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BELMONT STAKES

WAGERING GUIDE

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June 5, 2010

BELMONT PARK

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Even though no Triple Crown is on the line this season, the **Belmont Stakes** promises to have a large and contentious field on Saturday, June 5.

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Inside this guide you will find everything you need to watch and wager on the **Belmont Stakes** like an expert. We've recruited top handicappers, writers and broadcasters to examine the **Belmont—Analysis, Main Contenders, Value Plays** and **Wagering Strategies**.

In addition to expert commentary, you'll also find lots of useful **Stats and Trends**, a handy **Exotic Wagering Chart**, and a host of other information.

XpressBet hopes your **2010 Belmont Stakes** wagering experience is fruitful and we look forward to serving as your wagering provider for the big day and into the future with no membership, monthly or per-wager fees.

Sincerely,
Ron Luniewski
President
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**BELMONT STAKES
WAGERING GUIDE UPDATES
Available Online Daily
Beginning June 1**

Belmont Wagering Facts

by Jeremy Plonk, *Horseplayernow.com* and *ESPN.com* analyst

*Below are some interesting and informative wagering tidbits from past Belmont Stakes events.
Use them to help you to decide how to play this year's race.*

WIN, PLACE, SHOW ODDS:

(Last 10 Years—Odds to \$1)

Average Win Odds: 19.05

High Win Odds: 70.25 (Sarava, 2002)

Low Win Odds: 1.15 (Afleet Alex, 2005)

Notable: 6 of the last 10 winners were 11-1 or more.

Average Place Odds: 6.34

High Place Odds: 16.00 (Medaglia d'Oro, 2002)

Low Place Odds: .35 (Smarty Jones, 2004)

Notable: 8 of the last 10 runner-ups were single-digit odds.

Average Show Odds: 11.34

High Show Odds: 31.50

(Anak Nakal/Ready's Echo dead-heat, 2008)

Low Show Odds: 1.00 (Funny Cide, 2003)

Notable: 3 of the last 6 show horses have been 20-1 or more.

EXACTA PAYOFFS

(Last 10 Years)

Average \$2 Exacta Payoff: \$381.18

High \$2 Exacta Payoff: \$2,454.00

(Sarava-Medaglia d'Oro, 2002)

Low \$2 Exacta Payoff: \$20.60

(Point Given-A P Valentine, 2001)

Notable: Only 5 of the 10 exactas in the Belmont the past decade have returned more than \$100 for \$2.

TRIFECTA PAYOFFS

(Last 10 Years)

Average \$1 Trifecta Payoff: \$1,693.30

High \$1 Trifecta Payoff: \$12,504.50

(Sarava-Medaglia d'Oro-Sunday Break, 2002)

Low \$1 Trifecta Payoff: \$33.75

(Empire Maker-Ten Most Wanted-Funny Cide, 2003)

Notable: The \$1 trifecta has been an IRS signer (\$602.20-plus) in 5 of the past 10 years.

SUPERFACTA PAYOFFS

(Wager Available in 8 Years - \$1 Payoffs)

Average \$1 Superfacta Payoff: \$11,579.10

High \$1 Superfacta Payoff: \$72,667.00

(Sarava-Medaglia d'Oro-Sunday Break-Magic Weisner, 2002)

Low \$1 Superfacta Payoff: \$91.75

(Point Given-A P Valentine-Monarchos-Dollar Bill, 2001)

Average Odds of Fourth-Place Finishers: 10.52-to-1

Notable: The average \$1 superfacta has paid about 7 times as much as the average \$1 trifecta in the Belmont over the past decade.

2009 BELMONT HANDLE TOTALS

Win, Place, Show: \$17.6 million

Exacta: \$10.4 million

Trifecta: \$12.3 million

Superfacta: \$5.4 million

Pick Four: \$2.2 million

Pick Six: \$1.7 million

HIGHEST-PRICED BELMONT RUNNERS IN SUPERFACTA

(Last 10 Years Odds to \$1)

Odds to \$1	Horse	Finish	Year
70.25	Sarava	1st	2002
38.50	Da'Tara	1st	2008
36.00	Birdstone	1st	2004
34.25	Anak Nakal	3rd	2008

SHORTEST-PRICED BELMONT FAVORITES

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

Odds to \$1	Horse	Finish	Year
.30	Big Brown	dnf	2008
.35	Smarty Jones	2nd	2004
1.00	Funny Cide	3rd	2003
1.10	Curlin	2nd	2007
1.15	Afleet Alex	1st	2005
1.25	War Emblem	8th	2002
1.25	Mine That Bird	3rd	2009
1.35	Point Given	1st	2001

BELMONT SELECTION GRID

Host	Bob Neumeier (NBC Sports)	Mike Battaglia (NBC Sports)	Jeff Siegel (HRTV)	Jon White (HRTV)	Dick Jerardi (Phila. Daily News)	Steve Byk (Sirius Radio)
First	FLY DOWN	FIRST DUDE	STATELY VICTOR	FLY DOWN	FIRST DUDE	ICE BOX
Second	STATELY VICTOR	FLY DOWN	FLY DOWN	ICE BOX	STATELY VICTOR	STATELY VICTOR
Third	STAY PUT	ICE BOX	FIRST DUDE	MAKE MUSIC FOR ME	FLY DOWN	FIRST DUDE
Fourth	ICE BOX	STATELY VICTOR	DROSSELMAYER	GAME ON DUDE	ICE BOX	MAKE MUSIC FOR ME

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FIRST DUDE SETS THE PACE

by Mike Battaglia
NBC Sports Racing Analyst



ANALYSIS: With the Derby and Preakness winners both passing, the Belmont doesn't figure to draw much national interest, but it does appear to be a wide-open betting race. There isn't much early speed in this year's renewal, so the jockeys' strategies will be crucial. **FIRST DUDE** figures to set the pace under Ramon Dominguez, and a front-running win is definitely possible. Either of the Nick Zito runners (**ICE BOX**, **FLY DOWN**) is capable if someone else goes early and presses the pace. **STATELY VICTOR** could be sitting on a big race at the mile-and-a-half distance.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **ICE BOX** probably would have won the Derby with a clean trip. Zito did the right thing passing the Preakness and he is sensational at preparing his runners for the Belmont. **ICE BOX** will need help on the front end, but looks like the one to beat. His stablemate, **FLY DOWN**, was extremely impressive in the Dwyer and is the only member of the field with a win at Belmont, which makes him very dangerous. **FIRST DUDE** was 23-1 in the Preakness, but won't be a big price in this one. Dale Romans had him in top form for the Preakness, and if he holds that form, he will be tough to catch.

VALUE PLAYS: The top three look fairly strong, but **STATELY VICTOR** could be a viable alternative. He was a big part of the bumping that took Lookin At Lucky out of the Derby, and he was also compromised by that incident. He has been training sharply in Louisville and should like the added distance.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$10 Trifecta Key: **FIRST DUDE** over **ICE BOX**, **FLY DOWN** and **STATELY VICTOR** (\$60)
- \$5 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **ICE BOX**, **FLY DOWN** and **STATELY VICTOR** with **FIRST DUDE** with **ICE BOX**, **FLY DOWN** and **STATELY VICTOR** (\$30)
- \$10 Exacta: **FIRST DUDE** over **FLY DOWN** (\$10)

SELECTIONS:

1. **FIRST DUDE**
2. **FLY DOWN**
3. **ICE BOX**
4. **STATELY VICTOR**

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STATS & TRENDS:

DERBY RUNNER-UPS IN BELMONT

(Since 2000)

Year	Horse	Finish
2009	did not compete	
2008	did not compete	
2007	Hard Spun	4th
2006	Bluegrass Cat	2nd
2005	did not compete	
2004	did not compete	
2003	Empire Maker	1st
2002	Proud Citizen	5th
2001	Invisible Ink	5th
2000	Aptitude	2nd

PREAKNESS RUNNER-UPS IN BELMONT

(Since 2000)

Year	Horse	Finish
2009	Mine That Bird	3rd
2008	Macho Again	5th
2007	did not compete	
2006	did not compete	
2005	did not compete	
2004	Rock Hard Ten	5th
2003	did not compete	
2002	Magic Weisner	4th
2001	A P Valentine	2nd
2000	did not compete	

KNOW THIS:

Waiting in the Weeds

The last two times we had a Belmont without both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winners in the gate (2000 and 2006), the one-two finishers in the Belmont Stakes were Derby alums who skipped the Preakness.

Fewer Preakness Players

During the decade of the 2000s, the only Belmont winners to have participated in the Preakness were Point Given (2001) and Afleet Alex (2005).

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Exotic Wagering Chart

Belmont Stakes exotic wagers usually produce hefty payoffs. Use this handy Exotic Wagering Chart to help plan your attack.

EXACTA BOX: (\$2 Wager)

2 horse box	\$4
3 horse box	\$12
4 horse box	\$24
5 horse box	\$40
6 horse box	\$60
7 horse box	\$84
8 horse box	\$112

EXACTA WHEEL: (\$2 Wager)

One Horse with All

6 horse field	\$10
7 horse field	\$12
8 horse field	\$14
9 horse field	\$16
10 horse field	\$18

TRIFECTA BOX: (\$1 Wager)

3 Horse Box	\$6
4 Horse Box	\$24
5 Horse Box	\$60
6 Horse Box	\$120
7 Horse Box	\$210
8 Horse Box	\$336

TRIFECTA WHEELS: (\$1 Wager)

One Horse with All with All

(Example: 1/All/All or All/1/All or All/All/1)

7 Horse Field	\$30
8 Horse Field	\$42
9 Horse Field	\$56
10 Horse Field	\$72

One Horse with Two Horses with All

(Example: 1/2/All or 2/1/All or 1/All/2 or 2/a All ll/1 or All/1/2 or All/2/1)

7 Horse Field	\$10
8 Horse Field	\$12
9 Horse Field	\$14
10 Horse Field	\$16

TRIFECTA KEYS: (\$1 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others	\$6
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)	
1 Horse with 4 others	\$12
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)	
1 Horse with 5 others	\$20
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	
1 Horse with 6 others	\$30
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)	
1 Horse with 7 others	\$42
(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)	

SUPERFACTA BOX: (\$1 Wager)

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

SUPERFACTA WHEELS: (\$1 Wager)

One Horse with All with All with All

7 Horse Field	\$120
8 Horse Field	\$210
9 Horse Field	\$336
10 Horse Field	\$504

(Example: 1/All/All/All or All/1/All/All or All/All/1/All or All/ All/ All/1)

One Horse with Two Horses with All with All

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

(Example: 1/2/ All/ All or 2/ 1/ All/ All or 1/ All/ All/ 2 or 2/ All/ All/ 1 or All/ All/ 1/2 or All/ All/ 2/ 1)

SUPERFACTA KEYS: (\$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)	

LET'S TRY IT AGAIN AND DO IT RIGHT

by Jeff Siegel
HRTV Analyst



ANALYSIS: What's the old saying, the place you lose it is the place you get it back? After backing **STATELY VICTOR** to win the Kentucky Derby at 20-1 and then watching him slip and slide to an eighth-place finish, I'm fairly obligated to try him again in what appears to be one of the most wide-open editions of the Triple Crown's third jewel in many years. The son of Ghostzapper, so impressive winning the highly productive Blue Grass Stakes, has trained superbly since that mud bath five weeks ago and with Dynaformer on the bottom of his pedigree, he should relish the Belmont's 12-furlong journey. Trust me, he'll handle dirt; and Mike Maker's big colt will be on edge for the race of his career – on a fast track, that is.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Trainer Nick Zito knows how to win a Belmont Stakes and has two major players in Derby runner-up **ICE BOX** and Dwyer winner **FLY DOWN**. The off track and the extreme race-shape of the Derby certainly flattered **ICE BOX**. Meanwhile, his deep-closing, one-run style often isn't effective in a galloper's race such as the Belmont, so we'll pass on him. **FLY DOWN**, with a powerful recent win over the track, is the more dangerous of the two, and could very well be a better price. After getting thumped by **STATELY VICTOR** in the Blue Grass, **FIRST DUDE** franked the form with an excellent runner-up try in the Preakness, and in a field without much speed, a similar, front-running journey could make him dangerous right back.

VALUE PLAYS: **DROSSELMAYER** doesn't have an ounce of acceleration, but one-paced grinders often do well at 12 furlongs and the Belmont's trip, coupled with the switch to Mike Smith, provides him a look. **STAY PUT** also gives the impression that the marathon distance will bring out his best, and his perfect two-for-two record over sloppy surfaces will have his connections praying for rain.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$60 Win: **STATELY VICTOR**
- \$5 Exacta: **STATELY VICTOR** with **FLY DOWN**, **FIRST DUDE**, **DROSSELMAYER** and **STAY PUT** (\$20)
- \$5 Exacta: **FLY DOWN**, **FIRST DUDE**, **DROSSELMAYER** and **STAY PUT** with **STATELY VICTOR** (\$20)

SELECTIONS:

1. **STATELY VICTOR**
2. **FLY DOWN**
3. **FIRST DUDE**
4. **DROSSELMAYER**

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STATS & TRENDS:

ODDS-ON BELMONT FAVORITES

(Since 1940)

Total odds-on favorites: 31

Winning odds-on favorites: 12

% of winning odds-on favorites: 38.7%

Last odds-on favorite to compete:

Big Brown, .30-to-1, 2008

Last odds-on favorite to win:

Affirmed, .60-to-1, 1978

ODDS-ON BELMONT BUSTS

The last 7 odds-on favorites to compete in the Belmont Stakes have lost.

Year	Horse	Finish	Odds
2008	Big Brown	dnf	1-5
2004	Smarty Jones	2nd	1-5
1998	Real Quiet	2nd	4-5
1989	Sunday Silence	2nd	4-5
1987	Alysheba	4th	4-5
1981	Pleasant Colony	3rd	4-5
1979	Spectacular Bid	3rd	1-5

KNOW THIS:

Recent Belmont Bombs

Of the 141 previous runnings of the Belmont Stakes, 60 were won by the betting favorite (42.6 percent). However, 6 of the last 11 winners have been 11-to-1 or more on the toteboard.

Not Always Welcome

Geldings were not permitted to run in the Belmont Stakes from 1919 through 1957. The only gelding to win the Belmont was 1985 champion Crème Fraiche. Notable geldings Mine That Bird, Rockhill Native and Funny Cide all finished third.

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ZITO HOLDS STRONG HAND

by Jon White

HRTV Analyst and Santa Anita Odds-Maker



ANALYSIS: Three-year-olds must travel a mile and a half in the Belmont. Horses in America do not race a mile and a half very often these days. Consequently, when it comes to the Belmont and its demanding distance, it might be wise to respect runners with a trainer who has had success in the Belmont. Nick Zito (**ICE BOX, FLY DOWN**) has won the Belmont twice (Birdstone, Da'Tara) and Bob Baffert (**GAME ON DUDE**) once (Point Given).

MAIN CONTENDERS: **ICE BOX**, trained by Zito, is the probable Belmont favorite after finishing a fast-closing second in the Kentucky Derby. **ICE BOX** might have won the Derby if not for a horrible trip. **FLY DOWN**, also conditioned by Zito, took the Dwyer at Belmont by six lengths. Based on his pedigree, **FLY DOWN** certainly should handle the Belmont distance. **FLY DOWN'S** paternal grandsire is 1992 Belmont winner A.P. Indy, a son of 1977 Belmont winner Seattle Slew. A.P. Indy sired 2007 Belmont winner Rags to Riches. **FIRST DUDE** ran second in the Preakness. However, **FIRST DUDE** comes back in three weeks after running quite hard in the Preakness. Also, **FIRST DUDE** is 0-for-2 vs. **FLY DOWN**.

VALUE PLAYS: **MAKE MUSIC FOR ME** lost the Derby by only 4 ¾ lengths after being 28 lengths behind early. He was 30-1 in the Derby. While **MAKE MUSIC FOR ME** certainly won't be anywhere close to 30-1 in the Belmont, he still might be a pretty nice price. **DROSSELMAYER** ran second in the Dwyer as a 7-10 favorite. No doubt **DROSSELMAYER** will be a better price this time.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$60 Win: **FLY DOWN**
- \$8 Exacta Box: **FLY DOWN** and **MAKE MUSIC FOR ME** (\$16)
- \$6 Exacta Box: **FLY DOWN** and **ICE BOX** (\$12)
- \$2 Exacta Box: **FLY DOWN, GAME ON DUDE** and **DROSSELMAYER** (\$12)

STATS & TRENDS:

FOREIGN-BRED BELMONT WINNERS

<u>England</u>	
<i>Horse</i>	<i>Year</i>
Saxon	1874
Bowling Brook	1898
Hourless	1917
Johren	1918
Gallant Man	1957
Celtic Ash	1960

<u>Ireland</u>	
<i>Horse</i>	<i>Year</i>
Cavan	1958
Go and Go	1990

<u>Canada</u>	
<i>Horse</i>	<i>Year</i>
Victory Gallop	1998

STATES TO PRODUCE BELMONT WINNERS

<i>No.</i>	<i>State</i>
92	Kentucky
11	Virginia
7	New Jersey
5	Florida
3	New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee
2	California, Maryland, Texas

KNOW THIS:

Three for the Crown?

Since 1980, only 11 times have three different horses won Triple Crown races. In the decade of the 2000s, it happened only in 2000 and again last year in 2009 when Mine That Bird, Rachel Alexandra and Summer Bird traded trophies. With Derby winner Super Saver and Preakness winner Lookin At Lucky passing the Belmont, it will happen again this year.

SELECTIONS:

1. FLY DOWN
2. ICE BOX
3. MAKE MUSIC FOR ME
4. GAME ON DUDE

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ONE FAST DUDE

by Dick Jerardi
Philadelphia Daily News Columnist



ANALYSIS: The first horse everybody will look at is **ICE BOX**, after all the stretch trouble the colt had in the Kentucky Derby. Blocked and steadied for what seemed like 200 yards, **ICE BOX** came flying when clear to be second. The Derby, however, had a very honest pace. Deep closers were second and fourth (**MAKE MUSIC FOR ME**). In this Belmont, there is zero pace; so **ICE BOX**'s late run may not be quite as devastating. And horses that have a big rally at 10 furlongs often do not have it at 12 furlongs. **FIRST DUDE** was a revelation in the Preakness. There was not much early speed in the race, but **FIRST DUDE** was really quick to the front. And he never stopped fighting in the stretch. **FIRST DUDE** looks like lone speed in the Belmont. The fractions should be very kind, and the closers may not have a big punch.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **ICE BOX** should be favored off his second in the Derby. He proved his win in the Florida Derby was no fluke. And passing the Preakness gives the colt the five weeks' rest the modern stakes horse generally needs to perform at his best. **FLY DOWN** was terrific in his overwhelming win in the Dwyer Stakes, giving trainer Nick Zito a serious two-horse assault on racing's version of the marathon. **FIRST DUDE** is still eligible for a first-level allowance, but has now raced in three consecutive Grade 1 stakes. Clearly, trainer Dale Romans' assessment of the colt was right on the money. **GAME ON DUDE** got blinkers for the Lone Star Derby and won like a good horse.

VALUE PLAYS: **STALEY VICTOR** won the Blue Grass at 40-1. That may have been a fluke, but given his traffic issues in the Derby, he may deserve another look at a big price. After all, the colt decisively beat Paddy O'Prado (third in the Derby) and **FIRST DUDE** (second in the Preakness) that day at Keeneland.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$1 Superfecta Key: **FIRST DUDE** over **ICE BOX**, **STALEY VICTOR**, **FLY DOWN**, **GAME ON DUDE** and **UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN** (\$60)
- \$40 Exacta: **FIRST DUDE** over **STALEY VICTOR** (\$40)

STATS & TRENDS:

CLOSEST BELMONT FINISHES

(Since 1905)

Margin	Horse	Year
Nose	Granville	1936
	Jaipur	1962
	Victory Gallop	1998
Head	Colin	1908
	Affirmed	1978
	Hansel	1991
	Lemon Drop Kid	1999
	Rags to Riches	2007

BIGGEST BELMONT BLOWOUTS

(Since 1905)

Margin/Lengths	Horse	Year
31	Secretariat	1973
25	Count Fleet	1943
20	Man o'War	1920
14-3/4	Risen Star	1988
14	Conquistador Cielo	1982
14	Bet Twice	1987
12-1/2	Point Given	2001

KNOW THIS:

Woody's World

Perhaps no record in Thoroughbred racing history is safer than Woody Stephens' unfathomable streak of saddling five consecutive Belmont Stakes winners. The streak began when Conquistador Cielo came back just 5 days after winning the Grade 1 Met Mile to score in the 1982 Belmont. Stephens added trophies with Caveat, Swale, Crème Fraiche and Danzig Connection. Only Swale went postward as the favorite.

SELECTIONS:

1. **FIRST DUDE**
2. **STALEY VICTOR**
3. **FLY DOWN**
4. **ICE BOX**

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CLASSIC RUNNERS ARE KEY

by Steve Byk

At the Races with Steve Byk (Sirius Radio) Host



ANALYSIS: The Triple Crown is not on the line again this year, but those that have been engaged these last 5 weeks at Churchill Downs and/or Pimlico are the horses upon which to focus in the Belmont Stakes. Over the last 5 years, Derby/Preakness participants have astoundingly filled 12 of the 15 "in the money" slots (4 wins-5 seconds-3 thirds), with only Da'Tara (won at 38-1), Sunriver (3rd at 6-1) and Nolan's Cat (3rd at 20-1) invading Belmont trifectas.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Nick Zito's remarkable success in this storied classic needs no introduction, and his Derby runner-up **ICE BOX** and Dwyer winner **FLY DOWN** will vie for favoritism in the Test of the Champion with Dale Romans' Preakness-placing **FIRST DUDE**. Pedigree can never be over-rated in this race, and **ICE BOX** is doubly blessed on that front being by Pulpit, son of the 1992 Belmont hero A.P. Indy, and out of a dam by Tabasco Cat, who won this race in 1994. While deep closers aren't the ideal key horse in this mile and a half affair, Zito is sure to have the Florida Derby winner finely tuned for this.

VALUE PLAYS: **STALEY VICTOR** had a much worse-than-advertised Derby voyage, and will be overlaid here under a pilot (Alan Garcia) who guided Da'Tara to the carnations two years ago. **UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN** may not be much horse and is under-bred for the trip, but Kiaran McLaughlin won this event with modestly-talented (though appropriately pedigreed) Jazil, and has had 7 weeks to get the Limehouse colt prepared for 12 panels.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$4 Trifecta Key: **ICE BOX** over **STALEY VICTOR**, **FIRST DUDE**, **MAKE MUSIC FOR ME**, **FLY DOWN** and **UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN** (\$80)
- \$4 Exacta Part-wheel: **STALEY VICTOR**, **FIRST DUDE**, **MAKE MUSIC FOR ME**, **FLY DOWN** and **UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN** with **ICE BOX** (\$20)

STATS & TRENDS:

WINNING BELMONT POST POSITIONS

(Since 1905)

Post	Winners	Post	Winners
1	23	8	6
2	11	9	4
3	13	10	2
4	10	11	2
5	14	12	0
6	7	13	0
7	11	14	0

ZITO'S BROOKLYN BOMBERS

Trainer Nick Zito's Belmont Longshots

Year	Horse	Odds	Finish
2008	Da'Tara	38.50	1st
2008	Anak Nakal	34.25	3rd*
2005	Andromeda's Hero	11.90	2nd
2004	Birdstone	36.00	1st
2004	Royal Assault	27.75	3rd

*dead-heat

KNOW THIS:

Missing Links

Since 1945 there have been five Belmont Stakes without the Derby and Preakness winners. In 1945 Derby winner Hoop Jr. and Preakness hero Polyneesian skipped the Belmont and Pavot (2-1) took that race. In 1954, High Gun (3-1) won in the absence of Derby winner Determine and Preakness champ Hasty Road. In 1970 Dust Commander and Personality won the first two legs of the Triple Crown, respectively. High Echelon (9-2) won the Belmont in their absence. In 2000, Fusaichi Pegasus and Red Bullet were the Derby and Preakness heroes. Commendable (18-1) scored the Belmont upset. And, in 2006, Barbaro took the Derby, Bernardini won the Preakness and Jazil (16-1) claimed the Belmont.

SELECTIONS:

1. ICE BOX
2. STALEY VICTOR
3. FIRST DUDE
4. MAKE MUSIC FOR ME

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GONNA FLY NOW

by Bob Neumeier
NBC Sports Reporter



ANALYSIS: It seems only fitting that in this topsy-turvy Triple Crown campaign, the Belmont Stakes is taking on the murky appearance of the first two legs. In the absence of both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winners, the Belmont contenders all bring a few positives and certainly several negatives that should make for an interesting race. While it may lack in star power, the field is certainly well-balanced with an equal sprinkling of early speed, middle-movers, and closers.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Trainer Nick Zito has typically won The Belmont Stakes with little-regarded longshots. Not so in 2010, as New York Nick has two prime bullets in his holster with Derby runner-up **ICE BOX** and Dwyer Stakes winner **FLY DOWN**. Both will be 1-2 in the wagering, respectively, unless the bettors decide the speed of **FIRST DUDE** warrants co-favoritism. **FIRST DUDE** ran the race of his life in the Preakness, holding second money despite testing early fractions.

VALUE PLAYS: With the bulk of the money on Zito, the running styles of both **ICE BOX** and **FLY DOWN** may play against him in the 1 ½-mile marathon distance. Typically, one-run closers are more effective at shorter distances when they can exploit hot paces, i.e. **ICE BOX** in the Kentucky Derby and Florida Derby. That could open the door for the likes of the disappointing **DROSSELMAYER**, Blue Grass wake-up winner **STATELY VICTOR** or **MAKE MUSIC FOR ME** to grab a \$20 win ticket. If **ICE BOX** is bet off the board, and with an expected "bounce" from **FIRST DUDE**, then **FLY DOWN** is a reasonable 3-1 or 7-2 win price. While regular jockey Jose Lezcano sticks with **ICE BOX**, Zito has opted to give **FLY DOWN**'s mount to John Velazquez, another boost to his chances.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$60 Win: **FLY DOWN**
- \$20 Exacta Part-Wheel: **FLY DOWN** with **STATELY VICTOR** and **STAY PUT** (\$40)

SELECTIONS:

1. **FLY DOWN**
2. **STATELY VICTOR**
3. **STAY PUT**
4. **ICE BOX**

Daily Late-Breaking Online Updates Begin June 1

STATS & TRENDS:

THREE'S A CROWD

Triple Crown Appearances by Recent Belmont Winners

Year	Horse	Race
2009	Summer Bird	Derby
2008	Da'Tara	none
2007	Rags to Riches	none
2006	Jazil	Derby
2005	Afleet Alex	Derby, Preakness
2004	Birdstone	Derby
2003	Empire Maker	Derby
2002	Sarava	none
2001	Point Given	Derby, Preakness
2000	Commendable	Derby

FASTEST BELMONT

Time	Horse	Year
2:24	Secretariat	1973
2:26	Easy Goer	1989
	A.P. Indy	1992
2:26-2/5	Point Given	2001
	Risen Star	1988
2:26-4/5	Affirmed	1978

BELMONT "LAST TIMES"

The Last...

New Triple Crown Face to Win:
Da'Tara (2008)

Kentucky Derby Runner-Up to Win:
Empire Maker (2003)

Preakness Runner-Up to Win:
Victory Gallop (1998)

Horse to Lay-Off Since the Derby to Win:
Summer Bird (2009)

With a Belmont Prep Race to Win:
Lemon Drop Kid (1999)

Jockey to Win Back-to-Back:
Laffit Pincay, Jr. (1982, '83 & '84)
Conquistador Cielo, Caveat and Swale

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