

Handicapping the Kentucky Derby

By Stanley Caris

in Contenders: The following 7 Horses are my win contenders: My checklist leader is **Normandy Invasion** with 13 points. Normandy Invasion closed strongly in the Wood Memorial with a final 3/8 in 36 flat and a final 1/8 in 12 1/5. He carries the strong conduit mare, Chit Chat in tail-female and is a member of family #1, one of the strongest families for generating Derby winners.

Orb is second choice on my checklist with 9 points and qualified on my final fraction indicator. He carries **Buckpasser** in the X passing position which is a strong indicator in all three legs of the Triple Crown. In addition Orb has the strong conduit mare, Cherokee Rose in tail-female.

Revolutionary- is fourth choice on my checklist with 4 points and carries the great conduit mare, **Doxa** in tail-female. In addition, Revolutionary has **Buckpasser** in the X passing position by way of AP Indy, a definite source of stamina in the modern thoroughbred. Revolutionary finished fast in the Louisiana Derby while running the final 3/8 in 37 4/5 and the final 1/8 in 12 3/5. Although this author does not consider that race to be a big 5 prep it is still commendable. If the La Derby was a big 5 prep race Revolutionary would have achieved a much larger point total.

Verrazano is third choice on my checklist and has qualified on my final fraction indicator. This colt has fine speed and has won all

4 of his races.

Overanalyze is tied with Revolutionary for fourth choice on my checklist. He finished strongly in the Arkansas Derby while running the last 1/8 of a mile in 12 3/5 seconds.

Vyjack ran the last 3 furlongs of the Wood Memorial in 36 flat and the final 1/8 in 12 3/5 seconds. He is a member of family #1, one of the best families for generating Derby winners.

Mylute ran the last 3 furlongs of the Louisiana Derby in 37 3/5 seconds. Although this author does not consider the La. Derby to be a big 5 prep race that final time is commendable. If the La. Derby was considered a big 5 prep race Mylute would have accumulated a much larger point total on my checklist. Mylute is a member of the powerful Raise A Native sire line, a sire line that has generated 18 Derby winners.

Runners That Might Hit The Board At Very Long Odds:

Palace Malice is a member of the powerful Raise A Native sire line and finished second in the Blue Grass over a polytrack surface.

Charming Kitten- was closing fast in the Blue Grass stakes at Keenland which was contested over a polytrack surface. Although he has never raced over a dirt surface he looks like the type of runner that will relish the Derby distance. Could hit the board at long odds.

Frac Daddy raced well in the Arkansas Derby while finishing second to Overanalyze and has Buckpasser in the X passing position. Another runner that may hit the board at long odds.

Longshot Recommendations:

Revolutionary, Normandy Invasion, Mylute and Overanalyze

Exotic Wagers:

An exacta wheel of **Orb** on top of the entire field and an exacta wheel with **Revolutionary** on top of the entire field

An exacta wheel of the entire field over **Orb** and an exacta wheel of the entire field over **Revolutionary**.

An exacta box of the following 5 horses: **Revolutionary**, **Orb**, **Normandy Invasion**, **Mylute**, and **Verrazano**.

A trifecta key with **Orb** on top of the following 9 horses: **Revolutionary, Normandy Invasion, Verrazano, Overanalyze, Vyjack, Mylute, Palace Malice, Charming Kitten** and **Frac Daddy**

A trifecta key with Revolutionary on top of the following 9 horses: Orb, Normandy Invasion, Verrazano, Overanalyze, Vyjack, Mylute, Palace Malice, Charming Kitten, and Frac Daddy.

Sloppy or Muddy Track:

If the track comes up sloppy or muddy give extra consideration to Mylute, Vyjack, Oxbow and Palace Malice.

8 Factor Checklist for the 2013 Kentucky Derby									Derby	
Horse	37.8	RF	98	23b	SR	92	BK	CM	Total	Conduit Mare
Normandy Invasion	2	0	0	2	3	2	0	4	13	Chit Chat
Orb	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	9	Cherokee Rose
Verrazano	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	
Revolutionary	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	4	Doxa
Vyjack	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	
Overanalyze	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	
Mylute	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	Broom Flower
Goldencents	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	
Itsmyluckyday	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Golden Soul	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	Marchetta
Lines of Battle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Artless
Palace Malice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Will Take Charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Black Onyx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Charming Kitten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Java's War	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Frac Daddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Falling Sky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Giant Finish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Oxbow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AE Fear the Kitten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Codes for the 8 Indicators in My Newly Revised Derby Checklist

Derby Indicator #1 (37.8)

Give 2 points to all horses that fit the following rules: 1) It must achieve a final 3/8 of a mile in 37 4/5 or less or a final 1/8 of a mile in 12 4/5 or less in a big 5 prep race 2) It must not have finished worse than 4th in its last start before the Derby 3) the runner must not have been worse than 4th in the race that qualifies it on final fraction times above 4)The runner must not have lost 2 lengths or more from the 6 furlong call to the finish of a big 5 prep race unless it shows no loss of ground in another big 5 prep race 5)Races over polytracks were omitted from this study (The Big 5 Preps are the Santa Anita Derby, the Florida Derby, the

Arkansas Derby and the Wood Memorial). Note the Blue Grass does not count any more because it is a polytrack surface. However, prior to 2007 the Blue Grass was run over a dirt surface and was used as a big 5 prep race. So actually there are only 4 big preps that are presently used in my checklist.

Derby Indicator #2 (RF)

Give 4 points to all horses that carry the Raise A Native sire line and fit all the rules found in indicator #1.

Derby Indicator #3 (98)

Give 2 points to all horses that achieve a 98 Beyer figure at 9 furlongs at age 3 and also fit all the rules of Indicator #1.

Derby Indicator #4 (23b)

Give 2 points to all horses that are

members of family 1 or 23b.

Derby Indicator #5 (SR)

Give 3 points to all horses who 1) were first or second in a big 5 prep race provided that they also achieve a Daily Racing Form speed rating plus track variant of 103 or higher in that big 5 prep. 2) The runner must show no loss of ground from the 6 furlong call to the finish of a big 5 prep race unless it shows no loss of ground in another big 5 prep. 3) Races over polytracks were not considered party of this study.

Derby Indicator #6 (92)

Give 2 points to all horses who won a race at a mile or more at age 2 and also achieved a Beyer figure of 92 or higher at age 2.

Derby Indicator #7 (BK)

Give 3 points to all runners who carry Buckpasser in the X passing position and also qualify on all the rules of Derby Indicator #1.

Derby Indicator #8 (CM)

Give 4 points to all runners who carry one of our special conduit mares in tail- female and also qualify on all the rules of Derby Indicator #1.

Note:

On the far right of the checklist I listed the names of strong conduit mares in bold face. Note that some of the entries carry a strong conduit mare in tail-female but do not fit all the rules found in Derby Indicator #1. Therefore these runners do not qualify on Derby Indicator #8.