

Doghouse Confidential

by Mr. X

143rd KENTUCKY DERBY

May 6, 2017

pp	name	trainer	jockey	ml
1	Lookin at Lee	Steve Asmussen	Corey Lanerie	20-1
2	Thunder Snow	Saeed bin Suroor	Christophe Soumillon	20-1
3	Fast and Accurate	Mike Maker	Channing Hill	50-1
4	Untrapped	Steve Asmussen	Ricardo Santana Jr.	30-1
5	Always Dreaming	Todd Pletcher	John Velazquez	5-1
6	State of Honor	Mark Casse	Jose Lezcano	30-1
7	Girvin	Joe Sharp	Mike Smith	15-1
8	Hence	Steve Asmussen	Florent Geroux	15-1
9	Irap	Doug O'Neill	Mario Gutierrez	20-1
10	Gunnevera	Antonio Sano	Javier Castellano	15-1
11	Battle of Midway	Jerry Hollendorfer	Flavien Prat	30-1

12	Sonneteer	Keith Desormeaux	Kent Desormeaux	50-1
13	J Boys Echo	Dale Romans	Luis Saez	20-1
14	Classic Empire	Mark Casse	Julien Leparoux	4-1
15	McCraken	Ian Wilkes	Brian Hernandez	5-1
16	Tapwrit	Todd Pletcher	Jose Ortiz	20-1
17	Irish War Cry	Graham Motion	Rajiv Maragh	6-1
18	Gormley	John Shirreffs	Victor Espinoza	15-1
19	Practical Joke	Chad Brown	Joel Rosario	20-1
20	Patch	Todd Pletcher	Tyler Gaffalione	30-1

Analysis

As I have said before, having the best horse doesn't mean that you will win the Derby. There are many other factors such as weather, post position, traffic, current training at Churchill, and a great deal of luck.

It looks like it will be wet at least, and speed has been carrying on Friday even in the slop.

This year is especially confusing. I am betting that **Girvin's** quarter crack has caused him to miss training, so he is a throwout. **Classic Empire** has had a storied season refusing to train at times, so I have to dismiss him to win even though he is one of the most talented horses. Looked dull in works on the track. **Irish War Cry** looked good on Thursday at Churchill, but my numbers say that he ran very slowly in the Wood Memorial and may have trouble making the 10f.

On the other hand, **Always Dreaming** has to break well from the 5 post (which I don't like for him) and not burn himself out. He has been more than a handful at Churchill, so he may be difficult to control. The noise of the big race may cause him to become unhinged and run off at the start of the race. But he

still may be the horse to beat. **Hence** looks like he is coming into his own, but he has been sweating during the mornings which I do not like.

McCraken is probably the best work horse at Churchill and looks to be coming up to a major effort. He really did not do well at Keeneland, but the trainer reportedly didn't have him cranked up after the layoff. He won at Tampa at 8.5f in record time and is a perfect three for three at Churchill. Hard to dismiss even though he doesn't meet my numbers.

Patch has a good final time at Fairgrounds but is stuck in the 20 hole. **Gunnervera** has the best closing time, but his final times are not good. Maybe second unless there is a complete pace breakdown which is the only way he can win.

Usually when I get to the race, I have horses that I favor, that meet my numbers, and are coming into the race working well at Churchill. This year I'm not thrilled with anyone.

By default, I'm landing on **5 Always Dreaming** as my key horse hoping that he gets good position and doesn't run off. He had a great race at Gulfstream in the Florida Derby. While Pletcher has had only one Derby winner (I think), this horse looks like he really wants to run and hasn't lost any training time. He is inexperienced compared to others, but looks to be improving. I'm betting on Velasquez keeping him in check. Meets my numbers and doing great at Churchill, but had to be restrained during his works. Hopefully, he will be controllable. Don't have a solid opinion on anyone else for the exacta.

The Bet:

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

My bet:

\$50 win: 5 = \$50

\$1 tri: 5 with 6-8-10-14-15-17 with 2-6-7-8-9-10-13-14-15-17-19-20 = \$66

\$1 tri: 6-8-10-14-15-17 with 5 with 2-6-7-8-9-10-13-14-15-17-19-20 = \$66

Total: \$182

Good luck!

Mr. X

2017 Kentucky Derby Probables Categorized by Energy Distribution and Last Three Furlong Times

Tier 1 – Horses that appear to be able to go 10f based on median energy distribution of less than 68% and less than 38 seconds in last three furlongs of a 9f race on dirt	
Girvin (quarter crack)	Classic Empire(bad wheels)
Always Dreaming	Gunnervera
Practical Joke (37.9)	State of Honor
Patch	Hence
Tier II – Horses that may have made the grade but not the last race, have an excuse or are close otherwise, chance	
McCraken (failed at Kee, 38.2 sec)	Thunder Snow?
Horses that appear to be unable to go 10f and cannot win	
Irish War Cry	J Boys Echo
Battle of Midway	Irap
Gormley	Tapwrit