

DOGHOUSE CONFIDENTIAL by Mr. X

Preakness 2009

		Silk	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Morning Line
1			Big Drama	David Fawkes	John Velazquez	10-1
2			Mine That Bird	Bennie "Chip" Woolley Jr.	Mike Smith	6-1
3			Musket Man	Derek Ryan	Eibar Coa	8-1
4			Luv Gov	D. Wayne Lukas	Jamie Theriot	50-1
5			Friesan Fire	Larry Jones	Gabriel Saez	6-1
6			Terrain	Albert Stall Jr.	Jeremy Rose	30-1
7			Papa Clem	Gary Stute	Rafael Bejarano	12-1
8			General Quarters	Tom McCarthy	Julien Leparoux	20-1
9			Pioneer of the Nile	Bob Baffert	Garrett Gomez	5-1
10			Flying Private	D. Wayne Lukas	Alan Garcia	50-1
11			Take the Points	Todd Pletcher	Edgar Prado	30-1
12			Tone It Down	William Kolmo	Kent Desormeaux	50-1
13			Rachel Alexandra	Steve Asmussen	Calvin Borel	8/5

I don't see a good betting race, and it is hard to judge these horses off the Kentucky Derby which turned into a mud bath on a sealed track. There is no way on earth that I would have ever picked Mine That Bird under any circumstances. Yet with a great ride, he really demolished the field. Can he do it again on a dry track?

Rachel Alexandra will be a deserving favorite, and there will be many people rooting for the filly to beat the boys. On numbers, she is the best. But she does have the 13 post which is not good, and she has Desormeaux inside of her. I expect him to push his horse to keep Rachel from clearing the field. Other speeds in the race like Big Drama and Friesan Fire will give Rachel a workout on the outside. She is good enough to win, but the price will not be good. So I'll take a shot against her to win.

Friesan Fire will likely take off, may be rank, and eventually will fade after fighting with Rachel most of the first mile. I don't like Friesan Fire in the mix.

The horse that will get a good trip and may be in the catbird's seat is **Musket Man**. He will be inside, doesn't want or need the lead, and seems to have progressed. He has won five of seven at Belmont, Philadelphia, Tampa, and Hawthorne. Should have been second in the Derby as he was bothered by Pioneer of the Nile. Coa's choice over Big Drama. I think he has a big chance to win.

Mine That Bird could be an improving gelding and may show all of us that his win was not a fluke. But he has to prove it again on a dry track. I would love to see him win, and I would not be surprised. He has to be closer to the pace and gets Mike Smith which is positive.

Pioneer of the Nile is my fourth horse. He ran better than I thought he would in the Derby on the sealed track. I still want to see what he can do against a faster pace and on dirt. His works and his parents suggest that dirt will not be a problem.

I don't see this race as a good value. As I said, we didn't learn much from the Derby, presuming that the Preakness will be run over a fast or good, unsealed track.

Here is my safe bet:

\$2 Exacta Box: 2-3-9-13 = \$24

Here is my bet:

\$5 Exacta Box: 2-3-9-13 = \$60

\$1 Triple Box: 2-3-9-13 = \$24

\$1 Superfecta Box: 2-3-9-13 = \$24

Total \$108

Good luck!

Mr. X