

Jim Mazur's

2024

Oaks Day

Epilog

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As is my custom, I always recap the Oaks and the Derby day cards. The Oaks card was hurt a bit by rain that turned the track sloppy and the turf yielding. Let's see how things turned out.

Jim Mazur

Selections For Race 1

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	4	Sundance Feature (4-1)	Only has to replicate debut win to beat these.
<i>Value Plays</i>	10	Bellofthebluegrass (5-1)	Has run 2nd at two different track; probably runs 2nd again in this race.
<i>Bombers</i>	1	Flawless Quality (10-1)	Trainer has been known to saddle upsetters.
<i>Heads Up</i>	3 6	Penny Royal (7-2) Thoughtful (5-2)	Two well-bred FTS should be used on the Pick 5 ticket; but it's tough to win at 6.5f first time out.

Bingo right off the bat, as SUNDANCE was a virtual wire winner. He looked even stronger on paper with his B+ OFF TRACK SR.

Selections For Race 2

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	9	Sidamara (4-1)	Broke mdn last out as fave. J L Ortiz chose her over Sedona. Sharp CD work in the holster.
<i>Value Plays</i>	1 12	Weigh the Risks (9-2) Little Jamie (8-1)	Not bred for turf so the move to dirt should boost this filly's Beyers. 1st Lasix and Gaffalione add to the allure. Trainer is a listed WE trainer scoring 27% during first 12 racing days of the meet.
<i>Bombers</i>	5	Pretty Ana (12-1)	Not much speed signed on...this one might steal away.

SIDAMARA kept the ball rolling albeit at 2-1. She, too, looked even stronger on paper with her A+ OFF TRACK SR.

Selections For Race 3

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	8	Arthur's Ride (3-1)	Scored off a 13-month layoff so a bounce is not out of the question. Not a whole lot of speed in here so he should control the pace again.
<i>Value Plays</i>	3	Prove Worthy (6-1)	Trainer took over for Pletcher on this one and got him to win off a 10-month layoff, Shows a previous dirt win at CD so all systems go.
<i>Bombers</i>	2	Fort Warren (20-1)	This guy probably has a huge hole in him but he's working well for a trainer who knows how to win off a long layoff. Trainer bats 31% when riding Saez at CD.

With my BOMBER sitting at 27-1 and with "B" SR on both sides of the pedigree, it was time for me to get involved. He put forth a solid effort chasing winner INJUNCTION throughout but still finishing 2nd best for a nice \$191 exacta.

Selections For Race 4

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	11	Freydis the Red (9-2)	Gets the edge here as she owns a previous turf win on the CD sod. Will appreciate the class drop.
<i>Value Plays</i>	5	Justifiable Belle (8-1)	Came off an 8-month layoff to score with a stalking trip. Right back.
<i>Bombers</i>	1	Swoop to Finish (10-1)	Ran lights out in last start but has need 3 months to recover. Mott should have him ready.
<i>Heads Up</i>	3 4 10	Elysian Field (3-1) Myriskyaffair (10-1) Stir Crazy (10-1)	Each of these runners have a history of seconditis and should be used on the bottom of an exacta back-wheel with your win choice in this race.

This race came off the turf and almost my entire selection grid scratched. But, again, my SR came in handy as seconditis STIR CRAZY roared home at 3-1,

La Troienne (1st leg of Oaks-Derby Pick 6); (1st leg of Oaks Middle Pick 5);

<i>Selections For The La Troienne</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Idiomatic (6-5)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Pretty Mischievous (5-2) Xigera (3-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Taxed (15-1) Free Like a Girl (15-1) Dorth Vader (12-1)

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
4	Idiomatic (6-5)
5	Pretty Mischievous (5-2)
6	Xigera (3-1)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
2	Taxed (15-1)
3	Free Like a Girl (15-1)
7	Dorth Vader (12-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
	#1

As per above, this race kicked off the Oaks-Derby P6 and was in play. The A TEAM were all coming off long layoffs but were just classier than the other two that showed up.

The Unbridled Sydney (1st leg of \$0.20 Derby City P6)

Selections For The Unbridled Sydney

<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Stone Silent (9-2)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Ag Bullet (5-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Secret Money (8-1) Tony Ann (8-1)

“A” TEAM

#	Horse
2	Ova Charged (7-2)
3	Stone Silent (9-2)
8	Ag Bullet (5-1)
9	Secret Money (8-1)
10	Tony Ann (8-1)

“B” TEAM

#	Horse
6	Miss Speedy (6-1)

“C” TEAM

#	Horse
	#1 #4 #5 #7

I didn't play the day's P6, as my tradition is to wait for Saturday's mandatory payout on that wager. As such, I had little interest in this race. BOMBER SECRET MONEY almost got the job done but couldn't overtake the Cajun wonder OVA CHARGED.

The Alysheba (1st leg of Oaks P5)

<i>Selections For The Alysheba</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	First Mission (8-5)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Money Supply (6-1) Tumbarumba (8-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Il Miracolo (10-1)

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Money Supply (6-1)
3	First Mission (8-5)
5	Il Miracolo (10-1)
6	Tumbarumba (8-1)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
7	Tapit Trice (7-2)
10	Trademark (6-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>				
#	Horse			
	#2	#4	#8	#9

The Alysheba kicked off the Oaks P5 and I was interested in that one. I put together a ticket using my A, B and C Teams.

Although I listed four A TEAMERS above, I decided to single FIRST MISSION and use the others on the B TEAM and relegate the B TEAMERS to the C TEAM.

That turned out to be a great move as FIRST MISSION won by daylight although the Japanese invader gave everyone a scare by zooming out to a 5 length lead and hanging on -to 2nd by a nose at .

The Modesty (1st leg of the Oaks P4)

<i>Selections For The Modesty</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Heavenly Sunday (3-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Mouffy (8-1) Sparkle Blue (6-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Forever After All (30-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>			
#	Horse		
	#7	#8	#9

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
3	Forever After All (30-1)
4	Heavenly Sunday (3-1)
5	Mouffy (8-1)
10	Sparkle Blue (6-1)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Fast as Flight (10-1)
2	Aspen Grove (6-1)
6	Surprisingly (5-1)

This leg turned out to be pivotal to my fortunes for the weekend. HEAVENLY SUNDAY opted for this race over the Distaff Turf Mile on Derby day BUT she had a negative SIRE RATING on OFF TURF.

As such, I demoted her to the B TEAM and moved up FAST AS FLIGHT to the A TEAM. I really thought SPARKLE BLUE would win the race so I loaded up with her on top in the exactas but I always reverse AND with FAST AS FLIGHT sitting at 27-1, I added exacta boxes with her and played her to win as well with DD to the next leg.

BINGO! FAST AS FLIGHT, a bit of a seconditis type this winter at GP, found this turf course to her liking and bested SPARKLE BLUE. The exacta came back \$465 and I now had an A TEAMER score at 27-1.

Eight Belles (1st leg of the Oaks Pick 3)

<i>Selections For The 8Belles</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Impel (5-2) Denim and Pearls (3-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Halina's Forte (10-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Trial (15-1)

<i>"C" TEAM</i>	
#	
	#2 #5 #6 #8 #10

<i>"A" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Impel (5-2)
4	Trial (15-1)
7	Denim and Pearls (3-1)
9	Halina's Forte (10-1)
11	My Mane Squeeze (6-1)

<i>"B" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
3	Lady Moscato (15-1)
12	R Harper Rose (12-1)

Although I didn't put her as one of my selections, I tabbed MY MANE SQUEEZE for the A TEAM. I wrote:

*I'm going five deep on the "A" TEAM and throwing in **My Mane Squeeze**, the beaten fave in the Fantasy, another that disappointed around two turns. Prior to the Fantasy dud, this NY-bred had rattled off three consecutive victories in that restricted category.*

Actually, since TRIAL scratched I only had to go 4 deep. At almost 7-1, she beat MOST LIKELY IMPEL giving me three A TEAMERS in a row and another nice exacta.

Edgewood (Start of the Oaks Daily Double)

<i>Selections For The Edgewood</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Buchu (4-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Mo Fox Givin (8-1) Pounce (10-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Dancing N Dixie (12-1) Pink Polkadots (20-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>							
#	Horse						
	#2	#3	#8	#10	#11	#12	

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Pink Polkadots (20-1)
4	Buchu (4-1)
5	Mo Fox Givin (8-1)
6	Pounce (10-1)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
7	Maxisuperfly (30-1)
9	Hard to Justify (2-1)
13	Dancing N Dixie (12-1)

The value of my historical profiles was never more evident than in this race. History has shown that not one Edgewood winner had scored in its seasonal debut. That left me ready to beat HARD TO JUSTIFY in her first start since winning the BC Juvenile Fillies Turf last fall.

With POUNCE a scratch, I moved up Chad Brown’s other starter, DYNAMIC PRICING to the B TEAM. I learned a long time ago, never leave out the “other” Brown. My mistake was not playing this gal to win at 8-1. But I thought BUCHU would come right back and played exactas with her keyed.

Lucky for me that DYNAMIC PRICING brought her top game to this race, as a C TEAMER, WAY TO BE MARIE almost got home. Although I listed her on the C TEAM above, I didn’t have a C TEAM in this race as that gets expensive. So DYNAMIC PRICING saved my ticket.

The Kentucky Oaks

<i>Selections For The Ky Oaks</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Tarifa (7-2)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Just F Y I (9-2) Thorpedo Anna (5-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Where's My Ring (15-1) Everland (30-1)

<i>"A" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
3	Where's My Ring (15-1)
5	Thorpedo Anna (5-1)
8	Tarifa (7-2)
9	Everland (30-1)
13	Just F Y I (9-2)
14	Leslie's Rose (4-1)
15	Our Pretty Woman (15-1)

<i>"B" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
	NONE

<i>"C" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
#2	#4
#6	#7
#10	#12

My table was set! Well, almost. If one of my A TEAMERS in the Edgewood had won, every Oaks runner would've been covered in my Pick 5. Instead, I was sitting with \$3 Pick 5 tickets to my seven member A TEAM.

Now, that group differed a bit from my published SELECTIONS as I merged some of my published B TEAMERS into my A TEAM to get more coverage in case a C TEAMER scored earlier in the sequence.

The good news was that I had a \$3 ticket to 9 runners with the will-pay totals listed below:

3	5	8	9	11	13	14	15
\$160,200	\$96,000	\$109,422	\$1,068,408	\$91,800	\$98,400	\$132,600	\$300,600

YOWZA! How about Everland, moving from synthetic to dirt, sitting at over \$1 million dollars. The bad news was that I had six uncovered runners (the C TEAM). They were eliminated when DYNAMIC PRICING won the Edgewood.

The concept of hedging a payoff like this is not scientific nor objective. IT IS VERY SUBJECTIVE.

Continued on next page

CONTENDERS		GRAY ZONE		PRETENDERS		PRETENDERS	
Leslie's Rose ue3	5	Everland	6	Fiona's Magic	12	Lemon Muffin	9
Tarifa ue1	1	Just F Y I	9	Gin Gin ue1	6	POWER SQUEEZE	5
Where's My Ring	1	Thorpedo Anna	5	Into Champagne	8	Regulatory Risk ue2	8
		OUR PRETTY WOMAN	10			Ways and Means ue2	10

Some players refuse to hedge and will “trust their handicapping.” Others will spend time and brain matter figuring out superfecta and High 5 plays to score if one of the uncovered runners gets home. A third school of thought says to bet varying amounts TO WIN on the uncovered runners thus assuring a return of the wagering bet and/or a decided profit.

I follow that latter school of thought. I worked hard to get to the last leg with some juicy payoffs. I want to receive something for my efforts even if the handicapping gods allow for one of my uncovered runners to upset. Randomness can happen at any time. Any race. I want to mitigate that randomness and turn it into a meaningful cash.

Last year, I had the same situation in the Derby with four uncovered runners including MAGE. I bet \$5,000 to win on him and other amounts on the three others because I knew it would be covered by a winning ticket far in excess of the additional investment.

In this case, I was trying for a return of about \$85,000. So I bet \$15,000 to win in varying amounts and sat back and waited for the result. THORPEDO ANNA broke quickly and, for some reason, OUR PRETTY WOMAN didn't press her. No one did. TARIFA was struggling in the back and didn't appreciate the kickback. She was never a factor. THORPEDO ANNA just kept rolling along and won by almost 5. Here's what I wrote about the winner in the *Oaks Zone*:

*Trainer Ken McPeck is way overdue to win a Derby or an Oaks. He has captured the Preakness and Belmont but the Kentucky jewels have eluded him. Maybe this is the year, as he enters **Thorpedo Anna** off a lone '24 prep. Similar to Mott and **Just F Y I**, McPeck has been playing catchup with this filly that owns a MSW victory and place finish in the Golden Rod both at Churchill Downs. **Thorpedo Anna** came out running in her seasonal debut and won the G2 Fantasy at Oaklawn Park by daylight (91 Beyer). Co-VALUE player.*

While there were longer payoffs, no way was I going to quibble with a \$16k payoff for \$0.50 times six! Plus I was alive in the Oaks/Derby Pick 6. A very rewarding day not only from a financial standpoint but validating the historical profile approach that I use in the *Oaks Zone* and the undercard races. On to the Derby.

Selections For Race 12

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	3 13	Harbor Springs (6-1) Almostgone Rocket (3-1)	2nd best in G2 Beaumont in last. Won debut easily.
<i>Value Plays</i>	1 7	Tipsy Tammy (6-1) Tweetster (5-1)	Trainer bats 60% with blinkers on. Another with a promising debut win.
<i>Bombers</i>	6 9	Mink's Palace (15-1) Daughter of Time (15-1)	1st Lasix for seasonal debut; trainer bats 20% with 90+ day layoffs and his key rider Saez is aboard. Sharp in NY with 2 bullets in the holster.

For those playing after the Oaks, my selections were right on. ALMOSTGONE ROCKET over BOMBER longshot MINK'S PALACE at 17-1 for a \$73 exacta.

Selections For Race 13

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	8	Princess Madison (5-2)	Trouble in debut.
<i>Value Plays</i>	7	Sustancia (10-1)	Bullet in the holster after time off following debut on synthetic.
<i>Bombers</i>	13	Backstretch Rose (12-1)	First lasix for seasonal debut; McPeck likes to pick up pieces at a price...use under too.

SUSTANCIA loses a photo for the place at 8-1.