



***Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds  
Goin' Back to Louisiana  
March 27, 2010***



March 25, 2010 - This year, the Louisiana Derby shifts back to its original distance of 1 1/8 miles after being run at 1 1/16 miles for 21 years. Nine winners of this old, prestigious race have continued on to win the Kentucky Derby. Three legends, Baffert, Lukas and Zito converge on the Fairgrounds with their Kentucky Derby hopefuls. They are joined by other super trainers, Asmussen, Dutrow, Mott and Pletcher. Asmussen, Lukas and Mott have each won the race twice. The 2010 edition of the Louisiana Derby appears to have plenty of speed.

**Hotep** (A.P. Indy – Eye of the Sphynx, by Smart Strike) was a disappointing tenth in the Risen Star Stakes (G-2) last time out. He has a pedigree that screams distance. He's a full brother to Queen's Place (10F) winner Eye of the Leopard, His sire and damsire are popular stamina influences and his dam is a Grade 2 (CAN) winner who has been in the money six of seven starts. She's a half sister to a stakes winner who produced the 2000 Canadian Horse of the Year, Quiet Resolve. Hotep's works are average and Frostad/Husbands team for 20% wins.

**Mission Impazible** (Unbridled's Song – La Paz, by Hold Your Peace) had a lifetime best BRIS Speed Figure in his first start of the year, then regressed slightly in the Southwest, running an even fourth around the track last time out. He receives stamina from his sire and damsire, who is a great grandson of major stamina influence Princequillo. Mission Impazible is a half brother to Grade 2 winner and sire Forest Camp and also a half brother to miler Spanish Empire. His dam is a stakes winner who was in the money 20 of 26 starts. She won sprinting and over turf and is a half sister to three stakes winners. Mission Impazible's works have been average since the Southwest. Pletcher is 19% with horses making their third start off a layoff.

**Fly Down** (Mineshaft – Queen Randi, by Fly So Free) will be making his second start off of a layoff. He won his last two starts, including a head decision over Fl. Derby contestant First Dude. His pedigree is stamina over speed. Fly Down's damsire Fly So Free, a grandson of Damascus, won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and Florida Derby and was at his best up to nine furlongs. Fly Down is a half brother to Grade 2 winner Seafree. His unraced dam is a half sister to a stakes winner and two stakes placed runners. Fly Down has a series of quick four furlong breezes. Zito/Lezcano hit the winner's circle at a 27% rate.

**The Program** (Harlan's Holiday - Shadow on the Moon, by Deputy Minister) was in the thick of things in a pressing the lead in the Sham Stakes (G-3) last time out. He a second-string horse for the Baffert barn, as Lookin At Lucky, California Derby winner Ranger Heartley and Kettle River have all beaten up on him. The Program's dam is a full sister to a Grade 2 winner and is a half sister to the dam of multiple Grade 1 winner Geri and his Grade 2 winning half brother A.P Arrow. The Program's second dam Far Flying is a stakes winner, fourth dam Nalee and fifth dam Levee are blue hens. The Program will be making his first start over dirt and owns a very slow maintenance work over the surface. Bob Baffert has an eye-catching 30% win rate with the synthetic/dirt surface switch.



*The Program - Photo: Louise Reinagel*



*A Little Warm - Photo: L. Ross*

**A Little Warm** (Stormin Fever - Minidar, by Alydar) won the Spectacular Bid then finished second to the speedy D'Funnybone in the Hutchinson (G-2). His sire is a full brother to multiple Grade 1 winner Raging Fever and the stakes winning sire Roaring Fever. A Little Warm's  $\frac{3}{4}$  sister produced multiple graded stakes winner Mini Sermon. His dam and second dam (Minstrella) are graded stakes winners and his dam is a half sister to two stakes winners plus the dam of graded turf winner Pleasant Strike. Third dam Flight Dancer's daughters produced a number of winners, including Saint Liam. Fifth dam is the blue hen Gallorette. A Little Warm will be making his first start around two turns. Read more about his pedigree on the Triple Crown page.

**Ron the Greek** (Full Mandate - Flambe, by Fortunate Prospect) won the LeComte Stakes by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lengths but was compromised by the slow pace of the Risen Star (G-2) and could do no better than sixth. His sire is a 9F stakes winning son of A.P. Indy and his damsire was a stakes winning sprinter. Second damsire Dixieland Band and third damsire For the Moment are both 9F stakes winners, so they may add more stamina. Ron the Greek's full sister Baba Mandate was unplaced in her only route starts, but his half brother Kriskissflyingby (by Kris S.) won 12 of 18 route starts. Flambe is a half sister to the dam of Illinois Derby winner Musket Man. Fifth dam Prayer Bell is a blue hen. Amoss/Graham work well together, taking 26% of their races.



*Ron the Greek - Photo: Lynn Roberts*



*Discreetly Mine - Photo: Coglianese*

**Discreetly Mine** (Mineshaft - Pretty Discreet, by Private Account) made all the pace in the Risen Star and was never seriously challenged. This half brother to graded stakes winners Discreet Cat and Pretty Wild has a pedigree built for stamina. His sire Mineshaft won twice at 10 furlongs and his dam Pretty Discreet won the Alabama (G-1) going 10F. Pletcher/ Castellano have a 50% win rate.

**Island Soul** (Perfect Soul – Copper Belle, by Carson City) broke his maiden in his third try and came back to finish second last time out. His sire was a champion turf horse in Ireland and his offspring are late-maturing types. Island Soul's dam won four of six starts sprinting. Second dam Copper Play was a stakes placed sprinter. Island Soul breezed a bullet six furlongs for this race and the regular team of Asmussen/ Albarado get to the winner's circle with 20% of their charges.

**Stay Put** (Broken Vow – OS Mom, by Dixieland Band) was fifth in the Risen Star snapping a two win race streak. He has the pedigree to do well up to 9 furlongs and should enjoy running two turns. He's a half brother to Grade 3 sprinter Could Be and his dam was in the money 4 of 11 sprint starts. He shows a series of consistent breezes and makes his second start off of a layoff.

**Wow Wow Wow** (Broken Vow – Caged Splendor, by Honour and Glory) contested the pace in the Gotham (G-3) then stopped in the stretch to finish eighth. His sire has produced two winners at  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles. Wow Wow Wow has a royal distaff family that has been carefully cultivated by the Whitney family, one of the last private racing families. His dam only won two of ten starts, both dirt sprints but she's a half sister to Grade 3 winner Ninth Client and his second dam Dear Birdie is a half sister to Belmont Stakes winner and sire Birdstone along with his full sister Kentucky Oaks winner Birdtown. Wow Wow Wow's fifth sire Raise a Native was produced

from the same female family as Wow Wow Wow's dam. Additionally, he has a RF (Rasmussen Factor inbreeding, inbred to the same superior mare) to Grand Splendor, the granddam of Fabiano and third dam of Honour and Glory. Wow Wow Wow has a bullet five furlong move.

**Mister Marti Gras** (Belong To Me – Miss Marta, by Cure the Blues) broke his maiden in his third start last time out on the turf. His sire, a son of Danzig, mainly gets sprint runners but does have two stakes winners at nine furlongs. Mister Marti Gras' dam is stakes placed and won over dirt, turf sprinting and routing, as did her full and half siblings. The barn is 0% with horses going from turf to dirt.

**Backtrack** (Grand Slam – Wander Storm, by Storm Bird) is undefeated in two starts, both sprints. His sire has several winners at today's distance, including Limehouse and Strong Hope. Backtrack is a half brother to Grade 3 winner Wander Mom and stakes placed Minewander. Their dam was unplaced in six starts. Second dam Vivid Imagination is a half sister to champion Serena's Song. Backtrack shows mostly four furlong works, but owns a last out average time breeze at five furlongs.

**Drosselmeyer** (Distorted Humor - Golden Ballet, by Moscow Ballet) was fourth in the Risen Star after finding trouble on the first turn and not being aggressively handled in the stretch. His sire Distorted Humor, whom Drosselmeyer resembles, has produced four graded stakes winners at ten furlongs, including Kentucky Derby winner Funny Cide and Travers winner Flower Alley. Drosselmeyer is a half brother to Stage Luck (Unbridled's Song) a stakes winner at 1 1/16 miles. His dam Golden Ballet is a Grade 1 winning miler and 2001 California Champion 3-Year-Old Filly. She is the most accomplished member of her family in three generations. Drosselmeyer's damsire Moscow Ballet was a Group 3 winning sprinter in Ireland and at stud, Moscow Ballet produced more stakes winning daughters than sons, and their progeny are mainly California sprinters. However, Moscow Ballet is the broodmare sire of Allez Zizou (Arg) a 10 furlong graded stakes winner in Argentina. Interestingly, Editor's Note, the sire of Allez Zizou, is a son of Travers Stakes winner Forty Niner, as is Distorted Humor. Drosselmeyer's second damsire is Slew O'Gold, a two-time champion who excelled at distances ranging from 1 1/8 miles to 1 1/2 miles. His third damsire is Storm Bird, another stamina influence.



*Drosselmeyer - Photo: L. Ross*

### **Selections:**

**How the track is playing:** There have only been three races held at nine furlongs this meet. Middle posts seem to do the best with 22% winning from the 4-7 spots. Late pace makes the race with 67% of the winners tracking from the pack. Early speed gets away with 33% of the wins.

**Discreetly Mine** will have some company on the lead from **The Program** and **Wow Wow Wow** both have enough speed to keep him busy and set a good pace for the rest of the field. **Mission Impazible** and **Island Soul** could also be up close. **A Little Warm** adds two furlongs may also be up close to the pace. **Drosselmeyer** breaks from the far outside. It's anyone's guess if he'll be gunned to get into position or taken back further than usual. He's versatile and has won from the back of the pack before and has a win at this distance, but the far outside post could hinder him. **Mission Impazible** couldn't catch Conveyance in his last start but if his stablemate is softened up on the lead, this one could move forward. **Stay Put, Ron the Greek** and **Fly Down**

will be storming down the stretch at the end, but **Ron the Greek** is proven in this company. **Island Soul** has progressively higher speed figures and could be an over-looked longshot that finish in the money. **Mister Marti Gras** just broke his maiden and jumps into stakes company. He'll likely be a maiden bounce. **Backtrack** only has two sprint races under his girth and has a tough job here.

**Ron the Greek**

**Discreetly Mine**

**Drosselmeyer**

*Island Soul – longshot*