



Preakness Races Analysis and Selections

1 3/6 miles, or 9.5 furlongs is a tricky distance. Horses that don't have that extra kick for ten furlongs can sometimes gasp out an extra half furlong if they are borderline for getting nine furlongs and the race has set up to their strengths.

Of course, the Kentucky Derby hero Super Saver will have no problem with the Preakness distance, but a few of the horses who will line up next to him in the starting gate might not be capable of going that far. Below is the Preakness field divided into distance divisions:

Classic Pedigrees: First Dude, Paddy O'Prado, Pleasant Prince, Schoolyard Dreams, Super Saver

Borderline Pedigrees: Caracortado, Dublin, Lookin At Lucky,

Sprint/Miler: Aikenite, Jackson Bend, Northern Giant, Yawanna Twist

Surface:

Preakness Day is supposed to be sunny with a fast track. All contenders except Paddy O'Prado have run over fast dirt.

How the track is playing:

There have been seven dirt routes this meet. 57% if the winners have controlled the early pace and 29% of those wired the field. None of the pace pressers have prevailed, although mid pack runners have taken 29% of the races while stalkers have stormed under the wire first 14% of the time.

Analysis:

There isn't as much speed in the Preakness as there was in the Derby, but half of this field likes to press the pace. Up until his last two races, **First Dude** has been a confirmed front runner. He may employ the same tactics in the Preakness. Should he be capable of slowing the pace, he has the pedigree to outlast the closers.

Super Saver will likely be the deserved favorite. With his versatile running style and good post position, he should get a good trip.

Pleasant Prince has a running style identical to that of Ice Box, the Kentucky Derby runner-up. If Pleasant Prince gets the pace he needs to set up his running style, then he could be dangerous.

Schoolyard Dreams hasn't raced since April, but he has two consecutive bullets coming into this race. He out-finished Super Saver in the Tampa Bay Derby and has a pedigree that indicates the distance won't be a problem. He could be sitting on a big effort.



Caracortado gets back to dirt after running over the different synthetic surfaces in California. Many California horses run career best races when they head east to dirt tracks, so look for a big improvement in Caracortado's form.

Lookin At Lucky has had four horrendous races this year. The jockey change can help, but his trainer's indecision about running in the Preakness is concerning.

Jackson Bend and Dublin also had difficulties in the Derby. Jackson Bend was too far back early on. Even with a perfect trip in the Preakness, The big-hearted colt may not want to run this far.

Dublin has the pedigree, but he may be another who is better at a shorter distance.

Yawanna Twist has a sprinter's pedigree, but like Musket Man, could stretch that speed. He was no match for American Lion in the Illinois Derby, but still outkicked the rest of the field.

Aikenite put in a good run in the Derby Trial, but he seems to have a good race/bad race cycle going currently.

Paddy O'Prado has the pedigree and talent to do well in the Preakness, but his turf pedigree is concerning.

Northern Giant hasn't shown much in his career and he may be better suited to turf or synthetics.

Selections:

Super Saver

Pleasant Prince

Schoolyard Dreams

Paddy O'Prado

First Dude – Longshot selection