

HOW TO BET THE KENTUCKY DERBY



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Courtney Snow/Past The Wire

5 TIPS FOR BETTING THE KENTUCKY DERBY

By Jon Stettin

- 1- Do what works for you. The Kentucky Derby pool sizes and the amount of recreational money as opposed to smart money allow for mistakes and wagers that might not be savvy long term. While I do not deviate from how I attack the game and make my wagers, I suggest do what works for you, especially in this race. Anything goes.
- 2- The best horse does not always win. Many “best horses” didn’t win or even run their best races in The Kentucky Derby. Try not to gravitate to the obvious.
- 3- Look for who you think will peak and run a forward or improving race, not necessarily who has run the best in the past. Horses are not machines, they develop and learn differently and some trainers are masters are getting a horse to peak or go forward on the big days. That is what I look for.
- 4- Trip. Trip is key. You have to look at the riders, the draw, the horses styles, and the pace. They all will affect not only the race but the outcome. Draw it up in your mind as to who will be where at each quarter, and see who you think will be in position to win coming to the eighth pole. Pick your horse from that list.
- 5- Odds and the board mean little. Don’t let the board influence you in this race. Everyone is there to win, nobody gives an inch, nobody knows what will happen, and the odds offer little in the way of tells or insight.

Last but not least, and probably the most important point, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES miss the annual Past The Wire Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby seminar. Live, interactive, undercard races and a replay if you miss the live version. Cost: PRICELESS

PACE MAKES THE KENTUCKY DERBY

By Jim Gazzale

There's an old adage in racing that "pace makes the race." There's no race in which this holds true more so than the Kentucky Derby. The wicked pace set last year by Summer is Tomorrow set things up for 80-1 longshot Rich Strike to take home the roses.

Overall, since the advent of the Kentucky Derby point system, the race has been mostly true-to-form. The few horses with the best chance to win typically do. With that in mind, here are a few key factors, form, pace, and otherwise, to keep in mind when handicapping the Kentucky Derby.

- Focus on only the final two prep races when determining current form. Looking back any further the race distance and field quality will diminish and be mostly unusable.
- Look for horses who show good stamina in the middle of the race. This signals an ability to stay within range of the leaders during the second and third points of call. As we've seen in recent years, most Derby winners are on the lead or at least within a few lengths of the front turning for home.
- Search for the horses who will be closing best of all. The Kentucky Derby will be the first time each starter attempts 10 furlongs. It's essential you find the ones able to last. Late pace figures are essential here. Who came home fastest in their final preps? Who stayed on the longest in their final preps? Who figures to do the same on Derby Day? If you can answer these questions correctly, you're closer to determining the winner and even those longer priced horses who can amplify your exotic wagers.
- Look for horses that are getting stronger as the distances increase. The top win contenders are almost always peaking on the First Saturday in May. Looking at their energy distribution across their final two prep races will signal strength and stamina development, which is key for success in the Kentucky Derby.

KENTUCKY DERBY PACE & SPEED TRENDS

By Jim Gazzale

Let's take a look back at recent trends in Kentucky Derby pace and speed figures. I'm a personal fan of Brisnet and its E1 (1st call), E2 (second call), Late Pace, and BRIS speed figure ratings. I believe these, at least in my handicapping process, are the most reliable figures out there especially for energy distribution.

California Chrome and Justify were two absolute freaks based on these figures early in their 3 year-old seasons. WOW! Taking a closer look though, you do see in most winners the BRIS figure improved from their penultimate prep to their final prep. In many winners, too, their Late Pace figure has improved. These are two keys figures to look at!

		Distance	1st Call	2nd Call	Late Pace	BRIS
2010	Super Saver	1 1/18	89	97	96	99
		1 1/16	97	103	92	99
2011	Animal Kingdom	1 1/18 (S)	76	84	101	97
		1 mile (T)	86	102	89	96
2012	I'll Have Another	1 1/18	77	82	109	98
		1 1/16	79	91	109	102
2013	Orb	1 1/18	76	87	103	97
		1 1/16	94	111	89	102

		Distance	1st Call	2nd Call	Late Pace	BRIS
2014	California Chrome	1 1/18	103	110	97	106
		1 1/16	104	107	93	102
2015	American Pharoah	1 1/18	98	103	95	102
		1 1/16	82	85	109	99
2016	Nyquist	1 1/18	91	94	95	97
		7 furlongs	89	99	103	103
2017	Always Dreaming	1 1/18	93	101	99	102
		1 1/8	58	54	112	84
2018	Justify	1 1/18	100	105	117	114
		1 mile	107	117	88	104
2019	Maximum Security	1 1/18	71	77	123	102
	Crossed line 1st	7 furlongs	90	92	105	100
2020	Authentic	1 1/18	94	111	98	107
		1 1/8	104	112	92	105
2021	Medina Spirit	1 1/18	104	106	86	98
	Crossed line 1st	1 1/16	87	97	88	93
2022	Rich Strike	1 1/18 (S)	78	79	107	95
		1 1/16 (S)	79	80	93	87

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