

Jim Mazur's
2024
Preakness
Day
EPILOG

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Preakness Day EPILOG

As is my custom, here is the recap of the 2024 Preakness Day card, a soggy affair to say the least.

Selections For Race 1

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	1	Irish Heartbeat (3-1)	Back on turf; blinks on; OFF TURF is a questionmark.
<i>Value Plays</i>	7 4	Takethefifth (6-1) Master of Malice (8-1)	Improving with each start. Bred to like OFF TURF. CRABCAKE connections; first LASIX; bred for turf.
<i>Bombers</i>	2	Laddie Dance (30-1)	Broke mdn on soft turf but was DQ'd.

The rains came and the dirt course was sloppy and turf course “good” to start. I put in several early P5 tickets and hoped that **BOMBER LADDIE DANCE** would do some damage. My Saturday workout begins at 10 am and all was good. Except, at the last minute, word came out that Race 1 was now OFF THE TURF. I quickly canceled my tickets and sat it out. **IRISH HEARTBEAT** won for fun and, even though the race was run on dirt, **LADDIE DANCE** got up for 3rd at 35-1. Love it.

Selections For Race 2

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	2	Porquerolles (8-5)	CRABCAKE ran fast on “good” turf in last.
<i>Value Plays</i>	4	Breakwater (3-1)	Woke up in seasonal debut on “good” turf. Prat signs on.
<i>Bombers</i>	5	St. Johns (6-1)	CRABCAKE connections; should like OFF TURF and may wire these. Marginal odds for a BOMBER but this is as good as gets in this race.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	7 8 9	Rakia (10-1) Chelonian (5-1) Desvio (15-1)	Several runners in here are hoping for the race to come OFF THE TURF and perhaps be contested on an OFF DIRT TRACK. Each of them has either performed well on OFF TRACKS or is bred to handle the slop or mud.

This race stayed on the turf which was now listed as “soft.” **PORQUEROLLES** went off at 3-5 but folded. **BOMBER ST. JOHNS** looked home albeit at 5-1 but was overtaken by one of my runners that I thought were hoping the race came off the turf—**DESVIO** at a whopping 38-1.

Selections For Race 3

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	7	Nasty Habit (9-2)	Brittany Russell runs a pair in here but her husband rides this one for Farrior. Consistently faster than the rest and should like an OFF TRACK.
<i>Value Plays</i>	3	Prado Road (8-1)	Russell CRABCAKE gets Irad and probably the lead and should like an OFF TRACK.
	5	Magic Express (2-1)	Russell CRABCAKE has Saez on a return call but is shortening up to 6f for the first time.
<i>Bombers</i>	6	Great Heavens (12-1)	4-0-2-2 at 6f. You know what to do with this one.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	1	Mirahmadi (7-5)	I see no reason for this one to be 7-5 just because Baffert is the trainer. Others have run faster and OFF TRACK pedigree is just average. On the other hand this is the So Cal jockey's only mount of the day. Hmmm.

It figures that the race I nailed on paper is one that I missed wagering on. No problems and it was great to see Brittany Russell run a pair but her husband Sheldon winning the race with my MOST LIKELY at 6-1. Brittany's **MAGIC EXPRESS** ran 2nd.

Selections For Race 4 Skipat

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	3	Disco Ebo (5-2)	Fast track or slop this guy should whistle. Irad signs on.
<i>Value Plays</i>	4	Apple Picker (7-5)	Formidable foe now he turns back to 6f but OFF TRACK ability is a question mark.
<i>Bombers</i>	7	Swall (10-1)	Could be a surprise package on the slop.

So much for calling **SWALL** a BOMBER. He went off at 3-1 and had the lead in the stretch but was run down by my VALUE PLAYER, **APPLE PICKER** for Ms. Russell.

Selections For Race 5

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	#2	Marian Cross (3-1)	CRABCAKE Motion turns this one back. Working away at Fair Hill.
	#7	Rye Smile (5-2)	Sharp 2nd in debut. Irad Ortiz Jr jumps on.
<i>Value Plays</i>	#5	The Amazing Mizzen (8-1)	Went 0 for 4 last year and came back to post a new Beyer top when finishing 3rd in seasonal debut.
<i>Bombers</i>	#1	Cooter's Revenge (12-1)	Was the fave in her career debut but ran into road trouble and finished 10th. The bandwagon looks empty so let's take a shot with this filly.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	#8	Up for It (6-1)	Seven chances but has settled for a piece in four of those starts.

This race came off the turf and I had handicapped it for turf. So all bets were off. Todd Beattie's **CONCEPTUALIZE** went wire to wire at 9-2.

Selections For Race 6 Chick Lang

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	6	Frost Free (2-1)	This one ran 2nd in the Bachelor, the top producing prep for this race. Key rider switch to Irad.
<i>Value Plays</i>	7	Catahoula Moon (9-2)	Improving with each start and just scored albeit at 5.5f with Lasix.
<i>Bombers</i>		NONE	
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	2	Cats by Five (4-1)	Asmussen has won 4 of the last 8 Chick Lang editions but his '24 entrant looks to have 2nditis at 6f (6-0-2-1).
<i>Heads Up #2</i>	3	Petingas Twin (5-1)	Yikes. This colt is 6-1-5-0 lifetime...2nditis!!!!

Overall, I would say I was saving \$\$\$ by sitting out these early races. Ditto for the Chick Lang as my MOST LIKELY scored at 8-5. Guess who ran 2nd? YUP. It was my HEADS UP #1 player—CATS BY FIVE.

Selections For Race 7 The Gallorette

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	1	Sweet Dani Girl (4-1)	Consistently faster than the rest of these. My only concern is how she will handle OFF TURF but she does show a top effort on Keeneland "good" turf. Multiple winner at the distance.
<i>Value Plays</i>	6	Five Towns (6-1)	CRABCAKE connections and a filly that just won a baby stakes at Lrl OFF LASIX. Unless others in here regress, she will need a Beyer boost to win.
<i>Bombers</i>	2	Dana's Beauty (8-1)	Just came into Maker's barn and he's adept at developing turf runners. This filly is bred for the TURF on both sides (B+ over B+) and also bred to like an OFF TURF course. If Maker can transform the latest Beyer from synthetic to turf, this would be your winner. But more likely to get a piece.

I was hoping to beat 2nditis type **FLUFFY SOCKS**. Unfortunately, my two best bullets to beat her—**SWEET DANI** and **DANA'S BEAUTY**—both scratched off the program. I sat another one out and good thing because **FLUFFY SOCKS** had too much class for this depleted group and romped by 8 lengths at 3-5.

Race #8 The Maryland Sprint (First Leg of the Rainbow Pick 6)

<i>Selections For The Maryland Sprint</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Super Chow (4-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Prince of Jericho (7-2)
<i>Bombers</i>	NONE

<i>"A" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
3	Super Chow (4-1)
6	Prince of Jericho (7-2)

<i>"C" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
	#2 #4 #5 #7

<i>"B" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Coastal Mission (3-1)

I was getting itchy to get into the game, so I bet my MOST LIKELY to win and was rewarded with a 4-1 payout but came up short on my exacta plays.

Race #9 James W. Murphy (First Leg of PREAKNESS Pick 5)

<i>Selections For The James W. Murphy</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Crystal Quest (6-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Twirling Point (4-1) Abrumar (5-1) Fulmineo (9-2)
<i>Bombers</i>	Massif (20-1)

<i>"A" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
4	Twirling Point (4-1)
7	Crystal Quest (6-1)
12	Fulmineo (9-2)

<i>"C" TEAM</i>					
#	Horse				
	#1	#2 MTO	#3	#5	
	#8	#9	#11		

<i>"B" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
6	Naptown (8-1)
10	Abrumar (5-1)

The James W. Murphy kicked off the Preakness Pick 5 and it was time to dive in. **TWIRLING POINT** scratched so I moved up **ABRUMAR** to the "A" TEAM. I was pretty certain that **FULMINEO** with blinkers on would be a handful. He was, and scored by daylight at 2-1. **CRYSTAL QUEST** ran 2nd for a chalky exacta.

Race #10 The Sir Barton (Start of the PREAKNESS Pick 4)

<i>Selections For The Sir Barton</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Corporate Power (9-5)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Tuscan Sky (5-2)
<i>Bombers</i>	Daily Grind (20-1)

<i>"A" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
5	Corporate Power (9-5)
8	Tuscan Sky (5-2)

<i>"C" TEAM</i>					
#	Horse				
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#7

<i>"B" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
6	Gould's Gold (8-1)
9	Daily Grind (20-1)
10	Imperial Gun (7-2)

TUSCAN SKY scratched, so I moved up **GOULD'S GOLD** and **DAILY GRIND** to the "A" TEAM hoping that the latter would upset at 25-1. He led until the far turn and then **GOULD'S GOLD** at 6-1 took over. McPeck and Hernandez...go get em. Beat the heavy fave. Nope. **CORPORATE POWER** came roaring home to win by a nose at 8-5. Yuk.

Race #11 Jim McKay Turf Sprint (Start of the PREAKNESS Pick 4)

<i>Selections For The Turf Sprint</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Witty (9-2)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Grooms All Bizness (8-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	That's Right (15-1) Where's Ray (20-1)

<i>"C" TEAM</i>					
#	Horse				
	#2	#3	#5	#6	#8

<i>"A" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Grooms All Bizness (8-1)
7	Where's Ray (20-1)
9	That's Right (12-1)
11	Witty (9-2)
12	Beer Can Man (5-2)

<i>"B" TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
4	Mid Day Image (20-1)
10	Charging (5-1)

My hope was that The Jim McKay Turf Sprint would provide some value in the Preakness Pick 5. So far it had been chalk chalk. I was looking for an upsetter because I thought the two top faves—**WITTY** and **BEER CAN MAN**—were vulnerable for different reasons. When I saw **GROOMS ALL BIZNESS** sitting around 9-1, I made him my win play and tied him up with my A and B TEAMERS. From his hedge slot, **GROOMS ALL BIZNESS** saved ground and rallied stoutly to beat **WITTY**, as that one ran better than I thought he would on soft turf. To my chagrin, my 9-1 win bet was a mirage. The computer wagering hub kicked in and bet this one down to 5-1 on the last click. It was tough enough beating the chalk storm and then you get deflated odds. Woof.

Race #12 **The Dinner Party** (Start of the **PREAKNESS DD**)

<i>Selections For The Dinner Party</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Emmanuel (5-2)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Running Bee (9-2)
<i>Bombers</i>	Funtastic Again (12-1) Eons (20-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>				
#	Horse			
	#1	#2	#3	#6
		#7	#8	

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
5	Running Bee (9-2)
10	Emmanuel (5-2)
11	Eons (20-1)
12	Funtastic Again (12-1)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
4	Atone (10-1)
9	Beatbox (5-1)

FUNTAISTIC AGAIN and **EMMANUEL** scratched so **BEATBOX** moved up the “A” TEAM which now was a trio. Trainer Cherie DeVaux had won three stakes on Friday so why not another? But my hope was that **EONS** would run a big one for CRABCAKE connections. Arnoud Delacour had won the Murphy and would surely have this one ready off an easy prep. **EONS** was 6-1-2-2 last year and 4 for 7 at the race distance. He had raced well on OFF TURF courses so all systems were go. I played him heavy to hit the superfecta at 21-1.

If he didn’t do it, then surely one of my other two “A” TEAMERS would get home.

Nope. Boy, was this race result a puzzle. **BALNIKOV** a Phil D’Amato trainee with an 0’fer at 9f and subpar efforts on off turf was bet down to 5-1 and ran lights out with CRABCAKE longshot **CRABS N BEER (14-1)** running 2nd.

My Pick 5 was kaput. I tortured myself mentally about not using the winner on my “C” TEAM. But as you will soon read, it would’ve been a losing wager.

EONS didn’t lift a hoof. Mystifying but in any Pick 5 or Pick 6 there is a certain randomness that can kick in on one leg. I had no regrets about not using this guy. He simply didn’t figure on any of my metrics.

RACE #13 THE PREAKNESS

<i>Selections For The Preakness</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Catching Freedom (6-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Tuscan Gold (8-1) Imagination (6-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Seize the Grey (15-1)

“A” TEAM	
#	Horse
3	Catching Freedom (6-1)
5	Mystik Dan (5-2)
8	Tuscan Gold (8-1)
9	Imagination (6-1)

“B” TEAM	
#	Horse
6	Seize the Grey (15-1)

“C” TEAM			
#	Horse		
	#1	#2	#7

I hate it when I’m out of contention on a Pick 5 in the final leg of a TC jewel. It means that I will have to manufacture a wager and spend more bankroll \$\$\$.

In this Preakness, there was little value from any of my “A” TEAMERS. When in doubt, simply play the *Twilight Zone* exactas and trifectas.

Ky Derby Superfecta: (5) **Mystik Dan (5-2)** over **ALL** over **ALL** over (3) **Catching Freedom (6-1)**.

La Derby Trifecta: (3) **Catching Freedom (6-1)** over **ALL** over (8) **Tuscan Gold (8-1)**.

Arkansas Derby Trifecta: **ALL** over (7) **Just Steel (15-1)** over (5) **Mystik Dan (5-2)**.

Smarty Jones Exacta: (3) **Catching Freedom (6-1)** over (7) **Just Steel (15-1)**.

Southwest Exacta: (5) **Mystik Dan (5-2)** over (7) **Just Steel (15-1)**.

I was all set to bet **JUST STEEL** to win. He had run 2nd in the prep that produced the Ky Derby winner and he was second longest on the board. But then I glanced at my *Sire Ratings* and noted just average OFF DIRT ratings that were confirmed by two losing efforts on that sort of track. But then I remembered that his uncoupled stablemate **SEIZE THE GREY** was being bet down and had an A+ OFF DIRT rating thanks to sire Arrogate. Plus this guy was bred to run all day with Smart Strike being the damsire. I switched gears and bet **SEIZE THE GREY** to win and keyed in the exactas.

Bingo. Finally a breakthrough and a sizable cash. Yeah, it would’ve been a gusher if **JUST STEEL** hit the board with him but he simply didn’t like the slop.

Stamina Index Information and Off Track Ratings...

Horse	Sire	Damsire	SIRE RATINGS			
			SI sire	OT sire	SI damsire	OT damsire
Mugatu	Blofeld	Union Rags	3	C+	1*	C+
Uncle Heavy	Social Inclusion	Tiz Wonderful	3*L	B+	3*L	C+
Catching Freedom	Constitution	Pioneerof the Nile	1**	C+	3	C+
Mystik Dan	Goldencents	Colonel John	1 T	C+	3*L	C+
Seize the Grey ue1	Arrogate	Smart Strike	1*	A+	1*	C+
Just Steel ue1	Justify	Fastnet Rock (Aus)	2 L	C	3*L	C+
Tuscan Gold	Medaglia d'Oro	Curlin	2**L	B	2*	B
Imagination	Into Mischief	Empire Maker	1*T	C	1**T	C+

Selections For Race 14

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	2	Sherrif Ronny (4-1)	Has become a win machine for Ness; has a win at Pim.
<i>Value Plays</i>	5 6	Frightland (7-2) It's Viper (3-1)	CRABCAKE Brittany Russell uncoupled entry. FRIGHTLAND tries to set it up for the late running IT'S VIPER who never seems to get to the wire first.
<i>Bombers</i>		NONE	

My three choices in the finale ran 2-3-5. Was anyone really playing this race?

So that's a wrap on the 2024 CRABCAKE weekend. It was not a profitable weekend as the Friday chalk storm made my Pick 5 wagers lopsided losing propositions. And the Preakness Pick 5 never made it to the final leg. BTW, **SEIZE THE GREY** was on my "B" TEAM and thus wouldn't have helped me even if I had the Dinner Party winner on my "C" TEAM.

Onward to the Belmont at Saratoga.