

# Doghouse Confidential

by Mr. X

## 144th KENTUCKY DERBY

May 5, 2018

pp	name	trainer	jockey	MI
1	Firenze Fire	Jason Servis	Paco Lopez	50-1
2	Free Drop Billy	Dale Romans	Robby Albarado	30-1
3	Promises Fulfilled	Dale Romans	Corey Lanerie	30-1
4	Flameaway	Mark Casse	Jose Lezcano	30-1
5	Audible	Todd Pletcher	Javier Castellano	8-1
6	Good Magic	Chad Brown	Jose Ortiz	12-1
7	Justify	Bob Baffert	Mike Smith	3-1
8	Lone Sailor	Tom Amoss	J Graham	50-1
9	Hofburg	Bill Mott	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	20-1
10	My Boy Jack	Keith Desormeaux	Kent Desormeaux	30-1
11	Bolt D'Oro	Mick Ruis	Victor Espinoza	8-1
12	Enticed	Kieran McLaughlin	Junior Alvarado	30-1

13	Bravazo	D Wayne Lukas	L Contreras	50-1
14	Mendelssohn	Aidan O'Brien	R L Moore	5-1
15	Instilled Regard	Jerry Hollendorfer	D Van Dyke	50-1
16	Magnum Moon	Todd Pletcher	Luis Saez	6-1
17	Solomini	Bob Baffert	Flavien Prat	30-1
18	Vino Rosso	Todd Pletcher	J R Velasquez	12-1
19	Noble Indy	Todd Pletcher	Florent Geroux	30-1
20	Combatant	Steve Asmussen	R Santana	50-1

## Analysis

This year's field is really loaded with contenders with fully one-half of the horses meeting my energy distribution and last three furlongs criteria. The good news is that many of the possibles that can get the 10f are outside and will have a very difficult time winning. It looks like we don't have to worry about the weather either.

Usually I default to my selection by the process of elimination (Always Dreaming last year). This year, I really like one horse to win: **5 AUDIBLE**. Looks like he will be in a good position to follow the speed from near inside and make a run at the top of the stretch. Has lesser pedigree than most, but meets our criteria and ran a great race in the Florida Derby. Could be improving as well. Rail is good on Friday. Doesn't work well at all, but did much better at Churchill suggesting that he may be ready for a major effort. Johnny V. chose Vino Rosso over Audible, but that can be explained by his previous success with the owners (Always Dreaming). Pletcher with Castellano. I'll take it. I do think that Audible will be a great value at around 8-1 or less and is my key horse.

7 Justify has been anointed the big favorite after only three races against only a handful of horses. He needs the lead or next to it without having dirt in his face. Baffert said that the horse has to get out of the gate and be close to the lead. My numbers say he won't get near the lead without exerting himself and could easily find himself behind horses. Doesn't break all that well either. Could be another Arrogate, but you need to show me at a short price. I'll bet against.

14 Mendelssohn is the dark horse from Dubai. Freaked in the desert but likely beat a bunch of camels. He is high strung, so I don't see him handling the crowd. Coming from the 14 hole, I have to throw him out.

11 Bolt D'Oro couldn't beat Justify in a paceless race in the Santa Anita Derby, but could get into the exacta. Looks lesser. May be better at 10f and working well at Churchill. Castellano left for Audible but likely because of his continuing work with Pletcher. I think he completes the exacta.

16 Magnum Moon won the Arkansas Derby but wanted to get out down the stretch. Pletcher says he does that when he gets the lead and starts looking around. I'm not sure he is seasoned enough in traffic and don't like the post. Could be wide throughout.

9 Hofburg ran well behind Audible in Florida, but couldn't catch him. Been working well at Churchill. Doesn't seem to be a win candidate, but could make the exacta.

6 Good Magic working extremely well for Chad Brown. Don't like that he ran in the Bluegrass instead of one of the better preps. Looks lesser. Did win the BC Juvenile last year, but has he progressed?

18 Vino Rosso is tough to leave out, but can't see him winning from that post. Good Wood Memorial and gets JVel. Another exacta candidate.

10 My Boy Jack is intriguing. Won the Lexington at 8.5f but ran 9f in his previous race. Deep, deep closer. Beyers are light. Yet could pick up the pieces.

**The Bet:**

**Safe bet: \$10 win and place: 5 = \$20**

**or \$5 exacta box: 5/7-11 = \$20**

**My bet:**

**\$50 win: 5 = \$50**

**\$20 exacta box: 5/7-11 = \$80**

**\$5 exacta: 5/6-9-10-16-18 = \$25**

**\$2 exacta: 6-9-10-16-18/5 = \$10**

**Total: \$165**

**Good luck!**

**Mr. X**