



## "NICK'S PICKS"

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### VIRGINIA GOLD CUP EDITION ALONG WITH SELECTIONS FROM CHURCHILL DOWNS

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#### THE LARGEST KENTUCKY DERBY CROWD EVER?

With wagering available on the Kentucky Derby for the first time at the Virginia Gold Cup, it is believed that the largest assembly to watch and wager on the Derby off-track is now located in The Plains, Virginia. Some 75,000 is expected here today, half of crowd at Churchill Downs for the Derby. Today's card features 5 races over jumps then 4 races over the flat.

Figuring why a career undefeated colt does garner more enthusiasm in the Derby, perhaps many remain under the spell of a Pharoacious hangover of last year's Triple Crown. I'd be surprised if Nyquist is aware of the legendary milestone. Gun Runner could play the role of pacesetter in this year's Derby, hard to catch once aimed at the wire. Then watch the scramble for third. **NICK'S PICK: 13-Nyquist, 5-Gun Runner, 11- Exaggerator, 6-My Man Sam.**

For the first time in recent memory there doesn't appear to be a Virginia interest in the Derby, however Saturday's undercard races include Virginia-bred American Dubai as a longshot (20-1) in the Pat Day Mile and Virginia owner Kaleem Shah with Enchanting Lady in the Grade I Humana Distaff at a tempting price (8-1). Shah owned Dortmund who finished third in the Derby last year to his stable-mate American Pharoah.

Twenty years ago, it took a photo to determine that the sire of Grinding Speed, Grindstone, won Kentucky Derby. His 10-year old progeny is seeking another Virginia Gold Cup.

#### RACE 1 - SPORT OF KINGS MAIDEN HURDLE

4	WILD DYNAFORMER	Favorite Mercoeur's been close but value lies in 2nd time Woodslane jumper.
10	LYONELL	
6	MERCOEUR	

#### RACE 2 - THE FINITIVE STEEPLETHON

5	SALUDA SAM	Sam literally went of course in '16 debut but has won here before.
4	LEMONY BAY	
2	SCHOOLHOUSE WOODS	

#### RACE 3 - THE M.C. DEAN CHASE

8	UNSINKABLE	Voss entries may sweep the exacta. Both won last jump starts.
4	ROYAL BENCH	
1	ALBANY ROAD	

#### RACE 4 - DAVID SEMMES MEMORIAL (G2)

2	SCHOODIC	Pacesetter of last year's Semmes may have to avoid closers again.
8	DR. SKIP	
9	CHARMINSTER	

#### RACE 5 - THE VIRGINIA GOLD CUP

9	TWO'S COMPANY	Fisher well angled to rain on current Great Meadow legend, seeking repeat.
2	GRINDING SPEED	
3	STRAIGHT TO IT	

#### RACE 6 - THE SECRETARIAT

10	RENOWN	Voss acer has what nobody else does, a win at track and distance.
8	SILVER LIME	
7	ACK FEISTY	

#### RACE 7 - VHBPA MAIDEN FLAT

3	JUMP SHIP	Boucher pupil's outings at Great Meadow last fall were near misses.
5	BUCKRAIL	
9	HOLIDAY QUEEN	

#### RACE 8 - VHBPA MAIDEN FLAT

6	CHEROKEE COUSIN	"Cousin" could find the mile a challenge but Cooney will have ready.
3	BOOGIE FEEVA	
8	BIRD CALL	

#### RACE 9 - VIRGINIA BRED/SIRED FLAT

8	HOOPING	No shame in setbacks to Renown and Complete St. Race 6 result a factor.
5	COMPLETE ST.	
9	GUMPER	

**KENTUCKY OAKS - FRIDAY, MAY 6****RACE 1**

3	<b>GURLIN</b>	Curlin filly may find familiar
7	<b>MODIFY</b>	KY dirt more suitable than
4	<b>BURMA ROAD</b>	Florida grass.

**RACE 2**

9	<b>CONQUEST SERENADE</b>	Casse filly hasn't seen CD
8	<b>BOLD QUALITY</b>	in the afternoon but relishes
1	<b>VICKIE WINS</b>	the mornings.

**RACE 3**

1	<b>PAID UP SUBSCRIBER</b>	Ambitious G2 slate after
5	<b>CONTRASTING</b>	SPA win costly for Stall. A
3	<b>ACADEMIC BREAK</b>	tough customer at a mile.

**RACE 4**

7	<b>FAMILY TREE</b>	Baffert seeks hi-priced
2	<b>DIVINE ELEGANCE</b>	maiden win on dirt to match
10	<b>SUGAR CONE</b>	the one on turf.

**RACE 5**

9	<b>PITCH COUNT</b>	Rematch of Keeneland
8	<b>COMMEND</b>	contest. Different start
6	<b>JACOB ROCKS</b>	yields different result.

**RACE 6 - THE LA TROIENNE (G1)**

1	<b>CURALINA</b>	It was Sheer Drama in her
2	<b>SHEER DRAMA</b>	'16 debut. Curlina looks for
5	<b>PENWITH</b>	some thrills in hers.

**RACE 7 - THE EIGHT BELLES (G2)**

5	<b>CARINA MIA</b>	Will any of this speed hold
8	<b>NICKNAME</b>	with Mott filly? Not at 7
3	<b>SUMMER READING</b>	furlongs and this level.

**RACE 8 - THE TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT (G3)**

7	<b>HOOTENANNY</b>	Defending champ finds a
12	<b>GUNS LOADED</b>	repeat bid testing vs. many
1	<b>POWER ALERT</b>	CD 1st timers.

**RACE 9 - THE ALYSHEBA (G2)**

5	<b>NOBLE BIRD</b>	"Bird's" best two career
1	<b>CAT BURGLAR</b>	starts were last spring at
4	<b>EAGLE</b>	Churchill, an edge.

**RACE 10 - THE EDGEWOOD (G3)**

4	<b>AUNTIE JOY</b>	Casse filly undefeated on
10	<b>CATCH A GLIMPSE</b>	the turf but several tempting
3	<b>NODIAC</b>	shots threaten.

**RACE 11 - THE KENTUCKY OAKS (G1)**

1	<b>TERRA PROMESSA</b>	With a CD win already on
12	<b>CATHRYN SPOHIA</b>	the resume, a Curlin filly
4	<b>GO MAGGIE GO</b>	seeks to hold off foes.

**RACE 12**

12	<b>WHO'S YOUR DRAMA</b>	A little uneasy taking a
5	<b>CONQUEST STORMY</b>	maiden race to near form,
9	<b>ASTUTE WARRIOR</b>	but class points to it.

**RACE 13**

5	<b>FRENCHMAN BAY</b>	Half the field comes in with
9	<b>REST ASSURED</b>	a win, yet a career 1 for 17
3	<b>MORNING BUZZ</b>	may break through.

Saturday mornings at 9:05, it's "Off to the Races" on ESPN AM 950 in Richmond, 100.5 FM in Goochland, Live streaming at [espn950am.com](http://espn950am.com)

**KENTUCKY DERBY - FRIDAY, MAY 7****RACE 1**

3	<b>ROCKET TIME</b>	Borel may come out of
1	<b>TENIENTE CORONEL</b>	retirement to get another
6	<b>FACE OF WINNER</b>	"Time" at Churchill.

**RACE 2**

3	<b>DIVINE INTERVENTIO</b>	Tough Oxley coupled entry
1	<b>MOON KING</b>	awaits Backer's VA-bred.
2	<b>ZAPPERINI</b>	Fluke or the Re-al Thing?

**RACE 3**

11	<b>GRAND CANDY</b>	Morning line favorite is a
1	<b>SEEKING THE SOUL</b>	Baffert 1st time starter.
9	<b>BURNTWOOD</b>	Better to go thru the cycle.

**RACE 4**

1	<b>HAVANA DREAM</b>	Has "Kitten" ever been
11	<b>LOVE THE KITTEN</b>	scratching at the door, but
6	<b>RES IPSA</b>	good year for "Havana."

**RACE 5**

3	<b>ALLIED AIR RAID</b>	Cox, a high% trainer finds
12	<b>GOTHAM NEWS</b>	the right '16 debut for his
2	<b>BOLD CONQUEST</b>	guttu gelding.

**RACE 6 - THE CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE (G2)**

1	<b>TEPIN</b>	Lots of singles here in the
4	<b>ISABELLA SINGS</b>	PIC3 on the defending
9	<b>RAINHA DA BATERIA</b>	champ. Just seems perfect.

**RACE 7 - THE CHURCHILL DOWNS (G2)**

6	<b>SPEIGHTSTER</b>	Sense Mott has taken his
1	<b>KOBE'S BACK</b>	time to get a well-bred colt
5	<b>LIMOUSINE LIBERAL</b>	back to stay perfect.

**RACE 8 - THE HUMANA DISTAFF (G1)**

4	<b>SPELLING AGAIN</b>	Don't laugh, the Barone
10	<b>WAVELL AVENUE</b>	Doctrine, horses that run
2	<b>STONETASTIC</b>	well at CD, run well at CD.

**RACE 9 - THE AMERICAN TURF (G2)**

13	<b>AZAR</b>	Airoforce legitimate, but
1	<b>AIROFORCE</b>	seeking value on another
10	<b>AMERICAN PATRIOT</b>	talent with back turf class.

**RACE 10 - THE PAT DAY MILE (G3)**

10	<b>COCKED AND LOADED</b>	Draw a line through the '16
7	<b>FOREVAMO</b>	debut, see a CD win and a
11	<b>AMERICAN FREEDOM</b>	battle with Nyquist.

**RACE 11 - WOODFORD RESERVE TURF CLASSIC (G1)**

3	<b>BOLO</b>	Favorites 1st '16 outing in
10	<b>TOURIST</b>	1/2 year (BC Turf). Do you
7	<b>MIDNIGHT STORM</b>	trust? Like Spring stakes.

**RACE 12 - THE KENTUCKY DERBY (G1)**

13	<b>NYQUIST</b>	..and My Man Sam (6).
5	<b>GUN RUNNER</b>	Superstition can really
11	<b>EXAGGERATOR</b>	derail your handicapping.

**RACE 13**

6	<b>SMART MOON</b>	April 9th race nuts for top
5	<b>SONOMA CRUSH</b>	two here. "Moon" saw
4	<b>MKUBWA</b>	Derby pacer at distance.

**RACE 14**

6	<b>FOREVER D'ORO</b>	Impressive debut for
4	<b>CONQUEST WAR CRY</b>	Medaglia d'Oro colt. Did he
3	<b>RACE ME HOME</b>	want more track?