-doubt Golden Pal. I'll be playing him and third place finisher in that race, Gear Jockey, as I do think the Shakertown is a live race moving forward.

11

## LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS (GRADE I)

5:51PM ET \$1,250,000 3YO FILLIES 1 1/8 MILES DIRT  
 (4) NEST (1) SECRET OATH (6) YUUGIRI

The fillies take a run for the lilies to culminate Oaks Day... and it's a stacked field in this edition of the Kentucky Oaks. There are a bunch of different ways to go here, but I am taking a stand with the possible favorite Nest. Her Ashland was by far the most impressive race I've seen out of this field – she cruised easily over the field and didn't look back, showing a lot of speed late. Each race she finds no issue going by and finishing with ease. She continues to get better, and she has seemed to take to the Churchill Downs surface well in the mornings. The D. Wayne Lukas trainee, Secret Oath, is hard to pass up on, after seeing what she did earlier this year. While I don't find the Arkansas Derby to be that tough of a race, and it was hard to see her not win there, this daughter of Arrogate did face some early breaking trouble that set her back and made it difficult to make a run. I think, if she breaks well, she returns to prior form – her Honeybee was impressive and smooth as she cleared off that race that came back well in the Fantasy. Lukas is sure to have her in top form. Speaking of that Fantasy Stakes, the winner Yuugiri looks to be the horse to get the clear lead, and while I don't think she wins, I find it hard to see her falling outside the top three – she always finds a way to hold on and get a piece of it. Other horses to watch are defending Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies champion Echo Zulu on her second start of the year, Gulfstream Park Oaks one-two Kathleen O and Goddess of Fire, and an intriguing one for me, UAE Oaks winner Shahama. She is perhaps the most interesting of the bunch – I think Shahama has enough class and skill to cruise to victory in this start – her UAE Oaks was one of the best races of the field and showed us only a fraction of her skill. I'm just a bit worried about how she breaks and not sure how she will do off the layoff and travel.

# Kentucky Derby 2022 Weekend Analysis

## SATURDAY CARD ANALYSIS AND SELECTIONS

**5** LONGINES CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE STAKES (GRADE II)  
 12:36PM ET \$500,000 4UP FILLIES & MARES 1 MILE TURF  
 (7) IN ITALIAN (1) SHE CAN'T SING (2) FLOWER POINT

The next star Chad Brown turf champion could very well be in this field with In Italian. As impressive as she has been on the front end, it is even more impressive with her turn of foot late. Her speed down the stretch that she has shown in her last three is among the best and puts her clearly on top of this field. She should be a clear single on everyone's tickets on Saturday. For some value underneath, I'll take the two inside horses, She Can't Sing and Flower Point. Both have been improving and are coming into this race in really good form. I love both jockey switches and believe both are live to pounce and put-up strong efforts off their strong turns of foot.

**6** KNICKS GO STAKES PRESENTED BY L&N FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
 1:14PM ET \$160,000 4UP 1 MILE DIRT  
 (7) SOUTH BEND (11) NECKER ISLAND (8) INJUNCTION

A new race to the Derby Day Card, the Knicks Go serves as an older horse one-turn mile, the same route we shall see in the Pat Day Mile later in the day. This route tends to play towards horses-for-courses and South Bend has shown a liking to this route of ground. In a wide-open race, I'll take the horse with familiarity. His last two fair races (take away the sloppy Commonwealth) showed a lot of class for this horse and a repeat of either of those races is enough to win. Necker Island offers me some value and a horse that clearly wants to get back to "shorter" distances. This one-turn mile fits and he is coming out of a live race in the Oaklawn Mile. I don't love the wide post but shouldn't be too detrimental. I'll also play a bit of a longshot in Injunction, the likely speed (and only speed). He should get a clear lead and that might be enough to just escape this field. He is a bit outclassed, but I will give him a long look, especially the way this field is shaping up with a lack of pace.

**7** PAT DAY MILE STAKES PRESENTED BY LG&E AND KU (GRADE II)  
 1:56PM ET \$500,000 3YO 1 MILE DIRT  
 (11) MY PRANKSTER (3) PAPPACAP (6) TEJANO TWIST

Continuing on the trend of one-turn miles is the Pat Day Mile and once again Churchill Downs preps us with a very wide-open race. I will be taking a stand against Jack Christopher here, who I think will need time to get back to top company, and instead head to a very quick son of Into Mischief and My Prankster. This horse for Todd Pletcher has checked all of the boxes for me and puts in effort after effort each race that is enough to take care of this field. I'll give him a pass based on trip last out in the Lafayette, where he looked to be much the best but with a troubled trip that took him out of win contention. Going back to his two one-turn races at Gulfstream and he has all the ability to take the field gate-to-wire. His speed figures sit amongst the best and his ability to preserve energy for the stretch-run is getting where it needs to be. I'll also be playing with Pappacap, who now gets a cut back in distance coming off the Kentucky Derby trail and should relish this route of ground. The move to Flavien Prat will help, and he is coming out of solid company. While he hasn't been able to repeat on his juvenile year success, I think the cutback will be to his liking. I will also include a nice price in Tejano Twist, who might have one of the best form lines in the field, if you take away his last race. He is one of the fastest closing horses in this field around one-turn and will look to run down who ever is in the lead late.

**8** DERBY CITY DISTAFF STAKES PRESENTED BY KENDALL-JACKSON WINERY (GRADE I)  
 2:48PM ET \$750,000 4UP FILLIES & MARES 7 FURLONGS DIRT  
 (6) BELL'S THE ONE (2) JUST ONE TIME (7) EDGEWAY

This edition of the Derby City Distaff looks to be a duel between Lady Rocket and Just One Time - two speedy filly sprinters that might be going nose to nose in the early part of this race. I would not be shocked if it is just a two-horse race where these two sprint away from the field. Even so, I hope the pace is hot to give Bell's The One a huge chance to swoop in and steal one as the closer. She has been a monster at Churchill Downs, finishing in the top two in 7 of her 8 starts here, and she is coming off a valiant effort in trying to gun down Just One Time last out in the Madison. I think this race sets up similarly, but with better track conditions, and will leave Corey Lanerie and Bell's The One charging down the lane late to nab whoever ends up front near the wire. She will look to repeat here 2020 success, where she won this race from coming from the clouds. Of course, if it isn't her, then maybe its Just One Time taking the pace and holding on over Lady Rocket. Brad Cox has a speed demon in this daughter of Not This Time, who has been doing just about everything right in her career. Her last two races have been above and beyond what any other starter in this race has been able to do in their careers and puts her well into favorite territory here. And if you are looking for a slight price, Edgeway offers some value. She has been working really well in the weeks leading up to this race as she comes across the country from Santa Anita to take on this one. John Sadler wouldn't be sending her here if he didn't think she had a chance. She already has a good second place finish over this course and distance last year in the Dogwood, and she always puts her best food forward on these trips out of town. John Velazquez piloted her perfectly last out in the Las Flores and keeps the ride on her for this one.

# Kentucky Derby 2022 Weekend Analysis

## 9

### AMERICAN TURF STAKES PRESENTED BY BMW (GRADE II)

3:40PM ET \$500,000 3YO 1 1/16 MILES TURF  
 (6) PORTFOLIO COMPANY (4) RED DANGER (2) MAIN EVENT

Finding a horse in this turf affair for three-year-olds is far from easy. I landed with a returning juvenile star, Portfolio Company, who hasn't started since the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. He could very well be a growing star this year and the return is in a great spot. Chad Brown always has his horses ready to go well and the last we saw of him would be enough to win here. I'll be tying in two shippers from Gulfstream Park, Red Danger and Main Event, who were visually impressive in the Cutler Bay. I'll take Red Danger over Main Event, after a wide trip and tough start caused him to be second by a few – both look to be primed for a good performance.

## 10

### CHURCHILL DOWNS STAKES (GRADE I)

4:31PM ET \$750,000 4UP 7 FURLONGS DIRT  
 (3) JACKIE'S WARRIOR (8) CEZANNE (6) PREVALENCE

Older sprinters take the spotlight in the first of three Grade One races to close out the day. Jackie's Warrior has done little wrong in his career and will be a well-deserving favorite here. I've taken my stands against him enough times in my life and gotten burned... not doing that again. This is his race to lose and the tune-up in the Count Fleet was exactly what he needed. Cruises to a win here. Cezanne is another coming out of the Oaklawn Mile race that I just love. I may be wrong about that race but thinking highly of this former Baffert trainee as he switches to the Pletcher barn. This looks to be a nice spot for him and has been training superbly since the barn switch. Should improve on the cutback to 7 furlongs. And Prevalence for Godolphin rounds out my top three here – after back-to-back wins, including a win in the Commonwealth at Keeneland last, this son of Medaglia d'Oro is getting hot at the right time. His last trip to Churchill Downs didn't treat him so well but hoping this will be a kind journey under the twin spires. Speed figures for him are near the top of this field.

## 11

### OLD FORESTER BOURBON TURF CLASSIC STAKES (GRADE I)

5:27PM ET \$1,000,000 4UP 1 1/8 MILES TURF  
 (4) TRIBHUVAN (6) SHIRL'S SPEIGHT (2) BIZZEE CHANNEL

One of my favorite horses from last year, Tribhuvan, finally returns to the races for 2022 and in a great spot. This trip and distance is right in his wheelhouse as he looks to avenge his well beaten trip in the Breeders' Cup Turf. Tribhuvan is a tough plodder type that takes command on the front and shuts everyone down. There is no one in this field that can go with him. I'll box him with the likely favorite Shirl's Speight – who is by far the fastest horse down the stretch in this field, and longshot Bizzee Channel – who is a standout on Brisnet forms and could be a big mover in his step-up in class for Larry Rivelli. I'd also watch out for Ivar, who very much appreciates this distance and with the expected quick early pace should be well within the late charge down the stretch.

## 12

### KENTUCKY DERBY PRESENTED BY WOODFORD RESERVE (GRADE I)

6:57PM ET \$3,000,000 3YO 1 1/4 MILES DIRT  
 (3) EPICENTER (19) ZOZOS (1) MO DONEGAL

This year's edition of the Run for the Roses is by far one of the most wide-open in years and could come out with just about any of these twenty horses as the victor. I've been going back and forth all week on who will be my pick on race day, but every time I go back and watch the film, Epicenter's races just are outstanding. I could watch his win in the Risen Star over and over again and never get bored. While I'm not as much of a fan of his Louisiana Derby – he seemed to pass just some tiring horses down the stretch – his stride in victory was sublime and the way he cruises to the lead and never looks back in his starts is something special. He is the type to take over a race early and demand attention. The layoff between the Louisiana Derby and the Kentucky Derby is a concern, but it has become a more live race in recent memory for the Derby. His workouts in the morning have looked impressive and shows him coming on in great form for this. His form cycle continues on the increase and is in good position for another great performance here. There are worries regarding the shape of the race pace, which might put him in a position to go a too-fast too-early, but he has shown to be able to rate and relax early and let others do the work, giving me the confidence that no matter what position he ends up being in at first, he will be able to come away with the right late run. If you like tactical speed, smooth strides, and just clear motion – Epicenter is your horse.

With that said, I'll be linking him up with the runner-up from his Louisiana Derby victory, Zozos. Another horse that impressed me greatly, Zozos has been a tactical and versatile threat in his three lifetime starts. The low start total is a concern and proved to be no match for Epicenter last out, but he is improving, and I do believe that he should be able to take a step up of more than two lengths off that last effort. Zozos is a controlling type that wants to get to the lead but doesn't need the lead. His forwardly places spot puts him as a possible best starter for Brad Cox in this field, and a developing star in the barn. His style reminds me a lot of Shedaresthedevil, and he has the pedigree to be one of the toughest horses to get past.

And finally, if this race pace falls apart, Mo Donegal will be the one charging down the lane to pick up the pieces. There has been a lot of talk of him this week, and well deserving. This tactical closer has one of the best push-button kicks in the field and continues to put up strong speed figures. He is poised to put on a good performance here. While it's not been as often lately where closers find the success in the Derby that they once had, this year's edition brings far more speed than normal, and that could be the key he needs to go from near the back to first down the stretch.

Additional horses to must use are Zandon – a potential win contender, Smile Happy – a must play in the exotics, Crown Pride – who has just looked so classy in the mornings, Pioneer of Medina – a definite trifecta or superfecta horse, and Simplification – a hard trier who never puts in a bad effort. Grabbing any of those in the exotics will help net a huge payout for tris and supers.