

Kentucky Derby Day full card analysis from Churchill Downs (Saturday: 5-6-17)  
By Jarrod Horak (therunawayhorse.com, todaystracingdigest.com, winninghorsepicks.com)  
Weather: Scattered Showers (60% chance). High 61. CD Best Bets (races 3, 7, 10, 11, 12)

CD 1 (MSW, 8f) **#3 SEVENTH TEE** (4-1) is a To Honor and Serve (10% mud sire) first timer and dam's other seven starters won (2 stakes winners). Lynch shows a +ROI with debut special weight runners and Castellano is 2-for-6 with this barn. **#5 What a Star** (8-1) took money and finished a wide 2nd in her sprint bow at OP Jan 29 (82 FIRE Number) and was a flat 4th in a two turn flat mile affair at that same venue March 18 (62 FIRE, 1-2 finishers *next out* winners). She can rebound. **#1 Maximus Beauty** (15-1) earned competitive FIRE Numbers in her last three turf starts and was an okay 5th of 9 in her local dirt debut last fall (runner-up *Jordan's Henny* entered in Ky Oaks). Smith hops aboard the interesting longshot. **#2 Saved by the Swell** (7-2) and **#6 No Fault** (2-1) have combined to lose sixteen times with seven minor awards between them. **#8 Ring Me Up** (10-1) earned improved numbers in her final two juvenile starts, a distant 2nd to highly regarded filly *Untapped* and an even 4th of 12 at CD (aformentioned *Jordan's Henny* 3rd). Low profile trainer Margolis is 9-for-41 this year. **THE PLAYS: #3 to win, Trifecta 1-3-5-8/2-6/2-6**

CD 2 (OC-75k, 8.5f) **#7 SALUTE WITH HONOR** (3-1) moved to the Casse barn and earned improved numbers (102 FIRE + 143 CPR) in a neck defeat vs. Florida-bred stakes foes at 7f April 2. He graduated in the slop, drilled a local bullet for this April 21 and looks like a solid threat on any footing. There is not much pace in the paper race and he might go to the front under Leparoux. **#4 Awesome Saturday** (4-1) won his 6f bow at FG Feb 25 and came back to rally for the place in an extended sprint at KEE April 12. He kicked his numbers up last time, sire is 16% in the mud, and he is bred to go this far. **#8 No Mo Dough** (4-1) stretches out in his third start and Uncle Mo is a strong mud sire. Ortiz got to know him after finishing 1.5 lengths behind *Awsome Saturday* at KEE last time. **#1 Ingadore** (8-1) earned improved numbers (76 FIRE + 103 CPR) in his flat mile maiden win on synthetic ground March 25. Dominus is a 20% wet track sire, his trainer is 6-for-15 this year, and an inside tactical trip is expected. **#6 Underpressure** (7-2) is the only entrant with multiple wins and he fits on numbers as well. Birdstone is a 15% mud sire and the LA-bred graduated in his local sprint bow. **THE PLAYS: #7 to win, Exacta 7/1-4-8, Exacta 1-4-8/7, Trifecta Key 7/1-4-6-8, 50 cent Pick Four: 1-4-6-7-8/5-6-7-8/5-6/1-5 (\$40)**

CD 3 (OC-100k, 8f) **#7 DONEGAL MOON** (4-1) was last seen rallying for 4th off a long layoff in a GP extended sprint March 16 (3 *next out* winners). He is 2-for-2 at one mile and might move up for Johnny V/Pletcher. **#5 Rocket Time** (5-2) exits a decent 2nd in a similar OP route April 1. He fired a local bullet for this April 30 and Stall is 4-for-14 *blinkers on*. The 3-time local winner is 5-for-6 at this distance and fits of numbers. **#6 Idolo Porteno** (7-2) makes his first non-stakes start in his fifth US outing. He reconnects with Geroux and he was aboard for his best two outings in this country, a 3rd in the G3 Razorback (94 FIRE + 143 CPR) and a 2nd in the G3 Pimlico Special. **#8 Mo Tom** (3-1) dons the hood (Amoss 35% *first blinkers*) and won the Street Sense at this course/distance as a juvenile. Castellano was aboard for his Ohio Derby win last year and the late runner should be fit *3rd off the shelf*. **THE PLAYS: #7 to win, Exacta 7/5-6-8, Exacta 5-6-8/7, Trifecta 5-7/5-6-7-8/5-6-7-8, 50 cent Pick Five: 5-7/5-6/1-5/2-5-6-7/1-6 (\$32)**

CD 4 (MSW, 9f) **#6 PERFECT PARTNER** (5-1) rallied nicely for the place in his seven panel bow at KEE April 14. The \$550k purchase is bred to go this far (Curlin-A.P. Indy) and Casse shows a +ROI *first route*. Casse also saddles **#5 Souper Fly Over** (3-1). The latter was 2nd in his long ago sprint bow at Parx (3 *next out* winners) and earned a quality number in his KEE sprint return April 8 (field-best 88 FIRE + 138 CPR). **#7 Sevier** (8-1) pressed and faded as the solid favorite in his sprint bow April 9. The \$100k purchase might run better over a route of ground (Union Rags-Mineshaft) and Cox excels *first route*. **#1 Cavier Czar** (7-2) bumped up his numbers second time out April 1 (show finisher *next out* winner) and a ground saving tactical trip is expected. He is bred to handle two turns for Johnny V/Pletcher. **#4 Oklahoma View** (10-1) took money but failed to show up from an outer post in his synthetic sprint bow March 25. The \$100k purchase is bred to route on dirt and might go better but it is surprising that Ortiz is only 1-for-25 with Maker. **THE PLAYS: #6 to win, Exacta Box 5-6, Trifecta 5-6/1-4-5-6-7/1-4-5-6-7**

CD 5 (OC-62.5k, 8T) **#5 SIR DUDLEY DIGGES** (4-1) exits a wide 2nd from the outside post vs. similar FG turf rivals (95 FIRE + 153 CPR) and today's rider Leparoux was aboard for both his career wins last year. He graduated on less than firm turf at KEE in 2016. **#1 Forge** (7-2) rallied for 2nd as the favorite in his US bow at KEE April 15 (86 FIRE + 132 CPR). I would not be surprised if he moved forward for Ortiz/Mott and horses bred in GB usually do not mind some give in the ground. **#3 Ghurair** (10-1), **#4 Long Ago** (15-1), and **#10 War Envoy** (4-1) have all earned numbers in their recent past performances good enough to compete here. **THE PLAYS: #5 to win, Exacta Box 1-5, Trifecta 1-5/1-3-4-5-10/1-3-4-5-10, 50 cent Pick Four: 1-5/2-5-7/1-2-6/1-4-5-8 (\$36)**

CD 6 (G1 Humana Distaff, 7f) **#2 PAULASSILVERLINING** (7-2) looked okay winning the G1 Madison at this distance at KEE April 8 (85 FIRE + 129 CPR) and that was her first start of the year for new trainer Brown. She earned a good number winning the G2 Gallant Bloom (99 FIRE + 151 CPR) in the mud at BEL last fall and looks like a solid tactical threat under Ortiz. **#5 Finest City** (8-5) was *clearly second best* to red-hot Baffert trainee *Vale Dori* in the G1 Santa Margarita at 9f March 18. She won back-to-back graded extended sprints under today's rider Smith before her last and figures in the hunt throughout on any footing. She is a strong contender on class and numbers. **#7 Carina Mia** (2-1) drew well and looms a prominent throughout threat under Leparoux. She is 2-for-2 at CD including a local romp in the G2 Eight Belles at this distance last May (96 FIRE + 155 CPR). The returnee is firing bullets for Mott and her other local win was in the G2 Golden Rod in the slop in 2015. **#6 Lightstream** (5-1) is an extended sprint specialist and new rider Castellano is hoping for a pace meltdown. Her numbers are not as strong as my other contenders. **THE PLAYS: #2 to win, Exacta 2-6-7/5, Trifecta 2-5-7/2-5-7/6**

CD 7 (G1 Distaff Turf Mile, 8T) **#6 ROCA ROJO** (3-1) was a nose behind today's favorite *Miss Temple City* when last seen at DMR last fall. She won back-to-back turf routes on less than firm before that including an easy late running victory in the G3

Athenia on soft ground. She might rumble past them all for a sharp layoff barn especially if there is some give in the ground. **#1 Linda** (5-1) ran well in all five turf starts on firm, good, and soft ground. She drilled a bullet for this April 30, reconnects with winning rider Hernandez, and can move up *2nd off the shelf*. **#2 Miss Temple City** (9-5) makes her first start of the year for Motion and she won a trio of grade one races last year (2 at KEE vs. males). **#4 Believe in Bertie** (6-1) romped in her last four turf starts at FG vs. lesser in wire-to-wire fashion. **THE PLAYS: #6 to win, Exacta Box 1-6, Trifecta 1-6/1-2-4-6/1-2-4-6**

CD 8 (G3 Pat Day Mile, 8f) **#5 NO DOZING** (5-1) won his first two dirt sprints and is back around one turn after losing his last five graded dirt routes. He exits a troubled 3rd (beaten a neck) in the G3 Lexington and earned his best numbers as a sophomore (92 FIRE + 134 CPR) that day. He drilled a Fair Hill bullet for this April 29 and I have a feeling he is going to love this trip. **#4 Uncontested** (5-1) was on the Derby trail and he looked great romping in the slop in the Smarty Jones at OP in January (102 FIRE + 139 CPR). He turns back after fading in the G3 Southwest and G2 Rebel and fired a local bullet for this April 25. Smith climbs aboard and he might not look back especially if the track is wet and speed favoring. **#1 Local Hero** (5-1) did not garner enough Derby qualifying points after show finishes in the G2 Risen Star and G2 LA Derby (102 FIRE). The \$500k purchase should make his presence felt throughout under Geroux. **#8 Wild Shot** (4-1) did not make the Derby cut and he wisely turns back in distance. Both local starts last year were good, a 6f maiden wire job and a place finish in the G2 Ky Jockey Club. **THE PLAYS: #5 to win, Exacta 5/1-4-8, Exacta 1-4-8/5, 50 cent Pick Five: 1-4-5-8/4-9-10/1-2-8/5-17 (\$36)**

CD 9 (G2 American Turf, 8.5T) **#10 GOOD SAMARITAN** (5-1) looked good winning his first two turf starts off the pace before rallying for the show as the favorite in the G1 BC Juvenile Turf. He is probably ready to rumble off the shelf for Mott and might be along in time under Rosario. **#9 Made You Look** (6-1) was given a shot on dirt in the G2 FOY but that experiment failed so he is back on preferred turf. He owns positional speed and two graded wins on turf. **#7 Conquest Fahrenheit** (5-1) was the favorite in all five starts and won three of those on turf. His SoCal speed might put him on the lead under Prat but there are others with the ability to stay close like **#4 Oscar Performance** (7-2). The latter disappointed off the bench at KEE April 7 but was sensational in a trio of turf wins in 2016 including a win in the BC Juvenile Turf. He might bounce back. **#11 La Coronel** (8-1) looked great cruising home in the G3 Appalachian and is a neck away from a 3-for-3 record at this distance on turf. She takes a shot against the boys and should offer value. **THE PLAYS: #10 to win, Exacta 10/4-7-9, Exacta 4-7-9/10, Trifecta 9-10/4-7-9-10-11/4-7-9-10-11, 50 cent Pick Four: 4-7-9-10-11/1-2-5-8-12/2-8/5 (\$25)**

CD 10 (G2 Churchill Downs, 7f) **#8 EL KABEIR** (6-1) finished a promising 2nd in his first start for Mott March 16 (94 FIRE + 155 CPR, 3 *next out* winners) and he has some back class (won G3 Gotham + G3 Jerome in 2015 and won G2 Ky Jockey Club in 2014). **#1 Awesome Slew** (4-1) earned improved numbers in his last pair and rolled home at this distance in the G3 Commonwealth April 8 (92 FIRE + 157 CPR). **#2 Masochistic** (7-2) lost for the first time in four starts at this distance when *Denman's Call* ran him down in the G1 Triple Bend March 11. He should be fitter in his second start of the year and might be able to dictate terms under Smith (owns best overall numbers). **#12 Denman's Call** (8-1) showed improved tactical speed March 11 and he can beat *Masochistic* again with a similar effort. **#5 Clearly Now** (6-1) owns tactical speed and occasionally jumps up and runs big numbers at this distance like his optional claiming win at GP April 1 (99 FIRE + 159 CPR). He rarely runs two alike so don't be surprised if he regresses. **THE PLAYS: #8 to win, Exacta 8/1-2-12, Exacta 1-2-12/8, Trifecta 1-2-8/1-2-5-8-12/1-2-5-8-12, 50 cent Pick Five: 1-2-8/2-6-7-8/5-10-14-15-17/9/4 (\$30)**

CD 11 (G1 Turf Classic, 9T) **#8 BEACH PATROL** (5-1) should appreciate an expected tepid pace scenario under Geroux after going too fast and finishing 2nd (placed 4th via DQ) in the G1 GP Turf Hcp Feb 11. I have always liked this versatile, consistent colt and he runs well fresh for quality layoff trainer Brown. **#2 Divisidero** (4-1) rallied to miss by a nose April 9 and is 2-for-2 at CD including a 6-1 score in this race last year. **#6 Bal a Bali** (6-1) is 14-for-22 on turf and won the G1 Kilroe Mile when last seen at SA March 11. He handled a variety of turf course conditions in Brazil. **#7 World Approval** (6-1) tuned up for this with a smart Florida-bred stakes win on turf at TAM April 2. He missed by a neck in this race last year and this is his preferred distance (8-4-2-0). **THE PLAYS: #8 to win, Exacta 8/2-6-7, Exacta 2-6-7/8, 50 cent Pick Four: 6-8/5-15-17/1-2-8-9/4-5-11 (\$36)**

#### **CD 12 (G1 Kentucky Derby, 10f) – Analysis Below**

##### **BLOODLINES:**

**ALWAYS DREAMING:** Sire Bodemeister won the Arkansas Derby in 2012 and ended up 2nd in the Derby and Preakness later that spring. Bodemeister's sire Empire Maker was my Derby horse in 2003 and he finished 2nd. He won the Belmont Stakes later that spring. Dam sire In Excess won five graded stakes in 1991 including the Met Mile, Suburban, Whitney, and Woodard.

**CLASSIC EMPIRE:** Sire Pioneerof the Nile was my Derby horse in 2009 and he ran second to Mine That Bird. He sired Triple Crown winner American Pharoah in 2015. Pioneerof the Nile's sire Empire Maker was my Derby horse in 2003 and he finished 2nd. He won the Belmont Stakes later that spring. Dam sire Cat Thief was 3rd in the '99 Derby and won the BC Classic later that year.

**GIRVIN:** Dam sire Malibu Moon sired 2013 Derby winner Orb.

**GORMLEY:** Sire Malibu Moon got Derby winner Orb home in 2013.

**GUNNEVERA:** His sire Dialed In's sire Mineshaft was Horse of the Year in 2003 and his pedigree was outstanding (A.P Indy, Prospector's Delite, by Mr. Prospector). Dam sire Unbridled won the Kentucky Derby and BC Classic in 1990.

**HENCE:** Sire Street Boss was sired by Street Cry and the latter was responsible for Zenyatta and 2007 Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense. Dam sire A.P. Indy won the Belmont Stakes and BC Classic in 1992.

**IRAP:** Sire Tiznow was a 2-time BC Classic winner. Dam sire Storm Cat was responsible for more than 100 graded winners including Cat Thief and Giant's Causeway.

**IRISH WAR CRY:** Sire Curlin was 3rd in the 2007 Derby, 1st in the Preakness, and 2nd in the Belmont Stakes. He also won the BC Classic in '07 and the Dubai World Cup in '08. Curlin's son Exaggerator was 2nd in the Derby last year and won the Preakness and Haskell.

**J BOYS ECHO:** Sire Mineshaft was Horse of the Year in 2003 and his pedigree was outstanding (A.P Indy, Prospector's Delite, by Mr. Prospector). Dam sire Menifee was 2nd in the 1999 Derby and Preakness.

**LOOKIN AT LEE:** Sire Lookin at Lucky won the Preakness in 2010 after drawing the rail and finishing 6th in the Derby.

**PATCH:** His sire Union Rags won the 2012 Belmont Stakes and dam sire A.P Indy won the 1992 Belmont Stakes and BC Classic.

**SONNETEER:** Sire Midnight Lute won the BC Sprint in 2007-08. His sire Real Quiet was 1st the Derby and Preakness and 2nd in the Belmont in 1998.

**STATE OF HONOR:** To Honor and Serve's sire Bernardini won the 2006 Preakness, Travers, and JC Gold Cup.

**Thoughts:** **Always Dreaming** has a strong Derby sire line (Bodemeister + Empire Maker) and **Classic Empire's** (Pioneer of the Nile + Empire Maker) sire line goes through Triple Crown winner American Pharoah. **Hence** has stamina influences on top and bottom and **Patch** has a strong overall pedigree but lacks seasoning. The other promising Triple Crown series pedigrees belong to **Gunnaveera, Irap, Irish War Cry, and J Boys Echo.**

## **BY THE NUMBERS**

### **TODAY'S RACING DIGEST**

**Always Dreaming:** Florida Derby (102 FIRE + 148 CPR)

**Irish War Cry:** Got a 104 FIRE + 141 CPR in the Wood and a 100 + 145 in the productive Holy Bull.

**Gunnaveera:** Florida Derby (96 FIRE + 138 CPR), FOY (100 FIRE + 156 CPR)

**Classic Empire:** Arkansas Derby (94 FIRE + 140 CPR), BC Juvenile (100 + 140).

**Girvin:** LA Derby (100 + 134), Risen Star (100 + 150).

**Gormley:** SA Derby (98 + 135).

**Irap:** Blue Grass (100 + 131).

**Hence:** Sunland Derby (90 + 145).

**Final TRD Thoughts:** I typically rely on the TRD numbers more than the others and **Always Dreaming** and **Irish War Cry** stand out. Their final 9f preps earned the best numbers and they are both graded stakes winners with early/pressing versatility. **Gunnaveera** fits on his FOY numbers but that was at 8.5f. **Classic Empire** fits on his BC Juvenile numbers (also 8.5f) but has not been as fast in two starts this year. **Girvin's** FG numbers are decent (including 9f LA Derby) but a foot issue, some missed training, and only four starts might leave him short. **Gormley's** SA Derby was not as fast as the Florida Derby or Wood and the same goes for **Irap's** Blue Grass. **Lookin at Lee** is one of the Fastest in the Stretch and could run on for a share. **Hence** is not too far behind on numbers, is training well, and should be finishing. **McCraken** is behind the others on numbers but is 3-for-3 at CD and is working well. He should run a new top but will it be enough?

## **DAILY RACING FORM**

**Irish War Cry:** Ran a pair of 101's in the Holy Bull and Wood Memorial. He threw in a 63 in the FOY and that seems like an aberration. He might be faster than his rivals.

**Always Dreaming:** Career best 97 BSF in the Florida Derby. He owns early/pressing versatility and is a major Derby player.

**McCraken:** Top BSF of 95 in the Sam Davis. He missed the TB Derby with a minor ankle problem and ran an 88 in the Blue Grass. He should run faster than a 95 but will it be enough?

**Gunnaveera:** He got a 95 in the Holy Bull, a 97 in the FOY, and an 88 in the Florida Derby. The late runner can make an impact.

**Classic Empire:** Has yet to run back to his 102 in the BC Juvenile. His 94 in the Arkansas Derby was a step in the right direction.

**Hence:** 97 BSF in the Sunland Derby. He is a live longshot.

**Irap:** Jumped up and ran a 93 in the Blue Grass and that was a 10-point leap. Was that a fluke or is he much improved? He might need to improve 10 more points to win the Derby.

**Practical Joke:** His numbers are slowly climbing and he got a 92 in the Blue Grass.

**Gormley:** His best number was a 94 in the slop (Sham). He proved he could rate in the SA Derby but his number dipped to 88.

**Tapwrit:** Followed up a 96 in the TB Derby with a 76 in the Blue Grass. Better is coming but it is tough to bounce back in a race like the Derby.

**J Boys Echo:** Got a 102 BSF in the Gotham but that was not a deep cast and inner dirt numbers can be too generous. He ran an 84 in the Blue Grass.

**Patch:** Earned back-to-back 89's and should move forward but I wish he was in the Peter Pan and not the Derby.

**Lookin at Lee:** Career best 91 BSF in the Arkansas Derby. Plodder can hit the board.

**Thunder Snow:** It is estimated that he ran a BSF's in the 90's in the UAE Derby and Dubai shippers have yet to threaten in the Ky Derby.

**BSF Thoughts: Irish War Cry's** pair of 101's in 3yo Derby preps were strong winning efforts and he is the one to beat in the BSF paper race. If he does not run his best race, the next three fastest horses in good form are **Always Dreaming**, **Hence**, and **Classic Empire**. **McCraken** is set to run faster than the 95 he earned in the Sam F Davis and an expected forward move would put somewhere him in the mix.

#### **BRISNET**

**Classic Empire:** BC Juvenile (108)

**J Boys Echo:** Gotham (104)

**Hence:** Sunland Derby (103)

**Irish War Cry:** Wood (102), Holy Bull (102)

**Always Dreaming:** Florida Derby (102)

**Gunnevera:** FOY (102)

**Gormley:** Sham (102 wet track)

**Tapwrit:** TB Derby (101)

**Patch:** MSW (101)

**Irap:** Blue Grass (100)

**Final Bris Thoughts:** **Classic Empire** got a very big Bris number in the BC Juvenile and he would be tough to beat if he ran back to that. Don't know if he has that kind of number in him due to setbacks this year. **J Boys Echo** has only run fast once and regressed last time. **Hence** is interesting with his 103 at 9f+ a nice pedigree and decent training pattern. **Irish War Cry** has run fast twice and that is something the others cannot claim. **Always Dreaming** earned a big number in the Florida Derby and has had ample time to recover so he might run fast again. **Gunnevera** could cycle back to his 102 if he gets enough pace help and a clean trip but that is easier said than done. **Gormley** might move up on a wet track and rain is in the forecast. Blue Grass flopper **Tapwrit** should run better. **Patch** has plenty of upside but lacks experience. **Irap's** last number came out of nowhere and he might have a hard time repeating it.

#### **POST POSITIONS**

Inner posts can be the kiss of death in the Derby. My Derby top Lookin At Lucky had a miserable trip from the rail in 2010 but came back two weeks later to capture the Preakness.

My Derby top Union Rags was shuffled out of contention from an inner post in 2011 but returned five weeks later to capture the Belmont Stakes.

For Derby post positions, I want my contenders to be as far away from the rail post as possible and 2015 was a good example. Early/pressing type **American Pharoah** drew post 18 and moved in a bit after scratches. He was free and clear and in the hunt throughout and his outer draw was the key to his victory over **Firing Line** and **Dortmund**.

Nyquist stalked the pace from post 13 en route to a 1-1/4 length victory over late striding Exaggerator in Kentucky Derby 2016.

The last three Derby winners (California Chrome, American Pharoah, Nyquist) all had early/pressing versatility and comfortable tactical trips from advantageous post positions.

From a 2017 post position standpoint, I think **Irish War Cry** did well to land post 17. He is one that needs to relax early and the wide draw elevates his chances. He settled nicely from the outside post in the Wood Memorial and might pull an American Pharoah type of trip.

**Classic Empire** was a big post position winner after landing 14. He projects a free and clear stalking trip.

**McCraken** should not have any issues from post 15 and will probably try to strike from midpack or so.

Ideally, I would have liked **Always Dreaming** in a middle-to-outer post but breaking from the 5-hole should not sink his chances. The key to his success is relaxing early and I see a scenario in which he gets first run stalking Fast and Accurate and State of Honor. I could also see him trying to emulate his sire Bodemeister so look out if he is alone on the lead. Gun Runner had a similar running style and he stalked/pounced from 3rd and ended up finishing 3rd from post 5 last year. California Chrome stalked/pounced from 3rd and cruised home from post 5 in 2014. From a talent/running style standpoint, Always Dreaming is probably somewhere between the 3yo versions of Gun Runner and California Chrome and he might be good enough to get the job done if he relaxes early and sits the right trip.

At the other end of the spectrum, **Lookin at Lee** drew the dreaded rail just like his unlucky sire Lookin at Lucky and Dubai shipper **Thunder Snow** did not fare much better getting post 2. Inexperienced runner **Patch** might have a tough go of it from post 20.

**Practical Joke** might be in trouble from post 19. He is 0-for-3 in route races and the ability to navigate ten furlongs got that much tougher with a wide trip almost assured. **Gormley** could be in the same boat from post 18.

**Fast and Accurate** will have to go early from post 3 to avoid getting shuffled back, and **State of Honor** should be all over the pace from post 6.

**Untrapped** could end up getting trapped from post 4.

Everybody else did fine in the draw department including **Girvin** (post 7), **Hence** (8), **Irap**, (9), **Gunnevera**, (10), **Battle of Midway**, (11), **Sonneteer** (12), **J Boys Echo** (13), and **Tapwrit** (16). **Royal Mo** and **Master Plan** are on the also-eligible list.

### WORKOUTS/GALLOPS

**McCraken** looked great in his final two Derby works and appears poised to run a big race.

**Irish War Cry** looked sharp in his final Derby move at Fair Hill and continues to make a very positive impression at CD.

**Always Dreaming** looked super in his pre-Derby work at CD on. However, he has been too keyed-up in his pre-Derby gallops but did settle better the last few days after they changed his reins and exercise rider.

**Tapwrit** seems ready to bounce back from his disappointing Blue Grass try but he would need others with better numbers to regress to get the job done.

**Hence** has made a positive impression under the Twin Spires and might be a live longshot underneath. **State of Honor** is training well but ten furlongs might be out of reach. Ditto **Practical Joke** and post 19 does not help matters. **J Boys Echo** had a decent work April 29. **Sonneteer** looked good working May 1 but is still a maiden. **Girvin** had a strong work at KEE April 29 but missed a work before that due to a quarter crack and only has four lifetime starts at FG. He has talent but will likely come up short at 10f.

### TOP WIN CONTENDERS

**#5 ALWAYS DREAMING - Top Choice**

**#17 Irish War Cry - Strong Second Choice**

**#15 McCraken - Third Choice sitting on ready**

**#10 Gunnevera - Fourth Choice will be finishing**

**#14 Classic Empire**

## EXOTICS CONTENDERS

#8 Hence - Live Longshot

#1 Lookin at Lee

#16 Tapwrit

#13 J Boys Echo

## KENTUCKY DERBY 2017 WAGERING STRATEGIES (Total Cost - \$200)

### Win-Place (\$50):

\$20 to win-place #5 ALWAYS DREAMING

\$10 to win #17 IRISH WAR CRY

### Exacta (\$50):

\$8 Exacta Box 5-17 (\$16)

\$4 Exacta 5-17/10-15 (\$16)

\$2 Exacta 10-15/5-17 (\$8)

\$2 Exacta 5-15-17/10 (\$6)

\$2 Exacta 14/5-17 (\$4)

### Trifecta (\$50)

50 cent Trifecta 5-10-15-17/1-5-8-10-14-15-17/1-5-8-10-15-17 (\$50)

### Superfecta (\$50)

\$1 Superfecta 5/15-17/1-8-10-15-16-17/1-8-10-13-15-16-17 (\$50)

CD 13 (OC-75k, 6.5f) #9 **CASSES STORY** (5-1) finished 2nd in back-to-back sprints as a juvenile under Leparoux and the two winners (*Bitumen*, *Fact Finding*) won next time out as well. My top graduated in his final start a juvenile at SAR and the runner-up returned to score. The returnee sports two bullets for this and is probably bigger and better as a sophomore. #1a **Hard Scramble** (5-1) exits a smart maiden win at OP and that was his first sprint start so he appears to have found his niche. #8 **Rockin Rudy** (2-1) was finished early in the G1 Arkansas Derby and he is back in a preferred sprint after that failed Derby prep. He romped in his lone dirt sprint as a juvenile and was 2nd in a pair of downhill turf sprints earlier this year. He probably needs the lead. #2 **Visionary Tale** (8-1) ran well throughout in both starts and beat a *next out* winner in his OP maiden win April 1. He broke from the rail in his bow and from the outside post last time and is now back on the rail. **THE PLAYS: #9 to win, Exacta 9/1-2-8, Exacta 1-2-8/9**

CD 14 (MSW, 7f) #4 **SOUPER WISH** (2-1) missed by a neck as the favorite in his GP debut at 6f March 18. He drilled a local bullet for this April 21 and might like the added furlong. #5 **Bourbon Country** (10-1) was 4th in his long ago local debut and race thirteen top choice *Casses Story* was 2nd in that event. He sports two bullets for this and Kenneally excels with the *blinkers on* move. #11 **Wicked Macho** (8-1) is a Casse first time starter with five bullets in his holster and Castellano takes the call. **THE PLAYS: #4 to win, Exacta 4/5-11, Exacta 5-11/4**

Double/Pick 3/Pick 4/Pick 5 contenders – in order of preference

Race

1 (3-5-1-2-6-8)

2 (7-4-8-1-6)

3 (7-5-6-8)

4 (6-5-7-1-4)

5 (5-1-3-4-10)

6 (2-5-7-6)

7 (6-1-2-4)

8 (5-4-1-8)

9 (10-9-7-4-11)

10 (8-1-2-12-5)

11 (8-2-6-7)

12 (5-17-15-10-14-8)

13 (9-1-8-2)

14 (4-5-11)

## **ROLLING DAILY DOUBLE/PICK 3 WAGERING STRATEGIES**

For Rolling Doubles and Pick 3 tickets, key the top choice in each race to all other contenders. See examples below:

**Double (Race 1-2):**

**Ticket 1 (3-7)**

**Ticket 2 (3/1-4-6-7-8)**

**Ticket 3 (1-2-3-5-6-8/7)**

**Double (Races 2-3):**

**Ticket 2 (7-7)**

**Ticket 1 (7/5-6-7-8)**

**Ticket 3 (1-4-6-7-8/7)**

**Pick 3 (Race 1-3):**

**Ticket 1 (3-7-7)**

**Ticket 2 (3/1-4-6-7-8/5-6-7-8)**

**Ticket 3 (1-2-3-5-6-8/7/5-6-7-8)**

**Ticket 4 (1-2-3-5-6-8/1-4-6-7-8/7)**