2018 STARS & STRIPES FESTIVAL WAGERING GUIDE

Presented by:

Guaranteed Tip Sheet

THOROUGHBRED RACING DUDES

STARS & STRIPES DAY WELCOME!

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The Grade 1, $1,200,000 Belmont Derby and Grade 1 $,1,000,000 Belmont Oaks will be run Saturday, July 7, 2018 at Belmont Park, and is part of a great day of action that will feature five different stakes races.

This guide will highlight all **5** graded stakes races on the card from Belmont Park and provide the following:

1. **Top Contenders** - Positives & negatives, analyses, and notes (including injuries) on the top horses. Morning Line odds are listed next to each horse's name.
2. **Value Plays & Longshots** - Analyses and notes on all valued longshot horses, along with all other entries for each race. Morning Line odds are listed next to each horse's name.
3. **Pace** - List of the early speed, stalkers, and closers for each race, along with an analysis of the expected pace scenario. Horses are listed in order of expected early speed in each category. Expected field size is also listed here.
4. **The Play** - Analysis on ways to approach and wager on the race with details on all Pick 3, 4 & 6 guaranteed pools.
5. **Picks** - Picks and custom wagering strategies.

The races are listed in reverse chronological order and page numbers are given below for easy reference. Purse, distance, age restrictions, and post times are listed for each race, too. *Note all of the horse notes, pace analysis and plays were written by Aaron Halterman from* **_racingdudes.com_**.

For questions and to discuss more, feel free to visit **guaranteedtipsheet.com** or **racingdudes.com**.

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Please bet responsibly. Never wager more than you can afford to lose.

Belmont Derby Invitational (G1)

Purse:	$1,200,000
Distance:	1 1/4 Miles (Turf)
Age:	Three Year Olds
Post Time:	Race #10 – 6:50 PM (EST)

TOP CONTENDERS

#3 Analyze It (5/2) – This Chad Brown trainee looked like he was easily becoming the best three-year-old turf horse in the country but was stunned last time out in a loss to Catholic Boy in the Grade 3 Pennine Ridge Stakes. After looking as though he was going to go right past Catholic Boy he made some contact with him, and it almost looked as though it upset Catholic Boy, and he re-rallied to win by neck. Analyze It still remains a major player in this race, though, as that loss was his first career defeat. He'll be ready to fire a big one today.

#4 Hunting Horn (7/2) – Aidan O'Brien ships this talented colt in off of short rest as he was seen at Royal Ascot on June 21st winning the Group 3 Hampton Court Stakes by four and a half lengths. That race was contested at the same distance as today's event which logically makes this horse extremely dangerous. The turnaround is very quick, but it is hard to doubt a world-class trainer like O'Brien. Consider him to be dangerous.

#7 Catholic Boy (4/1) – After starting his career with a lot of success on the turf, Catholic Boy was put on the Kentucky Derby Trail on the dirt after winning the Grade 2 Remsen Stakes to round out his two-year-old season. Things didn't go well, though, on his path to the Derby as a three-year-old and he was entered back in a turf race for his last start. That race was the Grade 3 Pennine Ridge stakes, where he miraculously defeated Analyze It by a neck. This is a serious contender.

#8 Hawkish (7/2) – This gelding certainly opened everyone's eyes with a dominating score in the Grade 2 Penn Mile by two lengths last time out. That sort of effort will be tough to beat in this spot, but he now must stretch out in distance from a mile to a mile and one quarter. That provides a question mark, but there is no doubt the talent is there.

VALUE PLAYS & LONGSHOTS

#9 My Boy Jack (6/1) – In a surprise move My Boy Jack will return to the turf for this one after running well on the dirt all year long. He picked up victories on the Kentucky Derby trail in the Grade 3 Southwest Stakes and Grade 3 Lexington Stakes before finishing a fast closing fifth in the Kentucky Derby. However, he is solid on the turf as well as he won the $100k Zuma Beach as a two-year-old.

#6 Kingstar (12/1) – This French shipper will give U.S. racing a trying after an allowance victory last time out overseas. He has won two of three races this year, and his lone loss was a runner up effort in a stakes event. He is no stranger to running long as well as his last race was even farther than what he will be running today. You always must respect European turf shippers.

#1 Channel Cat (30/1) – He has been banging heads with the best horses in the division in his last two starts, and just hasn't been close to winning. However, he will like this added distance today, and at least can be a factor in the underneath positions.

#2 Encumbered (30/1) – As a two-year-old he was thought of as the best juvenile on the turf in Southern California at one point but went backwards after a failed attempt on the dirt. After that he struggled in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf and wasn't seen again until his 2018 debut in the Grade 3 Pennine Ridge Stakes last time out. That race didn't go well, so he must improve today to have any shot.

#5 Maraud (12/1) – His 2018 has been up and down as at times he looks great, but other times he has disappointed. Two races back he dominated rivals in the Grade 2 American Turf Stakes at Churchill Downs but finished a poor fourth in the Grade 2 Penn Mile last time out. He is due to run a good one here, and perhaps the extended distance will be to his liking.

Pace:
- **Early Speed:** Catholic Boy
- **Stalkers:** Analyze It, Hunting Horn, Kingstar, Hawkish
- **Closers:** Channel Cat, Encumbered, Maraud, My Boy Jack

Field Size: 9

Catholic Boy looks like he should get the lead in this spot, and will be tough to run down if he has things his own way. **Analyze It** is sure to track the leader early as he can be tactical. The closers are stout in this race with horses like **My Boy Jack** and **Hawkish** ready to roll, but will need some help from a pace standpoint to get up for the victory. It's questionable that the race will set up for them.

The Play: You knows it is a major stakes race when Chad Brown and Aidan O'Brien show up loaded and ready to roll. Chad Brown brings in the powerful **Analyze It** that comes into this race after his first career loss in the Grade 3 Pennine Ridge Stakes. **Hunting Horn** will be a major player for Aidan O'Brien after winning at Royal Ascot just two weeks ago. **Catholic Boy** got back to the turf in his last start and was fantastic when winning the Grade 3 Pennine Ridge. **Hawkish** and **My Boy Jack** will be closing from the back and could be major players in the exotics.

PICKS

PICK ORDER	M/L ODDS	HORSE #	HORSE NAME
WIN	5/2	3	Analyze It
PLACE	7/2	4	Hunting Horn
SHOW	4/1	7	Catholic Boy
WILD CARD	7/2	8	Hawkish
ALTERNATE 1	6/1	9	My Boy Jack
ALTERNATE 2	12/1	6	Kingstar

EXACTA:

3,4,7 BOX

TRIFECTA:

3,4/3,4,7,8,9/3,4,7,8,9

Suburban Handicap (G2)

Purse:	$700,000
Distance:	1 1/4 Miles (Dirt)
Age:	Four Year Olds and Upward
Post Time:	Race #9 – 6:18 PM (EST)

TOP CONTENDERS

#5 Dr. Dorr (3/1) – Trainer Bob Baffert originally entered this horse in the Grade 3 Cornhusker Handicap at Prairie Meadows, but instead has opted for this spot. That is likely bad news for the rest of this field as he is a master at spotting his horses to win. Two races back he won the Grade 2 Californian Stakes before finishing second to Accelerate in the Grade 1 Gold up at Santa Anita. If he can bring that strong form with him to this race he will be tough to beat.

#4 Tapwrit (7/2) – Last time out he returned off of an extended layoff to finish a decent third against allowance foes. Today, he gets more distance, which is really what he needs more than anything else. Last year he was able to capture the Grade 1 Belmont Stakes before finishing fourth in the Travers Stakes. Trainer Todd Pletcher definitely used that last race as strictly a prep for this one, so you can expect him to show up with a big race.

#8 Hoppertunity (9/2) – This veteran horse just continues to produce solid races year after year. He has run all over the world during his career and last time out shipped to Belmont Park and won the Grade 2 Brooklyn Invitational Stakes. He is known for running long distances so there is no doubt this mile and one quarter distance will be right up his alley. Baffert holds a strong 1-2 punch in this race.

VALUE PLAYS & LONGSHOTS

#2 War Story (5/1) – This year started off poorly for this hard-nosed veteran as he was well beaten in the Grade 1 Pegasus World Cup, but since then he has been first or second in three straight stakes races. Two races back he lost by a neck in the Grade 2 Charles Town Classic, and last time he looked like a winner until the final yards of the Grade 2 Brooklyn Stakes before being passed by Hoppertunity. Now he is back at a more normal distance and should be tough to beat.

#7 Take Your Guns (8/1) – Chad Brown enters a serious prospect here after a solid fourth place finish last time out in the Grade 2 Brooklyn Invitational Stakes. That race was contested at a mile and a half so this cut back in distance should be to his liking. Before that race he won two straight allowance optional claiming races at by solid margins.

#10 Diversify (6/1) – This horse got extremely hot last year as he won three in a row at one point including the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont Park. This year he started off horrendously in the Grade 2 Charles Town Classic finishing last but rebounded in a New York bred stakes victory last time out by a nose. We know he will likely go to the front in here, and if he gets an easy lead he could be hard to run down.

#11 The Lieutenant (20/1) – After several failed attempts on the dirt in stakes races Jerry Hollendorfer moved this horse to the synthetic surface at Golden Gate last time out, and he responded with a one-length win in the Grade 3 All American Stakes. Now he moves back to the dirt for this spot, and his failed past history on this surface is a little worrisome.

#6 Discreet Lover (20/1) – After winning the Grade 3 Excelsior Stakes they threw him into some tough races, and he has failed to hit the board since. Last time out he was a solid fourth in the Grade 1 Met Mile, though, and will likely appreciate the stretch out in distance today. He will hope for a hot pace up front.

Others:#9 Sorry Erik (30/1) will ship in from Santa Anita after winning two of his last three starts in California. **#3 Zanotti (20/1)** continues to consistently finish second in stakes races as he has now done it four times in a row. **#1 Name Changer (30/1)** comes into this race off of back to back victories, but this will be a significant jump up in class.

Pace:	• **Early Speed:** Dr. Dorr, Diversify • **Stalkers:** Name Changer, War Story, Zanotti • **Closers:** Discreet Lover, Take Your Guns, Hoppertunity, Sorry Erik, Tapwrit, The Lieutenant

Field Size: 11

It is always dangerous when Bob Baffert has a speed horse who could be loose on the lead, and **Dr. Dorr** fits that bill pretty well in this spot. **Diversify** can also show speed as well, and it is likely that these two will dictate the pace of the race. With only two speed horses you would not think they will not get into a duel. This will leave the closers with a lot of work to do.

The Play: Bob Baffert, like normal, holds a strong hand here with **Dr. Dorr** and **Hoppertunity**. Dr. Dorr won the Grade 2 Californian Stakes two races back, and then was second to Accelerate last time out in the Grade 1 Gold Cup at Santa Anita. **War Story** was second in his last two races which were both tough Grade 2 events. **Take Your Guns** has been running very well lately as he has finished fourth in the Grade 2 Brooklyn Invitational Stakes after winning two in a row.

PICKS

PICK ORDER	M/L ODDS	HORSE #	HORSE NAME
WIN	3/1	5	Dr. Dorr
PLACE	9/2	8	Hoppertunity
SHOW	5/1	2	War Story
WILD CARD	8/1	7	Take Your Guns
ALTERNATE 1	7/2	4	Tapwrit
ALTERNATE 2	6/1	10	Diversify

EXACTA:

2,5,8 BOX

TRIFECTA:

2,5,7,8 BOX

Belmont Oaks Invitational (G1)

Purse:	$1,000,000
Distance:	1 1/4 Miles (Turf)
Age:	Three Year Olds (Fillies)
Post Time:	Race #8 – 5:46 PM (EST)

TOP CONTENDERS

#1 Significant Form (7/2) – This looks to be Chad Brown's best chance to win this race. As a two-year-old she won the Grace 3 Miss Grillo Stakes at this track before finishing fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf to round out her season. This year she dominated rivals in the $100K Memories of Silver before finishing second last time out in the Grade 3 Wonder Again Stakes.

#5 Toinette (5/1) – This daughter of Scat Daddy has now won three races in a row and became the first filly to ever beat Rushing Fall as she defeated her last time out in the Grade 3 Edgewood Stakes at Churchill Downs at odds of 5-1. A win like that gives you all sorts of confidence coming into this spot, and her breeding suggests that this mile and one quarter distance will not be a problem. There is nothing to dislike about her coming into this race

#3 Paved (12/1) – There is no doubt this filly ships from Southern California with a big shot. Three races back she shipped to Golden Gate Fields and defeated the boys in the $100K El Camino Real Derby, and last time out she dominated rivals in the Grade 2 Honeymoon Stakes at Santa Anita by over three lengths. If she can bring that sort of race with her to this event she will be a major threat.

#7 La Signare (4/1) – She picked up a big victory last time out in the $200K Grade 3 Wonder Again Stakes by a length which certainly makes her a player in this spot today. She beat some nice horses in that spot as she was left alone on the front end and just cruised around the track while no other competitors ever got close to her. She will likely not get that trip again today, though, so we will see if she can show some versatility.

#8 Thewayiam (10/1) – She has been fantastic this year as she won three races in a row before finishing a close second in her last two starts. Today she must stretch out in distance which seems to be the only question mark for her. Last time out she was finishing fast at a mile before being narrowly defeated in the Penn Oaks by Got Stormy. She certainly looked like she could go longer in that spot. We will see if that theory holds true.

VALUE PLAYS & LONGSHOTS

#4 Capla Temptress (6/1) – This European shipper is no stranger to the United States as she shipped here twice last year. One of those trips was to Woodbine where she won the Grade 1 Natalma Stakes, and the other was to Del Mar where she finished seventh in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. Since then she has made just won start, which was a very close fourth place effort in the Group 1 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches Stakes in France. She's a bit of a mystery in this spot.

#10 Mighty Scarlett (8/1) – Two races back this Scat Daddy filly broke her maiden nicely at Keeneland before jumping up against stakes company in her last start and finishing third in the Grade 3 Wonder Again Stakes. That was a tough spot, but this will be even tougher for her today.

#9 Fatale Bere (20/1) – This filly is a bit inconsistent but is a multiple stakes winner. Two races back she won the Grade 3 Providencia Stakes, but followed that up with a well-beaten seventh place effort in the Grade 2 Honeymoon Stakes last time out.

#6 Athena (9/2) – This Aidan O'Brien shipper wheels back quickly after struggling at Royal Ascot to a fourth place finish a Group 2 event on June 21st. She has only won once in her eight-race career, so she might be a bit outclassed in this spot.

#2 Chipolata (15/1) – She has done all of her running in France where she is two for ten lifetime and has hit he board in five of ten. Now she will run for trainer Christophe Clement for the first time as they obviously look to target a campaign in the United States.

Pace:	• **Early Speed:** La Signare	**Field Size: 10**
	• **Stalkers:** Significant Form, Athena, Mighty Scarlett	
	• **Closers:** Chipolata, Paved, Capla Temptress, Toinette, Thewayiam, Fatale Bere	

La Signare looks to be the lone speed in this race, and took the field wire to wire last time out to win the Grade 3 Wonder Again Stakes. However, since she did that last time out it is unlikely they will let her get away with that again. Regardless, you will probably need to be close to the lead to be most effective in this spot.

The Play: There is no doubt this is a box em up and call em home kind of race as it is completely wide open. These are the type of races where you can make some money if you can hit an exotic wager. **Significant Form** is likely to bounce back after a loss last time out for trainer Chad Brown. **Toinette** was the first horse ever to beat Rushing Fall in her last race in the Grade 3 Edgewood Stakes at Churchill Downs. **Paved** ships in from California after an impressive win last time out, and **La Signare** was a wire to wire winner here in the Grade 3 Wonder Again Stakes last time out.

PICKS

PICK ORDER	M/L ODDS	HORSE #	HORSE NAME
WIN	7/2	1	Significant From
PLACE	5/1	5	Tionette
SHOW	12/1	3	Paved
WILD CARD	4/1	7	La Signare
ALTERNATE 1	10/1	8	Thewayiam
ALTERNATE 2	8/1	10	Might Scarlett

EXACTA:

1,3,5 BOX

TRIFECTA:

1,3,5,7 BOX

Belmont Sprint Championship (G2)

Purse:	$350,000
Distance:	7 Furlongs (Dirt)
Age:	Three Year Olds and Upward
Post Time:	Race #7 – 5:11 PM (EST)

TOP CONTENDERS

#4 Shaft of Light (7/2) – Trainer Jorge Navarro is no stranger to success with sprint horses, and he has another solid one here. Last time out Shaft of Light stretched out in distance and finished second in the Grade 3 Salvatore Mile at Monmouth Park, but before that he had two blowout victories going seven furlongs. Navarro has this now seven-year-old gelding running better than ever and could have him primed for a big effort at the perfect time.

#1 Limousine Liberal (9/5) – This horse just keeps throwing out consistent efforts and looked like an absolute beast in the paddock for the Met Mile. He ran to his looks as well as he finished third at odds of nearly 15-1. Now he cuts back to a distance that is perfect for him today, and also drops down in class which will make him ultra-tough to beat. The major knock on him has been that he can "only win at Chruchill Downs" but with another Met Mile type of effort he can win here at Belmont Park for sure.

#2 Whitmore (2/1) – You can always count on the ever-classy Whitmore to show up ready to roll, and such was the case last time out as he nearly defeated last year's Breeders' Cup Sprint runner-up Imperial Hint in the Grade 2 Ture North Stakes. That race was at six and a half furlongs, and now he gets an extra half furlong to work with which could make him even more dangerous. He was eighth in the Breeders' Cup Sprint last year and will look to get back into the race this year with a win here.

VALUE PLAYS & LONGSHOTS

#6 Favorable Outcome (4/1) – This Chad Brown trainee had some big wins as a three-year-old, but has yet to get back on track this season. After failed attempts in the Grade 3 Gulfstream Park Sprint and Grade 1 Carter Handicap, Brown tried allowance company late time out, and the horse responded with a nice second place showing. That kind of race may have been just what he needed confidence wise as he looks to show up with a big effort.

#5 Lewisfield (15/1) – This is a consistent runner for trainer Jeff Runco that has never ran outside of the money in nine lifetime starts. Runco is best known for running at smaller tracks like Charles Town, but he quickly realized this horse could match up against better horses after he broke his maiden in his second race. Lately, Lewisfield shipped to Pimlico where he finished third in the Grade 3 Maryland Sprint, and then to Monmouth Park where he was second in the $75K Mr. Prospector Stakes.

#3 Eye Luv Lulu (8/1) – This now seven-year-old gelding has had a tremendous career winning 10 of 44 races and hitting the board in 25 of those starts. He is no stranger to racing at Belmont Park as well as he won the Affirmed Success Stakes last time out by three quarters of a length. That was his first win against stakes company, and now he will try a graded stakes race for the first time in his career.

Pace:	• **Early Speed:** Eye Luv Lulu, Shaft of Light • **Stalkers:** Limousine Liberal, Lewisfield • **Closers:** Whitmore, Favorable Outcome	**Field Size: 6**

These races are usually full of speed, but this years version of the Belmont Sprint Championship has come up a little short in the speed department. **Eye Luv Lulu** is fast, but maybe be a cut below these. That leaves **Shaft of Light** who could be loose on the lead for a very dangerous trainer Jorge Navarro. **Whitmore** and **Limousine Liberal** will be very tough to hold off, but will need to be tactical if they want to run down Shaft of Light.

The Play: This field has drawn a small group of six, but still could provide some value. **Shaft of Light** could pull the upset in here as he may be the controlling speed in the race. **Limousine Liberal** and **Whitmore** are world-class horses that will certainly be ready to make big moves on the turn. **Favorable Outcome** could also play a factor for trainer Chad Brown as his colt is starting to round back into top form.

PICKS

PICK ORDER	M/L ODDS	HORSE #	HORSE NAME
WIN	7/2	4	Shaft of Light
PLACE	9/5	1	Limousine Liberal
SHOW	2/1	2	Whitmore
WILD CARD	4/1	6	Favorable Outcome
ALTERNATE 1	15/1	5	Lewisfield
ALTERNATE 2	8/1	3	Eye Luv Lulu

EXACTA:

1,2,4 BOX

TRIFECTA:

1,2,4,6 BOX

Dwyer (G3)

Purse:	$300,000
Distance:	1 Mile (Dirt)
Age:	Three Year Olds
Post Time:	Race #6 – 4:36 PM (EST)

TOP CONTENDERS

#6 Mendelssohn (8/5) – This is the horse that has everyone very excited for this race, and for good reason as he is a world class talent. As a two year he shipped to the United States and won the Grade 1 Breedres' Cup Juvenile Turf, and this year he shipped to Dubai to win the Group 1 UAE Derby. That win earned him a shot at the Kentukcy Derby, but that turned into a disaster as he was never comfortable with his surroundings. This race should provide him with a logical spot to try United States dirt racing again.

#3 Rugbyman (2/1) – This is the "now horse" coming into the race. Two races back he was an impressive maiden special weight winner, and last time out he nearly won the $150K Easy Goer Stakes. In fact, you could go as far to say he should have won it if he were not so green in the stretch. His inexperience cost him in that one, but you would think he is one that could get better and better the more he races.

#4 Noble Indy (7/2) – He will look to rebound in this race after failures in the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes. He was a complete non-factor in those races but falls into a race where he makes sense from a class prospective. His win in the Grade 2 Louisiana Derby has proven to be legit as a few horses have come out of that race to run well. The cut back in distance will likely help him as well.

VALUE PLAYS & LONGSHOTS

#7 Firenze Fire (6/1) – This horse made some noise on the Kentucky Derby Trail in New York this winter with a win in the $150K Jerome Stakes. He also was second in the Grade 3 Withers Stakes, and fourth in both the Grade 3 Gotham and Grade 2 Wood Memorial. He earned his way into the Kentucky off of those efforts but was a well-beaten eleventh in that race. This spot makes more sense for him as he looks to be best when running in one turn races.

#2 Seven Trumpets (10/1) – They tried desperately to get this horse into the Kentucky Derby after he won two in a row in the fall at Churchill Downs. He ran in four Kentucky Derby prep races but could not pile up enough points to qualify for the race. After a fifth-place finish in the Grade 3 Lexington he got a little break and returned to win an allowance race at Churchill Downs last time out. This is a logical spot for him to try stakes company once again.

#5 Fixedincome Larry (20/1) – After three average races against maiden special weight company he broke his maiden last time out at Belmont Park in impressive fashion. Now he must move up in class, though, which may be a bit of a stretch for him.

#1 Seahenge (15/1) – The second Aidan O'Brien entry will try his hand at American racing once again after a disaster last time out in the Grade 3 Pat Day Mile where he finished seventh. The track was a mess that day, though, so with different circumstances here you could see some improvement.

Pace:	• **Early Speed:** Noble Indy, Mendelssohn • **Stalkers:** Seven Trumpets, Rugbyman • **Closers:** Seahenge, Fixedincome Larry, Frienze Fire

Field Size: 7

There is a serious lack of speed in this race once you get past **Noble Indy** and **Mendelssohn**. That should give those two horses a big advantage. If Mendelssohn shows up with his UAE Derby effort you could easily see him taking this field wire to wire. If he doesn't fire like he did in the Kentucky Derby then that will leave Noble Indy all alone in front. Either way, you'll have to be close to the front to win this one.

The Play: This race comes down to **Mendelssohn** and whether or not he shows up with his best effort. If he does he will make short work of this field. **Rugbyman** and **Noble Indy** are the horses that can pose a threat to him. Rugbyman probably would have won the $150K Easy Goer Stakes if he was not so lightly raced and green, and Noble Indy drops back down in class after running in the Belmont Stakes and Kentucky Derby. **Firenze Fire** and **Seven Trumpets** could play a factor underneath in the trifecta and superfecta.

PICKS

PICK ORDER	M/L ODDS	HORSE #	HORSE NAME
WIN	8/5	6	Mendelssohn
PLACE	2/1	3	Rugbyman
SHOW	7/2	4	Noble Indy
WILD CARD	6/1	7	Firenze Fire
ALTERNATE 1	10/1	2	Seven Trumpets
ALTERNATE 2	20/1	5	Fixedincome Larry

EXACTA:

3,4,6 BOX

TRIFECTA:

3,6/3,4,6,7/2,3,4,6,7