



Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds
Rebel Rebel Stakes (G-2)
February 20, 2010



The Rebel Stakes (G-3) at Oaklawn could prove to be contentious and exciting if everyone brings their best game to the party. This is a good week to play an Irish Exacta - Dublin and Lookin' At Lucky. Dublin is fresh off his second place finish of the Southwest, while Lookin At Lucky will be coming in off a layoff. No matter how you decide to play the race, the Rebel should give us an indication of who's in the green on the Derby list and whose not.



Cardiff Giant (Yankee Gentlemen - Stop the Croquet, by Stop the Music) was just caught for second place by Dublin in the Southwest in his first attempt on dirt. He keeps getting caught at the end of his races so the extra distance might not play to his strengths. Cardiff Giant's dam is a full sister to multiple graded stakes winner Music Merci who won from six to nine furlongs, and Cardiff Giant half sister produced the precociously fast sprinter Backbackbackgone. Periban/ Santiago are 14% together.



Lookin At Lucky (Smart Strike - Private Feeling, by Belong to Me) is making his three year old debut, adding blinkers and trying dirt for the first time. Lookin At Lucky's sire Smart Strike has been leading sire for two consecutive years (2007 - 2008). Lookin At Lucky has breeding similar to Grade 2 Arkansas Derby winner, Papa Clem, who is by Smart Strike out of a Belong to Me broodmare. He is a half brother to Jim Dandy (G-2) and Dwyer (G-2) winner Kensei (by Mr. Greeley). Their dam Private Feeling is a half sister to Grade 3 winner Grand Charmer, who is the grand-dam of champion three year old filly, Wait A While. Private Feeling is also a half sister to stakes winner Get

Lookin At Lucky - Photo: Barbara Livingston Smarter. Lookin At Lucky's second dam Regal Feeling was stakes placed and third dam Sharp Belle won the Grade 1 Monmouth Oaks. The barn is 18% with first time blinkers and 29% with shippers.

Royal Express (Royal Academy – Deposit Express, by Deposit Ticket) has been in the money six of eight starts. He's a confirmed front runner and was outfinished by ½ a length at his first attempt past a mile. His sire, a grandson of Northern Dancer, won the Breeders' Cup Mile is best known for producing turf runners but one of his recent better known runners over dirt is Oprah Whinny, a Grade 2 sprinter. Royal Express' damsire Deposit Ticket, also a grandson of Northern Dancer, is a Grade 1 sprinter. Royal Express is a half brother to Magnetic Miss, a stakes winning sprinter and their dam is a stakes winner who was in the money five of eight starts over dirt. She is a half sister to a stakes winner and stakes placed runner. Broussard/Compton win 16% together.

Uh Oh Bango (Top Hit - French Debutante by French Deputy) has defied his modest pedigree by running in the money in all of his starts and against the big boys. Uh Oh Bango's sire a grandson of Forty Niner, won the Grade 3 Arkansas Derby and won or placed in 18 of 36 starts. He has four stakes winners from limited opportunities at stud. Uh Oh Bango's damsire won the Jerome (G-2) and is the broodmare sire of more than ten stakes winners, including Smooth Air and Visionaire. Uh Oh Bango is a full brother to stakes winner French Hit and a half brother to Grade 3 placed sprinter Ez Dreamer. Uh Oh Bango's dam is a half sister to two stakes winning sprinters. Owens/Corbett win at a 17% rate.

Pleasant Storm (Pleasant Tap – Burning Fever, by Stormin Fever) showed absolutely nothing in the Southwest, checking in eight lengths behind the winner. His sire, a descendant of the great Ribot, was at his best at longer distances. Damsire Stormin Fever, a son of Storm Cat, stands in California and has a couple of graded stakes winners. Pleasant Storm's dam won two of her three races, all sprints. He gets a jockey change to Jon Court.

Noble's Promise (Cuvee - The Devil's Trick, by Favorite Trick) has never finished out of the money. Like Lookin' at Lucky, he comes in off a layoff and tries dirt for the first time. This shouldn't be an issue since his pedigree is strongly suited to the surface. Noble's Promise has speed throughout his pedigree. His sire and damsire never won beyond a mile. His dam The Devil's Trick is a half sister to G-3 turf winner New Economy. Third dam Far Beyond and fourth dam Souring are Rein de Course (blue hens). Noble's Promise receives a touch of stamina from his second damsire 1985 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Proud Truth but it's hard to say how much influence this will be. Noble's Promise has outrun his pedigree so far, but ten furlongs may be beyond his capabilities. He shows some strong works over the Palm Meadow's surface and McPeck is 17% with shippers but only 7% with graded stakes attempts.



Nobles Promise - Photo: Lauren Pomeroy



Dublin - Photo: Coglianese

Dublin (Afleet Alex - Classy Mirage, by Storm Bird) was a fast closing second after having trouble at the start and running rank early. Not bad for his first race off a long layoff and he should improve. His young sire was extremely talented and he's passing along his traits to his offspring. Dublin's dam is a multiple graded stakes winner who won 22 of 25 starts, mainly sprinting. She's a half sister to multiple grade 1 winner Missy's Mirage and multiple stakes winner Joey's First Jove. Dublin's fourth and fifth dams are blue hens. Dublin shows three consecutive bullet works, indicating that he should move forward in this race.

Selections:

How the track is playing: So far this meet, 27% of the front runners have wired the field, and 50% did so this week at 1 1/16 miles. The pace setters grab 30% of the races, but the track is mainly fair, with stalkers taking 23% and those in between accounting for the rest of the wins.

Royal Express is the only confirmed "gotta go" front runner and he'll take them as far as he can, which should be about a mile or so. **Cardiff Giant**, **Uh Oh Bango** and **Noble's Promise** should be right there, with **Lookin At Lucky** in a good striking position. **Dublin** might not be as far back as he was in the Southwest. **Pleasant Storm** is a confirmed stalker. **Dublin** had a recent race and has the class and speed to win. **Noble's Promise** and **Lookin At Lucky** are about even in terms of ability while coming in off of a layoff and they are tough to separate, however the latter shows more stamina works, so we'll give him the nod for second. **Uh Oh Bango** shouldn't be discounted either and could be a good exotic play. **Cardiff Giant** and **Pleasant Storm** are both morning line longshots. **Pleasant Storm** deserves another shot, but **Cardiff Giant** has done nothing wrong and has run with the best tossing one of them into your tickets could result in a better than average payoff.

Dublin

Lookin At Lucky

Noble's Promise

Cardiff Giant - longshot