



2023 Belmont Stakes Picks & Wagering Strategy

The Field

PP	HORSE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ODDS
1	Tapit Shoes	Brad Cox	Jose Ortiz	20-1
2	Tapit Trice	Todd Pletcher	Luis Saez	3-1
3	Arcangelo	Jena Antonucci	Javier Castellano	8-1
4	National Treasure	Bob Baffert	John Velazquez	5-1
5	IL Miracolo	Antonio Sano	Marcos Meneses	30-1
6	Forte	Todd Pletcher	Irad Ortiz Jr.	5/2
7	Hit Show	Brad Cox	Manny Franco	10-1
8	Angel of Empire	Brad Cox	Flavien Prat	7/2
9	Red Route One	Steve Asmussen	Joel Rosario	15-1

The “**Test of Champions**” is very difficult to win when you have raced in each leg of the Triple Crown series. It takes a true champion to race in these 3 races as a 3-year old at 3 different tracks at 3 different distances and to win more than one leg!

The Belmont Stakes is a jockey’s race! Timing their move in the big sweeping final turn will be key.

Jockeys that do not race often over this gigantic oval have made comments about how easy it is to get lost in the big sweeping final turn. The mammoth “**Big Sandy**” track layout is like no other dirt track in the U.S.

The Triple Crown series is not supposed to be easy to accomplish. It takes a very special horse to win the (3) races which are at distances of 1 ¼ Mile followed by 1 3/16 Mile and then at the marathon distance of 1 ½ Mile.

The Belmont Stakes distance at 1 ½ Mile is the biggest stumbling block for today’s breed. That final 1/8th of Mile has done in more top horses than Todd Pletcher has in his barn!

Also the massive turns at legendary Belmont Park (*known as Big Sandy*) have done in many a horse and jockeys alike. Jockeys that are not accustom to racing over the Big Sandy strip make their move on the far turn way too early. Because of the distance of the race they need to wait until the top of the stretch to make their move.

However, horses and jockeys that are accustomed to racing on 1 mile ovals are trained to make their move entering the final turn not after they come out of the turn. This is especially difficult for first time jockeys and horses racing at Belmont Park!

As Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas once said, ***“more Belmonts are lost through jockey error than anything else”.***

The Belmont Stakes is the oldest of the Triple Crown races and is also the longest distance race at 1 ½ Mile. Because of this marathon distance, the race has become known as “The Test of Champions”. It is a race that requires a combination of conditioning and stamina! It is the biggest horse race in the state of New York.

The Belmont Park track is unique not only for its size but also for its sandy dirt composition and big sweeping turns. Because of that, the track’s nickname is “Big Sandy”. The dirt track surface is very different from Churchill Downs and Pimlico.

Racing in ALL 3 legs of the Triple Crown, Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes, is one of the most difficult feats in sports to accomplish. Racing at 3 different tracks at 3 different distances over a short 5 week period of time at the young age of 3. That is why there have only been 13 horses to win the Triple Crown.

There are NO runners this year that have raced in ALL 3 Legs

Some facts about the Belmont Stakes (at 1 ½ Miles):

1. There have only been 4 wire-to-wire winners in the past 38 years.

(they were Justify in 2018, American Pharoah in 2015, Commendable in 2000 and Da' Tara 2008)

2. 19 of the last 24 Belmont winners **did not** race in the Preakness Stakes. (*last year Mo Donegal's prior race was in the KY Derby*)

3. 20 of the last 32 winners raced in the Kentucky Derby.

4. Deep Closers do not win the Belmont Stakes (*unless it is a full field of 14*).

5. **NO** Belmont Stakes winner has closed from farther back than 3rd at mid-stretch since 1933.

6. Time off is not a big factor as long as the horse has raced in the past 6 weeks.

7. The winner will have previously raced against the Top 3 Year Olds in the country.

8. **In the past 37 years ONLY 11 favorites have won the race.**

(*they finish-in-the-money 73% of the time*)

9. 2nd favorites have won 9 of the last 37 Belmonts.

(they finished in-the-money 78% of the time)

10. 3rd favorites have ONLY won 8 of the last 37 Belmonts.

(they finish in-the-money only 10% of the time)

11. Over the past 28 years, 22 different trainers have won this race.

Just like in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, there is a **Winning Profile** for the Belmont Stakes.

For those of you who purchased our "Proven Winning Derby Profile" system, you know the importance we put on having the correct Pedigree and the proper racing campaign for the horses' 2-year old and 3-year careers. The same holds true with the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes.

However, we will still take into consideration the pedigree with respect to who has the Raise A Native sire line pedigree, and those that may have the X-Chromosome of War Admiral and/or Mahmoud (*large heart trait*) and the proper Dosage Index.

The Raise A Native sire bloodline has proved to be a major pedigree factor in the last 27 Belmont Stakes winners with 19 of those having it!

In the Kentucky Derby it has been in 15 of the last 29 winners .

There are (6) runners that have the Raise A Native sire side pedigree line. They are;

<u>Arcangelo</u> (8-1)	<u>National Treasure</u> (5-1)	<u>IL Miracolo</u> (30-1)
<u>Hit Show</u> (10-1)	<u>Angel of Empire</u> (7/2)	<u>Red Route One</u> (30-1)

ONLY Arcangelo does NOT have the "X-Chromosome" trait (*large-heart*) of War Admiral and/or Mahmoud.

Tapit has proven to be a Key sire pedigree line in the Belmont Stakes as he has produced 5 of the last 9 winners!

- There are 2 horses in this year's field that are sired by Tapit: **Tapit Shoes** (20-1) and **Tapit Trice** (3-1).
- *There are 4 horses in this year's field whose **DAM** was sired by Tapit: **Arcangel** (8-1), **IL Miracolo** (30-1), **Hit Show** (10-1) and **Red Route One** (15-1).*

The "**Large-Heart**" trait is what allowed the great Secretariat to win the Belmont Stakes by a record 31 lengths 50 years ago!

When he died, an autopsy was performed and the doctors found that his heart was 3-times larger than the normal thoroughbred and it was traced to the passing of the X-Chromosome on his mare's side. A large heart allowed Secretariat to pump a lot more oxygen to be burned which results in more energy and power just like in a race car motor!

19 of the last 27 Belmont Stakes winners had the **X-Chromosome trait (large-heart) of War Admiral and/or Mahmoud!**

Most people think that the 1 1/2 Mile distance of the Belmont Stakes will favor deep closers. This is NOT the case. The race is too long for Deep Closers to be able to make up enough distance in the stretch because they are just as tired as the front running horses! Yet the betting public mistakenly continues to back deep closers.

Forte is the morning line Favorite as he is tops in the Bris Prime Power and Class ratings and is the only horse with more than 91) Grade I Stakes victory. He has (4)! No other runner has more than one.

He was the morning line Favorite in the Kentucky Derby before he was Scratched because of a minor foot problem. He has not raced since his Florida Derby win back on April 1st. He has won 6 of 7 career races!

The Belmont Stakes Winning Profile:

1. The winner will have raced in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes or Peter Pan with the KY Derby being the preferred route to the winners circle. (15) of the last 22 Belmont winners raced in the Derby

*Tapit Shoes (Boathouse Row S.), Arcangelo (Peter Pan), National Treasure (Preakness), IL Miracolo (Allowance), Red Route One (Preakness) and Forte (Florida Derby) **did not** run in the Kentucky Derby!*

2. The winner will have had from 3 - 6 races as a 2-year old.

Just like in the KY Derby it is important that a horse have the proper racing foundation for competing in a Triple Crown race.

*Tapit Shoes (2), Tapit Trice (2), and Arcangelo (1) are the runners that **had LESS THAN** 3 races as a 2-year old.*

3. The winner will have raced from 3 - 6 times as a 3-year old.

*Only **Forte** (2) did not meet this criteria.*

4. The winner should have won or placed in a Grade 1 or the Grade 2 or the G3 Peter Pan race as a 3-year old.

Tapit Shoes and IL Miracolo did NOT have a Win or Place in a Grade I or II or the Peter Pan this year.

5. Last race should have been run within the past 35 days.

Only Tapit Shoes (49) and Forte (70) did NOT meet this criterion.

6. Sharp race over the Belmont strip.

Arcangelo and Forte meet this criteria.

7. **Bullet workout before the race.** Indication that the horse will be on the muscle and ready to give his/her best effort. 9 of the last 20 Belmont Stakes winners turned in a bullet in their last work out.

Bullet workouts have been turned in by; Arcangelo, National Treasure, IL Miracolo and Forte!

8. Runners sired by Tapit or are grandsons of Tapit have Won 5 times, Placed 2 twice and finished 3rd 2-times along with (1) 4th Place finish. All within the last 9 years! Tapit Shoes and Tapit Trice were sired by Tapit.

9. Trainer Todd Pletcher has won the Belmont Stakes 4 times along with 9 runner-ups. Forte and Tapit Trice come from the Pletcher barn this year. Last year he got the Win and the runner up with Mo Donegal and the Filly Nest!

10. The winner will have a pedigree dosage index (DI) of a 3.00 or less.

(this is an indication of being able to get the 1 1/2 Mile distance)

Tapit Trice (3.92), Arcangelo (8.60), Forte (3.57) and Angel of Empire (9.00) does NOT meet this criterion.

In the past 32 years there were 7 winners with a DI greater than 3.00 (*only 1 in the past 18 years*) – 5 of those 7 had the Raise A Native sire pedigree line!

There are ONLY (3) horses in the field that have earned a Beyer speed rating of 100+ : Forte (100) and Angel of Empire (104).

This race is setting up to be a **very exciting** one as there are (5) runners that could win it. National Treasure is the **Lone Speed** horse who could steal the race on the front end if no one presses him. There are a **lot of Pressers** in the field with only (2) Deep Closers.

It may be a small field but it is a closely matched one!

Race Setup:

National Treasure will be the **Pace Setter**. (*trying to go wire-to-wire while slowing the pace down*)

The **Early/Pressers** (close up) will be **Tapit Shoes** and **IL Miracolo**.

The **Mid-pack Pressers** runner looks to be **Arcangelor**, **Hit Show**, **Forte** and **Tapit Trice** .

The **Closers** are **Angel of Empire** and **Red Route One**. They will need to be up closer to the mid-pack runners than they are accustomed to. They cannot afford to get too far back of the pace leaders at this marathon distance!

There is only a 10% chance of Showers in Elmont, New York on Saturday. Saturday will be 74 degrees and cloudy (*from the Canadian smoke*).

Tapit Trice, Forte and Angel of Empire have all won on a Wet track.

Arcangelo and Red Route One have performed well on Wet tracks.

There does not look like any of the runner's pedigree will be at a disadvantage on a Wet track surface.

REMEMBER: A sloppy/sealed track usually gives an advantage to the early speed horses that have the off-track pedigree and a muddy track gives the Closers an advantage that have an off-track pedigree.

Usually they seal the track if rain is predicted and it in turn makes the track harder which allows the speed horses to run even faster! However, if Rain comes very late just before the Belmont Stakes they may not be able to seal the surface!

A MUDDY rated track will benefit the come from behind runners as it wears down the front runners!

My Belmont Stakes Picks:

My betting strategy in a (9) horse field requires us to identify 1A horse, 2B and 3C horses that are the main Contenders for making up the Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta wagers. The A horse is our Key horse to Win the race. My wagering strategy is explained in the Next Section but first here are my Contenders.

The race looks to go through the Preakness Stakes winner **National Treasure** as he is the **LONE EARLY SPEED** horse!

The BIG unknown in the race is will anyone go with National Treasure to put some pressure on him or will the field hope that he comes back to them in the final quarter mile.

Angel of Empire will be putting **Blinkers ON** for the first time! Why now? He has been looking good in the mornings. He needs to be up closer to the mid-pack runners than he normally is.

SELECTIONS

A1 – Tapit Trice (#2 3-1) – 1 of 2 Pletcher runners in the race (*the other is the favorite Forte*) – he will be trying to give his sire his 6th victory in this race in the last 10 years – trainer Pletcher excels in this race with his KY Derby also runs – he finished a non-threatening 7th in the KY Derby after getting bumped out of the gate (*he made up a lot of ground going from 18th to 7th*) – has won 4 of 6 races including the Blue Grass S. and the Tampa Bay derby – earned a career best Beyer of 99 in the Blue Grass (*if he can run back to that race he should win*) - earned 100+ Bris Late pace no. in 3 of last 4 races – has the "**X-Chromosome**" Large Heart pedigree trait – has always looked like the longer the distance the better he would do - his DI of 3.92 is a little of concern – was a \$1.3 Million purchase – has been looking good in morning works - trainer Pletcher has won Belmont 4-times along with 9 seconds (*he knows how to get it done*) – Saez rides back (jock/trainer team hits @ 21/43%).

B1 – Hit Show (#7 10-1) – ran a decent 5th in the KY Derby – ran a very good 2nd in the Wood Mem. (only beaten a nose) – has good distance pedigree – all of his races show increased Beyer speed nos. - he will be stalking the pace setters – has "X-Chromosome" Large Heart pedigree trait – has the Powerful **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree – his pedigree is perfect for this Marathon distance with a DI of 3.00 – he is 2nd on the Bris Class rating - 1 of 3 runners in here for trainer Brad Cox who won this race in 2021.

B2 – Forte (#6 5/2) – was scratched from the KY Derby (*he was the favorite*) – has not been able to race since his Florida Derby win 10 weeks ago – it is a big concern that he will not have enough conditioning for winning today but I do not think trainer Pletcher would run him at this distance if he was not ready – shows several Sharp works including a Bullet – he has won 6 of 7 races with 4 Grade I wins – he is the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Champion – he will be racing mid-pack – has "X-Chromosome" Large Heart pedigree trait – his 3.57 DI is a little concerning– if anyone can get it done it is his jock Irad Ortiz, Jr. – coming from the Repole Stable looking for back-2-back wins in this race!

C1 – National Treasure (#4 5-1) – won the Preakness S. – he went gate to wire just holding off Blazing sevens by a Head – earned a career best Beyer 98 speed – he is

the Lone Early Speed horse in here (I think he will have some company on the front end for the 1st Mile) – he will be trying to slow things down on the front end and put them to sleep as he tries to go gate-to-wire again – o.k. pedigree for this 1 ½ Mile distance but has a DI of 2.56 - has the Powerful **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree – has "**X- Chromosome**" Large Heart pedigree trait – shows Bullet work since the Preakness - has only been off-the-board once in 6 races (6-2-1-2) – trainer Baffert is back in the Triple Crown Series – he is the one to catch – he earned 107 Bris Late pace nos. in the Preakness - Johnny V. rides back (no one better for getting the lead and slowing things down).

C2 – Red Route One (#9 15-1) – ran 4th in the Preakness (beaten 4 ¾ lengths) – he is a Deep Closer that will need to be up closer to the mid-pack runners – still looking for his 1st Graded Stakes win – has the Powerful **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree – has "**X- Chromosome**" Large Heart pedigree trait – with Rosario riding for Asmussen we can count on him being up closer to the field – look for him to be grinding away late making up ground to hit the Superfecta!

C3 –Arcangelo (#3 8-1) – won the Peter Pan last out over this track - shows a recent Sharp work from the gate – looks like they are trying to put more speed in to him - has the Powerful **Raise A Native** sire side pedigree – his pedigree says the distance could be a problem with a DI of 8.60 – shows increasing Beyer speed nos. in each of his 4 races – he fought hard for the win in the Peter Pan (just when he looked beat he came back to prevail) – he could Bounce of that win - not a good win bet but could get into the Superfecta

IF THERE ARE SCRATCHES:

Use in order: #8 Angel of Empire and #1 Tapit Shoes. Add them to the bottom and move everyone else up.

Angel of Empire was our KY Derby Pick and we are leaving off most of our wagers because of his very high DI of 9.00. We will use him on the bottom of some of our Superfecta wagers!

Remember the Average Payouts over the 10 years are:

- the average \$2 Win paid.....\$14.23
- the average \$2 Exacta paid \$123
- the average \$1 Trifecta paid.....\$1,476
- the average \$1 Superfecta paid.....\$4,531

Wagering Strategy:

Win & Place & Show wager on #2 **Tapit Trice** along with a \$2 Bottom Wheel Exacta ALL with #2 and #6 = \$32

My \$2 **Exacta ticket** will look like this:

A1 / B1B2C1C2C3 - \$10

(2 / 7-6-4-9-3)

\$1 Exacta Box:

B1B2C1C2C3 / B1B2C1C2C3 - \$20

(7-6-4-9-3 / 7-6-4-9-3)

My \$1 **Trifecta tickets** will look like this:

A1 / B1B2C1C2C3 / B1B2C1C2C3AE1AE2 - Cost \$30 for \$1 wager or \$15 for 50Cent wager.

(2 / 7-6-4-9-3 / 7-6-4-9-3 -8-1)

An insurance wager would play the A1 horses to come in 2nd it will look like this:

B1B2C1C2C3 / A1 / B1B2C1C2C3AE1AE2 - Cost \$30 for \$1 wager or \$15 for 50Cent wager.

(7-6-4-9-3 / 2 / 7-6-4-9-3)

Play Tapit Trice / Forte Top and Bottom

(2-6 / ALL / 2-6) - Cost \$14 for \$1 Wager or \$7 for 50Cent wager

Trifecta Box: (2-7-6-4-9) \$1 Wager = \$60

If you feel Forte will Win then you may want to play a ticket like this:

(6 / 2-7-4 / 2-7-4-9-3) - Cost \$12 for \$1 Wager or \$6 for 50Cent wager

My \$1 **Superfecta tickets** will look like this:

A1 / B1B2 C1C2 / B1B2C1C2C3 / B1B2C1C2C3 - **Cost \$80 for \$1 wager or \$8 for 10CENT wager.**

(2 / 7-6-4-9 / 7-6-4-9-3 / 7-6-4-9-3-8-1)

Or you could do a Lesser ticket like this:

A1 / B1B2 / B1B2C1C2C3 / B1B2C1C2C3AE1AE2 - **Cost \$40 for \$1 wager or \$4 for 10CENT wager.**

(2 / 7-6 / 7-6-4-9-3 / 7-6-4-9-3-8-1)

Play Tapit Trice / Forte Top and Bottom

A1B2 / ALL / ALL / A1B2 - **Cost \$84 for \$1 wager or \$8.40 for 10CENT wager.**

(2-6 / ALL / ALL / 2-6)

Or you could do a Lesser ticket like this:

B1 / A1B2 / A1B2C1C2C3 / A1B1B2C1C2C3AE1AE2 - **Cost \$40 for \$1 wager or \$4 for 10CENT wager.**

(7 / 2-6 / 2-6-4-9-3 / 2-6-4-9-3-8-1)

Superfecta Box: (2-7-6-4-9) \$1 Wager = \$120 or \$12 for 10CENT Wager

Belmont Gold Cup / Belmont Stakes 2 Day Double Wager:

Euro invaders have won the last 5 editions – this year they have the favorite #2 Siskany (GB) (8/5) – #11 High Definition (Ire) (8-1), #1 Barbados (Ire) (30-1) and use #7 Amazing Grace (Ger) (6-1) so we will be playing the following \$1 Double:

#2 - #11 - #1 - #7 with #2 - #7 - #4 - #1 = \$16 for \$1 Wager

Belmont Park allows the 10 Cent Superfecta wager like they do any other day in New York. A \$18 ticket would be \$1.80 and a \$56 ticket would be \$5.60. You can also play tickets for multiples of a Dime. 20 Cents, 30 Cents, etc. It would not be limited to just a 10 Cent wager.

Also 50 Cent minimum Trifecta, and Pick4. \$1 minimum Pick 3 and \$1 minimum Pick 6.

*** please review all horse post position numbers as we are not responsible for any typographical errors in this document.

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