

🏇 PREAKNESS/145

PREAKNESS STAKES BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires**

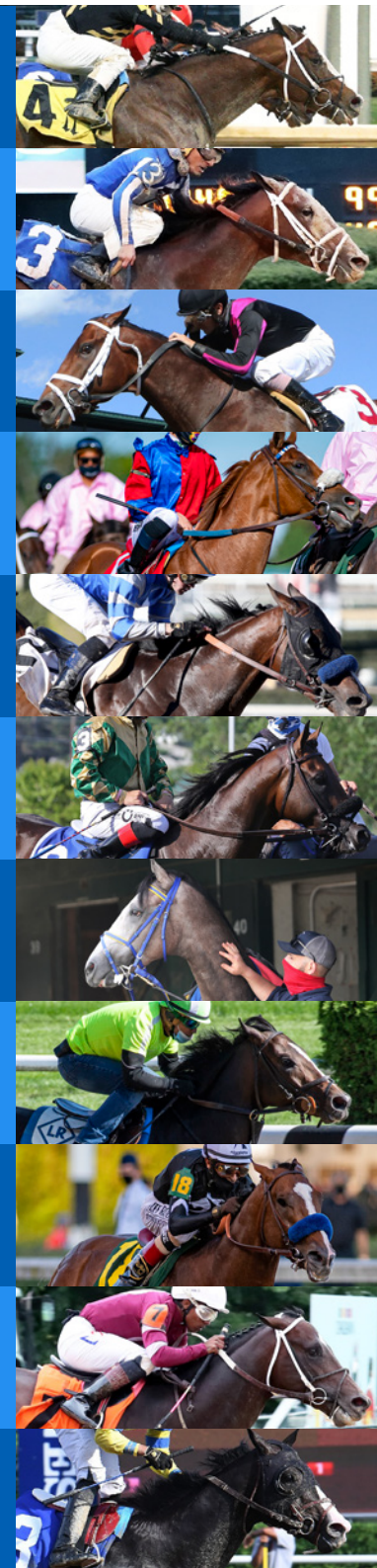
PREAKNESS DAY STAKES RACES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020

Race	Grade	Purse	Restrictions	Surface	Distance
The Selma Stakes		\$150,000	F 2YO	Turf	1 1/16 Mile
The Gallorette Stakes	III	\$150,000	FM 3&UP	Turf	1 1/16 Miles
The Spikat Stakes		\$100,000	FM 3&UP	Dirt	6 Furlongs
The Hilltop Stakes		\$100,000	F 3YO	Turf	1 Mile
The Miss Preakness Stakes	III	\$150,000	F 3YO	Dirt	6 Furlongs
The Dinner Party Stakes	II	\$250,000	3&UP	Turf	1 1/16 Miles-
Frank J. DeFrancis Mem. Dash	III	\$200,000	3YO	Dirt	6 Furlongs
The Laurel Futurity		\$150,000	2YO	Turf	1 1/16 Mile
The James W. Murphy Stakes		\$100,000	3YO	Turf	1 Mile
The Black-Eyed Susan Stakes	II	\$250,000	F 3YO	Dirt	1 1/8 Miles
The Preakness Stakes	I	\$1,000,000	3YO	Dirt	1 3/16 Miles



PREAKNESS STAKES CONTENDERS



EXCESSION



PRO Close second to Nadal in Rebel a good measuring stick of his potential quality.

CON Winning a race of this caliber off nearly 7 months a tall order, prefers wet going.

MR. BIG NEWS



PRO Showed vast improvement to crash the Kentucky Derby trifecta at 46-1.

CON Well held by both Authentic and Art Collector despite the hot pace and probably a cut below those two.

ART COLLECTOR



PRO Undefeated this season and only a minor foot ailment cost him a shot at the Kentucky Derby.

CON Two-month gap since his last start could prove a negative, or not.

SWISS SKYDIVER



PRO Hard-knocking filly having a fine season and distance suits.

CON Has a significant gap to close on Art Collector, and with a new rider to boot.

THOUSAND WORDS



PRO Last-out victory in the Shared Belief a much improved effort and his best of the season.

CON Excitable colt lost it in the paddock before the Kentucky Derby and was scratched.

JESUS' TEAM



PRO Ex-claimer has earned a share of the purse in all three graded stakes attempts.

CON Recent losses clearly show where he currently lies in the pecking order among 3-year-olds.

NY TRAFFIC



PRO Consistent this year up until last start, almost beat Authentic in the Haskell.

CON Win-shy type was a no-show in the Derby, though reportedly lost a shoe and sustained an ankle cut.

MAX PLAYER



PRO Honest sort has been a reliable check-getter and vertical exotics inclusion in G1 company.

CON Had the right pace setup in the Kentucky Derby but never threatened for the win.

AUTHENTIC



PRO All five previous Kentucky Derby winners trained by Bob Baffert repeated in the Preakness.

CON Didn't face as much pace pressure in the Derby as expected, might see more here.

PNEUMATIC



PRO Perhaps the most interesting of the "new shooters," his victory in the Pegasus was rather stylish.

CON Preakness will be a much stiffer test of class than what he had at Monmouth Park.

LIVEYOURBEASTLIFE



PRO Has shown noticeable improvement since stretching out around two turns, including a close second in the Jim Dandy.

CON Hasn't faced a field this good and has lengths to find on the top contenders.

EXPERT PICKS FOR PREAKNESS STAKES DAY

We've assembled an expert team of handicappers to give their top picks for select stakes races on Preakness Stakes day.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 Pimlico Race Course



HILLTOP STAKES

11 Lucky Jingle	7 Vigilantes Way	7 Vigilantes Way	7 Vigilantes Way	10 Shimmering
9 Princess Grace	6 Secret Time	9 Princess Grace	9 Princess Grace	7 Vigilantes Way
7 Vigilantes Way	5 Evil Lyn	10 Shimmering	10 Shimmering	6 Secret Time

FRANK J. DE FRANCIS MEMORIAL DASH (G3)

7 Stan the Man	5 Landeskog	5 Landeskog	1 Admiral Lynch	5 Landeskog
5 Landeskog	1 Admiral Lynch	3 Eastern Bay	5 Landeskog	7 Stan the Man
1 Admiral Lynch	7 Stan the Man	8 Nitrous	7 Stan the Man	8 Nitrous

LAUREL FUTURITY

6 Arrest Me Red	6 Arrest Me Red	6 Arrest Me Red	6 Arrest Me Red	8 Hidden Enemy
8 Hidden Enemy	8 Hidden Enemy	3 Wootton Asset	3 Wootton Asset	10 Nautilus
3 Wootton Asset	1 Pivotal Mission	8 Hidden Enemy	8 Hidden Enemy	1 Pivotal Mission

JAMES W. MURPHY STAKES

7 Vanzzy	7 Vanzzy	9 Monday Morning Qb	11 Buy Land and See	13 Bye Bye Melvin
10 Don Juan Kitten	10 Don Juan Kitten	10 Don Juan Kitten	7 Vanzzy	9 Monday Morning Qb
13 Bye Bye Melvin	9 Monday Morning Qb	12 Andesite	10 Don Juan Kitten	4 Reconvene

PREAKNESS STAKES (G1)

3 Art Collector	2 Mr. Big News	4 Art Collector	3 Art Collector	3 Art Collector
9 Authentic	3 Art Collector	9 Authentic	9 Authentic	9 Authentic
11 Liveyourbeastlife	4 Swiss Skydiver	8 Max Player	8 Max Player	8 Max Player



TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



145TH RUNNING OF THE PREAKNESS STAKES

The Preakness Stakes (Gr 1)

1 3/16-Miles

PURSE \$1,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Excession	30-1
2	Mr. Big News	12-1
3	Art Collector	5-2
4	Swiss Skydiver	6-1
5	Thousand Words	6-1
6	Jesus' Team	30-1
7	Ny Traffic	15-1
8	Max Player	15-1
9	Authentic	9-5
10	Pneumatic	20-1
11	Liveyourbeastlife	30-1

TOP PICKS	
9	Authentic
3	Art Collector
8	Max Player
10	Pneumatic
4	Swiss Skydiver

\$4 TRIFECTA

3,9 with 3,9 with 4,8,10 (\$24)

\$3 TRIFECTA

3,9 with 8 with 3,9 (\$6)

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#1 Excession hasn't run since finishing second in the Mar. 14 Rebel (G2) at Oaklawn Park, so he'll enter the Preakness off a 6 1/2-month layoff. The extended break is a big question mark, but so too is the fact Excession enjoyed a perfect setup in the Rebel, rallying into fast fractions over a sloppy track. Three of his best efforts have come over wet tracks, so the weather forecast could be key to Excession's chances.

#2 Mr. Big News surprised bettors when rallying to finish third in the Kentucky Derby (G1), beaten just 3 1/4 lengths at odds of 46-1. This was a big step forward compared to Mr. Big News' sixth-place effort in the Blue Grass (G2), which raises the question: can he repeat the performance? A fast pace would benefit this stoutly-bred son of Giant's Causeway.

#3 Art Collector is undefeated in four starts this season, including easy triumphs in the Blue Grass (G2) and Ellis Park Derby. He's beaten quality competition while posting a trio of triple-digit Brisnet Speed ratings, but drawing inside all the other pace players could be tricky for this typically speedy colt. On the bright side, Art Collector has posted three sharp workouts since missing the Kentucky Derby with a minor hoof issue, so fitness shouldn't be a concern. He looms as the main threat to Authentic.

#4 Swiss Skydiver finished second behind Art Collector in the Blue Grass, but the four-time graded stakes winner has since fired off two big efforts against fillies, romping in the Alabama (G1) and recording a runner-up effort in the Kentucky Oaks (G1). She's been on the go almost non-stop since her debut last November, but so far she's avoided burnout, and her tactical speed and tractability form a dangerous combination. If she brings her A-game to Pimlico, a superfecta finish is within reach.

#5 Thousand Words was a late scratch from the Kentucky Derby after acting up in the paddock, but this \$1 million yearling purchase has bounced back with a pair of workouts at Churchill Downs, suggesting he's fit and ready to roll for the Preakness. A wire-to-wire winner of the Aug. 1 Shared Belief S. at Del Mar, Thousand Words will add blinkers for the Preakness, making him a tough colt to read. The Preakness will mark a significant class test for the son of Pioneer of the Nile, who has yet to contest a Grade 1 race.

#6 Jesus' Team has finished on the board in the Haskell (G1), Pegasus S., and Jim Dandy (G2), but winning at the stakes level has proven elusive for this former claimer. He's got the tactical speed to work out a clean trip from post 6,

but finished behind four of his Preakness rivals over the course of the summer, suggesting Jesus' Team needs improvement to vie for a spot on the board.

#7 Ny Traffic came within a nose of upsetting Authentic in the Haskell, but subsequently faltered to finish 13 3/4 lengths behind his rival in the Kentucky Derby. Was his no-show at Churchill Downs a fluke, or did Ny Traffic regress after four tough efforts against graded stakes company between February and July? This speedy gray colt will be a pace player at Pimlico, but he'll need a big turnaround to fight for top honors.

#8 Max Player has competed with aplomb against top company this season, rallying to finish third in the Belmont Stakes (G1), third in the Travers (G1), and fifth in the Kentucky Derby. A one-run deep closer, Max Player has fired off three workouts since Derby Day (including a bullet 5 furlongs in 1:00 1/5) and looms a major threat to crash the Preakness trifecta. If the pace is hot and a meltdown ensues, the son of Honor Code might even be capable of winning.

#9 Authentic wasn't expected to win the Kentucky Derby, but after carving out a quick pace, the son of Into Mischief gamely turned back heavy favorite Tiz the Law to win by 1 1/4 lengths. Previously a wire-to-wire winner of the Haskell, Authentic is a pure front-runner drawn perfectly to enjoy a clean trip at Pimlico, though this time around he'll have a target on his back. He's certainly the horse to beat—trainer Bob Baffert has never lost the Preakness with a Kentucky Derby winner, and Authentic has posted two bullet workouts since the Derby. But another easy lead might not be forthcoming in the Preakness.

#10 Pneumatic could have run in the Kentucky Derby after rolling to a confident victory in the Aug. 15 Pegasus S. at Monmouth, but instead he's been freshened for the Preakness. The fact this race has been Pneumatic's target all along is appealing, and as a son of Uncle Mo out of a Tapit mare, he's bred to improve with maturity. Previously fourth in the Belmont Stakes, Pneumatic is a candidate to crack the trifecta for two-time Preakness-winning trainer Steve Asmussen.

#11 Liveyourbeastlife has shown improvement since stretching out around two turns, rallying to win a 1 1/8-mile allowance race at Saratoga before battling to a runner-up effort in the Jim Dandy. Liveyourbeastlife's affinity for route racing is easy to understand since he's a son of Ghostzapper out of a Kris S. mare, but with a career-best 95 Brisnet Speed rating, he ranks among the slower Preakness contenders on paper. A contested pace would help his chances.

PREVIEWING “NEW SHOOTERS” FOR THE 2020 PREAKNESS

by James Scully

Traditionally contested as the middle leg, the \$1 million Preakness (G1) at Pimlico will conclude the Triple Crown for the first time this year. The three-race series spans 13 weeks, instead of the normal five-week period, and 11 horses will contest the 145th running of the 1 3/16-mile Preakness on Oct. 3.

Belmont Stakes (G1) winner and Kentucky Derby (G1) runner-up Tiz the Law will skip the Preakness, and five runners from the June 20 Belmont Stakes and Sept. 5 Kentucky Derby will be back in Baltimore.

Kentucky Derby winner Authentic will be the favorite for six-time Preakness winner Bob Baffert. The 3-year-old son of Into Mischief will be joined at Pimlico by Kentucky Derby third-placer Mr. Big News.

Max Player, who finished third in the Belmont and fifth in the Kentucky Derby, will be the only horse to contest all three legs of the 2020 Triple Crown. Belmont fourth-placer Pneumatic will rejoin the chase after skipping the middle leg. Kentucky Derby eight-placer NyTraffic rounds out the quintet of sophomores with Triple Crown experience.

The field was finalized at Monday's post position draw, and let's take a look at the six “new shooters” for the Preakness:



ART COLLECTOR, a sharp winner of the Ellis Park Derby and Blue Grass (G2) in his last two starts, rates as a major win contender. The bay son of Bernardini has won all four starts this year, but the front-running colt was forced to miss the Kentucky Derby after sustaining a superficial cut to his leg early in the week. Art Collector didn't lose any conditioning, impressing onlookers in a recent fast work at Churchill

Downs, and his last three Brisnet Speed ratings are top-notch (102-104-103). Brian Hernandez Jr. rides for trainer Tommy Drury Jr.

THOUSAND WORDS will get another chance at a Triple Crown race. He flipped over in the paddock and was scratched from the Kentucky Derby, but the Baffert-trained colt emerged unscathed from the incident. The \$1 million auction purchase flashed ability last year, winning a pair of graded stakes as a 2-year-old, but tailed off earlier this year. Thousand Words appeared to be turning things around last time, winning the Aug. 1 Shared Belief S. at Del Mar, and Pioneer of the Nile colt received a fine 104 Speed number. He's a tough read, but Thousand Words can't be dismissed from win consideration.



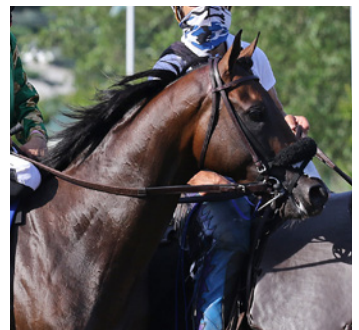
SWISS SKYDIVER will bring quality speed to the mix. The four-time graded stakes-winning filly didn't receive the best trip from the rail post when finishing second in the Kentucky Oaks (G1) last time, but Swiss Skydiver earned a 109 Brisnet Speed rating winning the 1 1/4-mile Alabama (G1) two starts back and showed her class finishing a clear second against males in the Blue Grass. She will be a pace factor in Baltimore.

LIVEYOURBEASTLIFE was beaten in a high-priced claiming event three starts back but does appear to be improving for trainer Jorge Abreu, recording a convincing allowance tally and a closing second in the Jim Dandy in his last two outings at Saratoga. His Brisnet Speed ratings are light, and Liveyourbeastlife could find himself overmatched in the Preakness, but the Ghostzapper colt is a little interesting.



EXCESSION is one of three confirmed runners for Steve Asmussen, along with Max Player and Pneumatic, but he faces a tall task in the first start since mid-March. No factor in his first two outings this year, Excession capitalized upon a hot and contested pace when last seen, rallying to finish second at 82-1 odds in the Rebel (G2).

JESUS' TEAM will be supplemented to the Preakness after finishing third in the Jim Dandy. A non-threatening second to Pneumatic in the Pegasus S. two starts back, the former claimer was no factor when fourth in the Haskell (G1) three starts back and may need easier company to be effective.



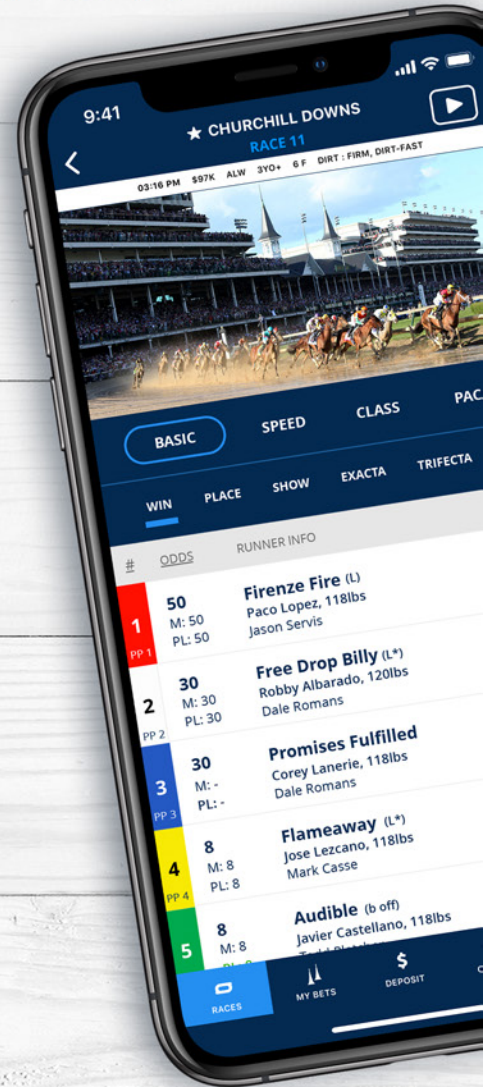


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