



Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds
Santa Anita Derby (G-1)
April 3, 2010



Who's afraid of the 2009 Juvenile Champ Lookin' At Lucky? Evidently no one. Nine colts will do their best to beat the champ on his last stop before the Kentucky Derby. Our hero doesn't have to win, he's sitting pretty with plenty of cash to ensure his spot in the starting gate on the first Saturday in May.

[Posse Power](#) (Posse – Stellarina, by Pleasant Colony) has been in the money in all six starts. He found trouble in the El Camino Real Derby but still managed to finish third. Posse Power has a classic speed over stamina pedigree. His sire is a Grade 2 sprinter and gets precocious runners. Damsire Pleasant Colony won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness. His daughters have produced a number of winners at nine furlongs. Posse Power's dam was a multiple graded stakes winner as was her dam Star Pastures. Posse Power shows three good works over the Cushion track and the combo of Lucatelli/Mawing are winning 26% of their races.

[Thomas Baines](#) (Johannesburg - Foofaraw, by Cherokee Run) won an optional claimer in his second try over the cushion track last time out. He has a nice turf pedigree. His sire was a Champion in England and the U.S. and his dam was in the money in six of twelve starts over turf. His dam is a half sister to two stakes placed runners and his third dam was a champion grass mare. Trainer Doug O'Neil has a 10% win rate with stakes races.

[Who's Up](#) (Graeme Hall – Divine Rockette, by Is It True) won his last two starts going a mile over the turf, but that was last November. His sire was a Grade 2 staple on the Midwest handicap circuit. Dam is a half sister to two stakes placed turf runners and a half sister produced Grade 3 winner EZ Warrior and multiple stakes winner JZ Warrior. Who's Up shows a series of stamina building works, including a bullet five furlongs over the main track.

[Sidney's Candy](#) (Candy Ride – Fair Exchange, by Storm Cat) led all of the way in his last two starts, both Grade 2 contests. His sire's offspring are generally at their best up to nine furlongs, however his son Misremembered just won the Big 'Cap at ten furlongs, so there is still hope this young sire can get a classic winner. Fair Exchange didn't live up to her lofty breeding, placing only once in seven tries. Her dam Exchange was a multiple Grade 1 winner. Sadler/Talamo are wining at 21% together.

[Setsuko](#) (Pleasantly Perfect – Dance with Grace, by Mr. Prospector) came flying in the Sham stakes to grab second, 1 ½ lengths behind Alphie's Bet. Setsuko is a half brother to G-1 stakes placed Indy Dancer. Setsuko's sire was at his best from 9 to 10 furlongs and competed at the highest levels, winning the Breeders' Cup Classic and a year later the Dubai World Cup. Setsuko's dam one three of seven sprints, including a stakes race. She's a full sister to Grade 2 winners Souvenir Copy and Dance Sequence and stakes placed Gold Tribute. Second dam is a Group 1 placed half sister to graded stakes winning sire Doneraile Court, fourth dam Close Control is a blue hen. Setsuko shows two back-to-back bullet breezes, which is rare for the conservative Mandella barn.

[Caracortado](#) (Cat Dreams – Mons Venus, by Maria's Mon) tasted defeat for the first time in his career in the Sham Stakes. His sire Cat Dreams was injured after a scintillating debut and is a son of Storm Cat out of JJ's Dream, a very fast sprinter. His offspring tend to be fast and precocious. Caracortado's dam is unraced and his second dam was unplaced in two starts, but did produce a minor stakes winner.

[Lookin At Lucky](#) (Smart Strike - Private Feeling, by Belong to Me) is the 2009 Juvie Champ and won his first start off a layoff in a gritty fashion. Read his pedigree profile here.

[Cardiff Giant](#) (Yankee Gentlemen - Stop the Croquet, by Stop the Music) showed nothing in his second start over dirt in the Oaklawn Stakes. His dam is a full sister to multiple graded stakes winner Music Merci who won from six to nine furlongs, and Cardiff Giant's half sister produced the precociously fast sprinter Backbackbackgone. Cardiff Giant has raced ten times in the last seven months and hasn't progressed as well as others in this race, but he has finished in the money in every start over this course.

[Skipshot](#) (Skip Away – Heavenly Shot, by Sunny's Halo) has won his last three races at Golden Gate and gets his first look at the big city. His sire was a two-time champion, but hasn't lived up to his reputation at stud. Damsire Sunny's Halo won the Kentucky Derby, but like Skip Away, didn't do so hot at stud. His daughters have produced six stakes winners, and Skip Code, Skipshot's full brother, is one of them. Skipshot zipped a bullet five panels and his legendary trainer shouldn't be ignored.

[Alphie's Bet](#) (Tribal Rule – Miss Alphie, by Candi's Gold) tore past the field to win the Sham Stakes going away by 2 ¼ lengths. His sire Tribal Rule is also the sire of graded stakes winner Georgie Boy and this son of Storm Cat is quickly becoming a good California sire. Alphie's Bet has strong stamina influences on his distaff side. His damsire was a G-2 winner and had the misfortune of being a California stakes horse when Alysheba and Ferdinand were racing, as he was often second to them. Second damsire Pine Bluff won the Preakness and third damsire is Affirmed. Alphie's Bet's dam placed in a couple of turf and one dirt route races. She's a half sister to an Australian Group 2 winner. Alphie's Bet posted a lifetime best speed figure in his first race off a layoff.

Selections:

How the track is playing: There have been seven races at 1 1/8 miles this meet and all were won from the back of the pack.

Sidney's Candy wired the field in his last two starts and he'll likely be kept honest on the lead by **Who's Up** and **Skipshot**. It's hard to find any chinks in **Lookin At Lucky's** armor, but we'll try. He shipped, found trouble, but still won his first start off a long lay off, earning a lifetime best speed figure. If he's going to regress, it better be here because his next dance is in Kentucky. **Alphie's Bet** and **Setsuko** are legitimate threats here. Both of them ran a lifetime best figure in the Sham, but it wasn't a huge jump and both can move forward. **Caracortado** regressed slightly in his second start back after earning a lifetime best speed figure. I'm not totally convinced that he wants to go this far, but he's proven with this company and can finish in the money. **Posse Power** doesn't appear to be fast enough to keep up but his bullet works could make him a nice longshot play for the exotics. **Cardiff Giant** could hang in there for a piece of the pie. He's been first or second in every try over this track. **Thomas Baines** would be a good candidate for a down the hill turf sprint.

Alphie's Bet

Lookin At Lucky

Setsuko

Posse Power - longshot