

DOGHOUSE CONFIDENTIAL by Mr. X

Kentucky Derby 2009

UPDATED: 11 AM, SATURDAY

13 - I WANT REVENGE SCRATCHED

| PP | Horse | Jockey | Trainer | ML Odds |
|----|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 1 | West Side Bernie | Stewart Elliott | Kelly Breen | 30-1 |
| 2 | Musket Man | Eibar Coa | Derek Ryan | 20-1 |
| 3 | Mr. Hot Stuff | John Velazquez | Eoin Harty | 30-1 |
| 4 | Advice | Rene Douglas | Todd Pletcher | 30-1 |
| 5 | Hold Me Back | Kent Desormeaux | Bill Mott | 15-1 |
| 6 | Friesan Fire | Gabriel Saez | Larry Jones | 5-1 |
| 7 | Papa Clem | Rafael Bejarano | Gary Stute | 20-1 |
| 8 | Mine That Bird | Calvin Borel | Bennie Woolley | 50-1 |
| 9 | Join in the Dance | Chris DeCarlo | Todd Pletcher | 50-1 |
| 10 | Regal Ransom | Alan Garcia | Saeed bin Suroor | 30-1 |
| 11 | Chocolate Candy | Mike Smith | Jerry Hollendorfer | 20-1 |
| 12 | General Quarters | Julien Lejaroux | Tom McCarthy | 20-1 |
| 13 | I Want Revenge | SCRATCHED | | |
| 14 | Atomic Rain | Joe Bravo | Kelly Breen | 50-1 |
| 15 | Dunkirk | Edgar Prado | Todd Pletcher | 4-1 |
| 16 | Pioneerof the Nile | Garrett Gomez | Bob Baffert | 4-1 |
| 17 | Summer Bird | Chris Rosier | Tim Ice | 50-1 |
| 18 | Nowhere to Hide | Shaun Bridgmohan | Nick Zito | 50-1 |
| 19 | Desert Party | Ramon Dominguez | Saeed bin Suroor | 15-1 |
| 20 | Flying Private | Robby Albarado | D Wayne Lukas | 50-1 |

UPDATE:

I Want Revenge has been scratched, so I have had to review everything over again. The good news is that the track superintendent has said that the rain is over for today, and the track will likely be **good to fast** by the Derby time of 6:20 pm.

It looks good for **Dunkirk** to win by default. He now seems to have the best Beyer in the field by a good margin, and only needs to stay out of trouble to win. Of course, Pletcher has never won the race and **Dunkirk** is lightly raced, but the others don't seem to stack up as well.

I have moved **Friesan Fire** up against my better judgment as my numbers say he is too slow and has not raced at 9 furlongs. But maybe it is Larry Jones' idea to come second again.

I have also changed my betting strategy a bit to spread out more, given that I really don't think there is a clear second choice.

Here is my updated safe bet:

\$2 Exacta Box: 1-6-15-16 = \$24

Here is what I will bet:

\$50 Win on 15 = \$50

\$20 Exacta: 15 with 1-6-16 = \$60

\$10 Exacta: 1-6-16 with 15 = \$30

\$2 Exacta: 15 with 2-3-7-10-11-12-17-19 = \$16

\$1 Tri: 15 with 1-6-16 with 1-2-3-6-7-10-11-12-16-17-19 = \$30

\$1 Tri 1-6-16 with 1-2-3-6-7-10-11-12-16-17-19 with 15 = \$30

Total: \$216

Always check my numbers. Good luck!

Mr. X

Last Night's Analysis

It's that time again, and I have followed the horses through the Derby preps waiting for the big race tomorrow. You know the lecture by now: 20 horses, racing luck, and horses that figure to want to run longer than the nine furlongs to the one and only time that they will run the ten furlong Derby. Add to this the weather for tomorrow and how the track superintendent will handle the race. I am guessing that the track will be sealed for early races, and then harrowed for the Derby.

Last year, we didn't like Big Brown because he failed our energy distribution numbers. Yet we did recognize that he might overpower the field, based on his very high Beyer of well over 100. Remember last year, there wasn't another horse, I believe, who had a Beyer over 100. This year, there are at least seven or eight, so we can safely project that these are a much better group of three year olds than last year. In retrospect, I think Big Brown showed in the Belmont and later in the year that his best distance was nine furlongs.

For 2009, the other very curious anomaly is that all of the horses met our energy distribution criteria of less than 68% and a last three furlong time of less than 38 seconds! This situation has never happened, not even remotely. As I have joked, the trainers must be reading the Doghouse to understand the winning profile.

It is likely that I tapped into the winning training mode, meaning that the horse needs to relax (but keep pace) to the six furlong marker, and then accelerate for the last four furlongs.

After a long and exhaustive review of numbers, workouts, video replays, etc. , my choice to win is **I Want Revenge**. In this race, you want an athletic horse who has been battled tested. **I Want Revenge** has the best final time of any horse in the race off the Wood Memorial. With a good start, his time would have been even better. But the way he bulled through horses is exactly what you want to see for the roughly ridden Derby. In terms of Beyers, he is at the top with my second choice. **I Want Revenge** will be ridden by Joe Talamo who is 19 years old riding on the California circuit. He is smarter than he looks, but he will need to be patient entering the stretch so as not to move too early on his horse. The horse is a deserving favorite and has worked well at Churchill although that has been debated by some. In the Wood, he really only ran a quarter mile at the end, so he should be very fresh. He has also shown that he can run on the lead or close at the end. Very versatile and athletic.

My second choice is **Dunkirk** although you could make a case for any number of horses. Dunkirk ran two great races in Florida for Pletcher who has never won the Derby, and I'm betting that he won't win tomorrow either. The horse is very lightly raced with little experience; never ran at two, but seems to have a world of potential. While there are major physical differences with Curlin, their records to this point look very similar. Not a big surprise if he wins, but he is really giving up a great deal of experience to almost every horse in the race. He will likely be a late closer, so he needs a good trip.

Pioneer of the Nile is not a horse that I am enamored with, but he did beat I Want Revenge on the carpet in Santa Anita. What if he gets better on dirt, just as I Want Revenge did? **Pioneer of the Nile** does not have the Beyers to compete if we are to believe the Santa Anita numbers. He also has the look of a frontrunner, but he will be starting in the 16 hole and may be wide in the first turn. On the other hand, he is trained by Baffert, has been working extremely well at Churchill, and his pedigree says he will like dirt and mud. Very hard to throw out, but I don't think he can win.

You can make a case for a number of others, but I will take a flyer on **West Side Bernie**. He is working well here, ran a good second to I Want Revenge in the Wood, and shows improving Beyers if you forget his Turfway race. He has the worst post from the 1 hole, but Stu Elliott will find a way off the rail and hopefully close to get into the gimmicks. A very muddy track would likely hurt him also because of his starting on the rail. I am prejudiced about the second place finisher in the Wood, so he makes the list.

Some comments on the others: Friesan Fire is always dangerous from a trainer that gets my ultimate respect for a number of reasons. I called him crazy once, so I need to apologize to him. He will have the horse ready, but Friesan Fire has never been beyond 8.5 furlongs. He likes the mud and is working up a storm. But I think he will be rank out of the gate and likely come back to the field around the mile marker. I don't like either of the Dubai horses. Can't get a line on them, so I will let them beat me. Musket Man hasn't been working well and is likely overmatched but game. Papa Clem hasn't worked well either and has a lot to prove. Chocolate Candy looks to be too slow as well.

The big unknown is the weather tomorrow and how the track superintendent will handle the track. I see that Mark and Mike have the track super as a guest on the OTB show tomorrow at 9 am, so it would behoove you to tune in.

Here is my safe bet:

\$2 Exacta Box: 1-13-15-16 = \$24

Here is what I will bet:

\$50 Win on 13 = \$50

\$40 Exacta: 13-15 = \$40

\$20 Exacta: 15-13 = \$20

\$10 Exacta 13-15 with 1-16 = \$40

\$1 Triple Box: 1-13-15-16 = \$24

\$1 Triple: 13-15 with ALL with 13-15 = \$36

Total: \$210

As usual, check all my numbers, and if the track is a sea of mud, scale back your bets. Let's have fun and make sure that everyone and every horse comes back safe!

Good luck!

Mr. X