



Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds
Gotham Stakes (G-3)
March 6, 2009



Native Dancer

March 4, 2010- Way back in 1953, Native Dancer won the inaugural running of the Gotham Stakes (G-3). It is a prestigious race with the elite of racing - Claiborne, Darby Dan, Phipps, and Whitney families - electing to send their Derby hopefuls to the Gotham starting gate. Damascus and Dr. Fager staged the most celebrated and exciting [Gotham match-up](#) in 1967. The last winner of the Gotham/ Kentucky Derby double was Secretariat in 1973, but many Gotham winners since then have gone on to carve a place for themselves in racing history. Let's take a closer look at this year's field.

Three Day Rush (Harlan's Holiday – Predictress, by Vicar) was a troubled third, 1 ½ lengths behind Peppi Knows in the Whirlaway. His sire is ranked #5 on the third crop sire list. Unfortunately, two of his sons, Into Mischief and Dennis of Cork were injured and couldn't take part in their respective Kentucky Derbies. Damsire Vicar now stands in Korea and Three Day Rush's dam is an unraced half sister to a Grade 2 winner. This female family has no blue hens and the family has produced mostly minor stakes winners. Pletcher/Fernando have a 40% win rate.



Three Day Rush - Photo: Starlight Partners

Yawanna Twist (Yonaguska – Twist and Pop, by Olivers Twist) has won both of his starts by a combined 9 ½ lengths. He'll be moving out of statebred company and trying a route for the first time. His sire's offspring are best as sprinters however he does have a few that have won at 9F. Damsire, a Maryland bred from the Never Bend sire line, has been the Colorado leading sire from 2007-2009. He has one stakes winner and two stakes-placed runners. His dam was second in two stakes races in NJ. Yawanna Twist has no inbreeding within 5 generations. Dutrow/Prado are 50% together from limited rides and Dutrow gets 22% stakes winners.

Nacho Friend (Friends Lake – You're not listening, by Kennedy Road) hasn't run since July '09 when he was fourth in the Sanford (G-2). He is a half brother to stakes winners You're Bluffing and Yachats and his hard knocking dam ran 63 times with her victories coming in sprints. At age six, she won a G-3 race. Damsire was a major Canadian Champion who won from 6 ½ F to 1 ¼ miles. Nacho Friend shows a series of good works. Breen/Bravo are 15% together and the barn has a 28% win rate going from sprint to route.



Awesome Act - Photo: Mathea Kelly

Awesome Act (Awesome Again - Houdini's Honey, by Mr. Prospector) invades from England. He was a fast closing fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf despite racing wide. Awesome Act has one of the best pedigrees in the race. He has "Delta Pattern" breeding (sire and dam descend tail line from the same superior broodmare) in this case, Almahmoud. While not extremely rare, it is uncommon. His second through fifth dams are all blue hens. Awesome Act's dam Houdini's Honey hasn't lived up to expectations on the racecourse (10-3-3-0, no blacktype) or in the breeding shed. She is a full sister to champion two year old and prominent sire Machiavellian, and her full sister Coup de Genie was the champion two year old filly in France and produced champion two year old filly Denebola, Grade 3 winner Snake Mountain and two Group 3 winners. Coup de Genie's grandson Bago

was a champion juvenile and was fourth in the B.C. Turf. Houdini's Honey half brother Exit to Nowhere was a Group 1 winner as well. Awesome Act has a strong dirt pedigree top and bottom and he should move forward on the surface. Nosedala/Leparoux are 19% together.

I've Got the Fever (Stephen Got Even – Music Fever, by Gold Fever) broke his maiden last out after four attempts. He is a half brother to stakes winner Marianne Rose and his damsire is a G-1 winning miler and leading NY sire. I've Got the Fever's dam is a half sister to Eagle Café (Jpn –Gr.1) and Let (G-2) winner who is the dam of Sham stakes winner Ravel and his fifth dam is a blue hen. American/European Champion two year old Arazi was produced from this family. I've Got the Fever shows increasing BRIS Speed Figures in every race. The trainer/jock combo of Terranova/Hill are a strong 38%.

Peppi Knows (Stephen Got Even - Miracle Worker, by Seeking the Gold) won the Whirlaway Stakes last time out against Afleet Again and Three Day Rush and the bay colt has never been out of the money. His sire has produced Breeders' Cup winner Stevie Wonderboy and last year's Derby Hopeful I Want Revenge, who won this race last year. Peppi Knows' damsire won up to 1 ¼ miles and produced four Breeders' Cup Champions. Peppi's dam won once in 11 tries. She's a half sister to a Japanese stakes winner. The barn is 21% with last out winners.



Peppi Knows - Photo: Coglianese



Shrimp Dancer - Photo Coglianese

Shrimp Dancer (Kitten's Joy – Formal Dancer, by Formal Gold) has been in the money in all but one start. However, his sole win came over the turf. His sire was a monster over the turf and is proving to be a strong sire, getting runners over all surfaces. His damsire won up to 1 1/8 miles and has a handful of stakes winners. Shrimp Dancer's dam won 2 of 13 starts, both dirt routes and she is a half sister to two French stakes winners. Donk/Lopez are 8% together.

Turf Melody (Maria's Mon - Tricky Bird, by Storm Bird) is the most experienced horse in the race and the most traveled, as every start has come at a different track. By Kentucky Derby sire Maria's Mon (Monarchos) Turf Melody shares the same damsire as Belmont Stakes winners Birdstone and Summer Bird. Further, his second dam won a Grade 3 stakes going 9.5F. His first attempt past a mile on dirt was in the Grade 3 LeComte at the Fairgrounds. Unfortunately he was rank throughout the race and was sixth the whole way around. Turf Melody has had a hard campaign and been running since last June without a break. His misbehavior in the LeComte could be a signal that he's ready for a much needed rest.

Afleet Again (Afleet Alex - Lucky Again, by Wild Again) was second in the Wirlaway last out and recorded his top BRIS speed figure. He can trace his pretty gray coat to his dam's side of the family. We all know what a tenacious competitor his sire Afleet Alex was, and his damsire won the inaugural running of the Breeders' Cup Classic. Afleet Again's dam was a stakes placed runner, in the money ten of 22 starts. His second dam is a full sister to stakes winners Darn That Alarm, Jiggs Alarm, Strong Performance and a half sister produced stakes winners Fairbanks and Keats. Reid/Carmouche have a 25% win rate.

Wow Wow Wow (Broken Vow – Caged Splendor, by Honour and Glory) has won two races, both in wire-to-wire fashion at Oaklawn. His sire has produced two winners at 1 ¼ 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. Lukas/Nakatani team for 31% wins.

Selections:

Some things never change and the inner track at Aqueduct is one of them. Inside speed rules. 20% of the runners wire the field and 45% of the winners are either early speed or pressers. With that in mind, let's see who fits the running style.

I've Got the Fever, and **Wow Wow Wow** wired their respective fields last time out. They will likely be up on the lead along with **Three Day Rush**, who has the rail advantage (30% win rate). Most of the field are pace pressers, so they will jockey for position with **Shrimp Dancer** and **Awesome Act** following. **Yawanna Twist** might be a dangerous horse. He has a sprinters pedigree but instead of regressing after breaking his maiden, he won impressively. **Peppi Knows** is the defending champ. He got a career best speed figure on his first race off a layoff and might regress slightly. **Afleet Again** was 4 wide last out and gaining on Peppi. He's shown steady improvement in his last two races and can continue to improve. **Awesome Act** has the class, but due to rain, was unable to train properly. If he handled the shipping and quarantine, he could be in the money.

Peppi Knows

Three Day Rush

Awesome Act

Afleet Again – longshot selection