



KENTUCKY
DERBY  143™
CHURCHILL DOWNS

2017 KENTUCKY OAKS & DERBY WAGERING GUIDE

Presented by:

*Guaranteed
Tip Sheet*



KENTUCKY DERBY 143

Thank you for purchasing the 2017 Kentucky Oaks & Derby Wagering Guide presented by Guaranteed Tip Sheet and RacingDudes.com!

The Kentucky Derby is a part of the American fabric. During “the fastest two minutes in sports” the whole country turns its eyes to Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky, to see what 3-year old horse will win the “Run for the Roses” on Saturday, May 6, 2017.

The 1¼ mile race ran on the main dirt track is not only a spectacle; it’s also an opportunity to make a wager and hopefully make a major return! This *2017 Kentucky Oaks & Derby Guide presented by Guaranteed Tip Sheet and RacingDudes.com* will give you the information needed to hopefully make that major score!

This Guide includes:

- Kentucky Derby Overview including:
 - Picks from Guaranteed Pick Sheet, Racing Dudes and Saratoga Slim
 - Post position analysis
- Horse capsules for each of the 20 projected horses in the 2017 Kentucky Derby field including:
 - Trainer, jockey, projected odds, horse running style (i.e., early speed, presser, closer)
 - Pros (positive angles on the horse), Cons (negative angles on the horse) and the Bottom Line
- Historical pace analysis including the running styles of the past 15 Kentucky Derby winners
- Late pace analysis to help pick the winner & longshots to hit the board
- Kentucky Oaks Overview with filly profiles, pace scenario and wagering approach
- Wagering strategy including trifecta, superfecta and Oaks/Derby double approach

For questions and to discuss more, feel free to visit guaranteedtipsheet.com or racingdudes.com. Feel free to tweet at and follow us at @Racing_Dudes or @SaratogaSlim on Twitter. *Note all of the horse capsules, pace analysis and wagering strategy were written by Saratoga Slim.* Please bet responsibly. Never wager more than you can afford to lose.

Section	Page
Kentucky Derby Overview/Picks	3
Horse Capsules - Win Contenders.....	4
Horse Capsules - Can Hit the Board	5
Horse Capsules - Exotic Plays	6
Horse Capsules - Contenders	7
Horse Capsules - Tosses	8
Historical Pace Analysis - Past 15 Derbies	9
Late Pace Key to Picking Derby Winner & Longshots.....	10
Kentucky Oaks Overview/Picks	11
Kentucky Oaks/Derby Wagering Strategy	12

McCraken



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**Projected Odds:
10/1**

Trainer: Ian Wilkes

Jockey: Brian Hernandez, Jr.

Closer (S3)

Pros: Was the Derby favorite for most of 2017 after his strong Sam F. Davis win. Continued to be the favorite, even though he was forced to skip the Tampa Bay Derby with a minor ankle strain. Undefeated in three races as a juvenile at Churchill Downs including the Grade-2 Kentucky Jockey Club, his love for Churchill will be highlighted thoroughly leading up to the Derby. Wilkes got Derby wins as an assistant for Carl Nafzger with Unbridled in 1990 and Street Sense in 2007.

Cons: After his minor ankle strain, returned in the Blue Grass Stakes, but came up empty in the stretch to get a disappointing third. He was rank early and in between horses nearer to the early pace than usual and may have been short coming off a layoff, but his lack of burst in the stretch may be a sign of distance limitations now stretching out an extra furlong in the Derby. Even though the ankle was described as a minor setback, any bump along the Derby road is tough to overcome to get in the winners' circle. As a closer, will need a perfect trip to win.

Bottom Line: Need to use defensively underneath in exotic plays, but no longer a key horse.

Gunnevera



Lauren King

**Projected Odds:
12/1**

Trainer: Antonio Sano

Jockey: Javier Castellano

Closer (S1)

Pros: Multiple Graded Stakes winner as a juvenile stepped up to the top of the Derby ranks after his romping Fountain of Youth (FoY) win by almost 6 lengths. His late deep closing kick may be the best in the crop. Sano is not the household name trainer, but is all-time winningest trainer in Venezuela. Gets a major boost keeping 3-time Eclipse winner Castellano in the irons.

Cons: Saddled with the outside post in the Florida Derby, he bounced off his huge FoY win and could only muster a late running third getting mixed reviews by analysts. Some have said it's fine and he'll be able to advance off his Florida Derby into the Kentucky Derby and others have said he's cooked. How he trains leading up to the Derby will be very telling. As a deep closer, his chances in the Derby may be compromised if he can't work out a perfect trip. Out of the first crop of sire Dialed In, who ran eighth in the 2011 Derby, there are questions if 10 furlongs is an optimal distance for him.

Bottom Line: As a deep closer, it's tough to see him winning, but he could be an exotics play

**Practical
Joke**



NYRA

**Projected Odds:
15/1**

Trainer: Chad Brown

Jockey: Joel Rosario

Presser (P3)

Pros: One of the classiest horses in the Derby field winning two Grade-1s as a juvenile and a third-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Hasn't disgraced himself in two starts as a three-year old with two second place finishes in the Fountain of Youth and Blue Grass. Trained by Eclipse-award winner Brown, he'll be primed for his third race of the year.

Cons: Distance limited sired by Into Mischief, he looked like he hit a wall in the stretch of both of his races in 2017, especially in the Blue Grass where he had every reason to pass Irap in deep stretch, but couldn't get by. In both of his races this year, his jockey made a bold early move before the far turn, so that may be a possible reason that he faltered late. Still, the extra furlong of the Derby doesn't bode well for his chances to win it all. His come-from-behind style also isn't a fit to win in Louisville, but may still be making up ground late with a well-timed ride and clean trip.

Bottom Line: Must use defensively underneath based on his class in this field

Girvin



Hodges Photography

**Projected Odds:
18/1**

Trainer: Joe Sharp

Jockey: Mike Smith

Presser (P1)

Pros: Undefeated on dirt, he's beaten everything thrown at him in questionable fields in the Grade-2 Risen Star and Louisiana Derby. Sired by Tale of Ekati, who was 4th in the 2008 Derby, out of an un-raced Malibu Moon mare, Girvin has decent distance pedigree. He showed plenty of late kick in the Louisiana Derby, so the extra furlong in the Kentucky Derby shouldn't be overly troublesome.

Cons: Lightly raced with only four lifetime starts, Girvin's speed figures aren't on the same level as the top of the crop & he'll need to make a jump forward to win. He's not a deep closer, but his lack of true early speed may put him in mid-pack where he'll need to make a trip in this 20-horse field. Sharp brings his first horse in his career to the Derby so there are some questions about how he'll prepare Girvin. He also loses the only jockey he's ever known as Brian Hernandez, Jr. has opted to ride McCraken, but Mike Smith is the top "money rider" in the game, so may be an upgrade.

Bottom Line: Best hope is to clunk up late in the super or trifecta