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Belmont Park

1 1/2 MILES. (2:24) 128th Running of THE BELMONT. Purse \$500,000 added (plus up to \$36,000 NYSBFOA). Grade I. 3-year-olds. By subscription of \$600 each to accompany the nomination if made on or before January 20, or \$6,000 if made on or before March 30, \$5,000 to pass the entry box, \$5,000 to start with \$500,000 added. At any time prior to the closing time of entries, horses may be nominated to The Belmont Stakes upon payment of a supplementary fee of \$50,000 to The New York Racing Association Inc. All supplementary fees will be included in the purse distribution. Horses nominated by payment of a supplementary fee (supplemental nominees) will not be allowed to enter if the maximum number of starters has otherwise been reached prior to the time of closing. If the number of supplemental nominees exceeds the number of available starting positions at closing, the conditions of each respective race shall be applied to determine which supplemental nominees will be allowed to start in such race. All nominees, supplemental or otherwise, will be required to pay entry and starting fees. The added money and all fees to be divided 60% to the winner, 20% to second, 11% to third, 6% to fourth and 3% to fifth. Weights: Colts and geldings, 126 lbs. Fillies, 121 lbs. Starters to be named at the closing time of entries. The Belmont field will be limited to sixteen (16) starters. In the event that more than 16 entries pass through the entry box at the closing, the starters will be determined at the closing with 50% of the field (8 starters) given preference by accumulating the highest earnings in Graded Stakes (lifetime), including all money paid for performance in such Graded Stakes. The next five (5) starters (approximately 30%) will be determined by accumulating the highest earnings (lifetime) in all races except restricted stakes (i.e. any stake containing eligibility conditions other than sex and age). The remaining 3 starters (approximately 20%) shall be determined by accumulating the highest earnings (lifetime) in all races. Should this preference produce any ties the additional starter(s) shall be determined by lot. If the rules described result in the exclusion of any horse, the \$5,000 entry fee will be refunded to the owner of said horse. The winning owner will be presented with the August Belmont Memorial Cup, to be retained for one year, as well as a trophy for permanent possession and trophies will be presented to the winning trainer and jockey. Closed Thursday, June 6, with 354 nominations and 7 late nominations.



A CLOSER LOOK

Belmont Stakes

Saratoga Dandy

There is a common misconception that deep closers are at an advantage in the Belmont but that's not the case; over the past 25 years, just 3 horses have won the Belmont after trailing by more than 7 lengths in the early stages; that doesn't bode well for this guy as he's a one-dimensional closer that has no alternative but to fall well off the early pace; rapidly improving colt is proven over this course, but is he classy enough to beat a field of this caliber?—that appears unlikely; not the fastest horse in the race; even his strongest Beyers place him 17-18 lengths behind the top contenders; the lesser half of the entry.

Natural Selection

A potential 'bounce' candidate after an impressive win at Sportsman's Park; was that last race a fluke or a sign of better things to come?—that's a tough call, but handicappers might be wise to play against him under today's circumstances; trainer Moubarek told DRF earlier this week that this colt's recent development has been largely due to physical maturity and treatment of a liver ailment; versatile running style should serve him well, as he has shown the ability to win on the front end or rally from just off the pace; wouldn't be surprised to see him contesting the pace, considering how effective that strategy was for him in the Illinois Derby.

South Salem

Ever since Go and Go upset the field in '90, Europeans have been more apt to take a shot in the Belmont; what people sometimes forget, though, is that Go and Go had dirt experience from his 2YO season; will this one take to the main track?—his connections think he'll have no problem with the dirt; this colt trained over an all-weather track in England and apparently had no difficulty handling that surface; Timeform chaps gave this colt a respectable 107 rating in their May issue, although suggesting that his limit distancewise might be a mile and quarter; long-shot.

Coupled - Saratoga Dandy and Louis Quatorze
Mutuel field - Rocket Flash, Traffic Circle, Secreto de Estado

Saratoga Dandy

Own: Condren William & Cornacchia Joseph

DAVIS R G (108 16 18 13 .15) 1996:(607 74 .12)

Table with columns for race date, distance, track, and time. Includes entries for 18May96, 21Apr96, 30Mar96, 26Feb96, 1Feb96, 17Jan96, 24Nov95, 1Nov95, 7Oct95.

WORKOUTS: Jun 2 Bel 5f fst 1:01 B 15/27 May 26 Bel 5f fst :594 H 1/17 May 11 Pim 5f gd 1:01 H 2/27 Apr 15 Kee 5f fst 1:01 B 8/16 Apr 8 Kee 5f fst 1:02 B 17/23 Mar 22 GP 5f fst 1:014 H 15/32

Ch. c. 3 (Apr)

Sire: Saratoga Six (Alydar)

Dam: Dame Ivor (Sir Ivor)

Br: Maycroft Farm (Ky)

Tr: Zito Nicholas P (19 4 3 1 .21) 1996:(163 35 .21)

Lifetime Record: 9 3 0 0 \$89,414

Table with columns for year, wins, places, shows, earnings, and track. Includes entries for 1996, 1995, and Bel.

Main performance table for Saratoga Dandy with columns for race number, date, distance, track, time, and opponent.

Natural Selection

Own: Buckram Oak Farm

ROMEROR P (-) 1996:(396 44 .11)

Table with columns for race date, distance, track, and time. Includes entries for 11May96, 24Mar96, 8Mar96, 10Feb96, 24Jan96, 3Jan96, 23Dec95, 2Dec95.

WORKOUTS: Jun 3 Bel 6f fst 1:13 H 5/7 May 28 Bel 6f fst 1:13 H 1/2 May 22 Kee 4f fst :483 B 2/10 May 10 Spt 3f sly :374 B 1/2 Apr 22 Kee 5f fst 1:003 H 1/20 Apr 17 Kee 4f fst :502 B 46/56

Dk. b or br. c. 3 (Feb)

Sire: Slew City Slew (Seattle Slew)

Dam: Missadoon (Matsudon)

Br: Mulholland Bros (Ky)

Tr: Moubarak Mohammed (3 0 1 1 .00) 1996:(79 10 .13)

Lifetime Record: 8 2 2 3 \$342,640

Table with columns for year, wins, places, shows, earnings, and track. Includes entries for 1996, 1995, and Bel.

Main performance table for Natural Selection with columns for race number, date, distance, track, time, and opponent.

South Salem

Own: Lucayan Stud & Payson Virginia K

KRONE J A (104 15 14 19 .14) 1996:(504 78 .15)

Table with columns for race date, distance, track, and time. Includes entries for 25May96, 27Apr96, 20Jun95, 29May95, 29Apr95.

WORKOUTS: Jun 6 Bel 5f fst 1:063 B 31/31

B. c. 3 (Feb)

Sire: Salem Drive (Darby Creek Road)

Dam: Azzurrina (Knighly Manner)

Br: Payson Virginia Kraft (Ky)

Tr: Loder David (-) (-)

Lifetime Record: 5 2 1 1 \$25,005

Table with columns for year, wins, places, shows, earnings, and track. Includes entries for 1996, 1995, and Bel.

Main performance table for South Salem with columns for race number, date, distance, track, time, and opponent.

Continued on Following Page

Rocket Flash

Own: Calumet Farm

CASTILLO H JR (52 8 11 3 .15) 1996:(331 43 .13)

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Rocket Flash's progeny.

WORKOUTS: Jun 3 Bel 7f fst 1:28 1/1 May 26 Bel 4f fst :49 1/4 B 20/39 May 6 Bel tr.t 5f fst 1:01 1/4 H 16/35 Apr 29 Bel 4f fst :50 2/5 B 38/47 Apr 3 Bel tr.t 5f fst 1:03 1/4 B 20/25 Mar 26 Bel tr.t 5f fst 1:00 3/8 H 3/9

B. c. 3 (Mar) Sire: Cox's Ridge (Best Turn) Dam: Talltalelady (Naskra) Br: Kennelot Stables Ltd (Ky) Tr: Mott William I (41 11 7 6 .27) 1996:(304 76 .25)

Lifetime Record table for Rocket Flash showing performance in 1996 and 1995 across different surfaces and distances.

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Rocket Flash's progeny.

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Rocket Flash's progeny.

Rocket Flash

Bill Mott disciples may find this colt attractive, especially at a big price; putting aside the Eclipse Award-winning conditioner...

Jamies First Punch

Own: Zimpom Stable

VELAZQUEZ JR (136 28 21 18 .21) 1996:(537 103 .19)

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Jamies First Punch's progeny.

WORKOUTS: May 5 Bel tr.t 5f my :59 2/4 H (d) 1/9 Apr 28 Bel 5f fst 1:03 2/5 B 5/55 Mar 22 Bel tr.t 5f fst 1:00 3/8 H 7/24 Mar 14 Bel tr.t 5f fst 1:02 1/8 B 5/9

B. g. 3 (Apr) Sire: Fit to Fight (Chieftain) Dam: Stedes Wonder (Native Royalty) Br: Mulholland Joe & John (Ky) Tr: Barbara Robert (30 5 2 6 .17) 1996:(165 21 .13)

Lifetime Record table for Jamies First Punch showing performance in 1996 and 1995 across different surfaces and distances.

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Jamies First Punch's progeny.

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Jamies First Punch's progeny.

Jamies First Punch

If the Dosage system is the acid test for your Belmont selection, then you won't like this guy; he is well over the requirements for a true classic runner (10.00 Dosage); eliminating him because of his breeding might be a major error though; why can't he get a mile and a half?—his sire, Fit to Fight, won the 1 1/2m Suburban carrying 129 lbs.;

Prince of Thieves

Own: Grimm Charles & Mitchell Peter

BAILEY JD (82 19 16 10 .23) 1996:(535 143 .27)

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Prince of Thieves's progeny.

WORKOUTS: Jun 3 CD 5f gd 1:02 B 4/16 May 28 CD 4f gd :48 2/5 B 1/37 May 13 CD 4f fst :48 B 4/46 Apr 29 CD 4f sly :48 B 1/15 Apr 15 CD 5f fst 1:00 H 1/44 Apr 1 SA 5f fst 1:00 4/8 H 13/37

Ch. c. 3 (Apr) Sire: Hansel (Woodman) Dam: Fall Aspen (Pretense) Br: Lowquest Ltd (Ky) Tr: Lukas D Wayne (16 3 1 2 .19) 1996:(384 65 .17)

Lifetime Record table for Prince of Thieves showing performance in 1996 and 1995 across different surfaces and distances.

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Prince of Thieves's progeny.

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Prince of Thieves's progeny.

Prince of Thieves

Lukas is the only trainer in the race that has won this race; in fact, he's going for his 3rd straight Belmont victory today; many expected a strong race from this colt in the Preakness, but he was never a factor in the stretch; can we make an excuse for that dismal performance?—not really; at least it's good to see him come back and train well; if Belmont history is any indication, this colt is facing a tough challenge; unlike at Pimlico, horses aren't known for reversing their form here; just 4 times since 1971 has the Belmont winner failed to hit the board in his prior start; mixed signals.

Editor's Note

Own: Overbrook Farm

DOUGLAS RR (-) 1996:(624 73 .12)

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Editor's Note's progeny.

WORKOUTS: Jun 3 CD 5f gd 1:02 B 4/16 May 28 CD 4f gd :50 2/5 B 23/37 May 13 CD 5f fst 1:01 B 1/30 Apr 28 CD 5f fst :59 4/8 H 2/44 Apr 22 CD 7f fst 1:27 3/8 B 1/1 Apr 8 CD 5f fst 1:00 3/8 H 1/17

Ch. c. 3 (Apr) Sire: Forty Niner (Mr. Prospector) Dam: Beware of the Cat (Caveat) Br: Fawn Leap Farm Inc (Ky) Tr: Lukas D Wayne (16 3 1 2 .19) 1996:(384 65 .17)

Lifetime Record table for Editor's Note showing performance in 1996 and 1995 across different surfaces and distances.

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Editor's Note's progeny.

Table with columns for date, race type, distance, time, and trainer for Editor's Note's progeny.

Editor's Note

Sheet players have been high on this colt throughout his career, but unfortunately he never produces; his last victory came in Sept.; that's a long time to go without a trip to the winner's circle; late-closing style doesn't fit the winning profile for Belmont winners, as stalkers and pace-pressers usually fare the best; Douglas takes over the mount as Gary Stevens announced on Wednesday that he will be out 3 to 6 months to undergo shoulder surgery; colt has a history of picking up minor awards; expecting a similar scenario in the Belmont; best to restrict use to the bottom of the exotics.

Louis Quatorze

Own: Condren & Cornacchia & Hofmann

DAY P (-) 1996:(646 131 20)

Table of race results for Louis Quatorze, including dates, race names, and times.

WORKOUTS: Jun 3 Bel 5f fst :58 1/2 H 1/29 May 27 Bel 5f fst 1:01 1/4 B 16/31 May 14 Pim 5f fst :59 1/4 H 1/2 May 3 CD 3f fst :37 1/4 B 12/19 Apr 28 CD 5f fst 1:02 1/4 B 16/44 Apr 22 CD 5f fst 1:02 1/2 B 8/33

B. c. 3 (Mar) Sire: Sovereign Dancer (Northern Dancer) Dam: On to Royalty (On to Glory) Br: Hofmann Georgia E (Ky) Tr: Zito Nicholas P (19 4 3 1 .21) 1996:(163 35 .21)

Lifetime Record table for Louis Quatorze showing wins, losses, and earnings across different race types.

Main performance table for Louis Quatorze, listing race details, positions, and times.

Skip Away

Own: Hine Carolyn H

SANTOS JA (116 21 15 11 .18) 1996:(506 75 .15)

Table of race results for Skip Away, including dates, race names, and times.

WORKOUTS: Jun 2 Mth 7f fst 1:25 1/4 H 1/1 May 27 Mth 6f my 1:15 1/4 B 1/1 May 13 Mth 5f fst :59 B 1/10 Apr 29 CD 5f sly 1:00 1/2 H 1/15 Apr 23 CD 5f sly 1:01 1/4 B 2/17 Apr 8 Kee 5f fst :58 1/2 H 1/23

Gr/ro c. 3 (Apr) Sire: Skip Trial (Bailjumper) Dam: Ingot Way (Diplomat Way) Br: Barnhart Marie Anna (Fla) Tr: Hine Hubert (-) 1996:(69 8 .12)

Lifetime Record table for Skip Away showing wins, losses, and earnings.

Main performance table for Skip Away, listing race details, positions, and times.

Cavonnier

Own: Walter Family Trust

MCCARRON C J (-) 1996:(397 80 .20)

Table of race results for Cavonnier, including dates, race names, and times.

WORKOUTS: Jun 3 Bel 6f fst 1:11 H 1/7 May 28 Bel 5f fst 1:00 1/4 B 7/23 May 14 CD 4f fst :48 H 1/34 Apr 29 CD 5f sly 1:01 B 3/15 Apr 24 CD 6f sly 1:13 H 1/6 Apr 19 CD 5f gd 1:01 1/2 B 2/30

Dk. b or br g. 3 (Mar) Sire: Batonnier (His Majesty) Dam: Direwarning (Caveat) Br: Walter Robert H (Cal) Tr: Baffert Bob (1 0 0 0 .00) 1996:(133 32 .24)

Lifetime Record table for Cavonnier showing wins, losses, and earnings.

Main performance table for Cavonnier, listing race details, positions, and times.

Secreto de Estado

Own: Perez Robert

VELASQUEZ C (34 4 5 5 .12) 1996:(35 4 .11)

Table of race results for Secreto de Estado, including dates, race names, and times.

WORKOUTS: Jun 2 Bel 5f fst 1:04 B 24/27 May 12 Bel 4f gd :47 1/2 H 1/13 May 6 Bel 7f my 1:27 3/4 H 1/1 Apr 28 Bel 5f fst :59 1/4 H 8/55 Mar 29 Bel tr.t 5f sly 1:07 B 3/3 Mar 17 Bel tr.t 4f fst :47 1/2 H 1/31

B. g. 3 (Feb) Sire: General Assembly (Secretariat) Dam: Marchpane (Go Marching) Br: Morgan's Ford Farm (Va) Tr: Callejas Alfredo (16 3 2 2 .19) 1996:(68 8 .12)

Lifetime Record table for Secreto de Estado showing wins, losses, and earnings.

Main performance table for Secreto de Estado, listing race details, positions, and times.

Louis Quatorze

Looked impressive winning the Preakness three weeks ago, but handicappers need to look at the big picture; 'Louis' had everything his own way in Baltimore, shaking loose on an uncontested lead; benefited from Skip Away, his only real competition for the lead, drawing on the far outside; this colt doesn't look as fortunate today; there are several other front-runners entered, and that should force him to rate; top-notch connections add to his appeal; Zito narrowly missed winning the Belmont with Strike the Gold in '91; Pay Day is a 2-time winner of this event (Easy Goer, Tabasco Cat); might start as a mild favorite along with entry-mate Saratoga Dandy.

Skip Away

The Hines must feel as if they've been cursed; Skip Away drew horrendous posts in Louisville and Baltimore, and earlier this week they lost their regular rider Shane Sellers (who went down with a broken wrist); hard-knocking colt might have given Louis Quatorze more of a horse race in the Preakness were it not for some trouble; besides drawing outside, he also got bounced around coming past the stands for the first time; the big question for this colt is stamina—can he get a mile and a half? expecting a strong effort.

Cavonnier

With a little better luck, this gelding might have been the Derby winner; it took a masterful ride from Bailey aboard Grindstone to catch this guy on the wire; of course, it didn't help that Cavonnier was struck by an opponent's whip entering the stretch either; what about that last fiasco?—should we overlook it?—obviously didn't run his race, but horses aren't known for reversing their form in the Belmont; main thing to like about this gelding is his running style, as he likes to stalk the leaders, and that's the profile for Belmont success.

Secreto de Estado

Most handicappers don't think too highly of this one's chances, but owner Robert Perez is convinced that Secreto de Estado belongs in the race; he told DRF earlier this week that "we're not running in the Belmont for a table in the dining room...who knows what would have happened if he hadn't stumbled in the Preakness?"; this son of General Assembly certainly had a difficult break, stumbling badly and nearly losing his rider but does that justify a 24 length defeat?—probably not; most appealing characteristic about this gelding is his jock; through Wednesday, Cornelio Velasquez has ridden 4 winners here at Belmont Park—check out these mutuels, \$27.80, \$46.40, \$47, and \$89; not convinced Velasquez can work his magic with this gelding; pass.

-Byron King