



xb wager guide

MAY 20, 2017 • PIMLICO



Exaggerator and jockey Kent Desormeaux splash home in the 2016 Preakness.

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Fellow Racing Fan,

Welcome to Xpressbet's Preakness Wager Guide!

Congratulations to the connections of 2017 Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming! Does the colt have what it takes to add the Preakness jewel to his crown and head toward the Big Apple as a potential Triple Crown winner? He figures to be a strong favorite to do just that. However, Preakness isn't a 'walkover' for any Derby champ. He's got to prove himself again--this time with a bull's-eye on his back at a mile and three-sixteenths around the Pimlico oval!

If you hope to accurately predict the Preakness outcome then you're launching the handicapping process in the right place. In order to help you cash a ticket on the race we're proud to present this FREE Preakness Wager Guide. And if you plan to wager on the race that's where Xpressbet can really help. We're the best online, telephone and mobile horserace wagering service in the nation!

As a current account holder you know Xpressbet is the best place to watch and wager on great racing from around the world. If you don't already wager with Xpressbet, act now and earn up to a \$500 Welcome Bonus! That, certainly, will come in handy Preakness Day. Complete details are available at Xpressbet.com.

Xpressbet is pleased to arm horseplayers with valuable information. That's why we've recruited top handicappers, writers and broadcasters to examine the race—Analysis, Main Contenders, Value Plays and \$100 Wagering Strategies.

In addition to race-by-race expert commentary, inside you'll also find oodles of useful Stats and Trends, a handy Exotic Wagering Chart and much more.

This season, following the Preakness post-position draw, Xpressbet will produce an updated version of this guide to reflect adjustments in expert opinions based on up-to-the-minute information. Make certain to return to the Xpressbet website Friday, May 19 for a FREE revised and enhanced version of the guide.

Xpressbet hopes your 2017 Preakness wagering experience is fruitful and we look forward to serving as your advance deposit account wagering provider for the big day and into the future.

Sincerely,
Ron Luniewski
President
Xpressbet

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Preakness Wagering Facts

By Jeremy Plonk *Horseplayernow.com*

Below are some informative wagering tidbits from past Preakness Stakes events.

Win-Place-Show Odds

(Last 15 years, Odds to \$1)

Win Odds

Average: 4.31

High: 15.40 (Oxbow, 2013)

Low: .20 (Big Brown, 2008)

Notable: Winner has been 3-1 or less 13 of the last 16 years.

Place Odds

Average: 15.63

High: 45.70 (Magic Weisner, 2002)

Low: 1.30 (Street Sense, 2007)

Notable: 3 straight runner-ups have been 10-1 or more.

Show Odds

Average: 10.75

High: 29.40 (Hemingway's Key, 2006)

Low: .70 (Nyquist, 2016)

Notable: 7 of the last 11 Show horses have been 10-1 or more.

Exacta Payoffs

(Last 15 years, \$2 Payoffs)

Average: \$116.65

High: \$327.00

(War Emblem-Magic Weisner, 2002)

Low: \$18.20

(California Chrome-Ride On Curlin, 2014)

Notable: 8 of last 9 Exactas have included at least 1 horse at 5-2 odds or less.

Trifecta Payoffs

(Last 15 years, \$1 Payoffs)

Average: \$679.07

High: \$3,912.80

(Bernardini-Sweetnorthernst-Hemingway's Key, 2006)

Low: \$35.40

(I'll Have Another-Bodemeister-Creative Cause, 2012)

Notable: Trifecta has paid under \$100 8 times in last 20 years.

Superfecta Payoffs

(Last 15 years, \$1 Payoffs)

Average: \$3,903.09

Notable: Average odds of fourth-place finishers is 12.5-to-1.

High: \$11,151.20

(Bernardini-Sweetnorthernst-Hemingway's Key-Brother Derek, 2006)

Low: \$173.80

(California Chrome-Ride On Curlin-Social Inclusion-General A Rod, 2014)

Notable: 4 times in the bet's 19-year history the Superfecta has been a 5-digit payoff.

Highest-Priced Superfecta Finishers

(Last 15 Years, Odds to \$1)

<u>Odds</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
45.70	Magic Weisner	2002	2nd
39.90	Macho Again	2008	2nd
29.40	Hemingway's Key	2006	3rd
28.50	Tale of Verve	2015	2nd
25.40	Flying Private	2009	4th
25.10	Racecar Rhapsody	2008	4th

Lowest-Priced Favorites

(Last 15 Years, Odds to \$1)

<u>Odds</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
.20	Big Brown	2008	1st
.50	California Chrome	2014	1st
.50	Barbaro	2006	dnf
.70	Nyquist	2016	3rd
.70	Smarty Jones	2004	1st
.70	Orb	2013	4th
.90	American Pharoah	2015	1st
1.30	Street Sense	2007	2nd
1.80	Rachel Alexandra	2009	1st
1.90	Funny Cide	2003	1st
1.90	Super Saver	2010	8th

Expert Selection Grid

Expert	Bob Neumeier (NBC Sports)	Laffit Pincay (XBTV.com)	Jeff Siegel (XBTV.com)	Jon White (Santa Anita)	Dick Jerardi (Daily Racing Form)	Steve Byk (SiriusXM Radio)
First	Always Dreaming	Always Dreaming	Always Dreaming	Always Dreaming	Cloud Computing	Always Dreaming
Second	Royal Mo	Classic Empire	Classic Empire	Classic Empire	Classic Empire	Classic Empire
Third	Conquest Mo Money	Hence	Cloud Computing	Lookin At Lee	Always Dreaming	Cloud Computing
Fourth	Multiplier	Royal Mo	Conquest Mo Money	Royal Mo	Conquest Mo Money	Gunnvera

Meet The 2017 Preakness Contenders

by Johnny D Xpressbet.com

Always Dreaming

Is it possible that this rapidly developing son of Bodemeister could win the Triple Crown? If so, he'll first need to duplicate his Kentucky Derby-winning effort and topple several familiar Louisville foes, as well as a few talented new shooters. The good news for the \$350,000 yearling purchase is that he figures to be heavily favored to do just that.

Lookin At Lee

This deep-closing son of Lookin At Lucky transformed the dreaded Kentucky Derby rail post position into a positive and delivered a rail-skimming, runner-up finish under jockey Corey Lanerie at odds of 33.20-to-1! 'Lee has a bit of history on his side: Risen Star is the last horse to finish in the top three in the Kentucky Derby after breaking from the number one post position and he won both the 1988 Preakness and Belmont Stakes. Kentucky Derby bridesmaids have performed reasonably well in the Preakness— three of the last five Derby runner-ups to compete in the Preakness have finished in the money, including last year's winner Exaggerator. 'Lee has improved in each of 10 lifetime starts, with seven in-the-money finishes. Look for him to be closing with bad intentions in the Pimlico stretch.

Classic Empire

Fourth in the Kentucky Derby following a very rough start, the 2-year-old champ never gave up. Trainer Mark Casse reported after the race that this colt's eye was swollen shut, probably the result of being pelted with mud in the middle of a 20-horse scrum. The eye appears to have healed quickly and the Arkansas Derby winner is headed to Pimlico for another shot at Always Dreaming. His lack of early speed left him with too much to do in Louisville and, unless some other horse forces Always Dreaming's hand early, 'Empire may be chasing him home 'too late' again in the Preakness.

Conquest Mo Money

Second, just one-half length behind Classic Empire in the Arkansas Derby, Conquest Mo Money skipped the Kentucky Derby. His owners saved \$50,000 (\$150,000 to \$200,000) by supplementing to the Preakness instead of the Derby. They can spend some of that saved cash on Baltimore crabs and Black-Eyed Susan cocktails. A real 'outsider,' who raced only at Sunland Park before his Hot Springs sojourn, he's won three of five starts under jockey Jorge Carreno. A relative unknown to racing fans, Carreno, according to Equibase.com, has had just one graded stakes victory—2012 Canadian Derby at Northlands Park aboard Tocctive.

Gunnevera

The Xpressbet Fountain of Youth winner's closing style was a disadvantage in the Kentucky Derby, as frontrunners finished first and third. Always Dreaming has soundly defeated him in two consecutive races: Xpressbet Florida Derby and Kentucky Derby. How will Gunnevera turn the tables on that foe in Baltimore? One thing that would help is if new faces Conquest Mo Money and Royal Mo put early pressure on the Derby winner. Without some help up front, the potential feel-good story of the sophomore season featuring Venezuelan connections might not include a victorious Preakness.

Royal Mo

From the connections that brought you Gormley in the Kentucky Derby,

Royal Mo was excluded from competing in that race because he didn't have enough qualified earnings. The silver lining in that cloud is that he joins an assortment of Derby-excluded runners who have done well in the Preakness. Hall of Fame jockey Gary Stevens again will ride 'Mo. Last out, after forcing the early pace in the Santa Anita Derby, 'Mo finished third alongside runner-up Battle of Midway. The latter returned to finish third in the Kentucky Derby.

PREAKNESS WINNERS AS HORSE OF THE YEAR

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>
2015	...AMERICAN PHAROAH
2014	...CALIFORNIA CHROME
2009	...RACHEL ALEXANDRA
2007	...CURLIN
2001	...POINT GIVEN
1999	...CHARISMATIC
1989	...SUNDAY SILENCE
1978	...AFFIRMED
1977	...SEATTLE SLEW
1973	...SECRETARIAT
1967	...DAMASCUS
1957	...BOLD RULER
1955	...NASHUA
1950	...HILL PRINCE
1949	...CAPOT
1948	...CITATION
1946	...ASSAULT
1943	...COUNT FLEET
1941	...WHIRLAWAY
1939	...CHALLEDON
1937	...WAR ADMIRAL

Dream a Little Dream of Me

by Bob Neumeier *NBC Sports Reporter*



Analysis: When Gus Kahn penned the lyrics to this song in the 1930s, little did he realize that the verse would be quoted in the aftermath of the 2017 Kentucky Derby. "But in your dreams whatever they be, dream a little dream of me." Mary Ellen Bonomo, one of the gazillion co-owners of **ALWAYS DREAMING**, coined that name after the actual sport of Thoroughbred racing. To paraphrase, "it's what people do every day." Bingo. **ALWAYS DREAMING** had been pointed toward the Kentucky Derby by crafty trainer Todd Pletcher and his go-to rider, John Velazquez. Now the horse, trainer and jockey must confront the abbreviated, Preakness Stakes' 14-day turnaround, which may be the regular routine for claiming trainers, but certainly not Todd Pletcher.

Main Contenders: On paper, **ALWAYS DREAMING** looks like a cinch at 3-5 odds. The early pace in the Preakness looks more to his liking than the cavalry charge at Churchill Downs. He decisively whipped the Derby runners, while the newcomers appear sketchy at best. The "dreams" could be shattered if the favorite "bounces" or "regresses" (which happens a million times in racing), breaks poorly, needs more time off than two weeks, or any other possible problems. As the late Woody Stephens once opined, "There is one way to win a race, and 20,000 ways to lose." Millions of handicappers from Maine to Spain will jump on **CLASSIC EMPIRE** after his Derby "trouble-line" as second wagering choice.

Value Plays: Should the favorite falter, **ROYAL MO** is next in line. Hall of Fame resident and rider Gary Stevens cannot get hooked up in a similar fiasco as in the Santa Anita Derby, when three horses (including **ROYAL MO**) ran as if they were in a Los Alamitos Quarter Horse dash. A more reasonable early pace also could benefit **CONQUEST MO MONEY**, a decent second in the Arkansas Derby. **MULTIPLIER** gets a solid number off an Illinois Derby win in late April. The expected race shape will not help Derby runner-up **LOOKIN AT LEE**. As for the others, **HENCE** "bounced" in Louisville. **GUNNEVERA** is "over-the-top." Finally, **CLOUD COMPUTING** and **SENIOR INVESTMENT** appear too slow.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$20 Exacta Part-Wheel: **ALWAYS DREAMING** over **ROYAL MO**, **CONQUEST MO MONEY** and **MULTIPLIER** (\$60)
- \$40 Win: **ROYAL MO** (\$40)

Xpressbet Preakness Derby Wager Guide free daily online updates with revised Analysis, Picks and Wagering Strategies begin Tuesday, May 16.

Picks

1. **ALWAYS DREAMING**
2. **ROYAL MO**
3. **CONQUEST MO MONEY**
4. **MULTIPLIER**

Revised Wager Guide Available Friday, May 19

Stats & Trends:

Derby Winners in Preakness

(Last 15 Years)

Year	Horse	Fin.	Odds
2016	Nyquist	3rd	3-5*
2015	American Pharoah	1st	4-5*
2014	California Chrome	1st	1-2*
2013	Orb	4th	3-5*
2012	I'll Have Another	1st	3-1
2011	Animal Kingdom	2nd	2-1*
2010	Super Saver	8th	9-5*
2009	Mine That Bird	2nd	6-1
2008	Big Brown	1st	1-5*
2007	Street Sense	2nd	6-5*
2006	Barbaro	dnf	1-2*
2005	Giacomo	3rd	6-1
2004	Smarty Jones	1st	3-5*
2003	Funny Cide	1st	9-5*
2002	War Emblem	1st	5-2*

*Preakness Favorite

Derby Runner-Ups in Preakness

(Last 15 Years)

Year	Horse	Fin.	Odds
2016	Exaggerator	1st	5-2
2015	Firing Line	7th	3-1
2014	did not compete	--	--
2013	did not compete	--	--
2012	Bodemeister	2nd	8-5*
2011	did not compete	--	--
2010	did not compete	--	--
2009	Pioneerof The Nile	11th	6-1
2008	did not compete	--	--
2007	Hard Spun	3rd	4-1
2006	did not compete	--	--
2005	Closing Argument	9th	7-1
2004	Lion Heart	4th	9-2
2003	did not compete	--	--
2002	Proud Citizen	3rd	7-1

Know This:

Three's the Limit

Afleet Alex, 2005, is the only Preakness favorite at 3-1 or more in 25 years.

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Exotic Wagering Chart

Preakness Day can produce some juicy exotic payoffs.
Use this handy Exotic Wagering Chart to plan your attack.

EXACTA BOX: (\$1 Wager)

2 horse box.....	\$2
3 horse box.....	\$6
4 horse box.....	\$12
5 horse box.....	\$20
6 horse box.....	\$30
7 horse box.....	\$42
8 horse box.....	\$56

EXACTA WHEEL: (\$1 Wager)

One Horse with All

6 horse field.....	\$5
7 horse field.....	\$6
8 horse field.....	\$7
9 horse field.....	\$8
10 horse field.....	\$9

TRIFECTA BOX: (\$.50 Wager)

3 Horse Box.....	\$3
4 Horse Box.....	\$12
5 Horse Box.....	\$30
6 Horse Box.....	\$60
7 Horse Box.....	\$105
8 Horse Box.....	\$168

TRIFECTA WHEEL: (\$.50 Wager)

One Horse with All with All

(Example: 1/All/All or All/1/All or All/All/1)

7 Horse Field.....	\$15
8 Horse Field.....	\$21
9 Horse Field.....	\$28
10 Horse Field.....	\$36

One Horse with Two Horses with All

(Example: 1/2,3/All or 2,3/1/All or 1/All/2,3 or 2,3/All/1 or All/1/2,3 or All/2,3/1)

7 Horse Field.....	\$5
8 Horse Field.....	\$6
9 Horse Field.....	\$7
10 Horse Field.....	\$8

TRIFECTA KEY: (\$.50 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others.....	\$3
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)	
1 Horse with 4 others.....	\$6
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)	
1 Horse with 5 others.....	\$10
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	
1 Horse with 6 others.....	\$15
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)	
1 Horse with 7 others.....	\$21
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)	

SUPERFECTA BOX: (\$.10 Wager)

4 Horse Box.....	\$2.40
5 Horse Box.....	\$12
6 Horse Box.....	\$36

SUPERFECTA WHEEL: (\$.10 Wager)

One Horse with All with All with All

(Example: 1/All/All/All or All/1/All/All or All/All/1/All or All/ All/ All/1)

7 Horse Field.....	\$12
8 Horse Field.....	\$21
9 Horse Field.....	\$33.60
10 Horse Field.....	\$50.40

One Horse with Two Horses with All with All

(Example: 1/2,3/All/All or 2,3/1/All/All or 1/All/All/2,3 or 2,3/All/All/1 or All/All/1/2,3 or All/All/2,3/1)

7 Horse Field.....	\$4
8 Horse Field.....	\$6
9 Horse Field.....	\$8.40
10 Horse Field.....	\$11.20

SUPERFECTA KEY: (\$.10 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others.....	\$.60
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)	
1 Horse with 4 others.....	\$2.40
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)	
1 Horse with 5 others.....	\$6
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	
1 Horse with 6 others.....	\$12
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)	
1 Horse with 7 others.....	\$21
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)	

Preakness Pared to a Pair

by Laffit Pincay *XBTV.com* & NBC Sports Reporter



Analysis: Five. Straight. Favorites. That's incredible. So, **ALWAYS DREAMING** came through for his Kentucky Derby backers at 9-to-2. For their loyalty, they now will have the pleasure of playing him at 4-to-5 in the Preakness. That's the way it goes. Here's the thing: favorites can win the Derby year after year after year and it really doesn't matter. Winning favorites in the Derby are still going to pay \$10, \$11, \$12. When the chalk wins the Preakness, the price is much shorter, and creativity is reserved for the exotics.

Main Contenders: Bob Baffert had an interesting quote after the Kentucky Derby, saying "**CLASSIC EMPIRE** is the only horse that can beat **ALWAYS DREAMING**." I agree with him. It's not creative. They will be the top two betting choices. Nothing I can say hasn't already been said about the Derby win of **ALWAYS DREAMING**. His combination of God-given ability, tactical speed and endurance is the stuff ... well ... that Derby winners are made of. If there is cause for pause, look to the wet track in Louisville. Remember what happened to Orb in Baltimore after his muddy Derby score. As for **CLASSIC EMPIRE** in the Derby, that's horse racing. The 2YO champ's difficult path included the foot abscess, back trouble, refusals to work, etc. Just when it looked like the Casse Boys had pulled off a minor miracle with the clock ticking ... boom! The champ got crushed leaving the gate. **CLASSIC EMPIRE** finished fourth on class alone and needs nothing more than a clean trip for an opportunity to spoil the party looming in New York.

Value Plays: **HENCE** offers the longer price of the Steve Asmussen-trained closers in respect to Derby runner-up **LOOKIN AT LEE**. I'll buy the 'He didn't like the track' excuse with the mud-covered **HENCE** as he did close from 19th to 11th and trained too well at Churchill to ignore. **ROYAL MO** may benefit long-run from missing the Derby. He's a big, impressive colt who figured to take a little more time to develop. The Derby third of Battle of Midway flatters him with a similar style.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$40 Exacta Box: **ALWAYS DREAMING** and **CLASSIC EMPIRE** (\$80)
- \$5 Exacta Part-Wheel: **ALWAYS DREAMING** and **CLASSIC EMPIRE** over **HENCE** and **ROYAL MO** (\$20)

Always Dreaming Extras

He is the fifth straight favorite to win the Kentucky Derby, second longest streak ever (6 in a row 1891-1896).

Picks

1. **ALWAYS DREAMING**
2. **CLASSIC EMPIRE**
3. **HENCE**
4. **ROYAL MO**

Revised Wager Guide Available Friday, May 19

Stats & Trends:

Fastest Preakness Stakes

Year	Horse	Time
1973	Secretariat	1:53
1985	Tank's Prospect	1:53 2/5
1996	Louis Quatorze	1:53 2/5
2007	Curlin	1:53 2/5
1984	Gate Dancer	1:53 3/5
1990	Summer Squall	1:53 3/5
1989	Sunday Silence	1:53 4/5
1991	Hansel	1:54
1971	Cannonero II	1:54

Fastest Fractions

Dist.	Time	Horse
1/4	:22 2/5	(Tied 4 times)
1/2	:45	Bold Forbes (1976)
3/4	1:09	Bold Forbes (1976)
Mile	1:34 1/5	Sunday Silence (1989) Chief's Crown (1985) Secretariat (1973)
Final	1:53 2/5	Secretariat (1973)

Half-Mile Leaders

(Last 10 Years)

Year	Horse	Finish
2016	Nyquist	3rd
2015	American Pharoah	1st
2014	Pablo Del Monte	6th
2013	Oxbow	1st
2012	Bodemeister	2nd
2011	Flashpoint	14th
2010	First Dude	2nd
2009	Rachel Alexandra	1st
2008	Gayego	11th
2007	Xchanger	8th

Know This:

Keeneland Keys

Horses last prepped at Keeneland have filled half of Preakness superfecta slots in both 2015 and 2016 – Cherry Wine, Stradivari, Tale of Verve, Divining Rod.

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No More Dreams, Just Reality

by Jeff Siegel *XBTV.com Analyst*



Analysis: The dominating victory by **ALWAYS DREAMING** in the Kentucky Derby was easily predictable, and so should his impending win in the Preakness. Still, there are those who now will question the colt's ability to reproduce his best form after just two weeks of recovery time. During his six-race career, he's always enjoyed a least a month in between outings. But we can easily judge his state of fitness during the 14-day turnaround by comparing his level of energy with that which he displayed in the few days leading up to his Derby run. Approaching the Derby, **ALWAYS DREAMING** was a powder keg. A similar amount of enthusiasm during Preakness week would be nice to see.

Main Contenders: Each of the Derby winner's 2017 victories have come by daylight (smallest margin 2 3/4 lengths). More significantly, **ALWAYS DREAMING** seems immune to traffic trouble and poor racing luck, owing to his extreme athleticism that allows for a quick gate break to secure any early position that jockey John Velazquez desires. The ability to switch off midway – and then quicken when asked – allows for easy adaptability to any pace scenario. Oh, he can handle the mud, too.

Value Plays: The 9-to-2 gift that **ALWAYS DREAMING** offered in Kentucky is gone forever, so let's try to identify the second and/or third-place finishers. **CLASSIC EMPIRE**, the victim of a poor trip at Churchill Downs, deserves another chance, and at least has a race to go back to (his G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile win) that makes him a threat. **CLOUD COMPUTING**, with just three lifetime starts, has plenty of room for improvement and looks very much like the best of the new shooters. **CONQUEST MO MONEY**, who finished just a half-length behind **'EMPIRE** in the Arkansas Derby and has been pointing for this race ever since, is on the 'must-consider' list as well.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$40 Exacta: **ALWAYS DREAMING** over **CLASSIC EMPIRE** and **CLOUD COMPUTING** (\$80)
- \$20 Exacta: **ALWAYS DREAMING** over **CONQUEST MO MONEY** (\$20)

Always Dreaming Extras

He is the sixth straight Kentucky Derby winner that was unbeaten at age 3. The last Derby winner with a 3-year-old defeat was Animal Kingdom in 2011.

He is the latest maiden breaker (January 25) of any Kentucky Derby winner since Broker's Tip (1933) won the Derby as a maiden.

Picks

1. ALWAYS DREAMING
2. CLASSIC EMPIRE
3. CLOUD COMPUTING
4. CONQUEST MO MONEY

Revised Wager Guide Available Friday, May 19

Stats & Trends:

Wire-to-Wire Winners

(Last 50 Years)

Year	Horse
2015	American Pharoah*
2013	Oxbow *
2009	Rachel Alexandra *
1996	Louis Quatorze *
1982	Aloma's Ruler
1972	Bee Bee Bee

*Did not lead at start call.

Last-to-First Winners

(Since 1910)

Year	Horse	Strs.	Behind 1/2 Mile
1974	Little Current	13	10 1/2 lengths
1961	Carry Back	9	14 1/2 lengths
1952	Blue Man	10	13 1/2 lengths
1941	Whirlaway	9	9 lengths

Successful Locals

(Last 20 Years)

Year	Horse	Fin.
2008	Icabad Crane	3rd
2006	Sweetnorthernst	2nd
2005	Scrappy T	2nd
2002	Magic Weisner	2nd
1997	Captain Bodgit	3rd

Know This:

Make Room For Me

Horses excluded from the Kentucky Derby points chase have finished second in the last 2 Preakness Stakes – Tale of Verve in 2015 and Cherry Wine in 2016. Other successful Derby exclusions include Hemmingway's Key (3rd, '06) and Rock Hard Ten (2nd, '04).

Longshots Need Not Apply

Only 2 horses have won the Preakness at odds of 20-1 or more.

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The Dreaming Continues

by Jon White *Santa Anita Morning Line Oddsmaker*



Analysis: I admit it. I was not a believer in **ALWAYS DREAMING** going into the Kentucky Derby. But I am now after his 2 ¾-length triumph. Yes, the track was wet. But his victory most certainly was not solely because he relished a wet surface. When racing on a fast track, **ALWAYS DREAMING** won the Xpressbet Florida Derby earlier this year by five emphatic lengths, proof that he does not require a wet surface in order to perform admirably. Now 4-for-4 this year, **ALWAYS DREAMING** appears poised to come right back and win the Preakness, a double that has been achieved in 10 of the last 20 years. **CLASSIC EMPIRE** did quite well to finish fourth in the "Run for the Roses" despite nearly getting knocked down immediately after the start and emerging from battle with a swollen right eye. Would **CLASSIC EMPIRE** have won with a good trip? I doubt it, since he ended up 8 ¾ lengths behind **ALWAYS DREAMING**. However, I think **CLASSIC EMPIRE** could have finished second with better racing luck.

Main Contenders: After they finished 1-2-4 going 1 ¼ miles in Louisville, **ALWAYS DREAMING**, **LOOKIN AT LEE** and **CLASSIC EMPIRE** seem main contenders going 1 3/16 miles in Baltimore. According to recent history, the 2017 Preakness winner most likely is someone who competed in the Derby. That's because just 3 of the last 33 Preakness winners (Red Bullet in 2000, Bernardini in 2006 and Rachel Alexandra in 2009) did not run in the Derby.

Value Plays: **ROYAL MO** did not get the opportunity to participate in the Kentucky Derby, stuck on the also-eligible list due to insufficient points to draw into the race. Even though the odds seem stacked against **ROYAL MO** winning the Preakness because he didn't start in the Kentucky Derby, he ran a sneaky-good third in the Santa Anita Derby when a pace factor all the way after breaking from post 13. The final time of the 1 1/8-mile Santa Anita Derby was slow (1:51.16), but the race gained a measure of respectability when runner-up Battle Of Midway subsequently finished third in the Kentucky Derby.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$80 Win: **ALWAYS DREAMING** (\$80)
- \$6 Win: **ROYAL MO** (\$6)
- \$14 Exacta: **ALWAYS DREAMING** over **CLASSIC EMPIRE** (\$14)

Xpressbet Preakness Derby Wager Guide free daily online updates with revised Analysis, Picks and Wagering Strategies begin Tuesday, May 16.

Picks

1. **ALWAYS DREAMING**
2. **CLASSIC EMPIRE**
3. **LOOKIN AT LEE**
4. **ROYAL MO**

Revised Wager Guide Available Friday, May 19

Stats & Trends:

Winners Who Skipped Derby

(Since 1970)

Year	Horse
2009	Rachel Alexandra
2006	Bernardini
2000	Red Bullet
1983	Deputed Testamony
1982	Aloma's Ruler
1980	Codex
1972	Bee Bee Bee

Where Winners Were Bred

Wins	State
97	Kentucky
8	Maryland
7	Florida
6	Pennsylvania
6	Virginia

Know This:

'California' Here We Come

California-based jockeys have won the Preakness each of the past five years, including Kent Desormeaux, Victor Espinoza (twice), Gary Stevens and Mario Gutierrez. Kentucky-based Jesus Castanon captured the 2011 Preakness aboard Shackleford prior to this streak.

Odds-On Favorites

The last 4 Preakness favorites have been odds-on propositions: Nyquist (3-5), American Pharoah (4-5), California Chrome (1-2) and Orb (3-5). They own a 4: 2-0-1 record. Nyquist at 3-5 last year became the 13th odds-on favorite to lose the Preakness.

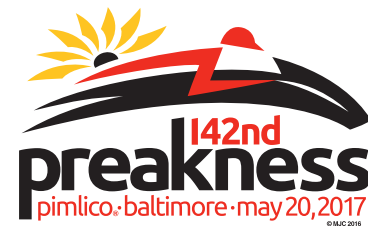
Popularity Contest

The Preakness favorite is 72-for-142, scoring just over the 50% mark all-time.

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Upset Alternatives

by Dick Jerardi *Daily Racing Form Columnist*



Analysis: The evidence is not overwhelming, but a pretty good case can be made that the rail was the best part of the main track over Kentucky Derby weekend at Churchill Downs. The very best evidence is the overhead NBC shot of the far turn when 33-1 **LOOKIN AT LEE**, hard to the rail, was absolutely flying on a part of the strip that just looked different and more compacted. Derby winner **ALWAYS DREAMING** was on or close to the rail for just about the entire trip. Thus, the 1-2 Derby finishers benefitted from great trips on what certainly appeared to be the best part of the track. If you believe that, and start analyzing the Preakness with that in mind, you have to look for a way to beat the favorite.

Main Contenders: **ALWAYS DREAMING** is 4-for-4 for Todd Pletcher and none of the races have been close, a total winning margin of 23 lengths. This does not happen by accident. This is a very talented colt, clearly the best Pletcher has brought to the Triple Crown series. With the speed that gets him great position race after race, **ALWAYS DREAMING** is again the horse to beat, but this time at 6-5 or so instead of 9-2. **CLASSIC EMPIRE** had a Murphy's Law trip in the Derby. Whatever could go wrong, did go wrong. Yet, the colt was still trying in the stretch to be fourth. **LOOKIN AT LEE** has run in seven consecutive graded stakes, but has won none of them. He is a bet-against. **CLOUD COMPUTING** has the look of a horse that could be about ready to explode if he gets the right setup.

Value Plays: **CONQUEST MO MONEY** never stopped trying after a race-long speed duel in the Arkansas Derby. His Beyer figure has gone up in every start. He could be very dangerous if he can somehow get loose on the lead.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$50 Exacta Box: **CLOUD COMPUTING** and **CLASSIC EMPIRE** (\$100)

Always Dreaming Extras

He is the first Kentucky Derby winner to break his maiden as a 3-year-old since Monarchos in 2001. He also won the Florida & Kentucky Derbies.

He is the 24th Florida Derby alum to win the Kentucky Derby. The Gulfstream event passes the Blue Grass Stakes as the most prolific prep race.

He is the 15th horse to win Florida Derby and Kentucky Derby.

He is the first starting Derby favorite that was NOT the morning line favorite since Street Sense in 2007, when Curlin was the morning line choice.

Note: In 2009, the morning line favorite (I Want Revenge) scratched.

Picks

1. **CLOUD COMPUTING**
2. **CLASSIC EMPIRE**
3. **ALWAYS DREAMING**
4. **CONQUEST MO MONEY**

Revised Wager Guide Available Friday, May 19

Stats & Trends:

Soph Champions

(Preakness winner named Champion 3-year-old in 13 of the last 16 years.)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>
2015	American Pharoah
2014	California Chrome
2012	I'll Have Another
2010	Lookin At Lucky
2009	Rachel Alexandra (filly)
2008	Big Brown
2007	Curlin
2006	Bernardini
2005	Afleet Alex
2004	Smarty Jones
2003	Funny Cide
2002	War Emblem
2001	Point Given

2016 Preakness Handle

(Millions, Except for Double)

<u>Pool</u>	<u>Handle</u>
Win, Place, Show	\$ 21.7
Trifecta	\$ 14.0
Exacta	\$ 11.4
Superfecta	\$ 7.3
Pick Four	\$ 2.3
'Susan /Preakness Double	\$ 748k

Largest Preakness Crowds

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Winner</u>
135,256	2016	Exaggerator
131,680	2015	American Pharoah
123,469	2014	California Chrome
121,309	2012	I'll Have Another
121,264	2007	Curlin

Know This:

50/50

Derby winners have added the Preakness trophy 10 times in the last 20 years.

Overall, Derby winners have doubled-down at Pimlico 35 times.

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Crown Try a Reality

by Steve Byk *At the Races (SiriusXM) Host*



Analysis: As mentioned annually, runners contesting the Preakness off favorable (or forgivable) Derby efforts should be the foundation of your wagers. In the last 15 editions of the Preakness, 13 winners of the Woodlawn Vase arrived from Louisville after overwhelmingly positive results. Bernardini (2006) and Rachel Alexandra (2009) were the exceptions with obvious extenuating circumstances involved. The 2017 Preakness decisions start with 3 of the Derby Top 4 as runner-up **LOOKIN AT LEE** and compromised **CLASSIC EMPIRE** join **ALWAYS DREAMING** at Pimlico. **GUNNEVERA** (7th) adds Mike Smith and fast track-seeking **HENCE** (11th) also move from Louisville to Baltimore.

Main Contenders: It's hard to envision any of the 5 classic newcomers denying **ALWAYS DREAMING** a second crown jewel, but **CLASSIC EMPIRE** will enter the Preakness gate looking a lot like Derby-doomed Lookin at Lucky did when he faced and bested Pletcher's previous wet-track Derby winner Super Saver in 2010. Assuming a cleaner break, **CLASSIC EMPIRE** figures to employ stalk-and-pounce tactics on **ALWAYS DREAMING**, who should face some pace entanglements from **CONQUEST MO MONEY** and possibly **ROYAL MO**. If **ALWAYS DREAMING** fails at Old Hilltop, **CLASSIC EMPIRE** will be the likely reason.

Value Plays: **CLOUD COMPUTING** could be a beneficiary of any heated duel on the front end and could be a \$20 horse. Despite Exaggerator's success here last year, the overall record of Derby runners-up a fortnight later is poor. With that in mind, **GUNNEVERA** may be preferable to **LOOKIN AT LEE** as a deep closer for the exotics, adding Smith and at perhaps a 50% better number than the Derby's place horse.

Wagering Strategies (\$100):

- \$5 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **ALWAYS DREAMING, CLASSIC EMPIRE** with **ALWAYS DREAMING, CLASSIC EMPIRE, CLOUD COMPUTING** with **ALWAYS DREAMING, CLASSIC EMPIRE, CLOUD COMPUTING, GUNNEVERA, CONQUEST MO MONEY, HENCE, LOOKIN AT LEE** (\$100)

Always Dreaming Extras

He is the eighth highest priced Kentucky Derby post-time favorite at 4.7-to-1. Highest since Orb was 5.4-to-1 in 2013.

He is a fourth generation Kentucky Derby success story – sire Bodemeister (2nd in '12), grandsire Empire Maker (2nd in '03) and great-grandsire Unbridled (1st in '90).

Picks

1. ALWAYS DREAMING
2. CLASSIC EMPIRE
3. CLOUD COMPUTING
4. GUNNEVERA

Revised Wager Guide Available Friday, May 19

Stats & Trends:

Longshot Winners

(15-1 or more)

\$2 Payoff	Horse	Year
\$48.80	Master Derby	1975
\$45.60	Coventry	1925
\$40.70	Display	1926
\$39.40	Bee Bee Bee	1972
\$32.80	Oxbow	2013
\$32.00	Hindus	1900
\$32.00	Don Enrique	1907

Preakness Rebounds

(Derby 5th or Worse and Won Preakness)

Year	Horse	Finish
2013	Oxbow	6th
2010	Lookin at Lucky	6th
2001	Point Given	5th
1996	Louis Quatorze	16th
1994	Tabasco Cat	6th
1992	Pine Bluff	5th
1991	Hansel	10th
1986	Snow Chief	11th
1985	Tank's Prospect	7th
1984	Gate Dancer	5th
1974	Little Current	5th
1970	Personality	8th
1927	Bostonian	5th
1926	Display	10th
1900	Hindus	7th

Know This:

Rebellious Results

Last year's longshot runner-up Cherry Wine continued a decade-plus successful run of Rebel Stakes alumni from Oaklawn's spring season. Predecessors include Preakness champs Smarty Jones, Afleet Alex, Curlin, Lookin At Lucky and Oxbow.

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