

DOGHOUSE CONFIDENTIAL BY MR. X

BELMONT STAKES

JUNE 7, 2008

BELMONT S. (G1), 11TH-BEL, \$1,000,000, 3YO, 1 1/2M, 6:25 P.M. EDT, 6-7

PP HORSE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1 BIG BROWN	DUTROW RICHARD E	DESORMEAUX K J	126
2 GUADALCANAL	SEITZ FRED	CASTELLANO J J	126
3 MACHO AGAIN	STEWART DALLAS	GOMEZ G K	126
4 DENIS OF CORK	CARROLL DAVID	ALBARADO R J	126
5 CASINO DRIVE	FUJISAWA K	PRADO E S	126
6 DA' TARA	ZITO NICHOLAS P	GARCIA A	126
7 TALE OF EKATI	TAGG BARCLAY	COA E M	126
8 ANAK NAKAL	ZITO NICHOLAS P	LEPAROUX JULIEN	126
9 READY'S ECHO	PLETCHER TODD A	VELAZQUEZ J R	126
10 ICABAD CRANE	MOTION H GRAHAM	ROSE J	126

I don't think we could envision a worse betting race. We have the favorite, **Big Brown**, whose Beyers tower over the rest of the field. He is a horse I have never liked, and he continues to beat me. He just might be significantly better than the rest of these. But he does have a bad wheel, no matter what his Flap Jaw trainer says. **Big Brown** will also be facing extreme heat. Finally, there is nothing to suggest that he will make the 12 furlongs along with all the rest. Our numbers say he couldn't make 10 furlongs in the Derby, but he did. Here he is at 2-5 and in a great position to make the Triple Crown against very inferior and inconsistent animals.

I have had my doubts about **Casino Drive**, particularly his works since the Peter Pan that had to be timed with a sundial. The Japanese trainer is one of the best (in Japan). Today(Friday) Casino Drive's stablemate ran like a dog in a turf stake. Now we hear that Casino Drive has a bad rear leg and may be scratched. There are two ways to look at the situation: if they run him, he must be okay because the Japanese would not risk a further injury; on the other hand, if they run him, he may not be cranked up enough to challenge anyway, so he is a throwout. My view at this moment is to throw him out entirely, but we'll have to wait until tomorrow. Seems like too much risk, too little reward.

The only horse that looks live to me is **Denis of Cork**. He has a good Beyer of 97 in the Derby behind Big Brown and has been working steadily with an excellent work on 5/26 at Churchill Downs. I expect Denis of Cork to close to get second. My numbers say that he will be 14 lengths behind Da Tara and Big Brown at the 6 furlong mark, so he has to stay close to be in contention. I expect his new rider, Robby Albarado, to keep him closer to the pace than Borel did. He could suck up for second or possibly overtake Big Brown as I'm not sold on Big Brown's ability to make the distance (famous last words). At least, Denis rested after the Derby while Big Brown will be running for the third time in five weeks.

The rest of the horses are not worthy of my money.

Here is my safe bet:

\$2 Exacta Box: 1-4-5 = \$12

\$10 Exacta: 1-4 = \$10

Total \$22

Here is what I will bet:

\$5 Exacta Box: 1-4 with 5 = \$20

\$60 Exacta: 1-4

\$20 Exacta: 4-1

Total \$100

Let's not have any more incidents for either horses or jockeys. Good luck!

Mr. X