



**xb** wager guide

May 4, 2019  
**Churchill Downs**

**xpressbet**

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**Fellow Racing fan,**

## **Welcome to Xpressbet's FREE Kentucky Derby Wager Guide!**

This figures to be one of the most wide-open Kentucky Derbies in years. At this point even race favoritism is unclear. Forget about attempting to tab which horses might possibly complete the superfecta. Everything will be a surprise.

Omaha Beach's impressive Arkansas Derby victory moved him solidly into the center of the Kentucky Derby win-photo frame. Already there smiling is Santa Anita Derby winner Roadster, runner-up Game Winner and Xpressbet Florida Derby star Maximum Security. Wood winner Tacitus or Blue Grass champ Vekoma could deliver a classic photo bomb.

Any Kentucky Derby becomes infinitely more stimulating when you have a few bucks on the outcome. Xpressbet is the best online, telephone and mobile wagering service in the nation. In order to help you cash a ticket on the Derby, we're proud to present this FREE Kentucky Derby Wager Guide.

Xpressbet will offer online, phone and mobile wagering for the entire Triple Crown—and produce FREE Wager Guides for remaining events: Preakness (available May 10) and Belmont (available May 31).

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 to earn up to \$500 in bonus cash—certainly handy during the Triple Crown. See details at [Xpressbet.com](http://Xpressbet.com).

The Kentucky Derby is important worldwide and 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 Wager Strategies.

In addition to race-by-race expert commentary, inside you'll also find oodles of useful Stats and Trends, a handy Exotic Wager Chart and new Workout Analysis.

Following the Kentucky Derby post-position draw, Xpressbet will produce an updated guide to reflect adjusted expert opinions based on up-to-the-minute information. Visit [Xpressbet.com](http://Xpressbet.com) the day before each Triple Crown event for a FREE revised and enhanced version.

Xpressbet hopes your 2019 Kentucky Derby wagering experience is fruitful and we look forward to serving as your advance deposit account wagering provider for the big day and in the future.

Sincerely,  
Team Xpressbet

# See How They Prep

By **Jeremy Plonk**, Xpressbet  
@HorsePlayerNow



Since 1986, every Kentucky Derby champion except Charismatic exited a 9-furlong final tune-up.

## Fastest Final 3 Furlongs in 9-Furlong Prep-Races

Horse	Race	Time
Maximum Security	Xpressbet Florida Derby	:35.66
Bodexpress	Xpressbet Florida Derby	:36.53
Code of Honor	Xpressbet Florida Derby	:36.79
Cutting Humor	Sunland Derby	:37.11
Omaha Beach	Arkansas Derby	:37.45
Improbable	Arkansas Derby	:37.45
Country House	Arkansas Derby	:37.60
By My Standards	Louisiana Derby	:37.79
Spinoff	Louisiana Derby	:37.97
Haikal	Wood Memorial	:38.24
Roadster	Santa Anita Derby	:38.27
Tacitus	Wood Memorial	:38.47
Country House	Louisiana Derby	:38.64
Win Win Win	Blue Grass	:38.98
Tax	Wood Memorial	:39.07
Game Winner	Santa Anita Derby	:39.13
Vekoma	Blue Grass	:39.39

## Fastest Final Furlong in 9-Furlong Prep-Races

Horse	Race	Time
Cutting Humor	Sunland Derby	:12.18
Omaha Beach	Arkansas Derby	:12.38
Improbable	Arkansas Derby	:12.38
By My Standards	Louisiana Derby	:12.49
Maximum Security	Xpressbet Florida Derby	:12.52
Win Win Win	Blue Grass	:12.69
Country House	Arkansas Derby	:12.73
Bodexpress	Xpressbet Florida Derby	:12.75
Code of Honor	Xpressbet Florida Derby	:12.78
Roadster	Santa Anita Derby	:12.79
Spinoff	Louisiana Derby	:12.84
Game Winner	Santa Anita Derby	:12.99
Haikal	Wood Memorial	:13.13
Tacitus	Wood Memorial	:13.30
Vekoma	Blue Grass	:13.45
Tax	Wood Memorial	:13.48
Country House	Louisiana Derby	:13.49

**Sunland Derby (March 16):** Sunland Derby final times always are rapid, and this was a track-record 1:46.94. Come-home times usually aren't close to these.

**Louisiana Derby (March 23):** By My Standards was solidly faster late than front-running Noble Indy (17th Derby) last year.

**Xpressbet Florida Derby (March 30):** Maximum Security smashed 37.51 and 36.56 come-home times established by Audible (3rd in Derby) and Always Dreaming (Derby Winner).

**Santa Anita Derby (April 6):** Roadster rallied for the victory over a surface that was much slower than in previous years.

**Blue Grass (April 6):** Vekoma drew even with the pacesetter after 6 furlongs and went on to a 3 1/2-length victory.

**Wood Memorial (April 6):** Fourth behind runaway leaders after an eventful first 6 furlongs, Tacitus rallied to win.

**Arkansas Derby (April 13):** Over a 'sloppy' track, Omaha Beach led Improbable by a length after 6 furlongs and at the finish.

Expert	Bob Neumeier (HPNow)	Millie Ball (XBTV.com)	Jeff Siegel (XBTV.com)	Jon White (Santa Anita)	Dick Jerardi (DRF)	Steve Byk (SiriusXM Radio)
First	Omaha Beach	Game Winner	Omaha Beach	Omaha Beach	Omaha Beach	Improbable
Second	Tacitus	Roadster	Roadster	Game Winner	By My Standards	Game Winner
Third	Game Winner	Tacitus	Game Winner	Improbable	Maximum Security	Tacitus
Fourth	Improbable	Country House	Improbable	Roadster	Improbable	Win Win Win

# Working It Out

By Zoe Cadman, XBTv.com  
@zoecadman



Below is analysis of recent workouts for several Derby contenders as of 4-25. Horse names link to video. Visit XBTv.com for additional morning workouts as well as expert Analysis, Selections and much more.



<u>Horse</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Track</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Time</u>
<a href="#"><u>IMPROBABLE</u></a>	4/22	Churchill	4 Furlongs	Fast	:48
Purely a maintenance work under Jose Contreras and minus blinkers, Improbable went easily throughout and leveled off at the wire without leaning in or cocking his head toward the grandstand as he had in the past. He seems more comfortable on the glib Churchill track than over a deeper Santa Anita surface.					
<a href="#"><u>BY MY STANDARDS</u></a>	4/22	Churchill	6 Furlongs	Fast	1:12 4/5
He's been remarkable in two most-recent works at Churchill. In his last, under jockey Gabriel Saez, he clicked off perfect 12-second furlongs and galloped out 7 panels in 1:25 4/5. He appears this season's 'wise-guy' horse, but the last such Derby winner was Animal Kingdom in 2011.					
<a href="#"><u>TACITUS</u></a>	4/22	Churchill	4 Furlongs	Fast	:50
Not a generous worker, Tacitus looked good breezing in company under restraint :25 2/5 and pulled clear of workmate, out in 1:02 4/5. He needs quick early Derby pace, but distance will be no problem.					
<a href="#"><u>MAXIMUM SECURITY</u></a>	4/21	Palm Meadows	3 Furlongs	Fast	:42
Don't worry about the slow time, this is par for the Jason Servis trainee. Previous works were half-miles in :54 4/5, and :52 4/5. Before breezing, Maximum Security went a mile in (:15 per-furlong) or at a '2-minute lick.'					
<a href="#"><u>ROADSTER</u></a>	4/20	Santa Anita	6 Furlongs	Fast	1:13 2/5 (gate)
Hoping for more than a mere blazing-fast workout, Baffert sent this charge to the gate where he broke like a shot outside of an unraced maiden, settled into an easy stride under Martin Garcia, was relaxed when challenged on the inside and drew clear at the quarter pole. He galloped out a mile in 1:39.					
<a href="#"><u>GAME WINNER</u></a>	4/20	Santa Anita	5 Furlongs	Fast	1:00 4/5
Before his first 2019 start Game Winner's works were not great. He still ran super to come up a nose short of Omaha Beach. Since then morning work has been terrific. Under Martin Garcia, Game Winner sat just off a workmate, swung wide turning for home and moved clear. He's never been straighter in the lane and was slightly encouraged to gallop-out to the five-eighths pole.					
<a href="#"><u>VEKOMA</u></a>	4/18	Palm Beach	4 Furlongs	Fast	:50 1/5
In a maintenance move under regular rider Cindy Weaver, Vekoma went easily in company with Majestic Dunhill. Watch his front action and you'll note he's not the most graceful mover, but he's efficient and gets the job done.					
<a href="#"><u>WAR OF WILL</u></a>	4/13	Keeneland	5 Furlongs	Fast	:59 (gate)
Off a lackluster Louisiana Derby performance, he broke from the gate under Tyler Gaffalione, emerged from the 4 1/2-furlong chute and clicked off solid fractions. A negative is that he appeared to lose focus after the wire. Look forward to his next work.					

# Derby Extras

By Jeremy Plonk, Xpressbet  
@HorsePlayerNow



## ? Know This

### Champs Hold Form

The last 4 Champion 2-Year-Olds enjoyed strong Derby showings and beyond: American Pharoah (2015) won the Triple Crown; Nyquist (2016) won the Derby; Classic Empire (2017) was fourth in the Derby and second in the Preakness; Good Magic (2018) finished second in the Derby.

### Prep Powers

The Xpressbet Florida Derby has produced 24 Kentucky Derby winners and leads all prep races in the category, including 3 of the last 6 to wear roses. That race is closely followed by the Blue Grass with 23 Derby winners, but only one since 1995.

### Last-to-First Success

Only 8 horses all-time have passed them all to win the Kentucky Derby. Last-to-first Derby winners in the last 50 years include Mine That Bird (2009), Ferdinand (1986) and Gato Del Sol (1982).

### Breathing Room

13 consecutive Derbies have been decided by a length or more. The last close shave came with Giacomo's half-length score in 2005. The last photo finish was Charismatic's 1999 victory by a neck.

## Stats & Trends

### Winning Derby Post Positions

(Since 1930)

Post	Wins	Last Winner	Year
1	8	Ferdinand	1986
2	7	Affirmed	1978
3	5	Real Quiet	1998
4	5	Super Saver	2010
5	10	Always Dreaming	2017
6	2	Sea Hero	1993
7	7	Justify	2018
8	8	Mine That Bird	2009
9	4	Riva Ridge	1972
10	9	Giacomo	2005
11	2	Winning Colors	1988
12	3	Canonero II	1971
13	5	Nyquist	2016
14	2	Carry Back	1961
15	5	American Pharoah	2015
16	4	Animal Kingdom	2011
17	0	N/A	N/A
18	1	Gato Del Sol	1982
19	1	I'll Have Another	2012
20	1	Big Brown	2008

### Four of Last Eight Won From Auxiliary Gate

Post	Horse	Year
19	I'll Have Another	2012
16	Animal Kingdom	2011
15	Orb	2013
15	American Pharoah	2015

### Most Career Derby Starters Active

Sts.	Trainer
52	Todd Pletcher
49	D. Wayne Lukas
29	Bob Baffert
26	Nick Zito

### Most Derby Starters Without A Win

Sts.	Trainer
19	Steve Asmussen

### Most Starters In A Single Derby

Sts.	Trainer	Year
5	Todd Pletcher	2013
5	Todd Pletcher	2007
5	Nick Zito	2005
5	D. Wayne Lukas	1996

### Winning Derby Beyer Figures

(Last 20 years)

Year	Horse	BSF
2018	Justify	103
2017	American Dreaming	102
2016	Nyquist	103
2015	American Pharoah	105
2014	California Chrome	97
2013	Orb	104
2012	I'll Have Another	101
2011	Animal Kingdom	103
2010	Super Saver	104
2009	Mine That Bird	105
2008	Big Brown	109
2007	Street Sense	111
2006	Barbaro	111
2005	Giacomo	100
2004	Smarty Jones	107
2003	Funny Cide	108
2002	War Emblem	114
2001	Monarchos	116
2000	Fusaichi Pegasus	108
1999	Charismatic	108

# Meet the Derby Contenders

By Johnny D., Xpressbet  
@XBJohnnyD



**Omaha Beach:** It took him five races to break his maiden but he hasn't lost since. He accounted for a division of the Rebel Stakes over 2-year-old champ Game Winner and took the Arkansas Derby over another highly-regarded Bob Baffert-trained runner Improbable. He's trained by Hall-of-Famer Richard Mandella and has never been worse than third in 7 starts. Mandella seeks his first Kentucky Derby victory with this son of War Front.



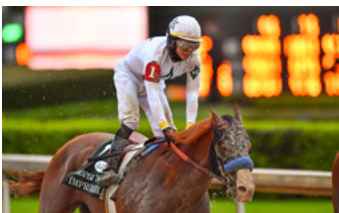
**Maximum Security:** There's not much speed in this year's Kentucky Derby and this guy seemingly holds all the early cards. He's not speed-crazy, as evidenced by his workmanlike Xpressbet Florida Derby romp. Even though he raced first out for a maiden \$16k price, make no mistake that this son of New Year's Day has more than a touch of quality. Left alone, he's more dangerous than Macaulay Culkin. He's one of two runners in this year's Kentucky Derby owned by Gary and Mary West.



**Roadster:** The winner of the Santa Anita Derby could be the lukewarm favorite in this year's Derby. He roared home late to defeat barn-mate Game Winner in California. Always highly regarded in the Bob Baffert stable, Roadster lost by 2 lengths to Game Winner in the Del Mar Futurity. A throat operation seems to have turned him around and he's 2-for-2 at 3. Jockey Florent Geroux replaces Hall-of-Fame resident Mike Smith aboard Roadster for the Kentucky Derby.



**Game Winner:** Gary and Mary West's 2-year-old champ hasn't won at 3. He hasn't run a poor race, either. He was beaten just a nose in a division of the Rebel Stakes and then failed to hold off Roadster in the Santa Anita Derby. Game Winner's grinding style will find him roughly mid-pack early in the Derby and he figures to continue to gain on the leaders. Will he have enough to win or is another heartbreaking defeat in the cards?



**Improbable:** In 5 starts he's never been worse than second, including a neck defeat to Long Range Toddy and a 1-length loss to Omaha Beach. He figures to race from just off the pace in the Derby, but hasn't closed with gusto at the highest level. In the Rebel, he made the lead and was caught late and in the Arkansas Derby, he fruitlessly chased Omaha Beach home. Jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr. replaces brother Jose aboard Improbable. Jose remains partners with Wood winner Tacitus.



**Tacitus:** With top-drawer breeding and connections to match, this grey son of Tapit has done nothing wrong this year in winning the Tampa Bay Derby and Wood Memorial. He has a tendency to lug-in a bit, so jockey Jose Ortiz will need to keep him focused through the lane. Hall-of-Fame trainer Bill Mott is a sentimental pick to finally win a Kentucky Derby. With this colt it's not out of the question. Tacitus is the top point earner on the Road to the Kentucky Derby with 150.

# Another Bowl of M&M's

By Bob Neumeier, HorsePlayerNow.com

**Analysis:** They were affectionately called the M & M Boys, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris of the New York Yankees. Together they were a lethal offensive machine with the ability to bash tape-measure home runs. Horse racing also has a string of Kentucky Derby-winning trainers with an initial M attached to their last name. Michael Matz (Barbaro, 2006), Graham Motion (Animal Kingdom, 2011) and Shug McGaughey III (Orb, 2013) were all celebrated this new millennium by the racing community for winning their first Derby. This narrative was extremely popular with the racing public. All three were/are talented, dedicated and deserving to win America's most famous race. In 2019, the M & M boys are back again, training horses with every chance to win. Richard Mandella has **OMAHA BEACH**, while Bill Mott saddles **TACITUS** and longshot **COUNTRY HOUSE**. Regardless of the outcome, both Mandella and Mott are well-respected as excellent horsemen. That fact will never change; but winning the Derby would be sweet, like munching on a bowlful of M & M's.

**Main Contenders:** The Derby is typically a race with a fast early pace. On paper, 2019 looks like it could sport a dawdling pace, which could be a boon to **MAXIMUM SECURITY**. This speedball was foaled on May 14, which will make him less than 3 years old on the day of the big event. In addition, he's trained by the ubiquitous Jason Servis, who wins more these days than Tom Brady and the New England Patriots. Other obvious choices with excellent speed figures are **GAME WINNER**, **IMPROBABLE**, **ROADSTER**, **TAX** and **SPINOFF**, among others on the cusp.

**Value Plays:** In a 20-horse extravaganza, a "main contender" could well be a "value play" depending on the whims of the tote board. **BY MY STANDARDS** and **CUTTING HUMOR** recently ran contending figures, but a possible "bounce" is in play. While the Kentucky Derby is known for tradition, it also offers players the irresistible urge to wager with a pot of gold at hand.

## \$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$10 Exacta Part-Wheel: **OMAHA BEACH** with **TACITUS**, **GAME WINNER**, **IMPROBABLE**, **MAXIMUM SECURITY** and **ROADSTER** (\$50)
- \$10 Exacta Part-Wheel: **TACITUS** with **OMAHA BEACH**, **GAME WINNER**, **IMPROBABLE**, **MAXIMUM SECURITY** and **ROADSTER** (\$50)

## Bob's Picks

1. OMAHA BEACH
2. TACITUS
3. GAME WINNER
4. IMPROBABLE



## Stats & Trends

### Win-Place-Show Odds

(Last 25 years, Odds to \$1)

#### Win Odds

**Average:** 12.50

**High:** 50.60 (Mine That Bird, 2009)

**Low:** 2.30 (Fusaichi Pegasus, 2000; Nyquist, 2016)

**Notable:** 6 consecutive winners have been 5-1 or less.

#### Place Odds

**Average:** 17.20

**High:** 71.60 (Closing Argument, 2005)

**Low:** 2.50 (Empire Maker, 2003)

**Notable:** Bodemeister in 2012 was the last favorite to run second.

#### Show Odds

**Average:** 10.70

**High:** 40.00 (Battle of Midway, 2017)

**Low:** 2.70 (Indian Charlie, 1998)

**Notable:** Only 3 of the last 25 show horses have been over 16-1 odds.

#### Exacta Payoffs

(Last 25 years, \$2 Payoffs)

**Average:** \$793.98

**High:** \$9,814.80

(Giacomo-Closing Argument, 2005)

**Low:** \$30.60 (Nyquist-Exaggerator, 2016)

**Notable:** 3 of the last 4 exactas have paid \$72 or less.

## ? Know This

**Carved-Out Path:** The last 5 Derby winners were no worse than third at any point-of-call in the official race chart. However, War Emblem (2002) is the only wire-to-wire winner in the past 30 years.

**Rolling a 7?:** Post-time Derby chalk has won 6 consecutive times. That's the most in the race's history. The last losing Derby favorite was runner-up Bodemeister (2012).

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# Exotic Wagering Chart



Kentucky Derby exotic wagers usually produce hefty payoffs.  
Use this handy Exotic Wagering Chart to help 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 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:** (\$1 Wager)

4 Horse Box	\$24
5 Horse Box	\$120
6 Horse Box	\$360

**Superfecta Wheel:** (\$1 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	\$120
8 Horse Field	\$210
9 Horse Field	\$336
10 Horse Field	\$504

**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	\$40
8 Horse Field	\$60
9 Horse Field	\$84
10 Horse Field	\$112

**Superfecta Key:** (\$1 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others	\$6
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)	
1 Horse with 4 others	\$24
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)	
1 Horse with 5 others	\$60
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	
1 Horse with 6 others	\$120
(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	\$210
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)	

# 'Game On' for Game Winner

By Millie Ball, XBTV.com

@camillayakteen

**Analysis:** Six months ago, at Breeders' Cup, GAME WINNER solidified his 2-year-old championship year with a dominating win over the Churchill Downs surface. He overcame a wide trip from start to finish, and a body slam from the runner-up inside the eighth-pole. He never wavered. It's the right constitution if you are trying to win a Kentucky Derby. In his first start back in 134 days, GAME WINNER was beaten a nose by OMAHA BEACH in the Rebel Stakes. He then lost his final Kentucky Derby prep by a half-length to stablemate ROADSTER, yet according to Trakus, he ran the equivalent of approximately 4 1/2 lengths farther than the winner.

**Main Contenders:** Bob Baffert has campaigned GAME WINNER with the Kentucky Derby as the goal. There is no one better at getting a horse to peak on the first Saturday in May. This is a fresh and talented colt who appears to have exited the Santa Anita Derby in great shape judging from his [April 20 work](#). OMAHA BEACH is arguably the best 3-year-old in the country. He's progressive, quick from the gate and will relax. An off-track may give him an edge, but I didn't see enough reserve in the tank crossing the wire in the Arkansas Derby to be convinced he can be as good over the classic distance. Having raced only twice this year after throat tie-back surgery, there is plenty of room for improvement for ROADSTER. His [gate work on April 20](#) is the best I've seen from any of the contenders to date.

**Value Plays:** TACITUS arguably has the most attractive pedigree for a classic distance. The son of Tapit is out of the champion two-turn mare Close Hatches. The Wood Memorial winner looks like he is getting good at the right time. COUNTRY HOUSE has a very steady style, and while he may not have been fast enough to win his preps, he has shown that he fits and that the extra distance could be an equalizer.

## \$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$1 Trifecta Key Box: GAME WINNER with ROADSTER, COUNTRY HOUSE, TACITUS (\$18)
- \$1 Trifecta Key Box: ROADSTER with GAME WINNER, TACITUS, COUNTRY HOUSE (\$18)
- \$2 Exacta Box: GAME WINNER, OMAHA BEACH, TACITUS, COUNTRY HOUSE, TAX (\$40)
- \$24 Win: TACITUS (\$24)

## Millie's Picks

1. GAME WINNER
2. ROADSTER
3. TACITUS
4. COUNTRY HOUSE



## Stats & Trends

### Trifecta

(Since 1995, \$2 Payoffs)

**Average:** \$11,232.92

**High:** \$133,134.80

(Giacomo-Closing Argument-Afleet Alex, 2005)

**Low:** \$173.40

(Nyquist-Exaggerator-Gun Runner, 2016)

**Notable:** 3 of the last 4 trifectas have paid \$282.80 or less.

### Superfecta

(Since 1996, \$1 Payoffs)

**Average:** \$78,858.63

**High:** \$864,253.50

(Giacomo-Closing Argument-Afleet Alex-Don't Get Mad, 2005)

**Low:** \$350.00

(Silver Charm-Captain Bodgit-Free House-Pulpit, 1997)

**Notable:** 85-1 Instilled Regard in fourth bolstered a \$19,618.20 superfecta payoff last year.

### Highest-Priced Super Finishers

(Last 20 Years, Odds to \$1)

Odds	Horse	Year	Fin.
85.10	Instilled Regard	2018	4th
71.60	Closing Argument	2005	2nd
<b>50.60</b>	<b>Mine That Bird</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>50.30</b>	<b>Giacomo</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>1st</b>
41.70	Limehouse	2004	4th
40.00	Battle of Midway	2017	3rd

## ? Know This

**Subdued Superfecta:** Not only have favorites won the last 6 Derby renewals, but 18 of the 24 superfecta slots have been dominated by horses at 10-1 odds or less.

**They're on to Him:** Bob Baffert has saddled the Kentucky Derby favorite on 7 occasions. After beginning 0-for-4 with Derby chalk, he's won his last 2--American Pharoah (2015) and Justify (2018)--and was second with Bodemeister (2012).

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# D-Day for Omaha Beach

By Jeff Siegel, XBTV.com

@jsiegelracing

**Analysis:** This handicapper has enjoyed the good fortune of selecting the past five winners of the Kentucky Derby for the Xpressbet Wagering Guide. Okay, so maybe it's no coincidence that each was sent off as the wagering favorite (the chalk, in fact, have won six straight dating back to Orb in 2013). So, let's stick with what works. This year's likely top choice, **OMAHA BEACH**, has many positive factors in his corner, including rising Beyer Speed Figures in every race, winning form on both wet and dry tracks, excellent tactical speed to insure a pace-stalking, trouble-free trip, and a pedigree that suggests the Derby's 10-furlong trip will be within his range. And, perhaps most telling, Mike Smith could have remained loyal to trainer Bob Baffert and opted for Santa Anita Derby winner **ROADSTER**. Instead, he's sticking with **OMAHA BEACH**.

**Main Contenders:** **OMAHA BEACH** has quickly risen to the head of his class following two graded-stakes wins at Oaklawn Park, including the Arkansas Derby, arguably the toughest Triple Crown prep race this year. **ROADSTER** has similar upside and is another that has gotten faster on figures with every race. **GAME WINNER** won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile over the Churchill Downs main track and, though second in both of his starts this year, did little wrong in either outing. **IMPROBABLE** was well clear of the others when second in the Arkansas Derby. Now that the screws have been tightened, the son of City Zip should be ready to explode.

**Value Plays:** Similar to **OMAHA BEACH**, **BY MY STANDARDS** is ascending rapidly with experience and distance and continues to catch the eye in the morning. He's about as live a long shot as you'll find in the field. **MAXIMUM SECURITY**, undefeated in four career starts and possibly the controlling speed, has physical issues and will have no traditional workouts training up to the race. Will he be fit enough? If so, he could take this field a long way.

## \$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$20 win: **OMAHA BEACH** (\$20)
- \$10 Exacta Key-Box: **OMAHA BEACH** with **GAME WINNER**, **IMPROBABLE**, **ROADSTER** (\$60)
- \$5 Exacta Key-Box: **OMAHA BEACH** with **BY MY STANDARDS**, **MAXIMUM SECURITY** (\$20)

## Jeff's Picks

1. **OMAHA BEACH**
2. **ROADSTER**
3. **GAME WINNER**
4. **IMPROBABLE**



## Stats & Trends

### 2018 Derby Handle Totals

(Handle in Millions Except High-Five)

Pool	Handle
Win/Place/Show	\$62.3
Trifecta	\$32.7
Exacta	\$24.5
Superfecta	\$13.1
Pick Four	\$4.0
Oaks/Derby Double	\$3.1
Pick Five	\$2.9
Pick Six	\$1.3
High-Five	\$471k

### Lowest-Priced Derby Favorites

(Last 20 Years, Odds to \$1)

Odds	Horse	Year	Fin.
1.80	Point Given	2001	5th
<b>2.30</b>	<b>Nyquist</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>2.40</b>	<b>Big Brown</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>2.50</b>	<b>California Chrome</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>1st</b>

### Highest-Priced Derby Favorites

(All-Time, Odds to \$1)

Odds	Horse	Year	Fin.
6.30	Lookin At Lucky	2010	6th
6.00	Harlan's Holiday	2002	7th
5.50	Sweetnorthernst	2006	7th
<b>5.40</b>	<b>Orb</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>1st</b>
5.20	Dialed In	2011	8th
<b>4.90</b>	<b>Street Sense</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>1st</b>
4.80	General Challenge/ Excellent Meeting	1999	5th
<b>4.70</b>	<b>Always Dreaming</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>1st</b>
4.40	Prairie Bayou	1993	2nd
4.20	Bodemeister	2012	2nd
<b>4.10</b>	<b>Smarty Jones</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>1st</b>

## ? Know This

**Yo, Apollo:** The curse of Apollo was exorcised last year when Justify became the first unraced 2-year-old to win the Derby since 1882. The victory upped the cumulative record for un-started juveniles to 63: 1-3-5 since 1944.

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# 'Beach is Total Package

By Jon White, Santa Anita Oddsmaker  
@PostTimeJon

**Analysis:** Ever since Churchill Downs in 2013 instituted the points system to determine eligibility to start, six straight favorites have won the Kentucky Derby. This fact prompts a couple of questions. First, who is going to be the favorite this year? And second, will this year's favorite keep the winning streak going? It appears to me the answer to the first question is **OMAHA BEACH**. And if it does turn out to be **OMAHA BEACH**, I think he has an excellent chance to extend the string of victorious Kentucky Derby favorites to seven.

**Main Contenders:** **OMAHA BEACH** has the speed, class, tractability, gameness, breeding, Hall of Fame jockey ("Big Money" Mike Smith), Hall of Fame trainer (Richard Mandella) and wet-track prowess (if needed) to get the job done. Talk about the total package. Meanwhile, Eclipse Award winner **GAME WINNER**, Santa Anita Derby winner **ROADSTER** and Arkansas Derby runner-up **IMPROBABLE** all have the credentials to possibly give Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert a sixth Kentucky Derby victory to tie the long-standing record held by Ben Jones. Underestimate Florida Derby winner **MAXIMUM SECURITY** at your own peril. He's undefeated, untested and scary. **TACITUS**, who sports an enviable pedigree, demonstrated in his Wood Memorial triumph that he's capable of winning a race despite getting knocked around early.

**Value Plays:** If **WAR OF WILL** had won the Louisiana Derby, his odds for this race most likely would have been in the 8-1 to 12-1 range. But because he finished a troubled ninth in that race **WAR OF WILL** is probably going to be twice the price at 20-1 or higher. Since then, he has trained splendidly. Also, other than in the Louisiana Derby, he's never lost on dirt and offers tremendous value.

## \$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$70 Win: **OMAHA BEACH** (\$70)
- \$3 Exacta Part-Wheel: **OMAHA BEACH** over **GAME WINNER** and **IMPROBABLE** (\$6)
- \$1 Exacta Part-Wheel: **OMAHA BEACH** over **COUNTRY HOUSE**, **TAX**, **WAR OF WILL**, **WIN WIN WIN** (\$4)
- \$10 Win: **MAXIMUM SECURITY** (\$10)
- \$10 Win: **WAR OF WILL** (\$10)

## Jon's Picks

1. **OMAHA BEACH**
2. **GAME WINNER**
3. **IMPROBABLE**
4. **ROADSTER**



## Stats & Trends

### Prior Career Starts for Derby Winners

(Last 10 years)

Year	Derby Winner	Sts	2YO	3YO
2018	Justify	3	0	3
2017	Always Dreaming	5	2	3
2016	Nyquist	7	5	2
2015	American Pharoah	5	3	2
2014	California Chrome	10	7	3
2013	Orb	7	4	3
2012	I'll Have Another	5	3	2
2011	Animal Kingdom	4	2	2
2010	Super Saver	6	4	2
2009	Mine That Bird	8	5	3

### Prep Race Winners to Win Derby

Race	Horse	Year
Arkansas Derby	American Pharoah	2015
Blue Grass	Strike the Gold	1991
Florida Derby	Always Dreaming	2017
Louisiana Derby	Grindstone	1996
Santa Anita Derby	Justify	2018
Spiral	Animal Kingdom	2011
Sunland Derby	N/A	N/A
Wood Memorial	Fusaichi Pegasus	2000

### Consecutive Scores

(Last 6 Years Pre-Derby)

Year	Horse	Cons. Wins
2018	Justify	3
2017	Always Dreaming	3
2016	Nyquist	7
2015	American Pharoah	4
2014	California Chrome	4
2013	Orb	4

**Note:** Last 7 Derby winners were unbeaten at 3. Since Super Saver (2010) all Derby winners had won previous start.

## ? Know This

**No Cheap Thrills:** The last 4 Kentucky Derby winners all sold for \$300,000 or more at auction, including Triple Crown winners American Pharoah (\$300,000) and Justify (\$500,000).

# Omaha Beach Rides Tide

By Dick Jerardi, Daily Racing Form  
@DickJerardi

**Analysis:** Quality early speed is the common denominator for recent Kentucky Derby winners, starting with California Chrome in 2014 right through Justify a year ago. That speed has taken the potential perils of a 20-horse field right out of the equation. The quality early speed horses in this Derby are **OMAHA BEACH** and **MAXIMUM SECURITY**. They also happen to be the only horses that have hit triple-digits on the Beyer scale, **OMAHA BEACH** in his Arkansas Derby win, and unbeaten **MAXIMUM SECURITY**, once in an 18 1/4-length optional claimer blowout and again in the Xpressbet Florida Derby. This race is much more likely to be won from near the front than from the middle or the back, because there simply isn't that much early speed, quality or otherwise.

**Main Contenders:** **OMAHA BEACH** is likely to go favored because Mike Smith chose to ride and he beat two of the three Bob Baffert contenders in a division of the Rebel and the Arkansas Derby. This is your classic 3-year-old who grows up overnight and figures it all out. His legendary trainer, Richard Mandella, knew it and **OMAHA BEACH** proved him right in Arkansas. **GAME WINNER** is less than a length from being unbeaten in six starts for Baffert. He always fires, but is no faster now than he was six months ago. **IMPROBABLE** is a major talent, but even the great Baffert has been mildly perplexed as to how to get him to demonstrate it. Witness the game of musical blinkers. **ROADSTER**, the third of the Bafferts, may have the biggest upside. Last summer Baffert was saying he was the next superstar. **MAXIMUM SECURITY** may have run for \$16,000 in his first start, but that is yesterday's news. He is a serious racehorse. **TACITUS** may be one of the best-bred horses ever to run in the Derby.

**Value Plays:** **BY MY STANDARDS** turned a corner in mid-February, and then roared around that corner in the Louisiana Derby. No horse has been working better.

## \$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$100 Exacta: **OMAHA BEACH** over **BY MY STANDARDS** (\$100)

## Daily Guide Updates begin Tuesday, April 30.

A revised guide, including Analysis, Selections and Wager Strategies from NBC's Eddie Olczyk and VSiN's Brent Musburger, will be available beginning Thursday, May 2.

## Dick's Picks

1. **OMAHA BEACH**
2. **BY MY STANDARDS**
3. **MAXIMUM SECURITY**
4. **IMPROBABLE**



## Stats & Trends

### Winter/Spring Homes of Winners

Year	Horse	State
2018	Justify	California
2017	Always Dreaming	Florida
2016	Nyquist	California/Florida
2015	American Pharoah	California/Arkansas
2014	California Chrome	California
2013	Orb	Florida
2012	I'll Have Another	California
2011	Animal Kingdom	Florida/Kentucky
2010	Super Saver	Florida/Arkansas
2009	Mine That Bird	New Mexico
2008	Big Brown	Florida
2007	Street Sense	Florida/Kentucky
2006	Barbaro	Florida
2005	Giacomo	California
2004	Smarty Jones	Arkansas
2003	Funny Cide	FL/NY/LA
2002	War Emblem	Louisiana/Illinois

### Wire-to-Wire Derby Winners

(Last 50 Years)

Year	Horse	Choice	Field	Half
2002	War Emblem	9th	18	:47
1988	Winning Colors	2nd	17	:46 4/5
1985	Spend A Buck	2nd	13	:45 4/5
1976	Bold Forbes	2nd	9	:45 4/5
1972	Riva Ridge	Fav.	16	:47 3/5

### Fastest Derbies

Time	Horse	Year
1:59 2/5	Secretariat	1973
1:59 4/5	Monarchos	2001
2:00	Northern Dancer	1964
2:00 1/5	Spend A Buck	1985
2:00 2/5	Decidedly	1962

## ? Know This

**Last to Lose:** Animal Kingdom (2011) was the last Derby winner to lose at age 3. He failed in a Gulfstream allowance test, but returned to win the Spiral in his final prep. The last Derby winner to triumph directly off a loss was Super Saver (2010).

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# Improbable Value on Baffert

By Steve Byk, At the Races (SiriusXM)

@Steve\_Byk

**Analysis:** The most glaring question is whether the run of winning favorites can possibly continue to 7 straight. The burden for keeping the unprecedented skein alive lies with streaking **OMAHA BEACH**, who has the pedigree, resume, connections and style worthy of the public's support. Poised to challenge are a troika of accomplished Bob Baffert trainees (**GAME WINNER**, **ROADSTER**, **IMPROBABLE**) and an attractive pair from Bill Mott (**TACITUS**, **COUNTRY HOUSE**). A murky pace scenario seems to favor players in the front half of the field after 6 furlongs: 1:10 or less sets up the closers; 1:10-1:11 gives pressers and stalkers their best chance; 1:11 or slower favors leaders.

**Main Contenders:** After **OMAHA BEACH**, an unusual opportunity presents itself in authentic value on Bob Baffert's runners. **IMPROBABLE** has been my Derby lean for months. The pair of placements at Oaklawn make blinkers off **IMPROBABLE** highly attractive as a trifecta key horse with his price in the 10-1 range. The last 5 years, Baffert is 5-for-15 (33% Win) and an eye-popping 12-for-15 (80% ITM) when removing blinkers in graded stakes. Juvy Champ **GAME WINNER** arrives at The Downs minus his previously pristine record. But his narrow Rebel loss to **OMAHA BEACH** came off a 4 month break and though nailed on the wire by stablemate **ROADSTER** in the Santa Anita Derby, ran a dynamic race chasing hard-trying Instagrاند over a grueling surface while losing ground. He and Joel Rosario can get a similar trip to the one they carved out over this strip in the Breeders' Cup. **TACITUS** returned at 3 an improved horse and should relish the 10th furlong. Mystery quotient **MAXIMUM SECURITY** could prove very dangerous rating on or near the lead.

**Value Plays:** Though his route efforts look too slow, **WIN WIN WIN** finishes his races and can impact the bottom of exotics. **TAX** is the lone Derby starter with three 9-furlong races. **COUNTRY HOUSE** is developing steadily.

## \$100 Wagering Strategy:

- \$2 Trifecta Part Wheel: **IMPROBABLE**, **GAME WINNER**, **TACITUS** with **IMPROBABLE**, **GAME WINNER**, **TACITUS** with **IMPROBABLE**, **GAME WINNER**, **TACITUS**, **WIN WIN WIN**, **ROADSTER**, **TAX**, **COUNTRY HOUSE** (\$60)
- \$5 Exacta Box Key: **IMPROBABLE** with **OMAHA BEACH**, **MAXIMUM SECURITY** (\$20)
- \$20 WIN: **IMPROBABLE** (\$20)

## Steve's Picks

1. **IMPROBABLE**
2. **GAME WINNER**
3. **TACITUS**
4. **WIN WIN WIN**



## Stats & Trends

### Career High Pre-Derby Beyer Fig

(Last 10 years)

Year	Horse	Beyer	Fin.
2018	Justify	107	1st
2017	Classic Empire	102	4th
	J Boys Echo	102	15th
2016	Exaggerator	103	2nd
2015	Materiality	110	6th
2014	California Chrome	108	1st
2013	Verrazano	105	14th
	Goldencents	105	17th
2012	Bodemeister	108	2nd
2011	Soldat	103	11th
2010	Devil May Care	100	10th
	Sidney's Candy	100	17th
2009	Dunkirk	108	11th

### Active Jockeys Most Derby Mounts

Mounts	Jockey
24	Mike Smith
22	Kent Desormeaux
20	John Velazquez
18	Corey Nakatani
15	Robby Albarado
12	Calvin Borel
12	Javier Castellano

Note: Record is 26 Bill Shoemaker.

### Active Jockeys Most Derby Wins

Wins	Jockey
3	Calvin Borel
3	Kent Desormeaux
3	Victor Espinoza
2	Mario Gutierrez
2	John Velazquez
2	Mike Smith

## ? Know This

**Old-Time Revival:** Jockeys Mike Smith (52) and John Velazquez (45) have won the past 2 Derbies and rank behind Bill Shoemaker (54) with Ferdinand (1986) as oldest to wear roses.