



**"NICK'S PICKS"
WEEKEND SPECIAL FOR
THE BELMONT STAKES**

FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH (THIS SIDE) & SATURDAY JUNE 6TH (FLIPSIDE)


**WE...LOVE
NEW YORK!**


Nick's Picks has been on a month long roll. If you are looking to earn positive paper and still bet on American Pharoah in Saturday's \$1.5 Million Belmont Stakes, here's an angle: Bet the place and show pools.

Earlier this week, I wrote about the relationship of Virginia to the Belmont Stakes on TheRacingBiz.com. While there aren't any known connections to this year's Belmont Stakes, the weekend's stakes schedule is slated with many Virginia ties.

Kaleem Shah's Enchanting Lady is back for the \$150,000 Jersey Girl after scratching Preakness weekend at Pimlico. Shah, a Vienna, VA resident owns also owns Dortmund, third place finisher in the Kentucky Derby.

Charlottesville-based PTK Stables has entered two year old Cat Tree in the \$250,000 Tremont coming off a maiden breaking score at Churchill Downs two weeks ago. Dane Kobiskie trains the Discreet Cat colt.

Virginia-owned Horse of the Year V.E. Day is entered in the mile and a half \$400,000 Brooklyn (G2) looking for his first win since notching the Travers as part of a 4 race winning streak last summer. Maggie Bryant's colt is sired by 2005 Virginia Derby and Colonial Turf Cup winner English Channel. Jockey Javier Castellano who captained the Travers win return.

RACE 1

6	LADY SERENA	Bernardini filly has a front running win over Belmont at longer distance than this.
3	MEI LING	
2	TWO TAPS	

RACE 2

9	MR ROMANCE	Ward's sophomore already has a win over older horses. Kentucky shipper solid here.
3	SPEIGHTSTER	
4	ENERGETICO	

RACE 3 - THE JERSEY GIRL

1	NOBLE AND BEAUTY	Shah's "Lady" back after Pimlico scratch. Back to 6 furlongs. "Noble" solid in the mornings.
7	ENCHANTING LADY	
6	SPARK	

RACE 4 - TREMONT

7	UNCLE VINNY	With a win on the track, Pletcher back quick to take on Ward's tough duo and PTKs "Cat".
5	BANREE	
4	CAT TREE	

RACE 5

9	TO DARE	Seven 1st timers to test 2 veterans. "Dare" to like 7 furs. Does Pitino have a player?
8	LIEUTENANT DALE	
10	BOW TIE BOSS	

RACE 6

1	FASHION FUND	Mott goes back to work on "Sophia," this time on the turf vs. tuff foreign-breds.
3	NISHARORA	
2	MY MISS SOPHIA	

RACE 7

1	LOOKAROUNDCORNERS	Expect the 2 DQ-ed maidens to be back at it, both with new riders. In May, "Tiz" ran 2nd here.
13	TIZ TIME TO SHAKE	
12	REVEREND GREEN	

RACE 8 - TRUE NORTH (G2)

5	DADS CAP	Can the Aqueduct acer finally break thru at Belmont? Recent forms suggests so.
8	ROCK FALL	
2	STALLWALKIN' DUDE	

RACE 9 - NEW YORK

1A	STEPHANIE'S KITTEN	Disappointing Derby weekend scratch back to make Flower Bowl distance work again.
8	MAXIMOVA	
6	BEAUTY PARLOR	

RACE 10- BELMONT GOLD CUP

7	DIPLOMAT	VA-based trainer shortens his hurdler to 2 miles, sired by '04 VA Derby winner Kitten's Joy.
5	RED RIFLE	
1	DYNAMIC SKY	

BELMONT STAKES DAY



VIRGINIANS EVERYWHERE!

The Metropolitan Handicap aka, the Met Mile, features the return of Tonalist, a Virginia-raised colt that upset California Chrome in the Belmont Stakes last year. Maggie Bryant has an ownership interest in Wicked Strong as part of Centennial Farms. During his sophomore campaign Wicked Strong won at all the New York tracks except Belmont in winning the Wood Memorial and the Jim Dandy.

Saturday's \$1 million Manhattan is a reunion of former Colonial Downs contenders Hyper, Finnegan's Wake, War Dancer and Jack Milton. The Manhattan at a mile and a quarter is the distance of the former Virginia Derby. In 2013, War Dancer snuck into the Virginia Derby as the runner up of a stake held at Indiana Downs. Though running against his frontrunning nature, he delivered his best performance. Jack Milton, third in that edition, had a breakout win in the Maker's Mark on the soft Keeneland turf this spring.

Finnegan's Wake goes back to the 2012 Virginia Derby running, where he made the board in the race won by frontrunning Silver Max. Ken and Sarah Ramsey brought Hyper to the Colonial Turf Cup as a six-year old in 2013, finishing within a length of its winner London Lane. General A Rod is bred by Orange County's Hare Forest Farm. Although foaled in Kentucky, General A Rod, similar to Tonalist, was raised on a Virginia property.

RACE 1 - EASY GOER

1	STANFORD	Thoughts once on Stanford for
3	JAPAN	Belmont, yet distance suits
5	DONWORTH	frontrunner here.

RACE 2

2	WISECRACKER	Japan's outing in the opener may
8	SMART TRANSITION	say plenty about this
7	TOMMY MACHO	group. "Smart" & "Wise" similar,

RACE 3 - WOODY STEPHENS (G2)

3	COMPETITIVE EDGE	Undefeated "Edge" for Pletcher's
6	CLASSY CHRIS	high priced so called Super Saver
5	CINCO CHARLIE	to get G2 on list.

RACE 4 - JAIPUR (G3)

1	POWER ALERT	Looking for firm going for Aussie
4	AGELESS	"Power", his recent loss on the
12	SHRINKING VIOLET	softer surface.

RACE 5 - OGDEN PHIPPS (G1)

4	UNTAPABLE	Untapable has shown she can
2	WEDDING TOAST	win at Belmont & everywhere
1	ROSALIND	else. Over \$3 million earned.

RACE 6 - BROOKLYN (G2)

10	SKY KINGDOM	Nice spot for 1&1/2 test run for
9	NECK 'N NECK	Baffert/Victor whose near pace run
5	EFFINEX	here will be similar to "AP".

RACE 7 - ACORN (G1)

8	SHOOK UP	Pair of greys top picks, one hungry
9	PROMISE ME SILVER	after near Oaks miss & other
11	MISS ELLA	satisfied in CD win.

RACE 8 - JUSTAGAME (G1)

9	TEPIN	Defending champ going well, yet
8	BALL DANCING	Tepin has head to head in recent
4	COFFEE CLIQUE	to stay perfect this year.

RACE 9 - MET MILE (G1)

4	TONALIST	Many here absolutely love
1	PRIVATE ZONE	Belmont, like 4 for 4
9	HONOR CODE	Tonalist. Bayern runs

RACE 10- MANHATTAN(G1)

11	JACK MILTON	Many here battled CNL's "twin
3	FINNEGAN'S WAKE	turf", including two War Front
4	WAR DANCER	sired. "Wake" career peaking.

RACE 11 - THE BELMONT STAKES (G1)

5	AMERICAN PHAROAH	AP has no chinks in the armor and
3	MADEFROMLUCKY	may not have peaked.
7	KEEN ICE	Opportunities in place & show

RACE 12

12	MARKET OUTLOOK	"Market" winning favorite in last
7	TAGHLEEB	start, comes in from Saratoga, a
11	UMGIYO	favorite in the mornings there.

RACE 13

11	MATTERHORN	Nice spring campaign for Pletcher
3	CHIPIT	Tapits, now to figure which is
10	SOCIAL INCLUSION	better.