

2024 USA RACING
Jean Derench (August 19, 2024)

Haskell Stakes Gr-1 3yo 1800m \$1,000,000 / Monmouth Park

- 01 DORNOCH L.Saez 5-2
- 02 JASPER'S PRIDE J.Torers 30-1
- 03 TUSCAN SKY J.Castellano 9-2
- 04 TIMBERLAKE F.Pratt 8-1
- 05 FIERCENESS J.Velasquez 5-2
- 06 JUST STEP ON IT F.Geroux 30-1
- 07 MINDFRAME I.Ortiz Jr 9-5
- 08 SEA STREAK J.Rendon 20-1

Horse racing...this weekend is the Haskell and it's got a great line up if they all go...and even if they don't! Belmont winner Dornoch is in as is last year's two year old champion, Fierceness; Belmont runner up (and the probably favorite) Mindframe; Pegasus winner Tuscan Sky, Rebel Stakes winner, the highly regarded Timberlake (who skipped the triple crown races); Just Step On It (in his first graded stake); and the two New Jersey-breds, Sea Streak and Jaspers Pride. Sea Streak won the Long Branch stakes at this track (Monmouth in New Jersey) and is a gelded son of the NJ-leading sire SeaWizard. Jaspers Pride has had 6 races, all at Monmouth Park over 2023 and 2024. He broke his maiden at 5 ½ furlongs and then followed that up with a win in an allowance race at 6 furlongs. His last start which was after that 6 furlong race, he was 3rd in another allowance race, also at 6 furlongs. I am annoyed that the trainer would stick him into Grade One company at this time in his young career. Trainer is Chuck Spina who has been training since the 1970s and should know better. The Haskell is 9 furlongs (a mile and an eighth) and a sprinter has no business in the race. He (Spina) recently won the Jersey Girl stakes with his best horse to date, a mare named Mia's Crusade so maybe he's on a high... Granted, you can't win races if you stay in the barn, and maybe he's running for 3rd or 4th money which would be considerable since the value of the race is a million dollars...still...perhaps if the horse had won at a mile or more, I'd be on the trainers side but 6 furlongs is 3/4s of a mile. Just pisses me off.

I am guessing Pletcher will pull at least one of the three he has entered (he has Fierceness, Mindframe and Tuscan Sky) and it will probably be Fierceness and will go for the Jim Dandy Stakes and ultimately the Travers with him. All in all, it should be a good race.

The commentators of the Belmont Stakes made note that in the last 6 years, each of the Triple Crown races have been won by a different horse and this is true. I made up a little chart for your information. I threw in the Travers for whatever reason..it is the most important race for three year old colts outside of the Triple Crown...

Year	Derby	Preakness	Belmont	Travers	Champion Maximum
2019	Country House	War of Will	Sir Winston	Code of Honor	Security
2020	Authentic	Swiss Skydiver	Tiz the Law	Tiz the Law	Tiz the Law
2021	Mandaloun	Rombauer	Essential Quality	Essential Quality	Essential Quality
2022	Rich Strike	Early Voting	Mo Donegal	Epicenter	Epicenter
2023	Mage	National Treasure	Arcangelo	Arcangelo	Arcangelo
2024	Mystik Dan	Seize the Grey	Dornoch	?	?

Interesting stuff happening in the racing world. The owner of Rich Strike is accusing the trainer of racing the horse when the horse was injured. Veterinarians seem to back him up so there is a lawsuit going. He was retired in November. The owner entered him in a sale but withdrew him and he was put into training again with a new trainer, Bill Mott, who is taking it easy with him. Personally, I think the owner is looking for the avenue to make the most money with the horse. Retired, there are very few farms that would consider him as his pedigree isn't impressive. If he were to come back as a five year old and could win at a graded level, it might help his price but I'd bet he'd go to a South American farm, even if he were to stand one or two seasons in the US. Don't see him being a Kentucky Stallion, tho.

Then there is White Abarrio. Since coming back from his stint in Dubai, he's not the same horse. The owners took him away from the trainer Saffie Joseph Jr and gave him to trainer Richard Dutrow who got him to win the Breeders Cup Classic. Now, they have taken him away from Dutrow and gave him back to Joseph. He had three workouts in New York with Dutrow and they were lackluster. He's had all types of bloodwork, etc to find out if it's a medical thing.

Mystik Dan, the Derby winner, has been taken out of training for the year with the aim being having a good older horse for next year. His full brother, Derby winner Mage, is of course already retired and at stud in Kentucky.

Seize the Grey is aiming at the Travers (August 24th), as are the filly Thorpedo Anna who is entered in the CCA Oaks at Saratoga this Saturday; Belmont favorite and Blue Grass winner, Sierra Leone; promising Honor Marie; gorgeously bred Batten Down who won the Ohio Derby; Timeout, a Curlin son, who recently broke his maiden at Aqueduct going 9 furlongs as favorite; Unmatched Wisdom who is two-for-two trained by Chad Brown, both starts at Aqueduct, the last being at 9 furlongs and the win margin being almost 6 lengths; Corporate Power, another son of Curlin, won the Sir Barton Stakes on Preakness Day and is entered in the Curlin Stakes today (the 19th of July) at Saratoga as a prep race; and Parenting, a Bob Baffert trainee, who is two-for-two and won the Affirmed Stakes at Santa Anita in his last start (8.5 furlong by more than 7 lengths.). His daddy is Justify. When the Haskell is over and done with, trainers may also consider the Travers of course, which is a month away and would give them ample time to recover. Several of this group will be in the Jim Dandy Stakes at Saratoga on July 27th.

Happy Racing!

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