



**BLACK-EYED SUSAN  
MAY 15TH, 2015**

**MARYLAND, MY PREAKNESS**

In the heart of the Triple Crown, is the Triple Crown's heart. Here lies the Preakness, many times referred to as "pivotal" as if logistics had something to do with it. A stop on the way from Louisville to New York...sure...Derby trainers handle their travel plans and schedules carefully but the motivation to stop in Baltimore rests in "want".

Nearly every year, the Preakness has the Derby winner, the last time going without in 1996 (Grindstone). The Derby winner isn't always the favorite, but is usually quite respected. I'll Have Another in 2012, (3.20, second to Bodemeister), Mine That Bird in 2009 (6.60 third to Rachel Alexandra and Pioneerofthenile) Giamcomo (6.00 third to Afleet Alex and High Fly) and Monarchos (second to Point Given) weren't backed by Derby believers, yet since 2000, eleven other times the public bought the Derby winner, rewarding favorite backers in nearly half of the runnings. One notable slight prior was Charasmatic, leaving a tough walk out of Pimlico that Saturday Preakness evening without cashing the \$18.80 ticket on the Derby winner.

Considering its two week spread, the Preakness attracts a generous portion of Kentucky Derby starters moreso than its reputation.



**RACE 1**

8	SPRING EQUINOX	Winner should come from the outside trio, who have run well versus very deep fields.
10	POOL WINNER	
9	DUNNE HALL	

**RACE 2**

7	SAMANTHA NICOLE	Four-year old veteran vs. a rising three-year old both coming out of wins in Kentucky.
8	DON'TFORGETABOUTME	
2	RACHEL WALL	

**RACE 3**

12	CONSCIENCE	AE 14-"Super" factors if drawn in. Proctor brings his gamer & rider east versus Trombetta.
8	T SIZZLE	
11	STERLING'S MAXIMUS	

**RACE 4**

9	CLOCKSTRUCKTWELVE	Larry Johnson's VA-bred comes blitzing down from Trombetta's Fair Hill barn for first start.
1	TIZ EMILY AND JILL	
6	SOUTHERN PORTRAIT	

**RACE 5 - HILLTOP**

2	INSIDE OUT	Several here glad to see firmer going on the turf. Here's a noble effort to upset solid Motion filly.
10	MISS TEMPLE CITY	
4	LADY ZUZU	

**RACE 6**

5	CHIEF OF COMMAND	Michael Imperio owns favored "American" facing tough Quatorze sired. Magee credible.
9	REGAL SOLIDER	
4	AMERICAN PROGRESS	

**RACE 7**

8	CHARM CITY GIRL	Motion's filly since switching to the turf has been sensational in tough spots for Sagamore.
6	MOBILIZE	
1	PLAYFUL LOVE	

**RACE 8 - ADENA SPRINGS MISS PREAKNESS**

1	ENCHANTING LADY	Shah finally sees his horses run without a plane flight. Motion has undefeated acer.
3	MISS ELLA	
11	HUASCA	

**RACE 9 - JIM MCKAY TURF SPRINT**

3	BEN'S CAT	McCay loved a good story. Defending champ Ben's Cat loves Pimlico. Can he win at 9?
8	DREAMSGONEWILD	
7	BOLD THUNDER	

**RACE 10 - ALLAIRE DUPONT DISTAFF (G3)**

2	STOPCHARGINGMARIA	Black Eyed Susan winner for me last year ready to reemerge. "Pearl" versatile winner recently.
5	FORTUNE PEARL	
10	YAHILWA	

**RACE 11 - BLACK-EYED SUSAN (G2)**

8	LUMINANCE	Baffert/Shah lost to a talented Steller Wind in the SA Oaks. Can "Street" filly get 9 furlongs?
6	SWEETGRASS	
1	DANESSA DELUXE	

**RACE 12 - SKIPAT**

5	LADY SABELIA	Karamanos winning streak thwarted at Keeneland, but now back in Maryland as a veteran.
2	FRIVOLITY	
6	PRINTASTICAT	

**RACE 13**

2	CONSPIRER	Wide trip in last Pimlico turf start a factor for Gonzalez mare warming to Pimlico turf.
6	THISDANSEISTAKEN	
1	BAZINGA B	

**RACE 14 - PIMLICO SPECIAL (G3)**

10	COMMISSIONER	Whatever Pletcher's record in at Pimlico, it gets a little better here with Belmont Stakes runner up.
9	CAT BURGLAR	
4	ALBANO	



**PREAKNESS DAY  
MAY 16TH, 2015**

(cont.)

While last year's contenders of the Derby numbered only two, four or five Derby participants have started since 2009. Many want redemption and seek it as soon as they can get it. The connections of Point Given, Afleet Alex, Lookin' At Lucky and Curlin enjoyed satisfying Preakness wins after exhibiting "what went wrong" Kentucky Derbies.

We know the Preakness as a thriller. Afleet Alex wins after a Scrappy T collision at the top of the stretch in 2005. Two years later, Street Sense and Curlin had a battle for the ages in the last darkest shadows of the wire. In 1996, the blanket finish of Silver Charm, Free House and Captain Bodget had eyes popping between the top and bottom of the television screen. It can be quite the showcase race of great performances where "what" result isn't as surprising as the "how" result. Lost in the double digit margin of Smarty Jones 11 & 1/2 lengths is Funny Cide's 9 & 1/2 margin the year prior. Aren't we still waiting for Rachel Alexandra or Shackleford to give up the lead? Still the "Middle Gem" can break your heart as it did in 2006 reminding us that the Preakness isn't perfect.

The Derby chase exposes us to all of the players whether they appeared in Louisville or not. We know the characters by now, if we don't know the players from earlier in their careers, we know them from earlier in the year or month. After two weeks, the Derby is fresh in our minds. Nothing surprises us. We may not know the top winner, but we do who isn't winning. Long shots are few and far between. Perhaps the smaller field creates a race run more true to form. More likely is that everyone knows each other enhancing the entertainment. The Preakness is a tough act to follow.

**RACE 1**

5	SUNSHINE LIFE	A chance to turn the tables for
4	LA NINA	Ward's "Sunshine" unless the La
1A	SHOOT CRAPS	Nina effect brings rain.

**RACE 2**

2	REGAL WARRIOR	Karamanos is returned to the dirt
9	TAKE DOWN TWO	against a ten-year old making her
5	FISH WHISTLER	115th start.

**RACE 3**

11	LAVA	Best run was late in last start for
3	MY TEAM	Lava, Motion brings RMJ colt to
13	STEEL SKY	the turf after a layoff.

**RACE 4 - JAMES W. MURPHY**

2	FORCE THE PASS	Top two choices here ran the
6	WOODWIN W	same 7&1/2 furlongs at Gulfstream
1	ALL I KARABOUT	in the same 1:28.2.

**RACE 5 - MARYLAND SPRINT HCP. (G3)**

2	COUP DE GRACE	Jones appears to have Tapit colt
5	SANDBAR	in good morning form, looking to
1	JACK'S IN THE DECK	battle Sandbar again.

**RACE 6**

2	HOOLIGAN	Ward's Jamestown winner at LRL
13	SMART N SMOKIN	last fall debuts in '15 vs. mare who
12	JUSTLOOKATMENOW	knows Pimlico.

**RACE 7 - SIR BARTON**

6	DONWORTH	Motion sought Pimlico within days,
9	CONQUEST BIGLUCK E	perhaps hours, after running 2nd
5	BOLD CONQUEST	in the Lexington.

**RACE 8**

13	SLIP BY	Good betting race, a fine time to
7	ARRIVE	drift as far off the chalk as you
12	OTHER CHEEK	can. Maybe price will "Slip By".

**RACE 9 - THE GALLORETTE HCP. (G3)**

7	HARD NOT TO LIKE	On the soft going, a competitive
3	EMOTIONAL KITTEN	debut in a G1 at Keeneland makes
9	TOKEN OF LOVE	CC's mare "Hard".

**RACE 10 - CHICK LANG**

7	GIMME DA LUTE	Baffert is the midst of a big
9	HOLY BOSS	Balltimore weekend, finds "Bili"
8	GRAND BILI	once considered for Preakness.

**RACE 11 - THE THE VERY ONE**

5	SHRINKING VIOLET	Lots of ML respect for Ward on
4	JOYA REAL	one not running since New Year's
10	TIZGALE	but Ward earns respect.

**RACE 12 - THE DIXIE (G2)**

12	LONG ON VALUE	"Value" added for the firm going
11	UP WITH THE BIRDS	while "Birds" is glad to be back in
13	WAR CORRESPONDENT	the states.

**RACE 13 - THE XPRESSBET.COM PREAKNESS (G1)**

1	AMERICAN PHAROAH	"Pharoah" keeps staring at me
8	FIRING LINE	daring me to go against. Just
2	DORTMUND	can't, intimidating presence.

**RACE 14**

4	JACK O LIAM	Lookin At Lucky had Pimlico
9	SEGOVIA	success, something Magee's
2	OLD UPSTART	"Jack" has already done.

