

DOGHOUSE CONFIDENTIAL

SARATOGA STRATEGIES by **Mr. X**

Mr & Mrs. X and the Pencil Neck's

Kentucky Derby (Holy Day) Saturday, May 5, 2007

KENTUCKY DERBY 2007

| PP | HORSE | TRAINER | JOCKEY | ODDS |
|----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|
| 1 | SEDGEFIELD | Darrin Miller | Julien Leparoux | 50-1 |
| 2 | CURLIN | Steve Asmussen | Robby Albarado | 7-2 |
| 3 | ZANJERO | Steve Asmussen | Shaun Bridgmohan | 30-1 |
| 4 | STORM IN MAY | Bill Kaplan | Juan Leyva | 30-1 |
| 5 | IMAWILDANDCRAZYGUY | Bill Kaplan | Mark Guidry | 50-1 |
| 6 | COWTOWN CAT | Todd Pletcher | Fernando Jara | 20-1 |
| 7 | STREET SENSE | Carl Nafzger | Calvin Borel | 4-1 |
| 8 | HARD SPUN | Larry Jones | Mario Pino | 15-1 |
| 9 | LIQUIDITY | Doug O'Neill | David Flores | 30-1 |
| 10 | TEUFLESBERG | Jamie Sanders | Stewart Elliott | 30-1 |
| 11 | BWANA BULL | Jerry Hollendorfer | Javier Castellano | 50-1 |
| 12 | NOBIZ LIKE SHOBIZ | Barclay Tagg | Cornelio Velasquez | 8-1 |
| 13 | SAM P. | Todd Pletcher | Ramon Dominguez | 20-1 |
| 14 | SCAT DADDY | Todd Pletcher | Edgar Prado | 10-1 |
| 15 | TIAGO | John Shirreffs | Mike Smith | 15-1 |
| 16 | CIRCULAR QUAY | Todd Pletcher | John Velazquez | 8-1 |
| 17 | STORMELLO | Bill Currin | Kent Desormeaux | 30-1 |
| 18 | ANY GIVEN SATURDAY | Todd Pletcher | Garrett Gomez | 12-1 |
| 19 | DOMINICAN | Darrin Miller | Rafael Bejarano | 20-1 |
| 20 | GREAT HUNTER | Doug O'Neill | Corey Nakatani | 15-1 |

As always, the toughest race of the year to handicap – three year olds going to a new distance that they will likely never try again. Having the best horse only means you have a good chance. With 20 horses, you need racing luck, all the way around. This year we have another obstacle – the weather.

Given the post positions and the mud, I searched for horses that could upset our primary five that met the criteria. But both the posts and the lack of racing in the mud for most of the horses led me to conclude that the five are still the best bets.

After many weeks of review, I still land on the horse that I have been watching from the beginning: **STREET SENSE**. He only needs to repeat his two year old Beyer of 108, and he has an outstanding shot at being in the winner's circle. He is definitely the key horse and the one to beat. Loves Churchill and Carl Nafzger really knows how to train, especially for a specific race. Recall his work with Unshaded at Saratoga a few years ago in the Travers. **STREET SENSE** has a good post, loves Churchill, and did well on a sloppy track. Borel said that the horse moves up at least 10 lengths at Churchill. I think the track will have significant moisture in it. He is the deserving favorite.

While **STREET SENSE** may not run his race or reach the 108 Beyer, we need to look for an improving horse and likely another closer to complete the exacta. I think **TIAGO** fits the bill. Short on experience but athletic in his win at Santa Anita. Fits our criteria well, and the trainer has been working him all along at a little less than a furlong a day. That tells me that the horse is very fit and ready to go. John Shirriffs, the trainer of Giacomo, knows what he is doing with Giacomo's half brother. I think he has a chance to upset, but in any event, he will be moving at the end.

HARD SPUN seems to like the track and the mud, but I really didn't like his too fast work this week (57.6 secs). His trainer is quirky as well, and I think that **HARD SPUN** will be up with the pace because he hasn't raced since March 24. He is a pace candidate that is likely to tire if he is uncontrollable.

COWTOWN CAT looks like a slower pace horse from Pletcher, inside in the 6 hole. I don't know if he will like mud either, but at 20-1, I'm willing to try to find out. He meets our criteria and has worked well at Keeneland and Churchill. I don't think he can win, but I think we need to give him a chance for a piece.

CURLIN is the likely second favorite. He is in the 2 hole, and he has only faced nine horses in a race. Wait until he sees No Biz with his earmuffs acting up. I think he is way too inexperienced to win, but I would have given him a better shot if the track were dry. Unfortunately for him, I think he is going to get mud kicked in his face and won't like it. I don't think he can win.

SCAT DADDY deserves some mention even though he was on our throw out list. He is a fighter, has worked well, gets Prado, and has won two Grade I races. Lousy post for his style, but he's won in the mud, so we will include him for 2nd on one of the exacta tickets.

There are about seven horses that will go to the front, so expect a wild ride around the turn. Hopefully, **STREET SENSE** can find a pocket behind the leaders either in the second or third flight of horses. He will be closer to the front, likely about 8 lengths back at the 6 furlong mark. **TIAGO** from the 15 post will likely try to drop in toward the rail and will be about 12 lengths back at 6 furlongs. Hopefully, both will find a way through the pack and make it to the front.

Here is my safe bet:

\$5 Exacta Box: 7-15 = \$10
\$2 Exacta Box: 7 with 2-6-8-14 = \$16
Total \$26

Here is what I will bet:

\$1 Trifecta Box = 2-6-7-8-15 = \$60

\$10 Exacta Box: 7 with 2-6-8 = \$60

\$20 Exacta Box: 7-15 = \$40

\$10 Exacta: 7-14 = \$10

\$5 Exacta: 7 with 1-3-9-10-11-12-13-16-17-18-19-20 = \$60

Total \$230

As I have tried to explain, anything can happen in a 20 horse field. The payoffs are commensurate.

Remember that it is only a horse race. Let's hope everyone comes back safely!

Mr. X