



Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds
Dwyer Stakes (G-2)
May 8, 2010



This time last year, we were discussing Peter Pan's accomplishments on the track and why a race was named after him. But time passes, memory fades and budgets are cut. Which is the reason the Dwyer is being run two months ahead of schedule. Maybe they'll bring the Peter Pan Stakes back another year, or perhaps rename it for Curlin. However you name it, this traditional 1 1/8 mile race run between the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes has long been used as a prep race for the Belmont Stakes held in June. The top finishers may be considered for the Test of Champions, so let's take a closer look at the field.

Carnivore (Giant's Causeway – Biogio's Rose, by Polish Numbers) broke his maiden by an impressive seven lengths then found Grade 1 company too much to handle in the Wood Memorial. Cutting back to a more suitable allowance race, Carnivore was a tiring second. Carnivore has an abundance of Northern Dancer bloodlines, as his sire, damsire and second damsire are all descended from this sire. Damsire Polish Numbers never lived up to his esteemed Phipps family breeding on the track or in the breeding shed, but he is known as a superior sire of mudders. He produced a fair number of stakes runners but his daughters have produced few stakes winners. Biogio's Rose was a hard-knocking Grade 2 winner up to nine furlongs who seems to be passing her soundness onto her offspring as all have made it to the track and three of the five are winners. This distaff family has produced the Grade 1 winning Florida sire My Gallant and the wonderful hard-running multiple Grade 1 winner Take Charge Lady. Carnivore draws a top jockey in Ramon Dominguez.

Drosselmeyer (Distorted Humor - Golden Ballet, by Moscow Ballet) found some trouble in his last two starts, but was only beaten three lengths overall. Drosselmeyer is a half brother to Stage Luck 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. Their progeny are mainly California sprinters. The Mott barn is 19% with shippers.

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 the sire who brought us Monarchos and Super Saver, 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 great works in the mornings, but still needs to get it together in the afternoons. He has the pedigree of a legitimate Belmont Stakes contender, so if he suddenly shows improvement, keep an eye on him.

Soaring Empire (Empire Maker – Soaring Passage, by A.P. Indy) had a rough trip in the Florida Derby and threw the worst race of his short career. The further they go, the better Soaring Empire should like it. Both his sire and damsire are Belmont Stakes winners and both are excellent sires of off track runners. His dam didn't live up to expectations on the race track, winning only once in six attempts. She is a half sister to the stakes winners Tara Roma (the second dam of Salvador Mile winner Coal Play) and Waldoboro, who are full siblings. Second dam Chic Shrine won the Grade 1 Ashland Stakes at 8.5 furlongs. His third dam Too Chic was also a Grade 1 winner and his fourth and fifth dams are blue hens. Soaring Empire has been given a brief freshening so he should be ready to go for a strong barn.

[Remand](#) (Successful Appeal – Fast N Fleet, by Mr. Greeley) was third in the Bay Shore Stakes (G-3) after a troubled beginning. He has a pedigree that leans towards speed. Remand's sire was the Champion Florida-bred sprinter in 1999 and his damsire was also a graded stakes winning sprinter. All three of Remand's half siblings are winners. Dam is a half sister to two listed stakes winners and a stakes placed runner. This lightly raced colt has improving speed figures and found trouble in his last two starts. Remand's works have been steady and strong, but the barn's stakes winning percentage is 11%.

[Codoy](#) (Bernstein – Puype's Dream, by Kris S.) took the blinkers off, but showed nothing in the Bluegrass Stakes (G-1). The blinkers go back on for his dirt 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. The Hubley barn has an eye-catching 50% win rate when the hood goes back on.

[Fly Down](#) (Mineshaft – Queen Randi, by Fly So Free) steadied and wound up a lackluster ninth in the Louisiana Derby last time out. 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 had a recent quick four furlong breeze and the Zito barn is 23% with the third off a layoff angle.

Selections:

How the track is playing: Since Belmont recently opened for the Spring meet, there haven't been any main track races past a mile. The overwhelming majority of the dirt races have been won either wire to wire or by horses pressing the pace. Last Fall, there were three races run over the track at 1 1/8 miles. Each race was won by either a pace setter, presser, or mid-pack runner.

There is a 70% chance of rain forecasted, so let's do a little pedigree handicapping for mud.

Carnivore appears to be lone speed over a speed favoring track. He has an excellent mud pedigree and if you remove the ambitiously placing in the Wood, has shown talent. **Turf Melody** has done his best running on or near the lead and has finished in the money when he hasn't been placed over his head. He has the pedigree to be a slow-developing horse that could start to come around soon. He also has strong mud bloodlines. If **Drosselmeyer** can stay closer to the pace, he has the best late speed figures of the bunch and can blow by them all. **Soaring Empire** has a pedigree that screams distance and mud. If he can stay close to what appears to be a slow pace, he has a shot. **Remand** has shown improving speed figures in every race but adds two furlongs. He also has a strong mud pedigree. **Codoy** and **Fly Down** are stalkers and could be at the mercy of a paceless race. Of the two, Fly Down has a better pedigree for mud and has already won at this distance.

Drosselmeyer

Soaring Empire

Fly Down

Carnivore – longshot selection