

DOGHOUSE CONFIDENTIAL BY MR. X

BELMONT STAKES

JUNE 6, 2009

Post	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	M/L Odds
1	CHOCOLATE CANDY	J. HOLLENDORFER	G. GOMEZ	10-1
2	DUNKIRK	T. PLETCHER	J. VELAZQUEZ	4-1
3	MR. HOT STUFF	E. HARTY	E. PRADO	15-1
4	SUMMER BIRD	T. ICE	K. DESORMEAUX	12-1
5	LUV GOV	D.W. LUKAS	M. MENA	20-1
6	CHARITABLE MAN	K. MCLAUGHLIN	A. GARCIA	3-1
7	MINE THAT BIRD	B. WOOLLEY JR.	C. BOREL	2-1
8	FLYING PRIVATE	D.W. LUKAS	J. LEPAROUX	12-1
9	MINER'S ESCAPE	N. ZITO	J. LEZCANO	15-1
10	BRAVE VICTORY	N. ZITO	R. MARAGH	15-1

Here we are again at the classic of classics, the one and one-half mile Belmont Stakes. While it is doubtful that most of these three-year-olds will ever run the 10 furlong distance of the Derby again, it is highly unlikely that any will ever run the Belmont distance after tomorrow.

The good news is that we can return to our criteria for the 10 furlong Derby and eliminate those that run the last three furlongs of their last 9 furlong race in more than 38 seconds and/or have a median energy distribution of more than 68%. The reason that I am repeating these criteria will be obvious.

On paper, it looks like a three-horse race: **Dunkirk**, **Mine That Bird**, and **Charitable Man**.

Dunkirk had a tremendous pace advantage in the Derby after I Want Revenge was scratched. Recall that the track superintendent said that the track would be good to fast by the time of the Derby. **Dunkirk** likes a fast track or a sloppy track - nothing in between which is what he got. Stumbling out of the gate and getting into traffic trouble, Dunkirk had no chance. Unfortunately, I put in my bets early, and by 3 pm, I knew that I was in big trouble.

Dunkirk had a great losing race in the Florida Derby. Since then, he's been off waiting to see if he would get into the Derby, and then his debacle in that race. Pletcher skipped the Preakness and now has him ready for a top effort if the track is right. I can't go past him, and although he could throw in another clunker, I just can't pass up the timing and the price. I see **Dunkirk** being closer to the pace of Charitable Man and probably Miner's Escape, and then getting the jump on Mine That Bird and holding him off.

Mine That Bird is really something. Looks like a very good honest horse. We thought he would impress in the Preakness, and he did. He is a smallish horse, however, and has run two tough races with superior Beyer numbers. His running style is a deep closer which isn't the best winning profile in the Belmont. So he could bounce, not run his number, and be left with too much to do in the late stages of the race. Nevertheless, he could easily win as the favorite, and it would be no surprise. Tough cookie.

Charitable Man is the now horse who is lightly-raced and highly touted by McLaughlin. His performance in the Peter Pan was impressive, but he didn't beat much. Now for the good news: Charitable Man's energy distribution in the Peter Pan was over 68%, so it is doubtful that he can get the distance and win the race. There is one scenario where he could win, ala Big Brown who also did not meet the criteria. If **Charitable Man** gets an easy lead, and no one chases, he could wire the field. But I don't think so. Everyone in the race knows that **Charitable Man** will likely have the lead, and they cannot afford to let him go on the lead uncontested. So he will get some pressure, and I'm betting that he may lead to the 9 or 10 furlong marker at the most, then fade.

Here is my safe bet:

\$2 Exacta Box: 2-6-7 = \$12

\$4 Exacta Box: 2-7 = \$8

Total \$20

Here is what I will bet:

\$50 Win 2 = \$50

\$5 Exacta Box: 2-6-7 = \$30

\$20 Exacta Box: 2-7 = \$40

\$1 Trifecta: 2-6-7 with 2-4-6-7-8 with 2-4-6-7-8 = \$36

Total \$156

Good luck!

Mr. X