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TRIPLE CROWN

The Triple Crown is a series of three races for three-year-old Thoroughbred horses. It includes the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes. To win the Triple Crown, a horse must win all three races in the same year, a feat accomplished by only 13 horses in history.

The first Triple Crown winner was Sir Barton in 1919, followed by a long gap until the next winner, Gallant Fox, in 1930. Other notable Triple Crown winners include Secretariat, who set records in all three races in 1973, and American Pharoah, who ended a 37-year drought in 2015.

The Kentucky Derby, also known as the "Run for the Roses," is the first race in the Triple Crown and takes place on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. The Preakness Stakes is held two weeks later at Pimlico Racecourse in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Belmont Stakes takes place three weeks later at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York.

These races are known for their rich history and traditions, including the mint juleps served at the Kentucky Derby and the blanket of black-eyed Susan presented to the Preakness Stakes winner. The Belmont Stakes is the longest of the three races at 1.5 miles, often labeled the "Test of the Champion."

Winning the Triple Crown is a rare and remarkable achievement in horse racing, and each year, fans eagerly anticipate the possibility of a new Triple Crown champion. Will there be another Triple Crown winner soon? Only time will tell.

KENTUCKY DERBY

THE OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "THE MOST EXCITING TWO MINUTES IN SPORTS." WILL ONCE AGAIN UNITE THE BEST IN THOROUGHBRED RACING ON MAY 6 AT CHURCHILL DOWNS IN LOUISVILLE, KY.

The Kentucky Derby has been held annually since 1875 and is the longest-running sports event in the United States and is often referred to as the "Run for the Roses" due to the blanket of roses presented to the winner.

Some of the most famous horses in history have won the Kentucky Derby, including Secretariat, who set a record time that still stands today in 1973, and the legendary trainer Bob Baffert, who has won the race six times.

But which races have produced the most Kentucky Derby winners? The most successful races producing Derby winners are the Santa Anita Derby in California, the Florida Derby in Florida, and the Wood Memorial Stakes in New York.

Interestingly, the Arkansas Derby has also been a strong predictor of Kentucky Derby success in recent years, it has produced three Kentucky Derby winners including Sunny's Halo in 1983, Smarty Jones in 2004, and American Pharoah in 2015.



The post position a horse draws in the Kentucky Derby is said to play a role, but how important is it when determining who will win?

- 01** Securing a position in the first 10 gates increases chances of victory, it's happened 90 times.
- 02** Conversely, a horse starting from gates 11 to 20 has only crossed the finish line 20 times.
- 03** Whereas the No. 9 post is the worst in the top 10 with only four victories, the four wins from the No. 13 gate are the best for post positions 11 to 20

There is no shortage of opinions and angles when handicapping the Kentucky Derby. With up to 20 horses leaving the starting gate on the First Saturday in May, as the race comes closer, some contenders stand out:

- 01** Forte: winner of the Florida Derby, Fountain of Youth, and Breeders Cup Juvenile he qualified with 190 points. This horse is trained by Todd Pletcher and Irad Ortiz has been his jockey.
- 02** Practical Move: winner of the Santa Anita Derby, he qualified with 160 points. This horse is trained by Tim Yakteen with Ramon A. Vazquez as his jockey.
- 03** Angel of Empire: winner of the Arkansas Derby and Risen Star he qualified with 154 points. This horse is trained by Brad Cox with Flavien Prat as his jockey.
- 04** Tapit Trice: winner of the Blue Grass and Tampa Bay Derby, qualified with 150 points. This horse is one of four possible contenders trained by Todd Pletcher with Luis Saez as his jockey.

The Kentucky Derby is not only about the horses but also the fashion and traditions that surround it. From the colorful hats worn by fans to the traditional singing of "My Old Kentucky Home" before the race, the Kentucky Derby is a true spectacle.

As we look forward to the 2023 Kentucky Derby, we can't wait to see which horse will join the ranks of previous champions and make history at Churchill Downs.

PREAKNESS/148

On May 20, Pimlico will host the Preakness Stakes, the second leg of the Triple Crown, held annually since 1873 at Pimlico Racecourse in Baltimore, Maryland. The race is named after the colt Preakness, who won the Dinner Party Stakes, at Pimlico in its opening year in 1870.

Some of the best horses in history have won the Preakness Stakes, including Secretariat, who set a track record that still stands today in 1973, and American Pharoah, who became the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years after winning the Preakness in 2015.

The Preakness Stakes is often called the "People's Race" because of its affordability and accessibility. It is the only Triple Crown race that has never had a minimum purse of \$1 million.

The race is also known for its unique traditions, such as the painting of the weathervane with the colors of the winning jockey's silks and the presentation of the Woodlawn Vase, a nearly 150-year-old trophy made of pure sterling silver.

As we look forward to the 2023 Preakness Stakes, we can't wait to see which horse will take home the Woodlawn Vase.





BELMONT STAKES

The Belmont Stakes is the oldest of the three Triple Crown races, first run in 1867 at Jerome Park in the Bronx, New York. The race owes its name to August Belmont Sr., a prominent New York banker and racing enthusiast. The race was later moved to its current location at Belmont Park in Long Island in 1905.

Legendary horses in history have won the Belmont Stakes, including Secretariat, who set a world record for the fastest time in 1973, a record that stands today.

Other notable champions include Seattle Slew, Affirmed, and American Pharoah, who won the race in 2015 to become the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years.

The Belmont Stakes is run at a distance of 1 1/2 miles, making it the longest of the three Triple Crown races. This distance is often considered a test of a horse's endurance and stamina.

Another unique feature of the Belmont Stakes is its post-position draw conducted at the historic Belmont Park paddock; it is considered a crucial factor in the outcome of the Belmont.

The Belmont Stakes is also known for its traditions, such as playing "New York, New York" by Frank Sinatra after the race and the award of the August Belmont Trophy to the winning owner.

The Belmont Stakes will take place on June 10, and we can't wait to see if there will be another triple-crowned horse in 2023.



EPSOM DERBY

The Epsom Derby is an annual horse racing event at Epsom Downs Racecourse in Epsom, Surrey, England. This year's event will take place on June 3, and it will be a thrilling spectacle for horse racing fans worldwide.

The Epsom Derby was first run in 1780 and is one of the oldest horse races in the world, and part of the prestigious British Classic Races.

Over the years, the race has produced some truly memorable moments and champions. One of the most famous winners of the Epsom Derby was the legendary Nijinsky, who won the race in 1970 and then became the first horse to win the English Triple Crown in 35 years.

Another notable winner of the Epsom Derby was Shergar, who won the race in 1981 by a staggering ten lengths. Sadly, Shergar was later kidnapped and never found.

The race covers a distance of 1 ¼ Mile, and is open to three-year-old colts and fillies. It is considered one of the most challenging races in the world, thanks to its hilly terrain and sharp turns.

Despite the challenges, many jockeys and trainers consider the Epsom Derby the ultimate test of a horse's stamina, speed, and skill. It is also one of the most highly anticipated events on the horse racing calendar, drawing crowds of up to 130,000 spectators each year.



ROYAL ASCOT

Royal Ascot is one of the most famous horse racing events worldwide, held annually in June at Ascot Racecourse in Berkshire, England. Inaugurated by Queen Anne in 1711, it has become essential in British social and sporting culture.

Many great horses in history have competed at Royal Ascot, including the legendary Frankel, who won the Queen Anne Stakes in 2012. Other notable champions include Black Caviar, Goldikova, and Yeats, who won the Ascot Gold Cup four times. One interesting fact about Royal Ascot is its dress code.

Guests must dress formally, with women wearing hats or fascinators and men wearing top hats and tails. This tradition has been in place since the early 19th century and adds to the regal atmosphere of the event.

Another unique feature of Royal Ascot is the Royal Procession, where members of the royal family arrive in carriages to open the event. This tradition has been in place since the reign of Queen Victoria in 1825 and is one of the highlights of the event to be celebrated from June 20 to June 24.



HASKELL INVITATIONAL

The Haskell Invitational is an annual horse racing event at Monmouth Park Racetrack in Oceanport, New Jersey. This year's event will be on July 22.

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Over the years, the race has produced some truly memorable moments and champions. One of the most notable winners of the Haskell Invitational was American Pharoah, who won the race in 2015.

Another notable winner of the Haskell Invitational was Rachel Alexandra, who won the race in 2009 and became the first filly to win the race in over 80 years. She was then named Horse of the Year that year, and her win memorialized as one of the greatest moments in horse racing history.

The race is considered one of the most challenging races in the United States, thanks to the tough competition and the track's long homestretch.

Despite the challenges, many jockeys and trainers consider the Haskell Invitational one of the most important races in the country. It is also a popular event for spectators, with over 40,000 people attending the race each year.

OVERLAY

An overlay occurs when a horse's odds are higher than its chances of winning, presenting an opportunity for bettors to make a profit. For a Racebook, overlays can be risky; as the odds are too high, and collected money may not be enough to cover winning bets.

To understand overlays, consider the following example.

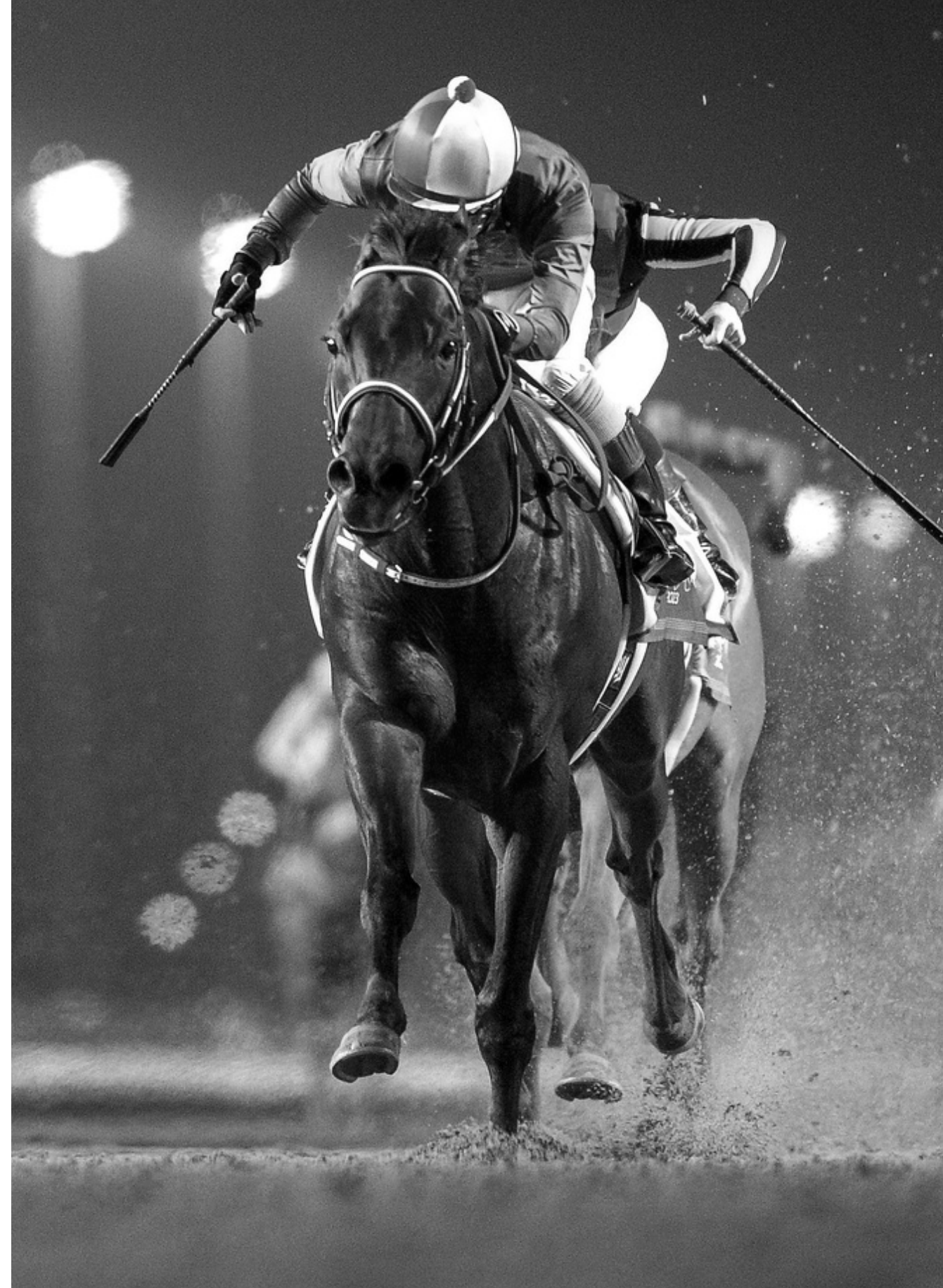
Let's say a horse is participating in a race with 10 other horses. Based on its past performances and the competition in the race, the horse's actual probability of winning is 25%. However, due to a lack of public interest or a recent losing streak, the horse's odds are set at 6-1, which implies a probability of winning of only 14.29%.

In this scenario, that horse would be an overlay as its odds are higher than its actual probability of winning. If a bettor places a wager on it, and the horse wins the race, the bettor would receive a higher payout than expected due to the overlay. The overlay is not always on the favorite horse in a race, but it is where it happens more often.

Overlays may occur due to multiple factors, such as:

- 01** Lack of public interest
- 02** Late changes
- 03** Inaccurate morning line: the morning line is the estimated odds on a horse. The track handicapper sets the odds before the race; inaccuracies may occur from time to time, and that may cause overlays
- 04** Misjudgment of the betting public
- 05** Track bias: sometimes, a track can be biased towards certain running styles or post positions. If this happens and the betting public isn't aware, an overlay may occur.
- 06** Trainer or jockey changes: A change in trainer or jockey can sometimes improve a horse's chances of winning but can also create an overlay.
- 07** Recent performance: if a horse has had a recent poor performance, the betting public may be overly pessimistic about its chances of winning,
- 08** Distance or surface change
- 09** Weight or equipment changes

In general, an overlay allows wise bettors to place a profitable wager. It may be frowned upon but perfectly normal.





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