



**Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds**  
**Arkansas Derby (G-1)**  
**April 10, 2010**



The Arkansas Derby has been run since 1936, but it wasn't until the 1976's when Elocutionist won the Preakness that trainers started paying attention and sending their "A list" horses to Oaklawn Park. So far, three Kentucky Derby winners and assorted Preakness and Belmont winners have emerged from the Midwest. This year's field of [Kentucky Derby contenders](#) is loaded with speed, but which horse will have the tenacity and stamina to stamp their name on the Classic races?



**Super Saver** (Maria's Mon - Supercharger, by A.P. Indy) fought all the way on the lead in the Tampa Bay Derby (G-3) in his first start of the year, but came up only ½ short nabbing the show spot. Super Saver has a pedigree that screams distance and class. His sire gave us Monarchos, the second-fastest Kentucky Derby winner, while his damsire is known for producing long-winded offspring. His dam is a Phipps-family bred full sister to Grade 2 winners Daydreaming, Girolamo and Grade 3 winner Accelerator. Her other unraced full sister produced Blue Grass Cat who was second in the Tampa Bay Derby and went on to place in the Kentucky

*Super Saver Photo: Reed Palmer* Derby. Her half brother (by Monarchos) was a Canadian stakes winner. Super Saver's second dam was a graded stakes winner and the list goes on. Super Saver threw a bullet breeze after the Tampa Bay Derby, indicating he should move forward here.

**Dublin** (Afleet Alex - Classy Mirage, by Storm Bird) regressed slightly in his second start this year after posting a lifetime best speed figure in his 2010 debut. He was closer to the pace than usual and made a premature move. 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. Trainer Lukas switches jocks to Thompson and the duo is winning 24% together.

**Noble's Promise** (Cuvee - The Devil's Trick, by Favorite Trick) had the Rebel (G-2) all locked up last in his last start, but his nemesis Lookin At Lucky grabbed the win by a bare head. 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 posted a late out bullet breeze and the barn is 21% with the second off a layoff angle.



*Nobles Promise - Photo: Lauren Pomeroy*

**Northern Giant** (Giant's Causeway – Jessie Take Charge, by War Chant) returns to the scene of his breakout maiden win after two graded stakes attempts at Fairgrounds and Turfway. His dam is an unraced half sister to the tough multiple grade 1 winner Take Charge Lady and she is also a half sister to stakes winners Commendation and Eventail. If he can't prove himself on the Derby trail, Northern Giant may find a home on the lawn, as he has plenty of turf influences through Northern Dancer, Blushing Groom and Roberto, who are found top and bottom in his pedigree.

[Uh Oh Bango](#) (Top Hit - French Debutante by French Deputy) was whipped seven lengths in the Rebel after being roughed up at the start. Uh Oh Bango's sire, a grandson of Forty Niner, won the 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 makes a major jockey switch to Bridgmohan.

[New Madrid](#) (Rock Hard Ten – Back to Earth, by Theatrical) broke his maiden in his last start, so let's jump on the Derby bandwagon. Rock Hard Ten was second in the Preakness and won the Santa Anita Handicap when it was run on good ole dirt. Not surprisingly for a route horse, Rock Hard Ten's offspring are slow to mature, but their sire appears to be passing along his turf genes. His stakes winning offspring prefer turf or synthetic surfaces. On that note, New Madrid has a strong turf pedigree. His damsire Theatrical won multiple Grade 1 stakes races from 1 ¼ to 1 ½ miles. New Madrid's second damsire Corridor Key was a lesser known son of Danzig. New Madrid's dam is an unraced full sister to Laura's Lucky Boy, a hard-knocking graded stakes winner over the lawn. His third dam Solar Slew produced the great champion Cigar. Beating a soft group of maidens is a far cry from walloping experienced graded stakes winners. I predict that by this summer or fall, New Madrid will have found his calling routing over turf.

[Berberis](#) (Southern Image – Miss PM, by The Prime Minister) broke his maiden last out in his third attempt. His sire was slow to develop and won from seven to ten furlongs. His offspring seem to be following in their sire's hoof prints, as he has a couple of stakes placed runners but no stakes winners from his first crop. Berberis' damsire, a son of Deputy Minister, won a Grade 2 race gong 1 1/8 miles. He produced a handful of stakes winners and his main claim to fame is as the broodmare sire of Sinister Minister, the longshot winner of the 2006 Bluegrass Stakes (G-1). Berberis' dam was unraced and other than a few minor stakes winners, not much of note has come from this immediate family, although the third dam Court Circuit produced Bailjumper, the grandsire of Skip Away and broodmare sire of Medaglia D'Oro. The Asmussen barn is 21% with maidens to stakes winners.

[Line of David](#) (Lion Heart – Emma's Dilemma, by Capote) showed nothing over Cushion Track or Pro-Ride, but is undefeated over turf, so why they'd take him out of his game and try him over dirt is a mystery. He has a sprinter's pedigree. His sire won up to 1 1/8 miles, but his progeny are precious sprinter/milers. His damsire also gets precocious sprinter/milers. Line of David's dam won once in eight tries, sprinting over dirt. She's a half sister to an Irish stakes winner. The third dam, Lillian Russell, is a half sister to the legendary Mr. Prospector. Line of David has a RF (Rasmussen Factor inbreeding – inbred to a superior mare within five generations) to Gold Digger, the dam of Mr. Prospector. The Sadler barn is 21% with shippers.



*Pulsion – Photo: Lauren Pomeroy*

[Pulsion](#) (Include – Spring, by Stravinsky) was a dismal sixth in his last two starts, both over dirt and he takes the blinkers off today. Pulsion has a strong turf pedigree. His sire Include gets runners over all surfaces, but his only stakes winning offspring at ten furlongs is Panty Raid, (American Oaks, G-1 Turf). Include is one of the few modern sires from the Domino line, which is almost extinct in the U.S. Pulsion's damsire Stravinsky was a Group 1 winning sprinter in England and his second damsire was a son of Nijinsky the English Triple Crown winner. Pulsion doesn't have any blacktype in his first two generations; however his second dam is a half sister to the great Gentleman, champion in Argentina and Grade 1 winner in the U.S. The Biancone barn is 19% with the blinkers off angle.

## **Selections:**

How the track is playing: Speed Speed Speed. Four 1 1/8 mile races have been run over the Oaklawn dirt and two winners have wired the field. One winner was a pace presser and the fourth winner came from mid-pack. Two horses won from inside posts and two from post 8+.

There is a ton of speed in this race. Let's hope everyone sees that and decides to rate off of Super Saver. **Super Saver** gets Bo-rail on the Rail and we know he'll go from there and let the rest play catch up. The duo won a Grade 2 race together at Churchill last year, so we know they have good chemistry. If he can handle the surface, **Line of David** will be right there with Super Saver, as will **New Madrid** and **Uh Oh Bango** should be in the mix somewhere too. **Noble's Promise** should sit just off the speed and he has the class and experience to be dangerous. **Dublin** will be sitting pretty, but after two so-so efforts, he needs to step it up and prove he can hang with the Derby crowd. The two intriguing longshots are Northern Giant and New Madrid. **Northern Giant** has finished in the money in all of his starts this year and his lone win came over this track. He also appears to be improving and could fill out the exotics. **New Madrid** shows improving speed figures in both of his starts this year. He could possibly move forward again and stick around for a piece of the pie, but I'm not convinced he's up to this level of competition and that strong turf pedigree has me looking in other directions. **Berberis** is another who could possibly move forward, but he'd have to show more improvement. **Pulsion** should aim for a nice turf race.

**Super Saver**

**Nobel's Promise**

**Dublin**

***Northern Giant – longshot selection***