

Johannesburg

J: Gary Stevens
T: Aidan O'Brien
PP: 2
O: 6-1

C: Reigning 2-year-old champ trained in secrecy in Ireland. Has had just one race in the past six-plus months, a loss last month on grass, and hasn't yet seen this track.



Ocean Sound

J: Alex Solis
T: James Cassidy
PP: 7
O: 20-1

C: Two-time Derby-winning trainer Nick Zito picks him to win, but the Irish-bred colt has done that just once in 12 career races. Not the best bang for your long-shot buck.



Private Emblem

J: Donnie Meche
T: Steve Asmussen
PP: 11
O: 20-1

C: Won last three races against lesser competition in Texas and Arkansas. Asmussen's and Meche's only Derby experience came last year with Fifty Stars (ninth).



Saarland

J: John Velazquez
T: Shug McGaughey
PP: 16
O: 15-1

C: McGaughey, 51, is a sentimental pick. He hasn't been here since Easy Goer lost as an odds-on favorite in 1989. Surgery to correct Saarland's breathing problem has helped.



Wild Horses

J: Rene Douglas
T: Todd Pletcher
PP: 3
O: 50-1

C: Finished second in shallow field at Arkansas Derby. Had four different jockeys in last five races. Front-runner could get burned to a crisp by fast early pace.



Request For Parole

J: Robby Albarado
T: Steve Margolis
PP: 8
O: 20-1

C: Battled Perfect Drift in last three races at Turfway. This is Albarado's first time aboard and the horse's fourth different jockey in five races. Also had six-week layoff.



Castle Gandolfo

J: Jerry Bailey
T: Aidan O'Brien
PP: 12
O: 20-1

C: Another unknown prospect from Ireland. Has never raced in America and hasn't yet set foot on this track. Bailey is third different jockey in last four races.



Danthelbluegrassman

J: Kent Desormeaux
T: Bob Baffert
PP: 17
O: 50-1

C: The surest way to lose your \$2. No one has ever won from this post. No one who finished last of eight entrants in his last prep should be in this race.



Perfect Drift

J: Eddie Delahoussaye
T: Murray Johnson
PP: 4
O: 15-1

C: A sleeper pick. Has lost to just one horse, Request For Parole (twice), in last five races. Last five races were at Turfway. Could be hurt by six-week layoff.



Essence of Dubai

J: David Flores
T: Saeed bin Suroor
PP: 9
O: 15-1

C: His last race was at the Derby distance, 1 1/4 miles, a victory in the United Arab Emirates Derby. Last race on U.S. soil was a 20th-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.



Proud Citizen

J: Mike Smith
T: D. Wayne Lukas
PP: 13
O: 30-1

C: Finished no better than fifth in three straight races until winning the Lexington Stakes two weeks ago. Lukas took Charismatic from the Lexington to a Derby triumph in 1999.



It'sallinthechase

J: Eddie Martin Jr.
T: Wilson Brown
PP: 18
O: 30-1

C: Oh, he'll chase, all right. He just won't catch anyone. Has won just twice in 14 starts, the most races of anyone in the field. Brown says he's just happy to be here.



Lusty Latin

J: Glenn Corbett
T: Jeff Mullins
PP: 5
O: 30-1

C: Has won just twice in 11 starts, though his closing speed makes him intriguing if front-runners falter. Finished a solid third in the Santa Anita Derby.



Medaglia d'Oro

J: Laffit Pincay Jr.
T: Bobby Frankel
PP: 10
O: 6-1

C: Not since 1918 has a horse won the Derby with just four prep races, as he'll try to do. Has won twice and placed twice. Pincay is racing's all-time winningest rider.



Harlan's Holiday

J: Edgar Prado
T: Ken McPeck
PP: 14
O: 9-2

C: Longest morning-line odds ever for a Derby favorite. Stabled here since June 2001, he likes the track. Ohio-bred won or placed in all 10 starts. Won twice at River Downs.



Easy Grades

J: Jorge Chavez
T: Ted West
PP: 19
O: 20-1

C: He's not so easy to grade. He has finished second in three straight races. This is his third different jockey in three races. No one has ever won from the No. 19 post.



War Emblem

J: Victor Espinoza
T: Bob Baffert
PP: 6
O: 20-1

C: A great unknown. Previous owner wasn't going to run him here, thinking his front-running style couldn't win. Owns top Beyer Speed Figure (112) of any 3-year-old this year.



Buddha

J: Pat Day
T: James Bond
PP: --
O: 5-1

C: Like Medaglia d'Oro, he's trying to win off just four prep races. He has won his last three, including the Wood Memorial. Likes to lay just off the pace. Bettors love Day.



Came Home

J: Chris McCarron
T: Paco Gonzalez
PP: 15
O: 5-1

C: Has won five of last six races, including Santa Anita Derby. McCarron has had mount in all seven previous starts. His breeding suggests he may struggle at this distance.



Blue Burner

J: Pat Day
T: Bill Mott
PP: 20
O: 30-1

C: Lost his last three races. This colt has late speed, but if falls too far off the pace, he'll never catch up.

