

DOGHOUSE CONFIDENTIAL

SARATOGA STRATEGIES by **Mr. X**

Mr & Mrs. X and the Pencil Neck's

Kentucky Derby (Holy Day) Saturday, May 6, 2006

Kentucky Derby 132 Entrants

Program #	Silks	Horse	Morning Line	Trainer	Jockey
1		JAZIL	30-1	Kiaran McLaughlin	Fernando Jara
2		STEPPENWOLFER	30-1	Daniel Peitz	Robby Albarado
3		KEYED ENTRY	30-1	Todd Pletcher	Patrick Valenzuela
4		SINISTER MINISTER	12-1	Bob Baffert	Victor Espinoza
5		POINT DETERMINED	12-1	Bob Baffert	Rafael Bejarano
6		SHOWING UP	20-1	Barclay Tagg	Cornelio Velasquez
7		BOB AND JOHN	12-1	Bob Baffert	Garrett Gomez
8		BARBARO	4-1	Michael Matz	Edgar Prado
9		SHARP HUMOR	20-1	Dale Romans	Mark Guidry
10		A.P. WARRIOR	15-1	John Shirreffs	Corey Nakatani
11		SWEETNORTHERNSAINT	10-1	Michael Trombetta	Kent Desormeaux
12		PRIVATE VOW	50-1	Steve Asmussen	Shaun Bridgmohan
13		BLUEGRASS CAT	30-1	Todd Pletcher	Ramon Dominguez
14		DEPUTY GLITTERS	50-1	Tom Albertrani	Jose Lezcano
15		SEASIDE RETREAT	50-1	Mark Casse	Patrick Husbands
16		CAUSE TO BELIEVE	50-1	Jerry Hollendorfer	Russell Baze
17		LAWYER RON	4-1	Bob Holthus	John McKee
18		BROTHER DEREK	3-1	Dan Hendricks	Alex Solis
19		STORM TREASURE	50-1	Steve Asmussen	David Flores
20		FLASHY BULL	50-1	Kiaran McLaughlin	Mike Smith

Perhaps the hardest race to handicap all year: three year olds going 10 furlongs which many will likely never do again, running against twenty horses that will never happen again, and a screaming crowd that they will likely never experience again.

Yet we always try to find the winner, if not for the money, then for the glory. If you have the best horse, you may win if your jockey and your horse navigate through the rodeo of the start and the first turn, and then try to finally outsprint the rest to the wire. At least, we aren't faced with a wet or muddy track.

This year we are faced with a very competitive field of some excellent runners who have excelled at 9 furlongs. But this race is 10 furlongs. I won't repeat my modus operandi which you can read on the website. Suffice it to say that the best horse doesn't always win.

Having exposed some of my bank of excuses, I have reached the conclusion that the best horse who is most likely to win the race is **BARBARO**. He has won on turf, slop, and fast tracks which indicates that he may be a very special horse. Add to the mix that the clockers have continually raved about his workouts at Churchill, has the advantageous 8 hole - he is my key horse. Originally, I was concerned that he hadn't raced enough, but now I think that is a positive. To me, he is a very logical horse to finish either first or second. He has an excellent trainer who apparently knows his horse well.

JAZIL is my longshot choice to complete the exacta. He ran a terrific race in the sealed track Wood, closing fast to Bob and John who was laboring, but Jazil's time according to my numbers was 37 seconds. Very good. Having said all of the above, Jazil is on the rail, will have to close 20 lengths, likely pass 20 horses, with a no name jock – a tall order. He does appear to be improving and has an excellent trainer.

Having listed the five horses that I believe can win the race on the website, I have seen nothing to really change my mind, although I do think that **Sweetnorthern** appears to be on the downside of his form cycle (not at his best for the race from the view of the clockers).

Here are the five horses that I believe can run 10 furlongs and have a chance to win:

Barbaro, Brother Derek, Sweetnorthern, Jazil, and Point Determined. Brother Derek is marooned in the 18 hole, may want to run with the early pace, and didn't look good this week. Ditto for Sweetnorthern. I need to add **A.P. Warrior** who has last year's winning trainer and is looking like he may want the distance.

So here is my safe bet:

\$2 Exacta Box: 8 with 1-5-10-11-18 = \$20

Here is what I will bet:

\$50 win 8 = \$50

\$10 Exacta Box: 8 with 1-5-10-11-18 = \$100

\$20 Exacta: 8-1 = \$20

\$1 Trifecta: 8 with 1-5-10-11-18 with 1-5-10-11-18 = \$20

\$1 Trifecta: 1-5-10-11-18 with 8 with 1-5-10-11-18 = \$20

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

May the horse be with you!

Mr. X