



*Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds
Kentucky Derby Race Selections
May 1 , 2010*



How the track is playing:

Comparing the track bias from Fall '08 – Spring '09 and Fall '09 to Spring '10, last year's track bias was slower with late speed winning the majority of the races. During the short '09 Spring meet up to last year's Derby, only 9% of the horses had wired the field. This Spring, 43% of the races were won on the lead with 29% of the horses wiring the field, while 29% of the races were won by stalkers.

Like the majority of the prep races this year, the Derby is shaping up with tons of speed. In many cases this Spring, we saw one confirmed front runner rush to the front only to set slow to moderate fractions while the rest of the speed took back. Often, the horse in front would have enough left in the tank to hold off the rest, resulting in some pretty decent payouts.

Some contender notes:

American Lion has the pedigree to get the distance and surface, was a graded stakes winner at two and three, and while he also runs on the lead, he has the ability to win after pressing the pace. The only drawback is that American Lion's jockey David Flores has only a 7% win rate with pace setters/pressers. This horse has the potential to be a serious contender if the pace isn't torrid and I may regret not adding him to my selections. He is certainly worth including on your tickets.

Devil May Care trounced what appeared to be a decent group of fillies in her last race, but the runners up in that race Amen Hallelujah and Joanie's Catch were unplaced in the Kentucky Oaks. Devil May Care's form in her two races this year has been spotty. After running a career low speed figure (76) in her three year old debut, she ran a lifetime best speed figure (101) the next time out. Horses with that type of form tend to bounce in their next start. Devil May Care has the pedigree to like the distance and mud. She adds blinkers, and can probably beat a number of the colts in here, but just doesn't seem to be as accomplished as Rachel or Eight Belles were.

Awesome Act has an excellent pedigree to get the distance, love the mud and improve off of his expected regression in the Wood. His works are good and the jockey suits him. He will prefer to race in the back of the field in the pack where he could find some trouble, but he has a patient rider who won't panic if things don't initially go his way.

Backtalk is this year's over looked horse. He has an excellent pedigree, but is considered borderline for the distance because there is a question as to how far the progeny of Smarty Jones want to run. His speed figures are also slow, but if he runs back to or exceeds the late pace figure he earned in the Sportsman's Paradise Stakes (105), he could find himself earning a nice check. Backtalk won two graded stakes race last year. He found trouble in his three year old debut in the Sportsman's Paradise but still managed to win in the slop. Granted, he didn't beat the most stellar field and he was supposed to win the race, but it was the way he did it

that earns him a second look. Backtalk drilled a wicked six furlongs in 1:09 a nine days before the Illinois Derby which probably took something out of him. He was compromised by a speed favoring track at Hawthorne but he still finished third. Backtalk has a stalking style and a long fluid stride, so he should be moving in the stretch.

Discreetly Mine seems to have it all. He has the pedigree to go the distance, like the surface, was Graded Stakes placed as a juvenile and won a Graded Stakes race past a mile at three. So why doesn't he get any love? Despite all of these good points, Discreetly Mine has only won two races and he must have the lead to win. If he's challenged, he gives in. He'll have plenty of competition for the lead in the Derby.

Dublin has a wonderful pedigree for the distance and surface and was his sire's first Graded Stakes winner as a juvenile. Last year he appeared to be a horse with a bright future after winning the Hopeful Stakes (G-1), but he hasn't lived up to that promise. This year he had plenty of opportunity to run down the front runners in three graded stakes races, yet was unable to do so.

Ice Box has a strong burst of speed that, if managed correctly in the Derby, could have him flying by the contenders. He flashed it in the Fountain of Youth, but was prematurely moved too soon in that race. The Florida Derby was timed correctly and he battled to the wire and won for a lifetime best race. Sure it's been six weeks, but he'll probably regress a little anyway.

Line of David has been unbeatable since adding blinkers. He's also won every race on the lead. He's shown improving speed figures in every race and could be rounding into top form. But the million dollar question is – can he rate? If so, he could be dangerous, especially with strong breeding to love mud. If he can't rate, his borderline pedigree could kick in and he'll be dropping back with a furlong to go.

Lookin At Lucky ironically has the worst luck of the field. He reminds me of a horse named Dollar Bill who always found trouble in his races, but still managed to be right there. Unfortunately, Dollar Bill had his usual share of bad luck in the Derby and was unplaced. Let's hope Lucky's superior mud pedigree and heart will earn him a chance to show his talent, but lately his rider Garrett Gomez has put the poor horse into all sorts of bad situations and the post position looks like more bad luck.

Paddy O'Prado gets a special mention because he has the pedigree to get the distance and while he has a strong turf pedigree, he's been working well over the mud. But good works don't always carry over to the afternoon and he'll be another one jostling for position on the lead.

Mission Impazible will likely be overlooked by most people, yet he won nicely from off of the pace at 1 1/8 miles in his last race. He's been in the money in all five starts, but only won twice and hasn't beaten strong quality horses. He may be rounding into form and could sneak into the exotics.

Stately Victor is the buzz horse for some people. After five out of the money finishes, he stepped up to win huge over the Polytrack. He's certainly bred to get the distance, but his pedigree for mud is average, and he showed nothing in two of three dirt starts. Since Keeneland

switched the track surface from dirt to Polytrack, the winners of the Bluegrass Stakes have finished up the track in the Derby.

Everyone will be looking at **Super Saver** because his Jockey Calvin Borel is the next coming of Pat Day. Super Saver is a need the lead type who has not previously won when taken off the lead. He does have the pedigree to go the distance and mud influences. He won a Grade 1 race over this track with Borel in the saddle as a two year old. Borel is crafty enough to get him to the lead and set very slow fractions, so he could very well steal the race, should it set up that way. What are the odds that he'll win the big race two years in a row? Only four jockeys in the history of the race have won twice in a row, the last being Eddie Delahoussaye in 1982 – 1983.

Sidney's Candy has a superior mud pedigree, but is borderline to get the distance. He will have to break sharply and be used to get to the front from his outside post position. If he grabs the lead without too much effort and slows down the pace with easy fractions, or alternatively, sits just off the leader without going too wide, his superior speed could carry him home first. However, he's never stalked successfully and won. He'll be short at odds.

- 1st - Awesome Act**
- 2nd - Sidney's Candy**
- 3rd - Lookin At Lucky**
- 4th - Ice Box**
- Backtalk - Longshot***