

13

Pimlico 1 3/16 MILES (1:52) Preaknes-G1 THE PREAKNESS. Grade I. Purse \$1,500,000 For

Three-year-olds. \$15,000 to pass the entry box, starters to pay \$15,000 additional. Supplemental nominations may be made in accordance with the rules, upon payment of \$150,000, 60% of the purse to the winner, 20% to second, 11% to third, 6% to fourth and 3% to fifth. Weight: 126 pounds for Colts and Geldings, 121 pounds for Fillies. A replica of the Woodlawn Vase will be presented to the winning owner to remain his or her personal property.



Post time: 7:01 ET

Wagers: Exacta, 50 Cent Trifecta & Daily Double, 10 Cent Superfecta, \$1.00 Super High 5

Beyer par: 103

1 Simplification

Own: Bobo Tami and De Meric Tristan
6-1 White, Red Key On Gray & Blue Padlock

VELAZQUEZ J R (4 0 2 0 .00) 2022: (224 35 .16)

B. c. 3 (Feb)
Sire: Not This Time (Giant's Causeway) \$75,000
Dam: Simply Confection (Candy Ride* Arg)
Br: France Weiner & Irwin Weiner (Fla)
Tr: Sano Antonio(1 0 0 0 .00) 2022:(248 27 .11)

Table with columns: Life, 8, 3, 1, 2, \$665,350, 96, D.Fst, 7, 3, 1, 2, \$664,800, 96. Includes rows for Wet(449), Synth, Turf(378), Dst(418).

TimeformUS Pace: Early 88 Late 102

Table with columns: Race, Date, Class, Time, Sire, Dam, Br, Tr, and various race results.

WORKS: 29Apr22 GP 5f mt 1:00.2 B 1/10 22Apr22 GP 5f mt :59.2 B 4/17 15Apr22 GP 5f mt 1:01.4 B 4/6 26Mar22 GP 5f mt :59.4 B 2/31 19Mar22 GP 5f mt 1:01.4 B 15/28 26Feb22 GP 5f mt 1:02.3 B 38/41

19Feb22 GP 5f mt :58.3 B 1/42 29Jan22 GP 6f mt 1:13 B 1/1

TRAINER: Dirt(455 .13 \$1.25) Routes(418 .13 \$2.02) GrdStk(14.07 \$0.50)

J/T 2021-22 PIM(1.00 \$0.00) J/T 2021-22(3.00 \$0.00)

CLOSER LOOK: Earned a 92 Beyer blowing away maidens last October to become one of the faster 2-year-olds of 2021, then confirmed that figure when taking the Mucho Macho Man in his stakes and route debut two starts later. He showed that he can run through some adversity when rallying for second in the Holy Bull after breaking poorly, after which he took the Fountain of Youth from off the pace with a 96 Beyer. Being involved on the pace worked against him in the Florida Derby, and he reverted to closing tactics when finishing a good 4th in Kentucky and confirming that he ranks among the top colts of this crop. Starts from a good past and projects to have some pace in front of him here.

2 Creative Minister

Own: Fern Circle Stables Back Racing LLC a
10-1 Royal Blue, White Stars, White Stars On

HERNANDEZ B J JR (-) 2022: (327 60 .18)

Gr/ro. c. 3 (Apr) KESEEP20 \$180,000
Sire: Creative Cause (Giant's Causeway) \$7,500
Dam: Tambor (Tapit)
Br: Dell Ridge Farm LLC (Ky)
Tr: McPeeK Kenneth G(-) 2022:(119 18 .15)

Table with columns: Life, 3, 2, 1, 0, \$140,595, 92, D.Fst, 2, 1, 1, 0, \$84,020, 92. Includes rows for Wet(368), Synth, Turf(295), Dst(366).

TimeformUS Pace: Early 99 Late 80

Table with columns: Race, Date, Class, Time, Sire, Dam, Br, Tr, and various race results.

WORKS: 30Apr22 CD 5f mt 1:00.2 B 6/55 23Apr22 CD 5f mt 1:01.3 B 35/70 2Apr22 GP 4f mt :50.1 B 53/84 26Mar22 GP 4f mt :47 B 1/113 19Mar22 GP 4f mt :49.1 B 40/115 26Feb22 GP 5f mt :58.3 B 2/41

18Feb22 GP 4f mt :49 Bg 17/45 12Feb22 GP 4f mt :50.1 B 62/113

TRAINER: WonLastStart(73 .15 \$1.53) Dirt(377 .16 \$1.91) Routes(414 .16 \$1.99) GrdStk(67.15 \$1.61)

J/T 2021-22(240 .20 \$1.89)

One of the most lightly-raced colts in this race - both he and Early Voting will be making just the fourth starts of their respective careers on Saturday - he is also the lone runner in this Preakness without any prior stakes experience. He has won both starts since stretching out in distance following a green debut sprinting, and he has also proven to be quite handy in the running while improving with each start so far. He has much to prove while stepping up for the first time, and he raced on the Der by undercard, so doesn't have the benefit of coming into this race fresh, but catches a break with many of the Derby also-rans electing to pass this race and he would appear to have as much upside as anyone in this field. Don't overlook.

3 Fenwick

Own: Villa Rosa Farm and Harlo Stable
50-1 White, Blue Roses, Pink Roses On Blue

GEROUX F (3 2 0 0 .67) 2022: (246 39 .16)

Ch. c. 3 (Apr) FTKOCT20 \$52,000
Sire: Curlin (Smart Strike) \$175,000
Dam: Make the Sun Shine (Malibu Moon)
Br: John C Oxley (Ky)
Tr: McKathan Kevin(-) 2022:(1 0 .00)

Table with columns: Life, 6, 1, 1, 0, \$53,840, 88, D.Fst, 4, 0, 1, 0, \$22,140, 68. Includes rows for Wet(428), Synth, Turf(287), Dst(375).

TimeformUS Pace: Early 97 Late 70

Table with columns: Race, Date, Class, Time, Sire, Dam, Br, Tr, and various race results.

WORKS: 13May22 CD 5f mt 1:00.4 B 16/28 5May22 CD 4f mt :49.2 B 60/81 4Apr22 Kee 4f mt :49.3 B 5/11 6Feb22 FG 5f mt 1:01.1 B 13/95 31Jan22 FG 5f mt 1:01 B 7/15 18Jan22 FG 4f mt :50.2 B 20/26

11Jan22 FG 5f mt 1:00.4 B 1/8 4Jan22 FG 5f mt 1:01.4 B 8/27

TRAINER: Dirt(1.00 \$0.00) Routes(1.00 \$0.00) GrdStk(1.00 \$0.00)

J/T 2021-22(1.00 \$0.00)

Improved suddenly when adding blinkers and finding improved early speed en route to a dominant maiden win in March at Tampa, where he easily defeated heavy favorite Commandperformance, who was Grade 1-placed as a 2-year-old and finished fourth at the Breeders' Cup. He stepped into the Blue Grass right off that maiden score and lost whatever chance he had early on when breaking poorly and then getting into traffic on the first turn. He clearly has much to prove, and being a speed-type isn't necessarily going to help him with other quality pace signed on to this race, but he did look good in the lone victory to date and is going to be a huge price if you like him.

4 Secret Oath

Own: Briiland Farm
Royal Blue, Lime Sash, Lime Bars On

SAEZ L (7 1 1 2 .14) 2022: (587 120 .20)

Table with columns for race dates, times, and performance statistics for Secret Oath.

WORKS: 25Apr22 CD 6f fst 1:13 B 1/1 15Apr22 CD 5f fst :59.1 B 3/60 25Mar22 OP 5f fst 1:01 B 8/17

10Feb22 OP 4f fst :49.2 B 29/82 11Jan22 OP 4f fst :46.4 B 1/78

TRAINER: WonLastStart(28 .18 \$1.39) Dirt(245 .10 \$1.11) Routes(143 .11 \$1.17) GrdStk(14 .14 \$0.96)

Confirmed her position as the leading 3yo filly in the country in her convincing Kentucky Oaks win fifteen days ago with a new Beyer top. In the midst of winning four in a row vs. her own sex, she passed on Oaklawn's Fantasy Stakes to take on colts in the Arkansas Derby. She could only manage third as the favorite in that race, though she didn't have the best of trips after getting bumped at the start and ultimately acquitted herself well.

5 Early Voting

Own: Klaravich Stables Inc
White, Red Braces & Ks, White & Red

ORTIZ J L (4 1 0 0 .25) 2022: (460 97 .21)

Table with columns for race dates, times, and performance statistics for Early Voting.

WORKS: 13May22 Bel 5f fst 1:00.3 B 1/11 6May22 Bel 5f fst 1:02 B 3/7 30Apr22 Bel 5f fst 1:00.3 B 2/14

18Mar22 Bel tr.t 4f fst :48.2 B 26/136 11Mar22 Bel tr.t 4f fst :47.4 B 18/255

TRAINER: 2Off45-180(144 .28 \$1.90) 31-60Days(383 .28 \$1.84) Dirt(415 .27 \$1.60) Routes(859 .27 \$1.87) GrdStk(245 .20 \$1.50)

Well-bred Gun Runner colt made an impression right away when winning convincingly at first-asking going a mile. He stepped right into a Grade 3 to make his second start while stretching out to nine furlongs, where he took no prisoners on a quick pace and never let that field into the race. That Withers didn't pull the strongest field but that was still a solid effort, and Early Voting confirmed that he has a chance to play near the top of this division when just missing in a strong Wood Memorial last time.

6 Happy Jack

Own: Calumet Farm
Black, Gold Chevrons, Gold Chevrons On

GAFFALIONE T (5 0 1 1 .00) 2022: (611 115 .19)

Table with columns for race dates, times, and performance statistics for Happy Jack.

WORKS: 30Apr22 Kee 1 fst 1:39.3 B 1/1 2Apr22 SA 6f fst 1:14.1 H 5/12 26Mar22 SA 5f fst 1:00.4 H 10/54

30Jan22 SA 4f fst :49.4 H 46/87 15Jan22 SA 5f fst 1:01 H 9/50

TRAINER: BlinkOn(70 .16 \$1.99) Dirt(416 .16 \$1.53) Routes(357 .14 \$1.08) GrdStk(71 .06 \$0.48)

Calumet homebred by 2013 Preakness winner Oxbow is eligible for an entry-level allowance and is the slowest horse in this field with an 83 Beyer top showing. The lone win to date came in his career debut sprinting. He looked good that day winning at a big price from off the pace, but he was not competitive in any of his next three starts vs. graded stakes rivals - though he did finish a distant third in both the San Felipe and the Santa Anita Derby to get enough points to run in Kentucky two weeks ago, where he was nowhere after acting up at the gate.

7 Armagnac

Own: SF Racing LLC Starlight Racing Madake
Light Blue, Pink Bell, Pink Band On

ORTIZ I JR (6 1 4 0 .17) 2022: (467 125 .27)

Table with columns for race dates, times, and performance statistics for Armagnac.

WORKS: 30Apr22 SA 4f fst :48 H 13/76 24Apr22 SA 4f fst :48.3 H 39/109 1Apr22 SA 6f fst 1:11.4 H 1/6

11Feb22 SA 6f fst 1:14.2 H 2/2 4Feb22 SA 5f fst 1:01.3 H 8/36

TRAINER: WonLastStart(28 .18 \$1.04) Dirt(96 .19 \$1.71) Routes(89 .12 \$0.83) GrdStk(14 .14 \$0.96)

Quality Road colt is from the female family of Strodes Creek, who was second in the Derby and third in the Belmont several years ago. Began his career for Baffert and used his speed to break his maiden immediately upon stretching out in distance in January. He was no factor in either the San Felipe or Santa Anita Derby in races that were not run to suit him with other quality speed signed on. Took some class relief last month for Yakteen and wired allowance rivals with a career-best 93 Beyer. He has been at his best when able to make the running and he might not be the fastest horse early in this Preakness, but he is also likely to be a fair price with one of the top riders in the country taking over. Some things to like.

8 Epicenter

Own: Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC
6-5 Maroon, White Circled W, White Bars
ROSARIO J (4 0 0 2 .00) 2022: (311 66 .21)

B. c. 3 (Jan) KEESEP20 \$260,000
Sire: Not This Time (Giant's Causeway) \$75,000
Dam: Silent Candy (Candy Ride Arg)
Br: Westwind Farms (Ky)
Tr: Asmussen Steven M (1 0 0 1 .00) 2022:(951 173 .18)

Life	7	4	2	0	\$1,610,639	102
2022	4	2	2	0	\$1,480,000	102
2021	3	2	0	0	\$130,639	87
Pim	0	0	0	0	\$0	-

D.Fst	6	3	2	0	\$1,541,179	102
Wet(449)	1	1	0	0	\$69,460	80
Synth	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
Turf(378)	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
Dst(418)	2	1	1	0	\$1,200,000	102

TimeformUS Pace: Early 115 Late 87

7May22-12CD	fst	1 1/4	461:50 ³	:25 ³	KyDerby-G1	100	3/20	86	8 1/2	1hd	11	2 3/4	Rosario J	126
26Mar22-12FG	fst	1 1/8	473:24 ¹	:42 ²	LaDerby-G2	102	6/9	32	3 1/2	3 1/2	11 1/2	12 1/2	Rosario J	122
19Feb22-13FG	fst	1 1/8	474:24 ¹	:12 ²	RisenStr-G2	98	5/10	11	11	11 1/2	14 1/2	12 3/4	Rosario J	122
22Jan22-14FG	fst	1 1/8	232:23 ³	:25 :32 ¹	Lecomte-G3	88	5/9	1 1/2	1 1/2	11	1 1/2	2hd	Rosario J	122
26Dec21-11FG	fst	1 1/8	242:23 ¹	:24 ⁴ :31 ³	GunRunnerB98k	87	1/7	2 1/2	2hd	2hd	13	16 1/2	Hernandez B J Jr	122
13Nov21-8CD	gd	1	224:22 ⁴	:24 ² :25 ⁴	Md Sp Wt 120k	80	10/10	1 1/2	2hd	1 1/2	13	13 1/2	Rosario J	119
18Sep21-5CD	fst	7f	221:23 ¹	:24 ⁴ :13 ²	Md Sp Wt 120k	64	2/10	4	1 1/2	1 1/2	32 1/2	67 3/4	Santana R Jr	119

*4.10	89-08	Rich Strike126 ³	Epicenter126 ³	Zandon126 ²	Shook clear, caught
*1.00	104-01	Epicenter122 ³	Zozos122 ²	Pioneer of Medina122 ³	Rate ins, authoritative
3.50	101-02	Epicenter122 ³	Smile Happy122 ³	Zandon122 ^{hd}	Glided away, geared down
1.60	92-09	Call MeMidnight122 ^{hd}	Epicenter122 ³	Pappacap122 ³	2p, dueld1/4, game, naild
2.90	91-09	Epicenter122 ⁶	Tejano Twist122 ²	Surfer Dude122 ^{hd}	Vied 2wd, ridden out
3.10	88-17	Epicenter119 ³	Seal Beach119 ²	Surfer Dude119 ³	Controlled pace, clear
13.20	81-13	Great Escape119 ²	Seal Beach119 ³	Giant Game119 ^{no}	Ins trn, 2p1/4, gave way

WORKS: 16May22 CD 4f fst :50² B 31/38 1May22 CD 5f my 1:01 B 3/6 24Apr22 CD 6f fst 1:12 B 3/4 17Apr22 CD 5f fst 1:00⁴ B 7/26 10Apr22 CD 5f fst 1:01 B 7/22 21Mar22 FG 4f fst :51 B 17/22
 ● 14Mar22 FG 5f fst :59⁴ B 1/14 ● 7Mar22 FG 5f fst :59³ B 1/21

TRAINER: Dirt(2685 .20 \$1.43) Routes(1377 .17 \$1.30) GrdStk(165 .18 \$1.38)

He has been a leading 3yo from early on and went favored in the Derby two weeks ago following dominant wins in his final two preps at Fair Grounds. He was run down by an impossible horse in the Derby, but it is easy enough to go through that race from start to finish and make the case that Epicenter was the best horse on the day and a very unlucky loser. Suppose wheeling back two weeks after a hard effort going 1 1/4 miles could be reason enough to take a shot against him at a short price, but any of his last three efforts makes him faster than anything his eight rivals have ever run, and he is not going to be compromised by dynamics. The clear horse to beat.

J/T 2021-22(214 .24 \$1.32)

9 SkippyLongstocking

Own: Alonso Daniel
20-1 White, White Infinity Symbol On Orange
ALVARADO J (-) 2022: (454 62 .14)

B. c. 3 (Apr) OBSAPR21 \$37,000
Sire: Exaggerator (Curlin) \$5,000
Dam: Twinkling (War Chant)
Br: Brushy Hill LLC (Ky)
Tr: Joseph S A Jr (-) 2022:(293 62 .21)

Life	9	2	1	2	\$165,100	91
2022	4	1	0	1	\$111,600	91
2021	5	1	1	1	\$53,500	75
Pim	0	0	0	0	\$0	-

D.Fst	9	2	1	2	\$165,100	91
Wet(328)	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
Synth	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
Turf(263)	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
Dst(312)	0	0	0	0	\$0	-

TimeformUS Pace: Early 99 Late 89

9Apr22-8Aqu	fst	1 1/8	481:23 ⁴	:24 :12 ¹	WoodMem-G2	91	6/8	53	5 3/4	4 3/4	54	33 3/4	Alvarado J	123
2Mar22-4GP	fst	1 1/8	463:24 ²	:25 ³ :12 ⁴	OC 75k/n1x-N	88	1/6	48 1/2	49 1/2	47 1/2	12 1/2	13 3/4	Alvarado J	L120
4Feb22-9GP	fst	1	231:22 ²	:24 ³ :26 ³	OC 75k/n1x-N	79	6/8	2hd	2 1/2	2hd	32 1/2	47 1/4	Alvarado J	L120
1Jan22-10GP	fst	1	234:22	:24 :27 ⁴	MuchoMManL150k	60	5/6	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	55	61 7/8	Gaffalione T	118b
5Dec21-10GP	fst	1	232:22 ¹	:24 ² :26	OC 75k/n1x-N	70	7/8	43	2hd	2 1/2	21	34	Gaffalione T	120
31Oct21-10CD	fst	1 1/8	25	:24 ² :25 :32	StretSnsL200k	63	3/7	3 1/2	3 1/2	42	45 1/2	41 3/4	Gaffalione T	122
26Sep21-3GP	fst	1	25	:22 ⁴ :24 ⁴ :25	Md Sp Wt 45k	75	6/6	3 1/2	1hd	13	18	110 1/2	Diaz J Jr	118
7Aug21-8GP	fst	7f	231:23	:24 ³ :13 ¹	Md Sp Wt 45k	65	5/11	5	5 3/4	4 1/2	22 1/2	23 1/4	Diaz J Jr	118
10Jly21-7GP	fst	5 1/2 f	233	:42 ³	Md Sp Wt 45k	49	9/9	7	6 3/4	5 1/2	43 1/2	45 3/4	Diaz J Jr	118

17.40	104	-	MoDong123 ^{nk}	ErlyVotng123 ³	Skppylongstockng123 ¹	2p1st, 4p2nd, no kick
4.80	89-14	Skppylongstckng120 ³	StlSnshn118 ⁹	SwngShft120 ¹	Bid late trn, pull away	
8.10	85-11	InDueTim120 ³	AmricnIcon120 ¹	IronWorks120 ^{hd}	Bump brk, 2w, 4w3/16, wkn	
5.30	78-10	Simplification118 ⁴	StrikHrd120 ¹	MrRumRunnr118 ^{nk}	Prompted winner 3path	
2.90	90-07	StrikHrd120 ⁴	APsScrt120 ^{no}	Skppylongstockng120 ²	Vied 2wd btw, lost 2nd	
4.40	69-19	Howling Time122 ³	Red Danger122 ⁴	Red Knobs122 ⁵	Ins, outpacd 2w1/4, chsd	
2.40	83-16	Skppylongstockng118 ¹	RdTwRd118 ¹	KhIstr118 ²	Cleared to turn, drvng	
4.60	83-14	ChncflorBy118 ³	Skppylongstockng118 ²	StrikHrd118 ⁷	2-3wd, bid, no match	
5.70	80-17	DesertRuler118 ¹	HyHighPockts118 ³	CloudPly118 ³	Slow start, 4wd, no gain	

WORKS: ● 13May22 PmM 5f fst :59³ B 1/5 7May22 PmM 5f fst 1:01¹ B 3/8 30Apr22 PmM 4f fst :48² B 5/40 2Apr22 PmM 5f fst 1:00² B 2/13 ● 26Mar22 PmM 3f fst :35 B 1/55 19Mar22 PmM 5f fst :59² B 2/17
 12Mar22 PmM 3f fst :36 B 12/55 26Feb22 PmM 4f fst :48³ B 35/122

TRAINER: 31-60Days(471 .25 \$1.94) Dirt(574 .26 \$1.92) Routes(566 .19 \$1.66) GrdStk(87 .14 \$1.91)

J/T 2021-22(61 .28 \$2.62)

Improving colt has handled added distance well in his two most recent starts and a change in tactics is likely at least partially responsible for the improved form. Alvarado wound up taking him back as a fast pace developed in that entry-level allowance going nine furlongs in March, and this colt rallied strongly into that setup to win going away with a new top Beyer. He rated once again in his stakes debut last month and wound up finishing well for third despite staying wide as the 1-2 finishers rode the inside, improving his Beyer to a 91. He still has much to prove but might have some pace in front of him here and can make a late run at a price once again. -Mike Beer