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BELMONT STAKES

WAGERING GUIDE



Drosselmeyer wins 2010 Belmont. ©Horsephotos.com/NTRA

June 11, 2011

BELMONT PARK

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Fellow Racing Fan,

Welcome to the fourth fantastic edition of XpressBet's Belmont Stakes Wagering Guide!

Congratulations to the connections of Animal Kingdom and Shackleford, winners of the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes, respectively. We've enjoyed two outstanding races and anticipate an exciting rubber match in the Belmont Stakes, if both race.

In any event, this year's **Belmont Stakes** renewal figures to match a wide-open field of runners at the testing distance of a mile and one-half. It's a unique and historic race on the American landscape and you'll need all the help you can get in picking a winner. That's where **XpressBet's Belmont Wagering Guide** and online, daily, late-breaking updates come in handy.

We've recruited top handicappers, writers and broadcasters to examine this important race--- **Analysis, Main Contenders, Value Plays and Wagering Strategies**. You'll also find lots of useful **Stats & Trends**, a handy **Exotic Wagering Chart** and additional information inside this free guide.

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Please enjoy the guide, the late updates and have a fortunate and profitable **Belmont Stakes Day** wagering with **XpressBet!**

Sincerely,
Ron Luniewski
President
XpressBet

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BELMONT STAKES WAGERING GUIDE UPDATES
Available Online Daily Beginning June 7

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.

WIN-PLACE-SHOW PAYOFFS

(Last 10 years, Odds to \$1)

Win Odds

Average: 18.47

High: 70.25 (Sarava, 2002)

Low: 1.15 (Afleet Alex, 2005)

Notable: 3 straight Belmont winners were 11-to-1 or more.

Place Odds

Average: 6.69

High: 16.00 (Medaglia d'Oro, 2002)

Low: .35-to-1 (Smarty Jones, 2004)

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

Show Odds

Average: 11.38

High: 31.50

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

Low: 1.00 (Funny Cide, 2003)

Notable: 3 of the last 7 Belmont show horses were 20-to-1 or more.

EXACTA PAYOFFS

(Last 10 years, \$2 Payoffs)

Average: \$374.33

High: \$2,454.00 (Sarava-Medaglia d'Oro, 2002)

Low: \$20.60 (Point Given-A P Valentine, 2001)

Notable: 7 of the last 8 Belmont exactas paid \$144 or less.

TRIFECTA PAYOFFS

(Last 10 years, \$1 Payoffs)

Average: \$1,661.10

High: \$12,504.50

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

Low: \$33.75

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

Notable: 4 of the last 5 Belmont trifectas paid \$383 or less.

SUPERFECTA PAYOFFS

(Wager Available 9 Years, \$1 Payoffs)

Average: \$12,938.33

High: \$72,667.00

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

Low: \$91.75

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

Average Odds of Fourth-Place Finishers: 11.65-to-1

Notable: 5 of 9 superfectas paid \$624 or more.

HIGHEST-PRICED RUNNERS IN SUPERFECTA

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

<u>Odds</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
70.25	Sarava	2002	1st
38.50	Da'Tara	2008	1st
36.00	Birdstone	2004	1st
34.25	Anak Nakal	2008	3rd

LOWEST-PRICED FAVORITES

(Last 10 Years, Odds to \$1)

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

ODDS-ON BELMONT BUSTS

(Since 1979)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>	<u>Odds</u>
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

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 (SiriusXM Radio)
First	Nehro	Animal Kingdom	Brilliant Speed	Nehro	Animal Kingdom	Animal Kingdom
Second	Master of Hounds	Shackleford	Master of Hounds	Animal Kingdom	Master of Hounds	Master of Hounds
Third	Santiva	Master of Hounds	Animal Kingdom	Master of Hounds	Shackleford	Shackleford
Fourth	Brilliant Speed	Nehro	Nehro	Shackleford	Nehro	Santiva



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MEET THE BELMONT CONTENDERS

by Johnny D
XpressBet.com

ANIMAL KINGDOM

The Kentucky Derby winner and Preakness Stakes runner-up enters the Belmont as the probable favorite. He defeated all of the top Belmont contenders in the Derby, and all but one of them—Shackleford—in the Preakness. The distance shouldn't be a problem for him, and the wide, sweeping turns of Belmont Park ought to play to his strengths. Apparently, he didn't 'bounce' much, if at all, off his Derby performance in the Preakness and now that he's had three weeks to recuperate, he might be ready for another big effort. Animal Kingdom reacted negatively to dirt in his face just after the start of the Preakness. That early hesitation left him far back with too much to do. He didn't have a troubled trip in the race, but it wasn't completely clear sailing (like in the Derby) either. A much-anticipated rubber match between Animal Kingdom and Shackleford in the Belmont will be interesting, but there are other horses in this race who will have something to say about the outcome.

SHACKLEFORD

He set the pace in the Kentucky Derby, tired and finished fourth, three and three-quarter lengths behind Animal Kingdom and less than one length off Nehro and Mucho Macho Man, both expected Belmont starters. He then returned to force the pace in the Preakness, gain the lead in the lane and hold off the late charge of Animal Kingdom. So, the question remains: Was the distance of the mile and one-quarter Derby the undoing of Shackleford? If so, how will he successfully handle a mile and one-half at Belmont? If you believe that Shackleford needed the conditioning he got in the Kentucky Derby, then, perhaps you cashed in the Preakness and are convinced he can handle a mile and one-half. After all, some would argue that Animal Kingdom never passed Shackleford

even on the Preakness gallop-out. Plus, speed is an advantage in longer races—especially controlled speed that can be rationed out like water on a desert hike. Shackleford has displayed the kind of steady, controlled pace required to 'go the distance.' But still, a mile and one-half is, if you'll excuse the pun, a horse of a different color. We've witnessed what 'Big Sandy' can do to distance-challenged, Triple Crown-baked runners. It eats them up, particularly in the final eighth of a mile. Based on his Derby effort and Preakness triumph, Shackleford must be considered a major Belmont contender and probable second choice.

NEHRO

As late as Feb. 21, 2011, Nehro was a maiden with two disappointing outings on his resume. That day he broke his maiden at Oaklawn Park and a monster was unleashed. He returned less than a month later to miss winning the Louisiana Derby by a neck at 36-1. About three weeks later, he again came up a neck short of victory in the Arkansas Derby at nearly 10-1. Those near-misses catapulted Nehro into the Kentucky Derby starting lineup, once more in less than a month's time. And guess what happened.

He finished second again, this time at 8-1. After such an aggressive spring fling, Nehro's connections opted to skip the Preakness and wait for the Belmont Stakes, giving Nehro a hard-earned, five-week respite between races. The horse's breeding and late-running style seems suited to the mile and one-half distance of the third leg of the Triple Crown. As a further sign of fitness, Nehro recently worked a solid six furlongs at Churchill Downs in 1:12 1/5. That's a nice move by anyone's standards and, in combination with Nehro's past performances, tips his hand as one to take seriously in the Belmont Stakes.

BELMONT LAST TIMES...

The Last ...

Kentucky Derby Winner to Win:

Thunder Gulch (1995)

Preakness Winner to Win:

Afleet Alex (2005)

New Triple Crown Face to Win:

Drosselmeyer (2010)

Kentucky Derby Runner-Up to Win:

Empire Maker (2003)

Preakness Runner-Up to Win:

Victory Gallop (1998)

Kentucky Derby Show Horse to Win:

Afleet Alex (2005)

Preakness Show Horse to Win:

Editor's Note (1996)

Horse to Lay-Off Since Kentucky Derby to Win:

Summer Bird (2009)

Horse Prepped at Belmont to win:

Drosselmeyer (2010)

TIME FOR A NEW SHOOTER

by Bob Neumeier
NBC Sports Reporter



ANALYSIS: The fast early/slow late race shape of **SHACKLEFORD**'s Preakness suggests that his performance was exemplary. The Beyer Speed Figure number of 104 is also flattering. But the Len Ragozin Sheet's performance data sharply disagrees, giving 'SHACK' a pedestrian 7 for his victory. So whom do you believe? My intuition agrees with Ragozin; that this is a slow bunch and the Belmont Stakes is crying out for fresh faces. As expected, **ANIMAL KINGDOM** "bounced" in Baltimore earning a 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ Rag fig, a far cry from the superior 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ he posted in the Kentucky Derby. With that pattern, he should not be part of the Belmont exacta if the new faces do any running at all. So, if 'AK' continues to regress and 'SHACK' is just plain slow, the value should be ripe in New York.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Sure, the top two will be on most tickets. **MUCHO MACHO MAN** continues to offer a litany of excuses. He looks raced-out in my eyes. **NEHRO** should be the main contender with five weeks' rest and a solid Derby run and best gallop-out on his resume. He could be over-bet, but appears to be a solid selection. **BRILLIANT SPEED**, **SANTIVA** and **MASTER OF HOUNDS** also are rested and ran just five lengths behind the winner in Louisville.

VALUE PLAYS: My sense is that **SHACKLEFORD** will NOT be the Belmont favorite, a rare occurrence in Triple Crown history. The Preakness winners are typically odds-on in New York. If you like 'SHACK' (I don't), you will get value. **NEHRO** will take plenty of action. But for pure value, I don't think you could possibly go wrong by looking at **BRILLIANT SPEED**, **SANTIVA** and **MASTER OF HOUNDS**.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$17 Exacta Part-Wheel: **NEHRO** with **MASTER OF HOUNDS**, **SANTIVA**, **BRILLIANT SPEED** (\$51)
- \$2 Exacta Box: **NEHRO**, **MASTER OF HOUNDS**, **SANTIVA**, **BRILLIANT SPEED** (\$24)
- \$1 Trifecta Box: **NEHRO**, **MASTER OF HOUNDS**, **SANTIVA**, **BRILLIANT SPEED** (\$24)
- \$1 Superfecta: **NEHRO** with **MASTER OF HOUNDS** with **SANTIVA** with **BRILLIANT SPEED** (\$1)

SELECTIONS:

1. **NEHRO**
2. **MASTER OF HOUNDS**
3. **SANTIVA**
4. **BRILLIANT SPEED**

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STATS & TRENDS:

DERBY WINNERS IN BELMONT

(Since 2001)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2010	did not compete	---
2009	Mine That Bird	3rd
2008	Big Brown	dnf
2007	did not compete	---
2006	did not compete	---
2005	Giacomo	7th
2004	Smarty Jones	2nd
2003	Funny Cide	3rd
2002	War Emblem	8th
2001	Monarchos	3rd

Notable:

Derby winner has not won the Belmont since Thunder Gulch in 1995.

DERBY RUNNER-UPS IN BELMONT

(Since 2001)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2010	Ice Box	8th
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

KNOW THIS:

Derby Top Three in Belmont

The last time the top 3 finishers in the Kentucky Derby all raced in the Belmont Stakes was 2002 when War Emblem, Proud Citizen and Perfect Drift wound up 8th, 5th and 10th in the final jewel.

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

SUPERFECTA BOX: (\$1 Wager)

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

SUPERFECTA 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)

SUPERFECTA KEYS: (\$1 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others	\$6
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)</i>	
1 Horse with 4 others	\$24
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)</i>	
1 Horse with 5 others	\$60
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)</i>	
1 Horse with 6 others	\$120
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)</i>	
1 Horse with 7 others	\$210
<i>(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)</i>	

CLASSIC WINNERS HEAD THIS CLASS

by Mike Battaglia
NBC Sports Racing Analyst



ANALYSIS: ANIMAL KINGDOM proved that his Derby win was no fluke with a game runner-up effort in the Preakness. The mile-and-a-half distance is a question mark for all these runners, but it does look like ANIMAL KINGDOM is capable of handling the stretch-out. SHACKLEFORD is a perfect example of a 3-year-old who has improved dramatically in a short period of time. His races in April and May were far superior to any of his previous starts, and his Preakness win was accomplished despite the fact that he washed out badly prior to the start. His ability to get the distance is suspect, but speed is always dangerous.

MAIN CONTENDERS: ANIMAL KINGDOM and SHACKLEFORD have moved to the top of the division. Both of these horses have peaked at the perfect time and seem ready to perform well again in New York. NEHRO has been waiting in the wings since the Derby and will probably get a lot of attention at the windows. He would have to move forward to win, but can be expected to run another solid race.

VALUE PLAYS: MASTER OF HOUNDS ran a deceptively good race in the Derby and is bred to love the mile-and-a-half distance. He makes only his third start this year and can't be left out of the gimmicks. BRILLIANT SPEED probably is going to be a much better horse on the grass, but he is also capable of negotiating the Belmont distance.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$10 Trifecta Key: ANIMAL KINGDOM with SHACKLEFORD, NEHRO, MASTER OF HOUNDS (\$60)
- \$5 Trifecta Part-Wheel: SHACKLEFORD, NEHRO, MASTER OF HOUNDS with ANIMAL KINGDOM with SHACKLEFORD, NEHRO, MASTER OF HOUNDS (\$30)
- \$5 Superfecta: ANIMAL KINGDOM with SHACKLEFORD with MASTER OF HOUNDS with NEHRO (\$5)
- \$5 Superfecta: ANIMAL KINGDOM with MASTER OF HOUNDS with SHACKLEFORD with NEHRO (\$5)

SELECTIONS:

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM
2. SHACKLEFORD
3. MASTER OF HOUNDS
4. NEHRO

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STATS & TRENDS:

PREAKNESS WINNERS IN BELMONT

(Since 2001)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2010	did not compete	---
2009	did not compete	---
2008	Big Brown	dnf
2007	Curlin	2nd
2006	did not compete	---
2005	Afleet Alex	1st
2004	Smarty Jones	2nd
2003	Funny Cide	3rd
2002	War Emblem	8th
2001	Point Given	1st

PREAKNESS RUNNER-UPS IN BELMONT

(Since 2001)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2010	First Dude	3rd
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

KNOW THIS:

First Since 2008

The past two Preakness winners, Rachel Alexandra and Lookin At Lucky, both bypassed the Belmont Stakes. Shackleford would be the first Preakness winner to participate in the Belmont since Big Brown in 2008.

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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BRILLIANT SPEED GOOD ENOUGH

by Jeff Siegel
HRTV Analyst

ANALYSIS: There is more at stake than just a hefty winner's purse for Kentucky Derby winner **ANIMAL KINGDOM** and Preakness hero **SHACKLEFORD** in the 2011 Belmont Stakes; a victory by either one would all but clinch an Eclipse Award in the 3-year-old division before the year's half over. However, both seem vulnerable. The last time the Derby hero also captured the Belmont was in 1995 (Thunder Gulch) and, in fact, that specific parlay has occurred only five times since 1963. **SHACKLEFORD** doesn't have to worry about history. His concern is staying a mile and a half.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Most of the money will gravitate toward the winners of the Triple Crown's first two jewels, so there will be overlays a plenty. The most intriguing fresh face is **BRILLIANT SPEED**, a colt who should have caught your eye when he rallied by way of the parking lot from 14th to seventh in Kentucky to be beaten just over five lengths. Training in superb fashion in the five weeks since, the son of Dynaformer will relish 12 furlongs.

VALUE PLAYS: **MASTER OF HOUNDS** has been piling up frequent flier miles all year long. He's gone from England to Dubai and back, from England to Kentucky and back, and now returns to the States after finishing virtually on a line with **BRILLIANT SPEED** in the Derby. By Kingmambo from a Sadler's Wells mare, the Aidan O'Brien-trained colt is bred to stay forever and he can quicken better than you think.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$40 Win: **BRILLIANT SPEED** (\$40)
- \$1 Trifecta Box: **BRILLIANT SPEED, MASTER OF HOUNDS, ANIMAL KINGDOM, SHACKLEFORD** (\$24)
- \$1 Trifecta Box: **BRILLIANT SPEED, MASTER OF HOUNDS, ANIMAL KINGDOM, NEHRO** (\$24)
- \$6 Exacta Box: **BRILLIANT SPEED, MASTER OF HOUNDS** (\$12)

SELECTIONS:

1. BRILLIANT SPEED
2. MASTER OF HOUNDS
3. ANIMAL KINGDOM
4. NEHRO

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STATS & TRENDS:

DERBY 1-2 IN BELMONT REMATCH

(Last 20 Years)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2003	Funny Cide- Empire Maker	3rd- 1st
2002	War Emblem-Proud Citizen	8th-5th
2001	Monarchos-Invisible Ink	3rd-5th
1999	Charismatic-Menifee	3rd-8th
1998	Real Quiet- Victory Gallop	2nd- 1st
1994	Go For Gin-Strodes Creek	2nd-3rd

Notable:

Derby 1-2 runners have produced Belmont winner twice in last 20 years.

Derby exacta has not repeated in last 20 years, but was reversed once, 1998.

PREAKNESS 1-2 IN BELMONT REMATCH

(Last 20 Years)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2008	Big Brown-Macho Again	dnf - 5th
2004	Smarty Jones-Rock Hard Ten	2nd - 5th
2002	War Emblem-Magic Weisner	8th - 4th
2001	Point Given -AP Valentine	1st - 2nd
1999	Charismatic-Menifee	3rd - 8th
1998	Real Quiet- Victory Gallop	2nd - 1st
1997	Silver Charm-Free House	2nd - 3rd
1996	Louis Quatorze-Skip Away	4th - 2nd
1994	Tabasco Cat -Go For Gin	1st - 2nd
1993	Prairie Bayou-Cherokee Run	6th - dnf
1991	Hansel -Corporate Report	1st - 4th

Notable:

Preakness 1-2 finishers have met 11 times in Belmont last 20 years, but not since 2008.

Preakness 1-2 runners have won Belmont four times last 20 years.

Preakness exacta has repeated in Belmont twice in last 20 years.

Preakness exacta was reversed once in last 20 years—Victory Gallop-Real Quiet, 1998.

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ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR NEHRO

by Jon White
HRTV & Santa Anita Analyst

ANALYSIS: Thoroughbreds are not asked to go a mile and a half very often in American racing these days. Thus, to me, pedigree is very important in terms of the Belmont. I think **ANIMAL KINGDOM** and **NEHRO**, who ran one-two in the Kentucky Derby, possess the bloodlines to be major players in the Belmont. **ANIMAL KINGDOM** has a great deal of stamina in his pedigree thanks in large measure to his German-bred dam (Dalia) and her German-bred sire (Acatenango). **NEHRO** has a wonderful Belmont pedigree. **NEHRO** is a grandson of 1992 Belmont winner A.P. Indy (sire of 2007 Belmont winner Rags to Riches). A.P. Indy is a son of 1977 Belmont winner Seattle Slew. **MASTER OF HOUNDS**, also a threat based on his breeding, is a son of Kingmambo (sire of 1999 Belmont winner Lemon Drop Kid).

MAIN CONTENDERS: **ANIMAL KINGDOM** proved his \$43.80 upset Kentucky Derby victory was not a fluke by finishing a strong second in the Preakness. **NEHRO** probably is the most accomplished non-stakes winner in the world after finishing second in the Louisiana Derby, Arkansas Derby and Kentucky Derby. **MASTER OF HOUNDS** closed strongly in the stretch to finish fifth in the Kentucky Derby. Many underestimated **SHACKLEFORD** when he won the Preakness and paid \$27.20. It's probably not a good idea to take **SHACKLEFORD** lightly in the Belmont even though he's by Forestry. **SHACKLEFORD'S** dam is by Unbridled (sire of 2003 Belmont winner Empire Maker).

VALUE PLAYS: **SANTIVA**, sixth in the Kentucky Derby, looks like the type who might relish a mile and a half.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$20 Exacta Box: **NEHRO, ANIMAL KINGDOM** (\$40)
- \$10 Exacta Box: **NEHRO, MASTER OF HOUNDS** (\$20)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **ANIMAL KINGDOM, MASTER OF HOUNDS** (\$10)
- \$1 Exacta Box: **NEHRO, ANIMAL KINGDOM, MASTER OF HOUNDS, SHACKLEFORD, SANTIVA** and **STAY THIRSTY** (\$30)

SELECTIONS:

1. NEHRO
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM
3. MASTER OF HOUNDS
4. SHACKLEFORD

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STATS & TRENDS:

WINNING BELMONT POST POSITIONS

(Since 1905)

<u>Post</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Wins</u>
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	13	14	0

ACTIVE BELMONT-WINNING JOCKEYS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Horse</u>
2010	Mike Smith	Drosselmeyer
2009	Kent Desormeaux	Summer Bird
2008	Alan Garcia	Da'Tara
2007	John Velazquez	Rags to Riches
2006	Fernando Jara	Jazil
2005	Jeremy Rose	Afleet Alex
2004	Edgar Prado	Birdstone
2002	Edgar Prado	Sarava
1990	Mick Kinane	Go and Go

KNOW THIS:

Woody's World

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

Oldest Triple Crown Event

The Belmont Stakes, first run in 1867, is the oldest of the Triple Crown events. It predates the Preakness by six years and the Kentucky Derby by eight.

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BELMONT AT ITS BEST

by Dick Jerardi
Philadelphia Daily News Columnist

ANALYSIS: This is what the Belmont Stakes is supposed to be – the Derby winner vs. the Preakness winner with several live possibilities in the mix. Anybody who did not quite ‘get’ **ANIMAL KINGDOM** gets it now after his heroic run from near the back to within a half-length of catching Preakness winner **SHACKLEFORD**. The Derby winner is legit, and certainly has the look and bloodlines of a colt who will have no issue with the one long lap of Belmont Park. **SHACKLEFORD’S** tractable speed makes him dangerous at any distance. If the pace is moderate for six furlongs and this colt has a big enough lead, he might show the same heart he showed at the end of the Preakness. In the 2000s, this has been a race for longshots. With all the best horses from the Preakness and Derby in here, this looks much more like a race where form should hold up.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **ANIMAL KINGDOM** is going to be a contender in every race he runs. **SHACKLEFORD** was 12-1, 23-1 and 68-1 in his last three races. Those days are over. **NEHRO** ran second in the Louisiana Derby, Arkansas Derby and Kentucky Derby. The colt’s connections decided a break was in order so he sat out the Preakness and took the five weeks. **MASTER OF HOUNDS** was a late-running fifth in the Derby, went back to England and is returning for a race at a distance that should be well within his scope. **MUCHO MACHO MAN** got a new blacksmith after another shoe problem in the Preakness.

VALUE PLAYS: There is a chance **SHACKLEFORD** will be a bit bigger price than he should be because most will assume he will hit the wall at the distance. There does not figure to be much pace, so the Preakness winner may be dangerous again. **MASTER OF HOUNDS** is absolutely bred for the trip, but will have to make up several lengths on the Derby winner.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$100 Exacta: **ANIMAL KINGDOM** over **MASTER OF HOUNDS** (\$100)

SELECTIONS:

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM
2. MASTER OF HOUNDS
3. SHACKLEFORD
4. NEHRO

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STATS & TRENDS:

2ND IN DERBY, NO PREAKNESS

(Last 20 Years)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>	<u>Odds</u>
2010	Ice Box	8th	9-5 *
2006	Bluegrass Cat	2nd	9-2
2003	Empire Maker	1st	2-1
2001	Invisible Ink	5th	10-1
2000	Aptitude	2nd	8-5 *
1994	Strodes Creek	3rd	6-5 *

*Favorites

Notable:

Derby runner-ups who skipped Preakness are 6: 1-2-1 in Belmont (3 favorites).

Only Belmont-based trainers (Frankel, twice; Pletcher, twice and Zito) have skipped Preakness with Derby runner-up since '94.

ODDS-ON BELMONT FAVORITES

(Since 1940)

Odds-On Favorites: 31

Winning Odds-On Favorites: 12

Odds-On Favorite Win %: 38.7%

Last Odds-On Favorite to Compete:

Big Brown, 2008, .30-to-1

Last Odds-On Favorite to Win:

Affirmed, 1978, .60-to-1.

DALE ROMANS IN LAST 5 T.C. RACES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Fin.</u>
2011	Preakness	Shackleford	1st
2011	Derby	Shackleford	4th
2010	Belmont	First Dude	3rd
2010	Preakness	First Dude	2nd
2010	Derby	Paddy O'Prado	3rd

KNOW THIS:

Belmont Chalk is Fading

60 of the previous 142 Belmonts have been won by favorites (42.3 percent). However, 7 of the last 12 winners have been 11-1 or more!

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HISTORIC THEMES ABOUND

by Steve Byk

At the Races with Steve Byk (SiriusXM) Host



ANALYSIS: This is a notable Belmont since the first seven finishers in the Kentucky Derby (a record number) may meet in the 'Test of the Champion'. In **ANIMAL KINGDOM** and **SHACKLEFORD** it's possible a dual classic winner will emerge. That's important because winners of 2 of 3 Triple Crown events have been crowned champion sops in 6 of the last 10 years.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **ANIMAL KINGDOM** comes to 'Big Sandy' as the favorite and most likely winner. He is bred to excel at the 12-furlong trip and has jockey John Velazquez (won with Rags to Riches in '07). **ANIMAL KINGDOM** would join Riva Ridge, Bold Forbes, Swale and Thunder Gulch as Derby-Belmont winners since 1970. Perhaps **SHACKLEFORD** will be compromised trying to stretch his speed 250 extra yards in this event, and **MUCHO MACHO MAN** may now feel the regressive effects of the spring classics trail. **NEHRO** skipped the Derby and arrives on Long Island fresh and dangerous. **MASTER OF HOUNDS** returned home to Ballydoyle after his surprisingly good Derby attempt. He will relish negotiating the mile and a half over Belmont's stamina-testing surface as much or more than anyone in the field.

VALUE PLAYS: **BRILLIANT SPEED** and **SANTIVA** come back from mutually respectable tries in the Derby, and will be much better prices here than **NEHRO** or **MASTER OF HOUNDS**, with roughly equal chances for success. **MONZON** is sired by the '95 winner of this event and has the grinding style that frequently plays well at a price in the Belmont.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$2 Trifecta Key: **ANIMAL KINGDOM** with **MASTER OF HOUNDS**, **SHACKLEFORD**, **NEHRO**, **SANTIVA**, **BRILLIANT SPEED** and **MONZON** (\$60)
- \$1 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **MASTER OF HOUNDS**, **SHACKLEFORD**, **NEHRO**, **SANTIVA**, **BRILLIANT SPEED**, **MONZON** with **ANIMAL KINGDOM** with **MASTER OF HOUNDS**, **SHACKLEFORD**, **NEHRO**, **SANTIVA**, **BRILLIANT SPEED**, **MONZON** (\$30)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **ANIMAL KINGDOM**, **MASTER OF HOUNDS** (\$10)

STATS & TRENDS:

BELMONT WINNERS IN TRIPLE CROWN

(Since 2000)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Race</u>
2010	Drosselmeyer	none
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 BELMONTS

<u>Time</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>
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

BIGGEST BELMONT BLOWOUTS

(Since 1905, Win Margin)

<u>Lengths</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Year</u>
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
12-1/4	Point Given	2001

KNOW THIS:

Front-End Heists

It's not easy to win the Belmont in wire-to-wire fashion. Da'Tara's wire-job in 2008 was the first in the final jewel of the Triple Crown since Swale in 1984.

SELECTIONS:

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM
2. MASTER OF HOUNDS
3. SHACKLEFORD
4. SANTIVA

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