


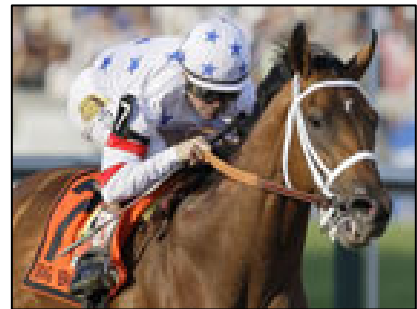
OSCAR'S 2008 BELMONT GREEN SHEET

"TRIPLE CROWN RUSHIN' ROULETTE!"

THE LOSING BETS WERE:

	Smarty Jones	04		
	Funny Cide	03		
	War Emblem	02		
	Charismatic	99		
				
Kauai King	66		98	Real Quiet
Northern Dancer	64		97	Silver Charm
Carry Back	61		89	Sunday Silence
Tim Tam	58		87	Alysheba
Pensive	44		81	Pleasant Colony
	Spectacular Bid	79		
	Canonero II	71		
	Majestic Prince	69		
	Forward Pass	68		

The first American casino opened in Las Vegas in 1931. From that time until the late 1970's, the only place where you could legally gamble outside of Las Vegas was at the racetracks. Then on May 26, 1978 the first east coast casino broke its maiden in Atlantic City. That was 30 years ago. Why does that year sound so familiar? Oh yes, I know. That was the year that Affirmed became the eleventh and last Triple Crown winner!



The growth of tribal casinos also dates back to the late 1970's when the Native American tribes began to operate bingo halls. Tribes in Florida and Wisconsin tried to kick it up a notch when they attempted to hold high-stakes bingo games on their reservations. A series of court battles followed with the result being that in 1981 the tribes won approval to hold high stakes bingo games on their reservations in Florida and Wisconsin. Tribes in other states soon followed with their own lawsuits and also won approval for high-stakes bingo.



The next logical step was the expansion of high-stakes bingo to full fledged casinos. In 1989 the Mills Indian Community in Michigan became the first Native American gambling hall to offer slots and blackjack instead of just bingo.

Hungry for more action than racetracks could provide, John Q. Public swarmed to the casinos like flies on.....well you get the idea. Each person's pie of gambling dollars is only so big, and John Q. has been cutting increasingly smaller slices for our industry ever since. In the meantime the Casinos have been getting fat. With

all due respect to the Native Americans, what the Casinos have done to horseracing makes Custer's Last Stand seem like the spat between my two cousins at Aunt Mildred's last ice

cream social. (I will be the first to admit that just like Custer; the racing industry's defeat was to a large degree caused by its own cocky, unprepared, overconfident and arrogant selves.)

Thoroughbred racing has not been able to beat the casinos since the early 1990's. How do we beat the casino? Enter Big Brown, who flicks off challenges as easily as he flicks of horseflies. On Saturday he will face his biggest challenge yet if he is to become history's twelfth Triple Crown winner instead of joining the eighteen who failed to win the Belmont after capturing the Derby and Preakness.

Will he be up to the challenge? Well just consider these facts:

- He is the first horse to win from post 12 at 1 1/8 miles at Gulfstream Park since the track was reconfigured.
- He is the first horse since 1915 to win the Derby with only 3 previous starts.
- He is only the second horse to win the Derby from post 20.
- He is only the third horse since 1957 to win the Derby off only two preps.

Racing has not beaten the casinos since the 1990's, but Big Brown is poised to do just that. I'm not just talking about winning over Bob Blackjack here; I'm talking about beating the whole Casino!

The Casino that stands between Big Brown and immortality is none other than Casino Drive, the third consecutive foal out of Better Than Honour to run in the Belmont. Her last two foals were both Belmont winners, and what is really so amazing is that they were different sexes and were sired by different horses! Better Than Honour is without a doubt the best producer since Oracene Williams! Strike that, she is better than Oracene Williams. Venus and Serena were both females from the same sire! Plus I guarantee that you would not want to be the recipient of a backhand from a Better Than Honour foal!



Casino Drive is actually a 3/4 brother to last year's Belmont winner Rags to Riches as he is by Mineshaft, a son of Rags to Riches' sire A.P.Indy. Although he was foaled in Kentucky, he was sent to Japan where he broke his maiden impressively, just as Big Brown did, except Casino Drive's maiden win was on dirt. He then was shipped back to the U. S. where he easily won the Peter Pan, the traditional prep for the Belmont. His Peter Pan jockey was none other than Kent Desormeaux. Can you just imagine being in Kent's boots and having to choose between these two potential champions?

Kent Desormeaux is the luckiest man around since Brad Pitt; and this guy is sticking with Jennifer! (Way to go Kent, I would have stayed with Big Brown and Jennifer as well!)



BIG BROWN – after two thrilling victories, how will he deal with the agony of de feet

This will be a rather small section on this horse because if you don't already know what he has accomplished in his brief but brilliant career you should not be playing this game with real money. His strengths and possible weaknesses will be discussed during my analyses of the other horses that will be reviewed in this paper. I will focus on who I think will fill out the bottom two places in the trifecta, because,

If Big Brown runs his "A" race (possibly

even his "B+" race), we will be celebrating the 12th Triple Crown winner.

Almost all horses "bounce" at some point. Big Brown's bounce occurred in the Preakness where his Beyer of 100 was 9 points below the number he ran in the Derby. If that was his "bounce" race, folks, it was the most impressive bounce I've seen this side of the Harlem Globetrotters! In fact if he had been sired by a certain son of Hold Your Peace instead of Boundary I would be calling him Meadowlake Lemon. Then every time he appeared in the post parade they could play his theme song, Sweet Georgia Big Brown!



The one thing that has always concerned me about this horse is his Achilles' heel, and I mean that literally. His quarter cracks have become more infamous than the fuselage cracks that recently grounded the fleet of Southwest Airlines. Southwest should consider hiring farriers instead of mechanics. They certainly seem to know more about cracks.

By the way, you won't find anyone better in dealing with cracks than Ian McKinlay, a hoof lameness specialist who has spent more time on Big Brown's feet and shoes than Bob Mackie has spent on Cher's wigs and dresses! Ian is without a doubt the most famous foot specialist since Dr. Shoals.



While de feet is certainly a concern, you only have to go back to the 1997 Belmont when the tender-footed Touch Gold had no trouble stomping out Silver Charm's Triple Crown bid. Guess who did the "foot work" on Touch Gold? (They should name a horse after this guy and call it Mount McKinlay. He is always working on somebody's mount and he is certainly at the very peak of his profession.)

While a patched quarter crack is definitely not what you want to be dealing with going into a major race, it doesn't necessarily mean that a horse of this caliber won't get the job done, especially if you have the services of Ian McKinlay. And this horse has a record of doing things that have seldom been done before!

Can he beat the Casino? Well if he loses I don't think it will be because of de feet. This quarter crack was apparently no big deal.

CASINO DRIVE – hoping to win a big pot on three of a kind

Bred in Kentucky and shipped to Japan, Casino Drive broke his maiden by over 11 lengths.



Normally the next step would be a "non-winners other than" allowance race, however, trainer Kazuo Fujisaawa was so confident in this son of Mineshaft that he took a gamble, shipped him back across the Pacific and all the way to the east coast and entered the Casino in the Grade 2 Peter Pan.

In a performance eerily similar to Big Brown's Derby, Casino Drive toyed with an overmatched field, winning geared down by almost 6 lengths in 1:47.4 for the 1 1/8 miles. In fact with Kent Desormeaux astride, except for the silks, the distance, and the number of opponents, I thought

I was watching Big Brown's Derby. Just as Big Brown did, Casino Drive broke a step slow before settling down in a stalking position. He made his move going into the far turn and under only the slightest encouragement coasted to an easy victory. Granted he did not display that awesome afterburner during the final 1/8 that Brownie did, but how many horses have you seen lately (or ever) that have made a move like that? Desormeaux left plenty of gas in the tank just as he did with Big Brown.

Without question Big Brown had to overcome a lot in the Derby. But just look at what Casino Drive had to deal with going into the Peter Pan:

- Only one lifetime start
- Two month layoff
- Shipping from Kentucky to Japan, and then back to NY
- Quarantine
- Nervousness in the paddock prior to the race

Both Big Brown and Casino Drive are undefeated and untested under pressure. However, Casino Drive has three fewer races than Brownie, and has never experienced a crowd like he will see on Saturday. If he showed nervousness in the paddock in front of the Peter Pan crowd, what will he act like in front of 125,000 on Belmont day? At least Big Brown has "been there, done that" and Brownie has always been the picture of professionalism.

Given the above you would think that Big Brown should win the Belmont easily. After all, he has had more experience, handled himself admirably in front of a huge crowd, and displayed an awesome late kick. His ace in the hole in trying to beat the Casino is that Desormeaux has ridden his opponent and knows first hand what that horse is capable of as well as any possible weaknesses that he might have. (I've heard that Bill Belichick offered to loan his photographer to Desormeaux, but Kent said he didn't need him, he already knew what signals the opposition was capable of using!)

Before you take a second mortgage out on your house and run to the betting window to bet on Big Brown, there are three factors in the Casino's favor that you need to consider. The first two are probably minor, but the third might be very significant:

Factor #1 – Casino Drive represents the house! There is one thing that he has done that Big Brown has not done – he has won at Belmont. Belmont is not Churchill. Churchill is a very quirky surface; some horses absolutely love it (Street Sense) while others utterly detest it (Snow Chief, Holy Bull). In fact you could describe Churchill Downs as the Hillary Clinton of racetracks! Maybe we should start calling it "Old Hillary Top"!

The Belmont surface usually is a pretty fair surface for most horses, although some do handle those long sweeping turns better than others. Big Brown has never raced there; however, he handles everything so well that there is every reason to believe that the Belmont surface will not be a problem for him. That's why I rate this as only a minor concern.

Factor #2 – Three races in five weeks. Big Brown is lightly raced with only five starts; however, the Belmont will be his third race in five weeks. Although he did run down slightly in back, it looks like the Derby did not take a lot out of him, and he really only ran hard for about an eighth of a mile in the Preakness. He should be a relatively fresh horse. That would be good enough for me if he was facing the same level of competition that he met in his last two races, however, Casino Drive looks like he could be the real deal. Big Brown has handled every new challenge, and I expect him to handle this one as well, so this factor is also only a relatively minor concern.

Factor #3. – Breeding. Casino Drive's dam has already laid down a pair of aces. Now she is going for three of a kind. It is absolutely amazing that this mare has dropped the last two Belmont winners, Jazil (by Seeking the Gold) and Rags to Riches (by A.P. Indy). I am quite familiar with the rules of poker (I'm talking about the card game, not Seattle Slew's broodmare sire), but believe me if Casino Drive wins the Belmont, I submit that Better Than Honor's three of a kind will beat Woody Stephens straight (five consecutive Belmont winners)! I don't care what Hoyle says!

Big Brown is by Boundary, who is not especially well known as a dominant source of stamina. Without a doubt Brownie gets his stamina from his dam, the Nureyev mare Mien. According to Marianna Haun, pedigree expert and well-respected author of the "X Factor", he also got his large "secretariat type" heart from her. (Darn it, some guys get all the luck. All I got from my dam was a fondness for chocolate and skinny legs! Ok seriously I also have to give her credit for any small ability I may have to be able to write stuff like these Green Sheets.)

Even given his "X Factor" heart, I have some reservations whether he can beat Casino Drive at 1 ½ miles; at 1 ¼ miles yes, but Casino Drive should really love this distance and he has two older siblings to prove it, whereas Brownie is going to have to call on everything he has to get this distance. I'm not saying that he can't do it, but based only on pedigree, it would seem to be Casino's race to lose. **EXCEPT:**



I don't usually pay a lot of attention to workouts for races at Belmont Park, as it's not a particularly quirky track; however, Casino Drive's work on May 28 got my attention. It was so slow that the clockers did not even consider it a recorded work. Racing manager Tada said *"I know the clocking may not please everyone, but it was exactly what we wanted...That's what we do in Japan and we will do it here."*

Yeah right, and George Bush left the White House this morning on a promotional tour for Scott McClellan's new book!

There is no recorded information for any timed workouts that Casino Drive had in Japan, however, his work prior to his Peter Pan victory in: 59.4 (2/26) is more like what I would have been looking for this week.

Barclay Tagg was both livid and perplexed about Tale of Ekati's slow work two days earlier. I would have expected Casino's connections to at least have shown some mild disappointment, but to act like it was expected?

On Sunday the colt worked in 1:10.3 which would be terrific for 6f, but this was for 5f! That's incredible. Something is just not quite right here. You can't even speculate that maybe he did not like the track because he not only worked well over it previously; he won the Peter Pan on it.



DENIS OF CORK -- he's the most mismanaged horse since Unbridled's song but he could pop up in the trifecta

Denis of Cork first bobbed to the surface with an impressive maiden victory in his first start, and he followed that up with a win in an allowance race.

Next he was entered in the Southwest Stakes and he rewarded that confident move with a 2 length victory. The next logical move would have been to run him in the Rebel, and I think trainer Carroll would have done that except that he was apparently instructed by the horse's owners to back off for an extended period. History would dictate that this is not the way to prepare a horse for the Derby.

As if to prove that point, Denis responded to his owner's bizarre decision for a seven week layoff with an uncharacteristically flat and very disappointing performance in the Illinois Derby. Could it have been that he simply did not handle the track? Well that's what the jockey Leparoux said, but that was his first ride on Denis and he really couldn't have known him all that well. I submit that it was the layoff and not the track that dulled his racing edge.

As a result of this terrible layoff decision and the dull return race, Denis almost failed to make the Derby graded earnings cut. He squeezed in at the very last minute when Behindatthebar was not entered.

During the running of the Derby I know you were watching the explosive performance by Big Brown and courageous performance by the ill-fated filly Eight Belles. How many of you saw Calvin Borel take Denis from 20th and last down the backstretch to finish a solid and respectable third? Granted he was no threat to the top two, finishing 8 ¼ lengths behind Big Brown, and 3 ½ lengths behind Eight Belles, but except for those two, he was the only horse actually gaining with every stride in the last eight of a mile. Play your Derby tape again, and this time watch the Cal and Denis show. Shades of "Bo Rail" on Street Sense? Well not quite, but close enough to get my attention.

After such a hard try, Denis passed the Preakness to train up to the Belmont, and should be entering this race a relatively fresh horse. Ah, finally a good decision!

Oops, here we go again with another stupid move. Calvin Borel is being taken off! I wonder if this is another call by the owners (my guess) instead of the trainer. Is it because they think that Cal had Denis too far back or asked him for his run too late? (They said that it is because Albarado is more familiar with Belmont.) Nothing against Robby Albarado who was aboard for his win in the Southwest and of course is Curlin's pilot, but Cal was aboard for his first two victories and in my opinion rode him very well in the Derby. We are talking about replacing a Derby winning jockey who saves ground like Jack Benny saved money! (Damn, I think I just gave my age away!) Saving ground around "Big Sandy" at a mile and a half can pay off, and while Robby is competent, Calvin is the master.

Does Denis have the breeding to win the Belmont? He is from the first crop of Harlan's Holiday who won the 1 1/8 mile Florida Derby and Blue Grass as a 3 year-old and the Donn as a 4 year-old. He placed in 3 grade / group 1's at 10 furlongs including the Dubai World Cup and the Hollywood Gold Cup. Denis is out of an Unbridled mare, and we all know what Unbridled can contribute in the stamina department. Factor in his solid finish in the Derby, and I believe that he will handle 1 ½ miles. Is he good enough to beat Big Brown? No, but if the Casino rolls craps, he is capable of finishing second.

ICABAD CRANE – Oscar's Bud Longshot ...for the trifecta



"Beware the local horse in the Preakness" was Oscar's advice, and if you took it you would have had 2/3 of the trifecta. From there, I think the only way you could have hit it would have been to have included Macho Again as part of the "all button" like I did. I don't know about you, but I always feel like I'm cheating when I use the "all" button. Well cheating or not, I'll take the very generous \$336.80

payout that lit up the tote when Macho Again and Icabad Crane finished behind Big Brown!

I really loved this horse going into the Preakness. He is no longer the local horse so he loses his ace in the hole for this hand, but don't deal him out of the trifecta entirely – he's no joker. What is particularly intriguing is that his last 3 races have all been stakes; the 1 1/16 mile Rushaway, the 1 1/8 mile Tesio, and the 1 3/16 mile Preakness, and as the distances have increased, so have his Beyers from a 76 to an 87 to a 91. (That could be due to maturity, distance, or both.)

Whatever it's due to, it's a significant improvement, but still leaves him a zip code away from Big Brown and at least a bit behind several others. His breeding (Jump Start – Adorahy, by Rahy) does not scream distance, but he was closing strongly in the Preakness, an indication that he might be able to handle, and possibly even welcome more ground. After Big Brown and Casino Drive, he has as good a chance as any of the others, and will certainly represent good value, probably in the 15-1 to 20-1 range. He has never been off the board, and appears to be peaking at the right time. If you are playing superfectas he is a must use for the bottom two positions.

TALE OF EKATI – his tail-female line provides stamina, but is it enough?



The Wood Memorial winner ran very well to finish a non-threatening 4th in the Derby. Steadied in the initial stages, he raced mid pack down the backstretch, advanced six wide into the stretch and loomed a momentary threat before flattening out a bit toward the finish. He failed to hold off Denis of Cork but did finish in front of sixteen horses.

He is not exceptionally well bred for a mile and a quarter, much less for a mile and a half. His sire Tale of the Cat did sire Lion Heart who finished second behind Smarty Jones in the 2004 Derby, however, most of his other offspring have been somewhat stamina-challenged.

Tale of Ekati is out of a Sunday Silence mare who is half sister to the 1994 older female champion Sky Beauty, winner of the 10 furlong Coaching Club American Oaks and the Alabama. His second dam is the Nijinsky mare Maplejinsky, who also won the Alabama. Given the right circumstances, I think Tale of Ekati could win at 1 ¼ miles, however, 1 ½ miles may be too tall a tale!

He broke his maiden at first asking at Belmont and also won the Futurity over that surface, however, those were at distances that are a fraction of the journey he will take on Saturday. The mile and a half around the Belmont oval will seem to him to be about the same distance that the Ice Road Truckers of Canada travel to get to the diamond mine that he is named for. The Ekati diamond mine is located 124 miles south of the Artic Circle. Talk about trying to nail a cold exacta!

MACHO AGAIN



This gray son of Macho Uno parlayed an impressive Derby Trial victory into a solid Preakness second. However, the Derby Trial was his first stakes win and followed unplaced efforts in the LaComte and Lane's End. His highest Beyer is 99, but he has not been the most consistent horse, perhaps at least partly due to his apparent distaste for synthetic racing surfaces. He also does not always get the cleanest trips. Is that bad luck or does he get himself in trouble? He appears to be improving but has yet to win beyond 7 1/2 furlongs. He has little chance of finishing ahead of either Big Brown or Casino Drive on paper. However, he's the kind of horse

who could draw to an inside straight if you leave him out of the game, and a third place finish is not entirely out of the question. However, if Denis of Cork brings his "A" game and Icabad runs the way that I think he might, the best finish that Macho Again can expect would be the bottom of the Superfecta.

READY'S ECHO – Oscar's Bud Light Longshot ...for the trifecta



Quick, without looking tell me who has the best late pace figures in this field. Big Brown? He can certainly fly down the lane. Denis of Cork and Icabad Crane? They finished their last races like they were running from the Headless Horseman. All are solid closers, but the horse who has consistently shown the best late pace figures is Ready's Echo.

If only this son of More Than Ready was just a little more than ready for the break. He looks like a young bay version of Evening Attire. They are both very slow starters, but boy can they rumble when they finally get going.

I watched the Peter Pan again to see if there was anything that would make me think that Casino Drive could defeat Big Brown, but ultimately it was another horse that caught my attention. Although Casino Drive was an impressive winner, he had his Hedevar setting the table for him to run. Ready's Echo was so far back at the half that it looked like he might be passed by half the field in the next race. Then as they entered the far turn, he began to get the idea and closed relentlessly. He was no threat to Casino Drive, but he almost caught Mint Lane for the place.

Similar to Icabad Crane his Beyers have steadily increased as his routes have lengthened, and while they don't come close to Big Brown, they do not have to improve all that much for him to finish 3rd. His sire was a very good 4th in the Kentucky Derby, and his broodmare sire, Kingmambo, sired Derby winner Lemon Drop Kid, so the potential to get this distance is there. What is questionable is his class. Although he has never finished off the board in his 4 lifetime starts, he has only a maiden victory in the win column, and except for Casino Drive, his competition has not been More Than Mediocre. His works are solid, and this is the Pletcher / Velazquez team that won this race last year. If his odds approach 25-1 or higher he represents good value, especially for the bottom of trifectas and superfectas.

DISCUSSION

I gave Big Brown a 97% probability of winning the Preakness. While I'm not as confident about him winning the Belmont, I still rate his chances at 92%. Consequently, the only way to bet your trifectas is to key him on top.

It's underneath him where you might find some value. Don't expect the payout you got in the Preakness trifecta, but you might still get very good value on a trifecta nevertheless.

Here's why:

Casino Drive will be a solid second choice, probably as low as 5-2, followed by Denis of Cork at around 9-2. After that the others will be in double digits, probably very near 20-1. If Casino Drive finishes off the board there will be a very good trifecta payout.

Rather than trying to beat Big Brown for the win, let's see if we can make a strong case for Casino Drive finishing worse than second, and maybe even worse than third.

His works are so terrible coming into the Belmont and I just don't think he is going to move forward. Yes I know, his trainer insists that this is the way they train in Japan, and I know that the exercise rider has not really been asking him for much in the morning, but wouldn't you think that a horse sitting on a big race would be acting like he wanted to do more? Just ask Michelle Nevins about trying to control Big Brown's enthusiasm in his last work. **You don't want the horse to work exceptionally fast at this stage, but you want him to want to!**

As I've indicated, the spin by his connections is that this is the way they train in Japan. That's fine, except that this race is not in Japan. Look at what has happened with the Godolphin trainers who insisted for years in training their Kentucky Derby horses in Dubai. They've never won the Derby despite many having the ability and the pedigree.

Casino Drive has a lot to overcome to even finish third:

- Only two lifetime starts
- He shipped from Kentucky to Japan, and then back to NY where he won the Peter Pan. Some foreign horses do well in their first U.S. race and follow it up with a bounce in their second.
- He was nervous in the paddock prior to the Peter Pan. He won in spite of that but he beat a very mediocre field. He can't leave any part of his Belmont race in the paddock this time, and the crowd will be 3-4 times larger than what he saw for the Peter Pan.
- His work prior to the Peter Pan was dead-on. His works prior to the Belmont were just dead. There is nothing physically wrong with him and he looks great, but you can't use the "he didn't like the track" excuse because he's worked well on it and he's won on it. How many times have you seen a good horse run a bad race and then the next day come down with a fever or respiratory problem? War Pass had a fever the week before his bad race. (Unfortunately for those who bet on it wasn't disclosed until afterward.) Undoubtedly it accounted at least partially for his poor performance. Likewise, Smooth Air's pre-Derby fever (which was disclosed) took some of the "air" out of his sails for the Derby. Just look at what a healthy Smooth Air did in the Ohio Derby! For whatever reason, I don't think Casino Drive is 100% like he was for the Peter Pan.
- Even without Big Brown, this will be far and away the best field he's faced. We are talking about the 3rd and 4th placed finishers in the Derby and the 2nd and 3rd placed finishers in the Preakness. To finish second he has to beat all of them and to even finish 3rd he has to beat all but one. I know he is bred for the distance, but he also has to be at the top of his game. He doesn't beat them all if he's only 95%.

HOW THE RACE WILL BE RUN

There is no speed in this race. Big Brown breaks from post one and unless he pulls a War Emblem, look for him to get a relatively easy and uncontested lead. Da'Tara has some early speed, as does Casino Drive, but unless they are purposely sent, Big Brown should easily inherit the lead, and it won't be a rank lead like Funny Cide and Smarty Jones had in their Belmonts. He should simply cruise around the first turn and down the backstretch with Casino Drive Da'Tara, and Tale of Ekati in pursuit. Macho Again will be a little further back along with Anal Nakal. Denis of Cork and Icabad Crane will be next, with Ready's Echo the most likely trailer. (I have no idea where Guadalcanal will be – shades of Rick's Natural Star? Please don't tell me they have been training him behind a pickup truck!)

As he enters the far turn Big Brown will begin to widen his lead without even being asked. Entering the long Belmont stretch he should have a clear and comfortable lead with Desormeaux looking back to see if anyone is gaining.

I expect Denis of Cork and Icabad Crane to be closing with Ready's Echo also hitting his best stride, creating a cavalry charge in Big Brown's wake. Casino Drive and Tale of Ekati will begin to tire from their earlier efforts. Macho Again may also be making a move at this time. Depending on how fast they are closing, Desormeaux will encourage his mount who should respond with plenty left to hold off the competition.

The "rushin" will be for place it will be very competitive between Denis or Cork, Icabad Crane, Macho Again, and possibly the longshot Ready's Echo. Pick a number and spin your roulette wheel.

You'll notice that I left Casino Drive out of the fight to the finish. On paper he is clearly the second best horse and it would not surprise me to see him finish second. It's just more of a feeling on my part that he will finish off the board. I can't leave him off my trifecta ticket, but including him is tantamount to buying an insurance policy. I am really hoping that it doesn't happen, (because the payout will be considerably lower with him on the board), however, I want to make certain that I am covered if it does. His breeding will carry him a long way. His condition will have to carry him the rest of the way and that's what worries me. If I'm right, it could result in an off the board finish and consequently a nice trifecta payout!

