



IRON MAIDENS  
THOROUGHBREDS  
PREAKNESS  
E-BOOK

*PREAKNESS STAKES*





[Introduction](#)

[Animal Kingdom](#)

[Astrology](#)

[Concealed Identity](#)

[Dance City](#)

[Dialed In](#)

[Flashpoint](#)

[Isn't He Perfect](#)

[King Congie](#)

[Midnight Interlude](#)

[Mr. Commons](#)

[Mucho Macho Man](#)

[Norman Asbjornson](#)

[Shackleford](#)

[Sway Away](#)

[Race Analysis](#)



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## ANIMAL KINGDOM

**Pedigree:** Animal Kingdom (Leroidesanimaux – Dalia, by Acatenango)

Animal Kingdom's sire, damsire and second damsire were all Turf Champions. He blends the speed of his sire with a hardy stamina oriented German female family. Animal Kingdom's sire Leroidesanimaux set three track records and was voted 2005 Champion Turf Male. As one would imagine, the majority of his offspring are at their best over turf and synthetic surfaces; however, Leroidesanimaux gets the odd stakes winner over the dirt. Two such winners are the La Canada heroine Always A Princess, and recent Tampa Derby place finisher Crimson Knight. Both receive strong dirt influences from their female families.

Animal Kingdom's damsire Acatenango was one of the best German-bred horses of the last century. The three-time Horse of the Year competed at the highest level, losing only twice in 17 stakes races and was successful from 1 3/16 to 1 ½ miles. Acatenango sired a dynasty in the breeding shed, topping the sire lists in 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999. His daughters produce stamina-oriented offspring and besides Animal Kingdom, Acatenango is the damsire of the Beverly D Stakes (G-1) heroine E Claire De Lune.

Animal Kingdom's female family is studged with a long line of German graded stakes winners. His dam Dalia raced 23 times, winning three contests, including a Group 3 race. Animal Kingdom descends from the Bruce Lowe Distaff family number 1-h, which is found mostly throughout Europe, but this family did produce High Gun, the 1954 Belmont Stakes winner.

**Surface:** Animal Kingdom proved in the Kentucky Derby that surface will never be an issue for him. He's proven over Polytrack, dirt, and was second by a head over the lawn.

**Analysis:** Animal Kingdom has the stamina to have a legitimate shot at the Triple Crown. There are no holes in his pedigree and he's currently the best three year old in the nation. His Bris speed figures have improved in every race and he earned a lifetime best 105 speed figure in the Kentucky Derby. He could regress slightly off of that figure and still win the Preakness.



## ASTROLOGY

**Pedigree:** Astrology (A.P. Indy – Quiet Eclipse, by Quiet American)

Sire A.P. Indy is a noted stamina mainstay in American breeding. The majority of his offspring are late maturing and prefer running two turns. Despite this, A.P. Indy has never sired a Kentucky Derby winner, but his son Bernardini won the tragedy marred 2006 edition of the Preakness Stakes and in 2007, A.P. Indy's daughter Rages to Riches was only the third filly in history to take the Belmont Stakes.

Astrology's damsire Quiet American is also known as a producer of stamina-oriented horses and has also developed into a very strong broodmare. He can be found in the top 20 on the leading broodmare sire lists. In fact, he is the damsire of the aforementioned Bernardini, as well as the Champion Saint Liam.

Astrology's dam Quiet Eclipse won only once in 13 attempts, but proved to be a very good broodmare. She has produced five winners from six foals to race and four stakes winners. All four of her stakes winners proved to be precocious. Lunarpal, winner of the Bashford Manor, Kentucky Breeders' Cup Stakes, both Grade 3 contests, and the WHAS three Chimneys Juvenile; Lunarlady, the Prairie Meadows Debutant heroine and Lunargal, winner of the Serena Stakes for juvenile fillies.

Of note to pedigree buffs is Astrology's strong distaff family. Both his damsire Quiet American and second dam June Gift trace back to Plucky Liege, who is one of the top broodmares in history.

**Surface:** Astrology is a winner over fast dirt and was second over the sloppy going. He has superior breeding for mud, as his sire gets 20% winners and damsire 16% winners over the off going.

**Analysis:** Astrology was a promising juvenile, winning the Iroquois (G-3) and placing in the Kentucky Jockey Club (G-2), which is unusual for a horse with the pedigree of a late maturing, two-turn runner. So far this year, Astrology has finished second in two fairly weak contests, although his speed figures have improved. He could be starting to come into his own, but Astrology has only won twice in his career, calling into question both his talent and desire to win.



## CONCEALED IDENTITY

**Pedigree:** Concealed Identity (Smarty Jones - Richetta, by Polish Numbers)

Concealed Identity's sire Smarty Jones was the darling of American Racing in 2003. He was the first colt since Seattle Slew to win the Kentucky Derby and Preakness with a perfect, unblemished record. Unfortunately, Smarty Jones was unable to hold off the furious rush of Birdstone in the Belmont Stakes and finished second, eight lengths in front of the third place finisher.

Smarty Jones was syndicated for \$39 million dollars and his stud fee set at \$100,000. The chestnut stallion has failed to live up to these lofty goals and current stands for \$10,000 in Pennsylvania. His offspring are stamina challenged and he hasn't produced a stakes winner at 1 1/8 or 1 1/4 miles.

Concealed Identity's damsire Polish Numbers was descended from the famed Phipps breeding program. By the international sire Danzig, Polish Number's dam Numbered Account was a Champion Juvenile and produced Polish Numbers' two Grade 1 winning half siblings Private Account and Dance Number. Polish Numbers stood his entire career in Maryland. As a broodmare sire, his daughters have produced only one stakes winner in the last ten years to win at 1 1/4 miles, and two, Exhi and Silver Whistle, have been successful at 1 1/8 miles.

Richetta, Concealed Identity's dam, won five races and was in the money six additional times in her 13 race career. She won four stakes races from seven furlongs to 1 1/8 miles and placed in five additional stakes contests. Concealed Identity's second and third dams are stakes placed, indicating some quality in this female family. Concealed Identity is Richetta's second foal.

**Surface:** Concealed Identity has been successful over a fast track, but was fourth in the mud, despite a superior pedigree for the surface. Both his sire and damsire get 18% winners over off tracks.

**Analysis:** Concealed Identity has a borderline pedigree for getting 1 3/16 miles but he's been successful both times that he's tried two turns, indicating that he could finish in the money at the Preakness distance. He's been working well over the Pimlico surface and has the advantage of being the local horse. On the downside, Concealed Identity hasn't beaten any notable foes, his speed figures are no better than average and he will be tested for class and distance.

**DANCE CITY**

**Pedigree:** Dance City (City Zip - Ballet Colony, by Pleasant Colony)

Sire City Zip was a precocious stakes winning sprinter, despite being a half brother to the Champion and Horse of the Year, Ghostzapper. City Zip battled throughout his juvenile summer with Yonaguska, beating him in the Hopeful and Sanford stakes, but losing the Flash and Hutcheson to his rival. As a three year old, City Zip stayed in the sprint division and won the Amsterdam, Jersey Shore Breeders' Cup and Hirsh Jacob Stakes.

City Zip's offspring win over all surfaces, but he is making a name for himself as a turf sire. City Zip has only one stakes winner over dirt at 1 1/8 miles, Lanes' End Stakes victor With A City., but he has produced several stakes winners at the same distance over turf. Often, horses that are distance challenged over dirt have no such issues over the lawn.

Dance City's damsire sire, Pleasant Colony, won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness in 1981. As a broodmare sire, Pleasant Colony has one stakes winner, Marsh Slide, at 1 1/4 miles, but his daughters have produced a number of stakes winners at 1 1/8 miles, including the Breeders' Cup Distaff heroine Pleasant Home, Peter Pan victor Sightseeing, and the handicap warrior Wanderin Boy.

Ballet Colony, Dance City's dam, won three of nine starts as a miler. She's produced four winners from five to race and Dance City is her only foal with blacktype. Ballet Colony's immediate distaff family is filled with blacktype. She is a full sister to two stakes horses, Grade 2 juvenile winner Dance Colony and multiple stakes winner Colonial Review. A three-quarter sibling Pleasant Review placed in multiple stakes. Ballet Colony's half sibling No Review won the the 1 1/4 mile (turf) Santa Barbara (G -1), while another half sibling Another Review is also a Grade 1 winner. A third half sibling, Rap and Dance, was stakes placed. This is a strong distaff family that includes prominent sire Lyphard and Grade 1 winners Flower Alley, Ashkal Way, and Ubane, the dam of second crop sire Suave.

**Surface:** Dance City has won over a fast and sloppy track. He has superior breeding for mud as his sire and damsire are both noted mud sires.

**Analysis:** After a game allowance win, Dance City headed to Arkansas where he finished third after dueling through the stretch. He's already a winner at 1 1/8 miles, so an additional half furlong should be within his scope. Dance City finished only 1 1/2 lengths behind Nehro in the Arkansas Derby and could be a legitimate contender in the Preakness.



## DIALED IN

**Pedigree:** Dialed In (Mineshaft - Miss Doolittle, by Storm Cat)

Dialed In's sire Mineshaft was the 2003 Eclipse Champion Horse of the Year despite not competing in the Breeders' Cup Classic. He's carried his winning ways to the breeding shed and has produced two winners at 1 ¼ miles, Hawthorne Gold Cup (G-2) victor Redding Colliery and Greenwood Cup winner A U Miner. Additionally, Mineshaft's son Fly Down was second in the 2010 Belmont Stakes. All of these colts have stamina-oriented distaff families.

Storm Cat, Dialed In's internationally acclaimed damsire, is always near the top of the broodmare sire lists by number of winners and money earned. His daughters produce runners over all distances and surfaces, and it's often the sire which determines how far the offspring will run.

Dialed In's dam, the cleverly named Miss Doolittle, out of Eliza, faced the starter six times, winning and placing twice each, and finishing third in the Schuylerville Stakes (G-3). She never won beyond six furlongs. Miss Doolittle is a half-sister to the Irish Group 2 sprinter Samuel Morse and the English listed stakes placed sprinter Country Song. As a broodmare, Miss Doolittle produced six foals, with five making it to the track. Her daughter Broadway Gold (by Seeking The Gold) won the Astoria Stakes (5F) and placed in a listed sprint. Her other accomplished foal is Mambo Meister (by Kingmambo) who won two of 26 starts and placed in the Patterson Stakes (1 1/6 miles, turf).

Miss Doolittle's dam Eliza, was the 1992 Champion Two Year Old Filly. She won five of 12 starts, including the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies and was second in the 1993 Kentucky Oaks. Eliza (by Mt. Livermore) was best at a mile to 1 1/6 miles and finished second once at 1 1/8 miles. Dialed In's Lowe's Female Family number 37 hasn't produced any Kentucky Derby winners, but they are represented by a Preakness winner Knight of Ellerslie (1884). Dialed In shares the same great-grand-dam as that Preakness winner.

**Surface:** Dialed In is a successful over a fast track. He hasn't raced over an off track. His sire is an average producer of mud runners (14%), while Storm Cat is a superior sire of off track runners (18%). An off track shouldn't pose a problem to Dialed In.

**Analysis:** Dialed In finished a disappointing and surprising eighth in the Kentucky Derby. According to his trainer Nick Zito, "Dialed In ran the second fastest (final) half-mile (in :47.02), ... only Secretariat ran a faster final half (:46 2/5). He (Dialed In) was not a short horse."

After every triple digit BRIS speed figure, Dialed In has regressed, numbers wise. For instance, he received a 104 for the Holy Bull, 98 for his allowance race, 101 for the Florida Derby and 97 for the Kentucky Derby. Dialed In could improve in the Preakness and shouldn't be overlooked.





## FLASHPOINT

**Pedigree:** Flashpoint (Pomeroy - Two Punch Lil, by Two Punch)

Flashpoint's sire Pomeroy was a precocious juvenile, winning his first two races, before placing in the Sanford Stakes (G-2). He then won the 1 1/16 mile Kentucky Cup Juvenile by a desperate nose, but was disqualified for swerving out. Pomeroy was wisely kept sprinting and rewarded his connections with victories in the King's Bishop (G-1), Forgo (G-1) and Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap (G-2). In all, the son of Boundary faced the starter 18 times and his career lasted for five years.

Pomeroy's first crop started winning last June and the majority of his progeny are sprinter/milers. One, Positive Response, has placed at 1 1/8 miles.

Two Punch, Flashpoint's damsire, was also a sprinter and produced the Champion Sprinter Smoke Glacken. As a broodmare sire, Two Punch's daughters produce mostly sprinter/milers, however, four stakes winners have been successful at 1 1/8 miles. All four are by distance-oriented sires.

Flashpoint's dam Two Punch Lil won half of her eight starts, including two sprint stakes. She is inbred to the blue hen Raise You through her third sire Raise A Native and his full sister, Toast Of The Town, who is Two Punch's third dam. Flashpoint is a half sibling to two Japanese stakes placed sprinters.

**Surface:** Flashpoint is a winner over fast dirt but hasn't faced an off track. His sire and damsire are both superior producers of mud runners, each getting 17% winners over the surface.

**Analysis:** With speed top and bottom in his pedigree, Flashpoint is bred to be a swift sprinter/miler. He dominated the seven furlong Hutchenson Stakes by over seven lengths, but had no response in the 1 1/8 mile Florida Derby, winding up a distant eight lengths behind the winner Dialed In. Flashpoint will likely use his speed to be up on the lead, but he'll be backing up in the stretch.

**ISN'T HE PERFECT**

**Pedigree:** Isn't He Perfect (Pleasantly Perfect - Reciclada , by Rictorious)

Sire Pleasantly Perfect excelled at two turn route races. During his career he won the Breeders' Cup Classic, Pacific Classic and Dubai World Cup. At stud, the third crop sire is proving to be a useful sire, getting winners over all surfaces and at distances ranging from five to thirteen furlongs. He hasn't produced many stakes winners, but his best progeny are Shared Account, winner of the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G-1) and Santa Anita Handicap hero Setsuko.

Isn't He Perfect Rictorious, a son of Conquistador Cielo out of a Sir Ivor mare, won three of 18 starts and has no blacktype. He was sent to Ireland at the beginning of his career then to Chile ten years later. He sired a handful of winners and Isn't He Perfect's dam Reciclada was the best of the lot.

Reciclada won nine times and placed five times in 21 starts, including a win the Top Flight Handicap (G-2). She has two winners from five foals, and the other winner is Isn't He Perfect's full brother Tapadero. Reciclada is a half sister to Mash One, Winner of the Oak Tree Turf Championship Stakes(G-1) and Clement Hirsh Memorial Handicap, plus she's a half sister to five other graded stakes horses.

**Surface:** Isn't He Perfect has won over a fast track but had no response when faced with a muddy track in the Jerome. His sire gets an average 14% winners over the off going.

**Analysis:** so far, Isn't He Perfect is failing to live up to his name. His only victories in 12 lifetime starts have been against Maiden Claimers and Allowance horses at Aqueduct. His forays into graded stakes company have resulted in his being trounced a combined 22+ lengths. Pedigree wise, he'll have no problem with distance, but he's seriously lacking in class.

**KING CONGIE**

**Pedigree:** King Congie (Badge of Silver – Wise Ending, by End Sweep)

King Congie has a nice blend of speed and stamina in his pedigree. His second crop sire Badge of Silver won four times at 1 1/8 miles, but never attempted 1 1/4 miles. He was a Grade 2 - Grade 3 type horse and placed twice in Grade 1 company. At stud, the second crop stallion is represented by two winners at 1 1/8 miles, Silver Medallion and King Congie. He gets winners over all surfaces, but oddly, Badge of Silver has no winners beyond seven furlongs over dirt.

King Congie's damsire End Sweep was a Grade 3 winning sprinter. His offspring are sprinter/milers. End Sweep's best offspring are Met Mile winner Swept Overboard, Vosburgh hero and sire Trippi, and the Japanese Group 1 winners Admire Moon and South Vigorous. As a broodmare sire, End Sweep's daughters get sprinter/milers, mainly listed stakes winners. He is represented by two winners at 1 1/8 miles, King Congie and a Japanese Group 3 winner.

King Congie gets some stamina attributes from his second damsire Wise Times, who won the Travers and Super Derby at 1 1/4 miles. King Congie's dam was a hardy mare, entering the starting gate 52 times and winning or placing in 40 of those starts. She's a full sister to a stakes winning sprinter and two half siblings are stakes winning sprinters. This is a fairly modest distaff family, however the Grade 1 winner Hurry Up Blue was produced by the third dam.

**Surface:** King Congie has been unplaced in two tries over dirt, but his pedigree is filled with predominately dirt influences. His young sire gets 33% winners over mud, but his damsire End Sweep is average, with 13% successful over an off track. King Congie may find the off going not to his liking.

**Analysis:** King Congie has been successful over turf and Polytrack, but has finished off the board in his dirt outings when he was younger. He is a winner at 1 1/8 miles over turf and could possibly handle an extra half-furlong over the lawn, but it's doubtful that he'll display the same form over the dirt. King Congie received a lifetime best Bris speed figure of 97 in the Bluegrass Stakes. The number rise wasn't a major jump and he should show further improvement. King Congie has reportedly been working well over the Belmont dirt, but will he show the form of Animal Kingdom, or will he go the way of Brilliant Speed, who beat King Congie by a head in the Bluegrass but finished a dull seventh in the Kentucky Derby?



## MIDNIGHT INTERLUDE

**Pedigree:** Midnight Interlude (War Chant - Midnight Kiss, by Groom Dancer)

Midnight Interlude's sire War Chat was a swift miller who, like Midnight Interlude, made four starts before the Kentucky Derby. War Chant was victorious in the San Rafael, but was second in the Santa Anita Derby to The Deputy. In Kentucky, War Chant could muster no better than a ninth place finish against the 2000 Derby champ Fusaichi Pegasus. Switched to the lawn, War Chant, a son of the internationally acclaimed Danzig, found his true calling, winning the Oak Tree Mile (G-2) and the Breeders' Cup Mile (G-1).

War Chant has been fairly successful at stud, however, the majority of his progeny are best over the green and are distance challenged. He has produced four winners at 1 1/8 miles and only one stakes winner at 1 1/4 miles, Flawless Treasure, heroine of the 2007 Sabin Stakes over the lawn. War Chant is represented by only one winner over the dirt at 1 1/8 miles (Midnight Interlude), and none at 1 1/4 miles.

Midnight Interlude's damsire Groom Dancer, a son of Blushing Groom, won from 7 1/2 to 1 1/4 miles at the Group Stakes level. Groom Dancer only sired about 50 stakes horses, despite an international career at stud in France, England Japan and Australia. As a broodmare sire, Groom Dancer's daughters have produced three winners at Classic distances. One of the three, Marshall, is bred along the same lines as Midnight Interlude, as Marshall's sire Anabaa is a son of Danzig.

There is no notable blacktype in the first three generations of Midnight Interlude's distaff line. This female family is mainly European or Australian and hasn't produced an American Classic winner.

**Surface:** Midnight Interlude won his maiden by a resounding 8 1/2 lengths over a wet-fast track. His sire War Chant is above average at getting mud runners (17%), but Groom Dancer is below average, with only 9%, although few of his offspring may have faced the off going.

**Analysis:** In the worst race of his young career, Midnight Interlude checked in 18 lengths behind Animal Kingdom and beat only two horses. Considering that he won his maiden race in March and was the surprise winner over a lackluster field in the Santa Anita Derby, this should come as no surprise. Instead of heading back to California to recoup, Midnight Interlude is scheduled for another tilt at the Classic races in the Preakness. The Kentucky Derby may have provided an excellent learning experience for the colt, but given his poor Derby performance and the questionable class of the Santa Anita Derby field, Midnight Interlude may be up against it. He could, however prove to be a horse to watch this summer.

**MR. COMMONS**

**Pedigree:** Mr. Commons (Artie Schiller – Joustabout, by Apalachee)

Mr. Commons' second-crop sire Artie Schiller won the 2005 Breeders' Cup Mile and carries a mixture of turf and dirt attributes throughout his pedigree. At stud, Artie Schiller's offspring are proving themselves over all surfaces up to 1 1/16 miles. Mr. Commons is his only stakes representative that has attempted 1 1/8 miles.

The distaff family of Mr. Commons has a blend of speed and stamina. His damsire Apalachee is rarely found so close up in modern pedigrees. Apalachee, is a Brilliant chef-de-race, meaning that he imparts blazing speed to his progeny. By the Champion Round Table out of the blue hen Moccasin, Apalachee was unbeaten in three starts as a juvenile in Ireland/England and was Timeform's Horse of the Year in 1973. He dominated his first start as a three year old, but was a disappointing third as the favorite in the 2000 Guineas. He never raced again and was sold to stand at stud in the US for \$2 Million Dollars. At stud, Apalachee produced precocious youngsters that were best up to 1 1/16 miles. As a broodmare sire, Apalachee's daughters have given us the Champion sprinter Artax, multiple graded stakes winners Texas Glitter and his half brother Mr. John, Disco Rico and the gallant gelding Stradivinsky, to name a few.

Joustabout, Mr. Commons' dam, was precocious. She won two of four starts, including the one mile Natalma (G-3) and placed in the Adirondack (G-2) at 6 ½ furlongs. Besides Mr. Commons, she bore his half brother Jungle Fighter, a multiple listed stakes winner over the lawn and she also produced three other winners. Joustabout is a half sister to a minor stakes winner and a couple of sturdy stakes placed runners. Overall this distaff family is modest up close, but Mr. Commons can trace his female family back to the great Frizette.

**Surface:** Mr. Commons is a winner over fast dirt, Cushion Track and Turf, so one would think an off track won't be a problem. However, his sire has only 14% winners over mud and his damsire gets 14% winners over the surface.

**Analysis:** Mr. Commons was third in the Santa Anita Derby after being rank for most of the race. He's been working strongly for the Preakness, but he has a miler-type pedigree and should be most comfortable in the mile to 1 1/16 mile range. He could place at 1 1/8 miles but may find distances past that beyond his scope. Mr. Commons will also be facing a serious class test in the Preakness.



## MUCHO MACHO MAN

**Pedigree:** Mucho Macho Man (Macho Uno – Ponche De Leona, by Ponche)

Mucho Macho Man's sire Macho Uno was a brilliant two year old, winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile in an exciting duel with Point Given. Unfortunately, he missed the Triple Crown contests due to injury. As an older horse, he was successful at the highest levels up to 1 1/8 miles, but finished no better than third in three attempts at 1 1/4 miles. Macho Uno's offspring have the same distance limitations as their sire. The majority are fine up to 1 1/8 miles but he has no winners at 1 1/4 miles from 209 lifetime starters.

Ponche, Mucho Macho Man's Canadian-bred damsire, raced 47 times, winning 16 events, including five listed sprint stakes. He was a fixture on the Florida circuit and had a stakes race named for him at Calder Racecourse. Ponche sired only eight blacktype runners, including Mucho Macho Man's dam. His daughters have produced few stakes horses and Mucho Macho Man is undoubtedly Ponche's best grandson.

**Surface:** Mucho Macho Man has raced exclusively over a fast track. His sire is a superior off track producer (23%) and damsire Ponche won or placed in seven out of eight outings over the mud. While Mucho Macho Man is untested over mud, his pedigree indicates that he should be capable over an off track.

**Analysis:** In our Derby analysis we stated that Mucho Macho Man may have what it takes to finish in the money in the Kentucky Derby and he could benefit from a wet track. The 1 1/4 miles of the Kentucky Derby was a little too far for Mucho Macho Man, yet he gained stubbornly for third place. He was drifting out at the end, a sure sign of a tired horse. He received a lifetime best BRIS speed figure of 102 and could regress slightly off of that figure in the Preakness. Mucho Macho Man should find the shorter Preakness an easier race and his determination is unquestionable.

**NORMAN ASBJORNSON**

**Pedigree:** Norman Asbjornson (Real Quiet – Merryland Missy, by Citidancer)

Real Quiet was the Derby/Preakness hero of 1998, but lost the Triple Crown by a whisker, his chance for immortality stolen by Victory Gallop. Real Quiet was crowned Champion Three Year old in the same year. As a four year old, he was victorious in the Hollywood Gold Cup and Pimlico Special. At stud, Real Quiet was a useful stallion. Besides getting the Champion Sprinter Midnite Lute, Real Quiet has produced three stakes winners at ten furlongs, including Coaching Club American Oaks (G-1) heroine Wonder Lady Anne L. Sadly, Real Quiet was injured and died after a paddock accident last Fall at the age of 15.

Norman Asbjornson's distaff family owns quite a bit of speed. He is a half-brother to the listed stakes sprinter Essenceofthemoon. Their dam won the six furlong Maryland Million Distaff Handicap and her half sibling, Who Was, placed in the Maryland Million Lassie at seven furlongs.

Norman Asbjornson's damsire Citidancer won three of four starts, but suffered a career ending injury in his only graded stakes attempt, the one mile Jerome Handicap (G-1). He was a cornerstone stallion for Country Life Farm in Maryland and produced over 30 stakes winners including multiple Grade 1 fillies Urbane, dam of second crop sire Suave, and Hookedonthefeelin, dam of Grade 1 winner Pussycat Doll.

Norman Asbjornson and Pussycat Doll have similar breeding as both are by Real Quiet. Pussycat Doll was best as a sprinter, winning the Santa Monica Handicap and Humana Distaff, both Grade 1 contests at seven furlongs. She won one listed stakes at 1 1/6 miles over inferior company, but failed to get the distance against graded stakes competition.

**Surface:** Norman Asbjornson is a winner over a fast track and hasn't faced the off going. He has average breeding for the mud.

**Analysis:** Norman Asbjornson has a stamina over speed pedigree and will likely find himself most comfortable winning up to 1 1/16 miles and placing at 1 1/8 miles. Although his speed figures are improving and he's been working well, Norman Asbjornson needs to show that he belongs with top company and the Preakness would have to set up perfectly for him to win.

**SHACKLEFORD**

**Pedigree:** Shackleford (Forestry – Oatsee, by Unbridled)

Shackleford's sire Forestry was a precocious miler. He won twice at 1 1/16 miles, but couldn't sustain his speed an extra half furlong, finishing third in the 1 1/8 mile Haskell Invitational after setting his customarily quick pace.

In the breeding shed, Forestry, a product of the Northern Dancer sire line, passes his brilliant speed to his progeny. The majority of his offspring are well suited to races up to 1 1/16 miles, but a precious few have won at 1 1/8 miles and one, Woodlander, won the Lexington Stakes (G-3) over the turf when it was held at 1 ¼ miles.

Shackleford's damsire Unbridled won a stirring rendition of the 1990 Kentucky Derby. Later he took that year's Breeders' Cup Classic on his way to an Eclipse Award for Champion Three Year Old. Unbridled is currently ranked 11 on the National Broodmare Sire List by earnings. His daughters have produced ten stakes winners at 1 ¼ miles or longer, including Shackleford's half sister Lady Joanne. One other winner at 1 1/4 miles, Distorted Reality, is descended from the same distaff family as Shackleford.

Shackleford's dam Oatsee was in the money in half of her 21 starts. She was slow to mature and didn't win her maiden until July of her three year old season, despite 11 earlier attempts. Oatsee won two starts, both sprinting over the dirt. Oatsee had better luck in the breeding shed. Her second foal, Baghdaria, won the Indiana and Iowa Oaks at 1 1/16 miles and was third in in the 1 1/18 mile Black Eyed Susan. Oatsee's third foal, Lady Joanne, won the Golden Rod as a two year old. At three, she was victorious in the Grade 3 Dogwood at a mile and the prestigious Alabama Stakes (G-1) at 1 ¼ miles. Shackleford's distaff line is filled with prominent winners. However, despite his prestigious female family, it hasn't produced a Classic horse.

**Surface:** Shackleford hasn't stepped hoof on a wet track, but he has superior breeding for the surface. Both his sire and damsire get 19% winners over the mud.

**Analysis:** Like Mucho Macho Man, Shackleford doesn't have the pedigree to get 1 1/4 miles, yet like the third place horse, Shackleford was game in defeat and grimly held on for fourth after making the entire pace. Shackleford's 101 Bris speed figure equaled his Florida Derby number. There's no doubting the determination of Shackleford and he could once again play a part in the Preakness exotics.





## SWAY AWAY

**Pedigree:** Sway Away (Afleet Alex – Seattle Shimmer, by Seattle Slew)

Sway Away has classic attributes throughout his pedigree. His sire unfortunately finished third in the 2005 Kentucky Derby, but proved his athletic prowess in the 2005 Preakness after practically falling on his nose but still winning the race. Afleet Alex proved his Classic win was no fluke by dominating the Belmont Stakes by seven lengths. At stud, the third crop sire has already produced two stakes winners at 1 ¼ miles.

Sway Away's damsire is the Triple Crown legend Seattle Slew. Besides his exploits on the race track, at stud, Seattle Slew produced champions and his bloodlines are carried on through many of his sons, the most prominent being A.P. Indy. Seattle Slew has proved to be an equally adept damsire and he has topped the broodmare sire lists for years. His daughters have produced over 100 stakes winners and three champions.

Delving farther into Sway Away's family, we find 1990 Preakness Champ Summer Squall as Sway Away's second damsire. He's the sire of 1999 Derby/Preakness winner Charismatic as well as being a noted broodmare producer, topping the lists several times during and after his career.

Unfortunately, Sway Away's female family isn't as illustrious. One half sibling won two of three starts at two, while another won twice in seven attempts and the third, the unfortunately named Rundown, was plagued with injury and only made two starts in two years, failing to hit the board.

Sway Away's dam Seattle Shimmer is an unraced half sister to two stakes placed sprinters. His second dam won sprinting at the Grade 2 level and placed in a 1 1/16 mile Grade 3 stakes. The rest of this distaff family is modest.

**Surface:** Sway Away is a winner over a fast track and was a fast closing second over a wet-fast track in the San Vicente Stakes. He has superior breeding for the mud, as both his sire and damsire are known producers of mud track runners.

**Analysis:** Sway Away hasn't fared well outside of California. After almost catching the speedball The Factor in the seven furlong San Vicente, Sway Away had a rough time in the Rebel and lugged in after briefly taking the lead in the Arkansas Derby, finishing a close up fourth. Sway Away has the pedigree to contest the Classic races, but needs to prove that he's talented enough to run with the best.



### CONTENDER NOTES:

There's no question that **Astrology** should handle the distance. He's rounding into form in his third race off a layoff and has improving speed figures, but his will to win is questionable. He could take a piece of it.

**Norman Asbjornson** has a stamina over speed pedigree. He'll probably be best around 1 1/16 miles. His speed figures are hovering in the low 90's and he may be a cut below the best.

**King Congie** has a versatile pedigree and should be at home over every surface. He was only beaten a head in the Bluegrass Stakes after drifting out (a sign of a tired horse), but the class of the Bluegrass is suspect considering the poor performance by the winner, Brilliant Speed, in the Derby.

Unlike Shackelford, who has stamina through his distaff family, **Flashpoint** is bred top and bottom for speed. Flashpoint doesn't need the lead to win, but 1 1/16 miles is probably his limit.

**Shackleford** set slow fractions and led into deep stretch of the Derby. He's a game horse, but 1 1/8 miles is at the top range. Shackleford could track the pace of Flashpoint and be in front in mid stretch, but it's doubtful that he can hold off a strong closer.

**Sway Away** is bred for the Classics, but his last two performances have been underwhelming. He lugged in while racing in the Arkansas Derby and faded to fourth, 13 1/4 lengths behind ArchArchArch. He could improve off of the effort, but so far, he hasn't proven himself past seven furlongs or outside of California.

**Midnight Interlude** was tossed into the deep end of the Kentucky Derby and floundered home 18 lengths behind Animal Kingdom. Was it a positive learning experience or is he just not ready for prime time? Baffert's main man Garcia jumps aboard and we may see improvement.

**Dance City** has never run a bad race. He has some stamina on the bottom of his pedigree and has won at 1 1/8 miles against lesser company. His speed figures are improving and he's been working well, so he's one to include in your tickets.

**Mucho Macho Man** is like the Energizer Bunny. He never quits. He was tired at the end of the Derby, but should be a fit horse for the Preakness. 1 1/8 miles is at the top of his range and he ran his best speed figure in the Derby, but he can still improve and he is a dangerous contender.

**Dialed In** was a disappointing eighth in the Derby, but he still made a good run after being 18 lengths out of it and closing into a slow pace. In retrospect, his speed figures always regress after a top number. If he's closer to the pace he's a serious threat to win it all.



Everyone will be rooting for **Animal Kingdom** to win the Preakness. He has the pedigree to win the Triple Crown. Of concern is the huge leap he's made speed figure wise. There are some indicators that he could regress off of his Derby victory, but Animal Kingdom appears to be the best here.

**Isn't He Perfect** has the pedigree to get the distance, but he's totally outclassed here.

**Concealed Identity** is borderline for getting 1 3/16 miles. He's undefeated at Pimlico against lesser horses but would really have to step up his game here.

**Mr. Commons** has a miler pedigree and finished third behind Midnight Interlude in the Santa Anita Derby. He's a promising colt, but appears to be in deep here.

### SELECTIONS:

**ANIMAL KINGDOM** - He's proven himself against half of the field and the other half doesn't look like much.

**DIALED IN** - He should bounce back from his Derby disappointment and if Animal Kingdom falters, Dialed In should be right there.

**MUCHO MACHO MAN** - Tough competitor should be in the money.

### UNDERS:

**SHACKLEFORD** - He can grab a minor award if not hindered by Flashpoint.

**ASTROLOGY** - He has the pedigree and is improving.

**SWAY AWAY** is a longshot worth sticking in your exotics.