



## **"NICK'S PICKS"**

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### **PREAKNESS WEEKEND SELECTIONS**

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#### **VIRGINIAN ANGLES ON PREAKNESS WEEKEND**

If you think its no longer a big deal to win a race at Pimlico over Preakness weekend, don't tell these Virginia owners and breeders who have hair in the overnights. Here's the slate of Virginia connections at least as Nick's Picks could determine with the entry #, race & morning line odds.

##### **FRIDAY'S BLACK-EYED SUSAN**

Bluemont, VA owner and breeder owns #11 In the Navy Now (30-1) in the featured 11th race, the Black-Eyed Susan. Johnson also has # 8 Magician's Vanity (12-1), a Virginia-bred in the 4th race and #4 Do What I Say (5-2) as the favorite in the 2nd race. Micheal Trombetta is Johnson's regular trainer. Johnson also breed #8 Greek God in the finale, the 14th race.

Kaleem Shah will observe trainer Bob Baffert saddle the overwhelming favorite #8 Fantastic Style (1-2) in the Skipat Stakes, the 3rd race on Friday. It appears Shah who owns 2015 Kentucky Derby third-place finisher, Dortmund, wants this win more than others, shipping the west coast graded stakes winner in for an ungraded east coast event.

Diane Manning of Troy has a Virginia-bred #8 Rapid Dan (8-1) racing in her silks in the Turf Sprint, the 8th race.

In the 6th race Woodslane Farm starts their homebred #2 Settle 'n Speight (20-1). The 4-year old filly is a half sister by the mare Settling Mist to 2014 Belmont Stakes winner Tonalist. Also in the 6th, Sam English's homebred #8 Awake the Day (15-1) is a Virginia-bred starter.

Patricia Shuler of Charlottesville starts #5 Queeb (20-1) in the 2nd race beside Johnson's aforementioned favorite.

##### **PREAKNESS**

In last year's Dixie Stakes, #1 Long on Value (12-1) was favored but finished 4th. This year the horse bred by Snow Lantern isn't quite as visible.

The Very One Stakes is the eighth race and includes starters #3 Disco Barbie (20-1) owned by Manning, #4 Hope Cross (15-1) owned by Magalen Bryant and #9 Exaggerated (6-1) bred in Virginia by Hart Farm.

Virginia interests flooded the entry box for the second race. The field includes Morgan Ford Farm's Virginia-bred #8 Queen Caroline (6-1), Larry Johnson's #6 Thissongisaboutyou (15-1), Orange County's Hare Forest home-bred #9 Vizi Girl (20-1) and Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Firestone's #13 Believe Indeed (15-1). Johnson also has #7 Troubled Waters (6-1) in the 7th KY as his home-bred.

In the third race, Virginia bred #9 Cat Fiftyfive (9-2) is bred by Corner Farm & John Behrendt (3rd).

**BLACK-EYED SUSAN - FRIDAY, MAY 20****RACE 1**

8	<b>TOUCH AND SMILE</b>	The 3-year olds solid here, especially consistent 'Zapper filly.
2	<b>LADY CONSTANCE</b>	
6	<b>ANNA RAE</b>	

**RACE 2**

4	<b>DO WHAT I SAY</b>	3 year olds again. Is Johnson's VA-bred May foal a rising star on turf?
11	<b>BIOTERP</b>	
5	<b>QUEEB</b>	

**RACE 3 - SKIPAT**

8	<b>FANTASTIC STYLE</b>	Vienna owner brings graded stakes winner east to nearby venue.
6	<b>RAGING SMOKE</b>	
1	<b>SWEETRAYOFSUNSHINE</b>	

**RACE 4**

4	<b>TAP DIVA</b>	Two 3-year old fillies win in first turf trip, one in a wide driving trip.
5	<b>INVOLUNTARY</b>	
10	<b>UNSPOKEN</b>	

**RACE 5**

9	<b>TALE OF LIFE</b>	Motion finds the dirt favorable for his Japan-bred & gets new jockey.
6	<b>TOP OF MIND</b>	
4	<b>THE SANDMAN</b>	

**RACE 6**

4	<b>SUNNYSAMMI</b>	Weaver filly class edge. Woodlane filly half sister to Tonalist.
3	<b>SEE WHAT HAPPENS</b>	
2	<b>SETTLE 'N SPEIGHT</b>	

**RACE 7 - PIMLICO SPECIAL (G3)**

2	<b>STANFORD</b>	Rematch of solid CT Classic duel held last month down Rt.340/I-70
1	<b>PAGE MCKENNEY</b>	
7	<b>NOBLE BIRD</b>	

**RACE 8 - JIM MCKAY TURF SPRINT**

1	<b>RAPID DAN</b>	Seeking a spoiler worthy to upset the Churchill Turf Sprint ace 2 weeks ago.
7	<b>ROCKET HEAT</b>	
2	<b>BEN'S CAT</b>	

**RACE 9 - ALLAIRE DUPONT DISTAFF (G3)**

10	<b>TIGER RIDE</b>	Tiger back to dirt, seems ready for 9 furlongs after solid 3 year old season.
4	<b>MEI LING</b>	
2	<b>ENGAGINGLEE</b>	

**RACE 10 - HILLTOP**

4	<b>SPINAMISS</b>	Great locals vs. national trainers race here. Ham's "Channel" is turned on.
9	<b>CHANNEL REGETTA</b>	
5	<b>MISS KATIE MAE</b>	

**RACE 11 - BLACK-EYED SUSAN (G2)**

5	<b>GO MAGGIE GO</b>	Reunion of Ky Oaks pit 'Zapper/Bellamy Road fillies in full 14 field.
3	<b>LAND OVER SEA</b>	
10	<b>KINSLEY KISSES</b>	

**RACE 12**

5	<b>SET TO MUSIC</b>	Mustasaawy last start at Great Meadow, finds deep solid field. Watch AEs.
2	<b>PHLASH PHELPS</b>	
8	<b>BANK FLOAT</b>	

**RACE 13 - ADENA SPRINGS MISS PREAKNESS (G3)**

5	<b>QUICK RELEASE</b>	Draw a line through "Quick's" turf start and "Raven's" route racers.
4	<b>LOST RAVEN</b>	
6	<b>MOMENT IS RIGHT</b>	

**RACE 14**

5	<b>ANNAWON</b>	Gaudet gelding tough at Pimlico and Great Meadow,
7	<b>DOUBLE WHAMMY</b>	
11	<b>CRUISE MORE</b>	

**PREAKNESS - SATURDAY, MAY 21****RACE 1**

6	<b>DOUBLE WHAMMY</b>	Two veterans, one a high level battler, the other dominant in lower ranks.
5	<b>GOLDEN RINGS</b>	
9	<b>STEVE CAME THRU</b>	

**RACE 2**

5	<b>TAPIT TOGETHER</b>	Will it be raining? "Tapit" isn't proven on wet turf but proven more than others.
8	<b>QUEEN CAROLINE</b>	
12	<b>DOUBLE ESPRESSO</b>	

**RACE 3**

9	<b>CAT FIFTYFIVE</b>	Rain question again for many, yet less of one for VA-bred returning to dirt.
8	<b>DOTHAT DANCE</b>	
3	<b>COMBAT DIVER</b>	

**RACE 4**

14	<b>TRULY TOGETHER</b>	Matz filly lightly raced but seen much already. Has shown versatility.
10	<b>BISHOP'S POND</b>	
7	<b>TAP IT OUT</b>	

**RACE 5 - MARYLAND SPRINT (G3)**

7	<b>SALUTOS AMIGOS</b>	Jacobson gelding is good on dirt, great on water yet "Cinco" a threat.
4	<b>CINCO CHARLIE</b>	
2	<b>SONNY INSPIRED</b>	

**RACE 6 - JAMES MURPHY**

3	<b>EASY RIVER</b>	Easier for "River" if wet. Has a wet win. Not a good day to have Aquaphobia.
8	<b>AQUAPHOBIA</b>	
2	<b>HE'LL PAY</b>	

**RACE 7**

1A	<b>OLD UPSTART</b>	Aptly named Prado mount won this same 2015 weekend in Pimslop.
2	<b>CHIEF ISTAN</b>	
8	<b>TROUBLED WATERS</b>	

**RACE 8 - THE VERY ONE**

12	<b>LADY SHIPMAN</b>	"Lady" bounces back from Dubai with a wet turf win at Belmont. I'd say ready.
9	<b>EXAGGERATED</b>	
10	<b>JOYA REAL</b>	

**RACE 9 - CHICK LANG**

6	<b>COUNTERFORCE</b>	Oaklawn acer talented in defeat faces Baffert acer that doesn't know it.
1	<b>JUSTIN SQUARED</b>	
3	<b>QUIJOTE</b>	

**RACE 10 - THE GALLORETTE HANDICAP (G2)**

8	<b>JOSDESANIMAUX</b>	Florida horse that has won in New York, now seeks Maryland.
10	<b>GINGER N RYE</b>	
9	<b>MIZZ MONEY</b>	

**RACE 11 - SIR BARTON**

3	<b>KINGSLAYER</b>	Servis starts a 'Zapper vs several coming off the triple crowl trail.
7	<b>DAZZLING GEM</b>	
14	<b>GETTYSBURG</b>	

**RACE 12 - LONGINES DIXIE (G2)**

12	<b>TAKE THE STAND</b>	Mott has Argentine horse sharp this spring. Choice makes 1st '16 start.
7	<b>GRAND ARCH</b>	
8	<b>PRINCE GAGARIN</b>	

**RACE 13 - PREAKNESS (G1)**

3	<b>NYQUIST</b>	Can't sway from my BC Juvy choice. Derby horses run well at Pimlico.
5	<b>EXAGGERATOR</b>	
11	<b>STRADIVARI</b>	

**RACE 14**

3	<b>BRUCARITA</b>	Kitten's Joy ready to breakthru after nice trips at two different venues.
11	<b>MAP ROOM</b>	
1A	<b>HABITS</b>	