



IRON MAIDENS THOROUGHBREDS

2014 KENTUCKY DERBY EBOOK

SAMPLE



Introduction

Since 1962 only four Kentucky Derby winners finished worse than third in their final prep race. (Sea Hero, Thunder Gulch, Giacomo and Mine That Bird were all fourth). 42 Kentucky Derby winners won or placed in their final race leading up to the Kentucky Derby. This tidbit of knowledge helps narrow the horses with a legitimate chance from those who are hopelessly over their heads.

Pedigree is the next step to figuring out which of these contestants to keep on your Derby list. It is essential to determine between the horses that will love ten furlongs, those who could finish in the money and the ones that couldn't get the distance with a guided missile strapped around their girth. Just because a horse ekes out a win at nine furlongs doesn't mean he has enough gas in the tank to keep up a full out run for an additional furlong.

It is generally accepted that a horse's damsire and female family impart stamina and class. This is the most important aspect in determining if your Derby hopeful can handle the distance. In the last twelve out of thirteen years, every Kentucky Derby winner's sire or damsire's daughters had previously produced a stakes winner at 1 ¼ miles. In eight of twelve instances, the Kentucky Derby champ was a dual qualifier, that is, both the sire and damsire had previously produced at least one stakes winner at 1 ¼ miles. Funny Cide is the only Kentucky Derby winner in the last thirteen years whose damsire hadn't produced a winner at 1 ¼ miles.

Pedigree knowledge also aides in detecting each horse's optional surface. On a muddy track, anything can happen. Top contenders are downgraded because they don't like getting their hooves muddy, while other horses improve vastly in the slop. Two such examples are the 2009 and 2010 Kentucky Derby winners Mine That Bird and Super Saver. Both had superior mud pedigrees and splashed their way to the best races of their careers.

At the other end of the spectrum, certain contestants have never competed in a race over the main track. Evaluating these contenders is a little trickier. 2011 Derby victor Animal Kingdom made his first start over dirt in the Derby. He was an anomaly, a good horse that can run over anything, proving that rules and statistics don't always apply to flesh and blood.

Last year, I added an additional analysis, which is the large heart or "X-Factor" gene. Researching back to 1970, 22 winners likely carried the large heart gene. Following are the years that, according to their pedigree charts, horses with the X-Factor won the Kentucky Derby:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1973 – 1975 – yes | 1991 - 1992 - no |
| 1976 - no | 1993 – 2000 - yes |
| 1977 – 1981 – yes | 2003 - no |
| 1982 – 1983 - no | 2004 - yes |
| 1984 – yes | 2005 – 2007 - no |
| 1985 – 1986 - no | 2008 – yes |
| 1987 – yes | 2009 - no |
| 1988 – 1989 - no | 2010 - yes |
| 1990 – yes | 2011 – 2012 – no |
| | 2013 - yes |

Note that there is no more than three years between winners who may carry the X-Factor gene.

With the above patterns in mind, let's assess this year's Kentucky Derby buzz horses by pedigree, surface and overall score.



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CALIFORNIA CHROME

Sire

Lucy Pulpit

Dam

Love the Chase

Damsire

Not For Love

DOB

2/18/11

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------------|
| <i>Lifetime Statistics:</i> | <i>Record</i> | <i>Earnings</i> | <i>Dirt</i> | <i>Mud</i> | <i>Turf</i> | <i>Synthetic</i> |
| | 10-6-1-0 | \$1,134,850 | 4-3-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | 6-3-1-0 |

Racing Highlights

| Fin. | Race | Grade | Dist. | Surface | Distance | Surface: | Ratings: Best SF: | SW at 10F | X-Factor: |
|------|----------------------|-------|-------|---------|------------|----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Santa Anita Derby | 1 | 9F | Dirt | A 9 - 9.5F | A Dirt | 107 Beyer | 0 Sire | Yes |
| 1 | San Felipe Stakes | 2 | 8.5F | Dirt | B 10 F | B Mud | 106 Bris | 0 Damsire | |
| 1 | CA Cup Derby | NA | 8.5F | Dirt | C 12 F | | | | |
| 1 | King Glorious Stakes | NA | 7F | Cushion | | | | | |
| 1 | Graduation Stakes | NA | 5.5F | Poly | | | | | |

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Dosage</i> | <i>DI</i> | <i>CD</i> |
| 7-5-10-0-0 (22) | 3.40 | .86 |

Analysis:

Pedigree:

California Chrome is by a son of Pulpit who stands for \$2,500 in California out of a mare whose sole victory in six starts came in an \$8,000 claiming race. To say the chestnut colt is outperforming his pedigree is an understatement. Lucky Pulpit and Not For Love have sired no stakes winners beyond 1 1/8 miles. California Chrome has inbreeding to the blue hen Numbered Account through the 3/4 siblings Dance Number (by Northern Dancer), dam of Not For Love and Polish Numbers (by Danzig), who is California Chrome's second damsire. Dance Number was a multiple graded stakes winner up to 1 3/16 miles, but was third going 1 1/4 miles. Polish Number's offspring were best up to 1 1/8 miles. His most accomplished runner was Biggio's Rose, who can be found in the pedigree of Derby contender Dance With Fate. California Chrome receives the large heart factor through his damsire Not for Love and second damsire Polish Numbers. He appears to have the "curly ears" that are a physical sign of the large heart. **Pedigree Rating: B**

Surface:

California Chrome is a winner over fast dirt and never tried the mud. His sire and damsire each have an above average (18%+) number of winners over the slop, so California Chrome should handle the mud just fine. **Surface Rating: B**

Outlook:

California Chrome is the fastest colt in California. He's won his last four races by a combined 24+ lengths. So who has he beaten? So far, only three stakes horses. Hoppertunity was a narrow winner of the Rebel (G-2) at Oaklawn, Midnight Hawk was second in the Illinois Derby and third in the Sunland Derby (G-3) and Candy Boy won the Robert B. Lewis Stakes (G-2). However, the way this athletic colt has beaten the competition is very eye-catching. He has such a smooth stride that it's hard to see him change leads. He likes to run on or within two lengths of the lead, and then unleashes a devastating middle move. He can cut the corner or go wide. That being said, the two times that he broke slowly and had to take dirt in his face, the colt finished off of the board. California Chrome's late pace speed figures (100, 93, 97) in his last three races show that he should still be competitive in the Kentucky Derby IF he can handle what is expected to be a very strong early pace plus the classic distance. California Chrome's intelligence and large heart factor could play a part in his success. I know everybody loves this colt, as do I, but he doesn't tick the most critical of the Derby boxes. **Overall Score: B**



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VICAR'S IN TROUBLE

Sire: Into Mischief Dam: Vibrant Damsire: Vicar DOB: 3/31/11

Lifetime Record: 3-5-0-2 Earnings: \$788,900 Dirt: 3-5-0-2 Mud: 0-0-0-0 Turf: 0-0-0-0 Synthetic: 0-0-0-0

| Racing Highlights | | | | | Ratings: | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------|--------|---------|------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fin. | Race | Grade | Dist. | Surface | Distance | Surface: | Best SF: | SW at 10F | X-Factor: |
| 1 | Louisiana Derby | 1 | 9F | Dirt | A 9 - 9.5F | A Dirt | 100 Beyer | 0 Sire | NO |
| 3 | Risen Star Stakes | 2 | 8.5F | Dirt | B 10 F | B Mud | 104 Bris | 0 Damsire | |
| 1 | LeComte Stakes | 3 | 1M 70Y | Dirt | C 12 F | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Dosage | DI | CD | |
| | | | | | | 3-1-2-0-0 (6) | 5.00 | 1.17 | |

Analysis:

Pedigree: Vicar's In Trouble is the second son of Into Mischief to win a stakes race at 1 1/8 miles. None of the young sire's offspring have placed in the money running 1 1/4 miles. The Louisiana Derby winner's damsire won the Florida Derby at 1 1/8 miles and just missed in the Bluegrass Stakes. However the 8-1 shot offered no response in the Kentucky Derby, finishing 18. Vicar's In Trouble's second damsire Tanks Prospect was also proficient at 1 1/8 miles, and even won the Preakness at 1 3/16 miles. He finished seventh in the Kentucky Derby. Neither Into Mischief or Vicar are represented by stakes winners at 1 1/4 miles. Vicar's In Trouble's dam is a half sister to a stakes winning sprinter. **Pedigree Rating: C**

Surface: Vicar's In Trouble is a winner over fast dirt. He never raced over a sloppy track, but he turned in his best performance over a good Fairgrounds surface. His sire's offspring like the mud (20%+ winners) and his damsire's offspring can take it or leave it. Vicar's In Trouble may improve his form over a sloppy track. **Surface Rating: B**

Outlook: Quick, name the last horse who won both the Louisiana and the Kentucky Derbies? Black Gold in 1924. Although Funny Cide placed in the Louisiana Derby and won the Kentucky Derby in 2003. In recent years, colts who hit the top three in Louisiana have managed to run second or third in Kentucky, but they all had pedigrees indicating that they could finish in the money. In the Louisiana Derby, Vicar's In Trouble got his last quarter in :25.01 and his last eighth in a crawling :13.62. He'll need to step up his game in order to keep up with the rest in the final furlong of the Kentucky Derby. Vicar's In Trouble likes to run within a length of the lead. That, coupled with his suspect pedigree and class of the Louisiana Derby indicates that this colt will indeed be in trouble turning for home. **Overall Rating: C**