



Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds
Turfway Park, Race 10
Vinery Racing Spiral Stakes (G-3)
1 1/8 Miles, 3 YO
March 26, 2011



The Vinery Spiral Stakes has been through some name changes over the years. The Derby prep was originally called the Spiral Stakes, and then Jim Beam took corporate sponsorship, changing the name to the Jim Beam Spiral. After a few years it became the Jim Beam. There was a thankfully brief switch to Galleryfurniture.com before Lane's End took over sponsorship for five years. Now we're back to the Spiral. Hopefully the name change will be the only confusing thing about the race. A full field of twelve is set to contest this year's edition of the Spiral Stakes.

Like many of the recent preps races, a full field of Spiral contenders is trying to earn enough cash to enter the Kentucky Derby starting gate. [**POSITIVE RESPONSE**](#) (Pomeroy – Lisa's Approval, by Farma Way) outclassed the rest in the John Battaglia Memorial going 1 1/16 miles over the Turfway Polytrack. In his only start at 1 1/18 miles, Positive Response finished third, marring what could have been a five race win streak. Second crop sire Pomeroy is represented by only two winners at 1 1/16 miles and his offspring will have distance limitations. One would point to Positive Response's distance-loving broodmare sire Farma Way for stamina, but that one's daughters has produced only one stakes winner, Oak Tree Derby (G-2) hero Muny. Positive Response could build an insurmountable lead and win on class, but there are others in here with the breeding to prefer running 1 1/8 miles.

[**KING CONGIE**](#) (Badge of Silver – Wise Ending, by End Sweep) ships in from Florida. Although he was disqualified and place third in his last race, he owns a win at the Spiral distance. His second crop sire is getting winners over all surfaces and distances and El Camino Real champ Silver Medallion is his sire's best hope on the Derby trail. King Congie has a nice blend of speed and stamina in his pedigree. His damsire was a sprinter, but his second damsire Wise Times won the Travers and Super Derby at 1 ¼ miles. King Congie's dam was a hardy mare, entering the starting gate 52 times and winning or placing in 40 of those starts. She's a full sister to a stakes winner and two half siblings are stakes winners.

Also shipping in from Florida is the well-named [**BEACHCOMBING**](#) (Lemon Drop Kid – Zelmira, by Deputy Minister). He was beaten by a bare neck in an allowance race over the turf last time out. 1 1/8 miles should be well within his scope. Beachcombing has a stamina oriented pedigree. The progeny of Lemon Drop Kid are fair over Polytrack. He has ten stakes winners over the surface, three at this distance. Beachcombing's fourth dam is 1983 Broodmare of the Year Courtly Dee, dam of the Champion Filly Althea. Unfortunately, this branch of the family is lightly raced with few wins.

The well-bred, very promising [**ANIMAL KINGDOM**](#) (Leroidesanimaux – Dalicia, by Acatenago) is proven at 1 1/8 miles over Polytrack. He owns miler speed over stout German stamina. Animal Kingdom's sire, damsire and second damsire Dancing Brave, were all Champion turf horses. His dam won going long over the lawn and his distaff line is descended from a long line of German graded stakes winners.

[**TAPTOWNE**](#) (Tapit – Holly's Wager, by Valid Wager) was best of the rest in the John Battaglia Memorial. The pretty gray colt is a half brother to the stakes winning sprinter Tacky Cat. Their dam won two of 15 starts sprinting and is a ¾ sister to a stakes winning sprinter. Taptowne may find the 1 1/8 miles a little too far in this company.

SON OF POSSE (Posse – Paragirl, by Parade Ground) was passed in deep stretch by Taptowne and wound up third in the John Battaglia Memorial. There's plenty of stamina in his female family, but Son of Posse will be hard pressed to keep up at this longer distance and this class group.

DECISIVE MOMENT (With Distinction – Lady Samira, by Dehere) had nothing to offer in the stretch of the Risen Star, but he might keep Positive Response honest on the front end. Decisive Moment's pedigree carries miler-type speed. He is second crop sire With Distinction's only winner at 1 1/16 miles. Decisive Moment has two stakes placed siblings and his second dam Tell Margie won a minor stakes race but that's it for blacktype in the immediate family. Decisive Moment won the Jean Lafitte Stakes at a mile and that's probably his best distance.

Two New York based horses, Preachintothedevil and Rescind the Trade, seek greener pastures after failing in the Whirlaway.

PREACHINTOTHEDEVIL (Pulpit – Acey Deucey, by Abaginone) didn't fare well over the speed-favoring Aqueduct surface, but held on to third place in the Whirlaway. His speed figures are slowly improving and he's been working well. Preachintothedevil's dam was a multiple graded stakes winning sprinter/miler. His damsire, a son of Devil's Bag, won two Grade 3 sprint races.

RESCIND THE TRADE (Put It Back - Abuela Esther, by Crater) was no match in the Whirlaway and was trounced by over 10 lengths. The majority of his sire's progeny are sprinters. Rescind The Trade's dam is an Argentinian stakes winner and the second dam is stakes placed. Rescind The Trade beat LeComte Stakes placed Pants On Fire in his second start. Rescind The Trade may have been hindered by the muddy track in the Whirlaway and was making his first start of the season. His sire is represented by one stakes runner who has placed twice at 1 1/8 miles.

THIRTYFIRSTSTREET (Good Journey – Avian, by Sky Classic) gets back to Polytrack after a poor effort in the Robert B. Lewis (G-2). His sire is a Grade 1 winning turf miler and has only one graded stakes winner at 1 1/8 miles, which was over the lawn. His damsire was a multiple grade 1 turf router. Additionally, both of his sires are by Northern Dancer's two best turf sons, Nureyev and Nijinsky. Thirtyfirststreet has inbreeding to the blue hen Rough Shod through the full sisters Thong and Moccasin. He's the first stakes winner for his distaff family in two generations, but he'll likely prefer shorter distances against less accomplished.

The pretty gray **TWINSPIRED** (Harlan's Holiday – Historical Drive, by El Prado) favors his damsire in looks. The definitive victor of the WEBN Stakes had a tough start in the John Battaglia Memorial and raced evenly for fourth place. He has a miler pedigree. His dam is a half sister to a stakes winner and stakes placed runner, but overall, this is a modest distaff family.

GLINT (Sharp Humor – Glimmer, by Deputy Minister) scratched out of the Rebel Stakes in favor of a softer spot in the Spiral. He's adding three furlongs while trying a new track. Glint has miler speed over strong stamina in his pedigree. Glint's four half siblings are winners and he's the first stakes winner for his unraced dam.

SELECTIONS:

How the track is playing: Only four races have been held at 1 1/8 miles this meet. Two were won on the pace while the others came from mid-pack. Weather calls for 20% chance of rain, but the track should be fast.

POSITIVE RESPONSE and **DECISIVE MOMENT** may keep each other company on the front end so no one develops an insurmountable lead. Positive Response could stick around for a piece of the pie. **KING CONGIE**, **BEACHCOMBING**, and **ANIMAL KINGDOM** have the pedigrees to perform well here. **RESCIND THE TRADE** has every right to improve off of his disappointing finish in the Whirlaway. **PREACHINTOTHEDEVIL** also has improving speed figures and could fill out the exotics.

#4 ANIMAL KINGDOM – 1st

#8 KING CONGIE - Scratched

#2 POSITIVE RESPONSE

#7 BEACHCOMBING – longshot pick