



"NICK'S PICKS"

VIRGINIA GOLD CUP PICKS

The largest racing crowd assembled to watch the Kentucky Derby may be in The Plains, VA where 70,000 could be in attendance. Don't trust anyone in the crowd with a sure pick this year's Run for the Roses. For Nick's Picks, The Kentucky Derby top choice nearly came down to a coin flip. Several other handicappers were solicited for selections to help decipher this year's field, their picks included here. In this edition of Nick's Picks, the Kentucky Oaks card, the Kentucky Derby card and the Virginia Gold Cup Card. The Virginia Gold Cup has 3 previous stakes winners seeking repeat wins. Here's hoping that rain will get on the lead before this weekend's racing action. Louisville may be doomed for "Soaks" day, but there's a chance it will "run away and hide" before midday Saturday in both Kentucky and Virginia.

EXPERT PICKS FOR THE KENTUCKY DERBY

"DERBY" BILL WATSON - "OFF TO THE RACES"

10	GUNNEVERA	#10 - Gunnevera won the
5	ALWAYS DREAMING	Fountain of Youth Stakes in
2	THUNDER SNOW	early March.

FRANK "LET IT BE" VESPE - theracingbiz.com

8	HENCE	#8 - Hence won the G3
17	IRISH WAR CRY	Sunland Derby, getting
14	CLASSIC EMPIRE	good right now

MIKE "VICAR" BARONE - PIC6 EXTRAORDINAIRE

17	IRISH WAR CRY	#17 - Irish War Cry is sired
16	TAPWRIT	by Curlin out of the mare
14	CLASSIC EMPIRE	Irish Sovereign.

MATT "VEGAS" JOSEPHS - ESPN AM 950 RICHMOND

5	ALWAYS DREAMING	#5 - Always Dreaming is
17	IRISH WAR CRY	sired by Bodemeister (2nd -
2	THUNDER SNOW	Kentucky Derby '12)

JERRY "TALKING" TOWNSEND - WXSM (BRISTOL)

14	CLASSIC EMPIRE	#14 - Classic Empire won
8	HENCE	the Breeder's Cup Juvenile
5	ALWAYS DREAMING	

"SULKY" DARRYL WOOD - VIRGINIA EQUINE ALLIANCE

14	CLASSIC EMPIRE	#14 - Classic Empire would
6	STATE OF HONOR	be the 5th straight favorite
15	MCCRACKEN	to win the Derby.

"LUCKY" LANE CASADONTE - WTVR (RICHMOND)

17	IRISH WAR CRY	#17 - Irish War Cry began
18	GORMLEY	his career with 2 wins at
14	CLASSIC EMPIRE	Laurel Park

"HAVE NO NAME" NICK HAHN - "OFF TO THE RACES"

17	IRISH WAR CRY	#17 - Irish War Cry is
5	ALWAYS DREAMING	trained by Graham Motion
15	MCCRACKEN	('11 Animal Kingdom).

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH, VIRGINIA GOLD CUP

RACE 1 - \$40,000 MAIDEN HURDLE

3	OTHER CHEEK	A year ago this Saturday,
10	DAPPER DAN	Mutin was 4th in a race at
8	MUTIN	Churchill Downs.

RACE 2 - \$40,000 STEEPLETHON STAKES

1	SALUDA SAM	"Sam" has finished out of
5	COGNASHENE	the money only once in 7
7	ON THE CORNER	Great Meadow starts.

RACE 3 - \$45,000 ALLOWANCE HURDLE

5	MY AFLEET	My Afleet won his first start
3	AS YOU LIKE IT	over jumps 3 weeks
1	TUBAL	ago...by 34+ lengths.

RACE 4 - \$75,000 DAVID SEMMES MEMORIAL

8	CHARMINSTER	Charminster back to defend
6	BALANCE THE BUDGE	his Semmes victory of last
7	SIMENON	spring.

RACE 5 - \$100,000 VIRGINIA GOLD CUP

7	LEMONY BAY	"Lemony" won 3 mile GrM
5	EBANOUR	race here last year, faces
3	GRAND MANAN	an extra mile & '16 winner.

RACE 6 - \$50,000 SECRETARIAT STAKES

9	RENOWN	Renown seeks a GrM to his
1	MUTASAAWY	stakes profile that has Kee,
5	RUM TUM TUGGER	Lrl & Delpark.

RACE 7 - \$40,000 ALLOWANCE

5	ATLANTA BABE	Boucher's "Babe", a noble
1	RODIE	effort last fall at GrM, may
3	SWELLELEGENT	find distance favorable.

RACE 8 - \$35,000 VIRGINIA BRED/SIRED

11	COMPLETE ST.	Complete St. was cross-
5	OFFICER'S OATH	entered in the Secretariat
3	WILLISVILLE	but opted here for win.

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH, KENTUCKY OAKS**RACE 1**

3	SONG OF SPRING	Back to favorable dirt for
2	C ISLANDSURPRISE	"Spring". "C" is 4 of 8 at
5	STREET BIZ	Churchill.

RACE 2

2	TIZ MY LADY	"Tiz" only a bit farther this
4	TIGER EYES	time in 2nd start. "Tiger" a
7	MALIBU BONNIE	bit shorter. Helps both.

RACE 3

2	STONETACULAR	"Stoney" has a mud win at
3	DARIA'S ANGEL	Churchill already, if wet.
6	CRIMSON FROST	Distance helps.

RACE 4

8	SASSY LITTLE LILA	Sharp "Sassy" Schiller-bred
4	PRINCESS PRINCESS	super with Saez for Sheep
9	SHES A TRUE BEAUTY	Pond.

RACE 5 - \$300,000 LA TROIENNE STAKES (G1)

8	FINEST CITY	Proven west coast mare, a
6	STREAMLINE	PA-bred, finally comes east
1	ESKENFORMONEY	in 1st Churchill start.

RACE 6 - \$400,000 ALYSHEBA STAKES (G2)

2	BREAKING LUCKY	"Lucky"? Triple digit Beyers
9	AMERICAN FREEDOM	in 4 of last 6 races, yet only
4	HONORABLE DUTY	one win.

RACE 7 - \$150,000 TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT (G3)

8	PURE SENSATION	Pure has a yielding turf win
3	HOLDING GOLD	at Parx, and firm wins at
12	GREEN MASK	other venues.

RACE 8 - \$200 EIGHT BELLES STAKES (G2)

10	GHALIA	Undefeated Pletcher faces
2	UNION STRIKE	undefeated Fawkes and
4	PRETTY CITY DANCER	those many wins.

RACE 9 - \$72,000 ALLOWANCE OPTIONAL CLAIMING

4	RIVER ECHO	West coast star in
10	LANGDARMA	allowance spot here many
12	GOATS TOWN	not familiar with.

RACE 10 - \$150,000 EDGEWOOD STAKES

1	DREAM DANCING	Take the entry even if in the
7	PROCTOR'S LEDGE	event of a scratch or rain.
2	BERNADIVA	Solid, versatile.

RACE 11 - \$1,000,000 KENTUCKY OAKS (G1)

7	FARRELL	A previous wet wins at
10	MISS SKY WARRIOR	Churchill on what could be
1	EVER SO CLEVER	a rainy day, valuable.

RACE 12

7	AMERICAN CLEOPATR	Half-sister to "Pharoah"
10	NOELLE'S MISCHIEF	shortens to 1 turn out of G1
4	FRIEND OF LIBERTY	company.

RACE 13

5	MCCORMICK	"MC" has best '17 outing at
4	KITTEN'S GOLD	this distance. Older "Kitten"
7	HOOR CITY	in 2nd '17 start.

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH, KENTUCKY DERBY**RACE 1**

8	RING ME UP	Not my nature, longshots in opener, but "Ring Me Up" here. Distance helps.
5	WHAT A STAR	
4	WHOLEHEARTED	

RACE 2

4	AWESOME SATURDAY	First time winners look to correct setbacks around 2 turns.
7	SALUTE WITH HONOR	
8	NO MO DOUGH	

RACE 3

7	DONEGAL MOON	Three previous Kentucky Derby starters here, but like some that didn't go.
8	MO TOWN	
3	WABEL	

RACE 4

6	PERFECT PARTNER	Curlin colt looks to stretch out and improve after solid first start.
5	SOUPER FLY OVER	
1	CAVIAR CZAR	

RACE 5

1	FORGE	Forge's 1st American turf outing had to please Mott. Goes for another mile.
5	SIR DUDLEY DIGGES	
10	WAR ENVOY	

RACE 6 - \$300,000 HUMANA DISTAFF (G1)

5	FINEST CITY	"Finest" comes back to 7 furlongs, her favorite. Not bad at routes or turf either.
2	PAULASILVERLINING	
7	CARINA MIA	

RACE 7 - \$300,000 CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE (G2)

6	ROCA ROJO	Rematch of Matriarch last December, and reunion of top 2 finishers at the wire.
2	MISS TEMPLE CITY	
1	LINDA	

RACE 8 - \$250,000 PAT DAY MILE (G3)

1	LOCAL HERO	Distance & Girvin kept "Local" out of the Derby, better spot here.
9	EXCITATIONS	
13	WARRIOR'S CLUB	

RACE 9 - \$300,000 AMERICAN TURF (G2)

2	BIG SCORE	The ML thinks the Transylvania winner can't do it again, I think he can.
7	CONQUEST FERENHEI	
10	GOOD SAMARITAN	

RACE 10 - \$500,000 CHURCHILL DOWNS STAKES (G2)

2	MASOCHISTIC	West Coast talent hook up in Churchill, Triple Bend race big here.
12	DENMAN'S CALL	
1	AWESOME SLEW	

RACE 11 - \$500,000 WOODFORD RESERVE TURF (G1)

6	BAL A BALI	Jumping off defending champ who is 2 for 2 at CD, for rested horses.
8	BEACH PATROL	
4	CONQUEST PANTHERA	

RACE 12 - \$2,000,000 KENTUCKY DERBY (G1)

17	IRISH WAR CRY	Good luck everyone, have a julep. For superfectas use #18 Gormley.
5	ALWAYS DREAMING	
15	MCCRACKEN	

RACE 13

2	VISIONARY TALE	Out of Oaklawn with a high % trainer. "Rudy" back to sprints.
8	ROCKIN RUDY	
1A	HARD SCRAMBLE	

RACE 14

4	SOUPER WISH	Casse colt ran well in Gulfstream debut then bulleted in the am. Ready.
2	MOROCCO	
8	DARINGLY BOLD	



Off to the Races Radio
Listen Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

AM 950 in Richmond and at .theracingbiz.com