



Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds
Blue Grass Stakes (G-1)
April 10, 2010



The Blue Grass Stakes (G-1) has been churning out Kentucky Derby contenders since 1911. The names of Round Table, Northern Dancer, Forward Pass, Alydar, Spectacular Bid, Holy Bull and Street Sense adorn the roll call of this prestigious race. Since the track surface was converted to Polytrack, only Street Sense, who was second in the Blue Grass, continued on to win at the highest level. This year a wide open field competes for the all-important graded stakes earnings. Only a couple of Bluegrass contenders might make it into the Derby starting gate, while the rest will be left singing the Blues.



Odysseus (7) - Photo: Tom Cooley

Odysseus (Malibu Moon – Persimmon Hill, by Conquistador Cielo) eked out a nose win in the Tampa Bay Derby last time out earning a lifetime best BRIS speed figure of 100. His sire is nationally ranked at 11 and is really making a name for himself in the breeding shed. Odysseus' damsire was a Champion three year old and was the first of five consecutive Belmont Stakes winners for Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens. Odysseus is a half brother to a stakes winner. His dam Persimmon Hill was in the money 7 of 10 of her starts, mainly dirt routes. She's a half sister to a stakes placed runner. This is Odysseus' first attempt over Polytrack. His sire gets about 15% winners over the surface, but his damsire's offspring prefer dirt.

First Dude (Stephen Got Even – Run Sarah Run, by Smart Strike) steadied in the Florida Derby just as the serious running began and he wound up in fifth place. His sire, a son of A.P. Indy, is a G-1 winner at 9 furlongs and is the sire of this year's Whirlaway winner Peppi Knows. His dam is stakes placed and won six of 26 starts, mostly sprinting. She's a half sister to a stakes placed turf runner. First Dude's fifth dam is Uvira, who is also A.P. Indy's fifth dam. First Dude keeps the services of leading jockey Dominguez. First Dude's sire and damsire are good producers of Polytrack runners.

Stately Victor (Ghostzapper – Collect the Cash, by Dynaformer) hasn't lived up to his lofty breeding. He's won once and placed once in seven attempts. Both tries came as a juvenile, once over the lawn and once in the slop. His sire's offspring will likely be slow to mature and come around late in their three year old season. Stately Victor's dam won a Grade 1 race over the Keeneland turf and his half sister placed in a stakes race going 1 ¼ miles over the lawn. His second dam Worldly Possession won or placed in ten of 13 tries over turf. Stately Victor's fourth dam is Clover Lane and his fifth dam is the blue hen Grass Shack, which makes him a relative to Aikenite. The Maker barn has an eye-catching 32% win rate with the turf to Polytrack angle.

Make Music for Me (Bernstein - Miss Cheers, by Carson City) won his 2010 debut at a mile over grass breaking his maiden and becoming a stakes winner in the process. He finds himself back on Polytrack and his record over this surface isn't too bad, as he was second twice to Lookin At Lucky last year. Nine furlongs will likely be his limit, since his sire has yet to produce a winner at ten furlongs. Carson City is the damsire of Barbaro, Rail Trip and three other winners at ten furlongs, but the majority of his daughter's offspring are best at nine furlongs and shorter. Make Music for Me's dam was a stakes sprinter and other than a few minor stakes winners that's about it for this family, although the third dam did produce the stakes winning sire Opening Verse. Make Music for Me posted two bullet works for this race.

[Codoy](#) (Bernstein – Puype’s Dream, by Kris S.) won his only two starts over Polytrack, including the John Battaglia Memorial at Turfway in his season debut. Codoy’s dam was unplaced in three starts, but his second dam was stakes placed. His third dam Moment’s Prayer is also the third dam of Ron the Greek and Musket Man. His fifth dam Prayer Bell is a Blue Hen. Codoy has two recent works over the Keeneland surface and the barn is 17% with next out winners.

[Pleasant Prince](#) (Indy King – Archduchess, by Pleasant Tap) was on the wrong end of a nose bob in the Florida Derby. His sire Indy King is a royally bred son of A.P. Indy out of 1991 champion older mare Queena. Unfortunately, he was injured before making his first start. He has gotten good results from four modest crops to race. Read more about Indy King [here](#). Pleasant Prince's damsire was champion older horse of 1992 and ironically, was second to A.P. Indy in the Breeders' Cup Classic. Pleasant Prince's dam is an unraced half sister to a Grade 3 turf winner and his second dam was a stakes winner. Pleasant Prince had a very strong bullet five furlong move a couple of days ago and Leparioux stays aboard.



Pleasant Prince

[Paddy O’Prado](#) (El Prado – Fun House, by Prized) jumped up to win the Grade 3 Palm Beach Stakes over turf and break his maiden all in his last start. His sire has six winners over the Keeneland surface and his damsire Prized gets about 15% winners over Polytrack. Additionally, Paddy O’Prado has posted two quick works over the Keeneland track. His dam is a stakes winning turf runner who was in the money 18 of 23 starts over the lawn. She’s a half sister to the graded stakes winning sprinter Early Flyer and two stakes placed runners. The second dam Bistra is a half sister to the dams of Pyro and Cuvee. The Roman’s barn is 13% with shippers.



Aikenite

[Aikenite](#) (Yes It's True - Silverlado by Saint Ballado) chased Eskendereya home in the Fountain of Youth, finishing third. Aikenite has a speed over stamina pedigree. His sire only has one winner past a mile, G-3 winner Actin Good who won at nine furlongs. As a broodmare sire, Saint Ballado has only two winners at nine furlongs and none at ten, but carries the stamina influences of Halo and Herbager. Second damsire Secretariat also provides some oomph to the pedigree. Aikenite's dam Silverlado was unplaced in three starts. She's a half sister to an English Gr.-3 winner. Third dam Clover Lane won the Arlington-

Washington Lassie and Aikenite's fourth dam Grass Shack is a Reine de Course (blue hen). Aikenite was second over this track in the Grade 1 Breeders’ Futurity last year. The Pletcher barn is a hefty 24% with shippers.

[Interactif](#) (Broken Vow - Broad Pennant, by Broad Brush) was a half length behind Sidney’s Candy in the Grade 2 San Vicente in his first attempt over Pro-Ride. Interactif has a strong classy pedigree. His sire Broken Vow is an excellent Pro-Ride sires and he produces graded stakes winners up to nine furlongs. Interactif's dam Broad Pennant hails from the elite Phipps family breeding program and Interactif proudly claims the undefeated Personal Ensign as his third dam. His second dam Pennant Champion is a full sister to Grade 1 winning stallions Miner's Mark, Traditionally and Our Emblem. Pennant Champion is a half sister to the fantastic champion mare My Flag, who won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies and produced champion Storm Flag Flying and Leading the Parade, dam of Grade 3 winner Parading. Pletcher and Bejarano are 24% together.



Interactif - Photo: Coglianese

Selections:

How the track is playing: Three races have been held at 1 1/8 miles this meet. One winner had previously won over the Turfway Polytrack while the other two winners won over the Gulfstream turf. Two winners were closer than four lengths to the pace while one was about six lengths out of it. All winners whose last starts came over dirt won at sprint distances and all are by sires known to get synthetic track runners.

Odysseus will be the likely betting favorite but we're going against him. Here's why. In four years, Malibu Moon has sired a total of two winners who have won over the Polytrack. Also, Odysseus ran hard to get a lifetime best BRIS speed figure. True, it wasn't much higher than his previous race, but that, coupled with whipping and the surface switch has me looking elsewhere. Sure he can finish in the money, and he must in order to make it into the Derby starting gate, but at this price, I'm looking elsewhere. Remember Pyro? My eyes will be on the Pletcher duo of **Aikenite** and **Interactif**. They're practically interchangeable. Both have pedigrees friendly to this surface and one of Aikenite's best races came over the Keeneland main track. Interactif finished ½ length behind Sidney's Candy and we all saw what that one is capable of. **Make Music for Me** flashed two consecutive bullet works and Bernstein offspring love this track. Yes, he broke his maiden last out with a strong speed figure and could bounce, but he might be overlooked. **First Dude** is another to keep an eye on. He was second over this track in his debut and has steadily been improving. He'll also be an attractive price. **Pleasant Prince** is either getting scary good or he's going to bounce to the moon. He ran a huge race in the Florida Derby and posted a bullet work over the Keeneland surface. Note that he was third in an even try as a maiden over this track. Will he bounce off of that nine point speed figure increase? **Paddy O'Prado** is another mystery. He broke his maiden last time out in a stakes race, improving his speed figure by 13 points and has posted two quick works over this surface. **Codoy** was second to Interactif, but that was over the lawn last year. He beat up on lesser horses at Turfway, but he doesn't appear up to this level of competition. Keep him in mind to fill out the bottom of the exotics. **Stately Victor** doesn't know what he wants to do when he grows up. Maybe he'll like going very long on turf.

Interactif

Aikenite

Pleasant Prince

Make Music for Me – longshot selection