

DOGHOUSE CONFIDENTIAL

SARATOGA STRATEGIES by **Mr. X**

Mr. & Mrs. X, Gambling Grandma & Luke

Preakness, Saturday, May 19, 2007

	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	Owner	Track Odds
1	Mint Slewlep	Alan Garcia	William Bailes	Marshall Dowell	30-1
2	Xchanger	Ramon Dominguez	Mark Shuman	Circle Z Stables	15-1
3	Circular Quay	John Velasquez	Todd Pletcher	Michael and Doreen Tabor	8-1
4	Curlin	Robby Albarado	Steven Asmussen	Stonestreet, Padua	7-2
5	King of the Roxy	Garrett Gomez	Todd Pletcher	Team Valor Stables	12-1
6	Flying First Class	Mark Guidry	D. Wayne Lukas	Ellwood Johnston	20-1
7	Hard Spun	Mario Pino	Larry Jones	Fox Hill Farms	5-2
8	Street Sense	Calvin Borel	Carl Nafzger	James Tafel	7-5
9	CP West	Edgar Prado	Nicholas Zito	Robert LaPenta	20-1

I just don't see anyone in this field that can beat **STREET SENSE**. His last race was better than most people think. Calvin Borel had such confidence in the horse that he let the horse trail the field by 19 lengths. My numbers said that he would be about 8 lengths back at 6 furlongs, but he was about 12 back. That tells me that **STREET SENSE** could have won by a large margin, even if he were blocked along the way. He is just too strong for these. With a clean trip, he wins easily. I won't bet anyone else on top.

XCHANGER looks to be an improving horse who will have to improve to make an impact. However, he walked home in his win at Pimlico, is rested, and has had two good works. I like his post as well, so if he can hang on, he makes the exacta. His final time in his last race at Pimlico was very good. Ramon Dominguez knows what he is doing as well.

The rest don't excite me, except that we can likely count on some improvement from **CURLIN**. He's back to a smaller field that he is more used to, and more experienced since the last time, so he could make the exacta if **XCHANGER** doesn't improve. However, **CURLIN**'s race in the Derby was still third by 8 lengths to **STREET SENSE** who was looking around and galloping home.

HARD SPUN ran a fabulous race in the Derby. Recall that I did not like his fast work before the Derby, and he certainly proved me wrong about his ability to finish (although we cashed big). But the Derby was his first race in five weeks, and now he is coming back in two. Could he be tired? Why didn't the trainer work him? In the Derby, he got to the front and led the entire way until caught in the stretch. This time, the trainers know that they can't let him lead all the way around, so **HARD SPUN** will be pressured by a host of front runners: CP West, Flying First Class, and Xchanger inside, likely down on the rail. So we think the pace will be fast, and **HARD SPUN** being outside a bit, will have a more difficult trip, and likely tire in the final half-furlong. At least, that's one scenario to which I subscribe.

CIRCULAR QUAY looks like the only other horse who can make the triple. However, he is a deep closer, and that isn't the best style here. Pletcher is bringing him back quickly, so we have to give him some respect.

Here is my safe bet (although note that I'm only betting Street Sense on top):

\$10 Exacta: 8-2 = \$10

\$6 Exacta: 8-4 = \$6

\$2 Exacta: 8 with 3-7 = \$4

\$1 Trifecta Key 8 with 2-3-4-7 with 2-3-4-7 = \$12

Total \$32

Here is what I will bet:

\$2 Trifecta Key 8 with 2-3-4-7 with 2-3-4-7 = \$24

\$10 Tri 8 with 2-4 with 2-4 = \$20

\$80 Exacta: 8-2 = \$80

\$40 Exacta: 8-4 = \$40

\$20 Exacta: 8 with 3-7 = \$40

Total \$204

Good luck to all.

Mr. X