

DERBYWATCH

HORSE SIRE	WATCHMAKER ODDS	BEST BEYER	OWNER, TRAINER, AND JOCKEY	LAST RACE, RESULT, AND BEYER	NEXT LIKELY RACE, TRACK, AND DATE	JAY PRIVMAN AND MIKE WATCHMAKER'S COMMENTS
DECLAN'S MOON <i>by Malibu Moon</i>	6-1	107s	Jay Em Ess Stable R. Ellis/V. Espinoza	Hol. Futurity, 12/18 1st by 1, 96	Santa Catalina, 1 1/16 m Santa Anita, 3/5	Privman: Eclipse Award, and proven distance ability make him a worthy favorite. Watchmaker: His route win in the Hol. Futurity was more difficult than I expected.
AFLEET ALEX <i>by Northern Fleet</i>	8-1	102s	Cash is King LLC T. Ritchey/J. Velazquez	BC Juvenile, 10/30 2nd by 3/4, 97	Rebel, 1 1/16 m Oaklawn, 3/19	P: Had an excellent campaign last year, too, but lack of recent works a concern. W: Could have easily been the 2yo champ; just not sure about him at 1 1/4 miles.
ROCKPORT HARBOR <i>by Unbridled's Song</i>	8-1	102	Fox Hill Farms Inc. J. Servis/S. Elliott	Remsen, 11/27 1st by a neck, 102	Rebel, 1 1/16 m Oaklawn, 3/19	P: Last year's Derby-winning duo of Servis, Elliott has another live one. W: He and Afleet Alex make the Arkansas route to the Derby tougher than ever.
ROMAN RULER <i>by Fusaichi Pegasus</i>	12-1	106s	Fog City Stable B. Baffert/J. Bailey	BC Juvenile, 10/30 5th by 3 3/4, 91	San Vicente, 7 furlongs Santa Anita, 2/13	P: Would be a major threat if he can recapture his form of last summer. W: We'll have a much better idea of where he's at after his return this weekend.
WILKO <i>by Awesome Again</i>	12-1	98	J. P., R. & S. Reddam C. Dollase/C. Nakatani	Hol. Futurity, 12/18 3rd by 1, 94	Santa Catalina, 1 1/16 m Santa Anita, 3/5	P: Certainly battle-tested after 12-race, two-continent campaign last year. W: Won BC Juvenile; you know how well BC Juvenile winners do in the Derby.
GALLOPING GROCER <i>by A. P. Jet</i>	15-1	102	Rosenthal & Waldbaum D. Schettino/A. Gryder	Remsen, 11/27 2nd by a neck, 102	Whirlaway, 1 1/16 m Aqueduct, 2/12	P: Suffered his only loss when giving Rockport Harbor a battle in the Remsen. W: Ran big in the Remsen. Where is it written that his bubble has to burst?
SUN KING <i>by Charismatic</i>	15-1	97	Tracy Farmer N. Zito/E. Prado	BC Juvenile, 10/30 3rd by 1, 96	Allowance Gulfstream	P: Ran well in both Champagne, BC Juvenile; has all his allowance conditions. W: Doesn't have to improve a lot to be a serious contender against this group.
CONSOLIDATOR <i>by Storm Cat</i>	20-1	94	Robert & Beverly Lewis D. W. Lukas/V. Espinoza	BC Juvenile, 10/30 4th by 2 1/4, 94	San Vicente, 7 furlongs Santa Anita, 2/13	P: Pricey colt was 0 for 3 vs. Afleet Alex last year; training well for return. W: Gained his fame by beating a maiden in Keeneland's Breeders' Futurity.
PROUD ACCOLADE <i>by Yes It's True</i>	20-1	100	Padua Stables T. Pletcher/J. Velazquez	Hutcheson, 2/5 1st by 4 1/2, 93	Fountain of Youth, 3/5, or Louisiana Dby, 3/12	P: Brilliant around one turn, but still have to question his two-turn ability. W: A valid question, but Smarty Jones faced the distance question all last spring.
SWEET CATOMINE (F) <i>by Storm Cat</i>	20-1	102	Mr. & Mrs. M. Wygod J. Canani/undecided	Santa Ysabel, 1/16 1st by 2 1/2, 88	SA Oaks, 1 1/16 m Santa Anita, 3/13	P: Generation's best filly has size, scope, talent to merit serious consideration. W: There's a reason why only three fillies have won the Derby: it's not easy.
GIACOMO <i>by Holy Bull</i>	25-1	98	Mr. & Mrs. J. Moss J. Shirreffs/M. Smith	Sham, 2/5 3rd by 1 1/4, 98	Santa Catalina, 3/5, or San Felipe, 3/19	P: Hol. Futurity runner-up hung a bit in Sham, but might have needed the race. W: Lost far more ground than he was beaten in the Sham; merits some respect.
HIGH FLY <i>by Atticus</i>	25-1	100	Live Oak Plantation W. White/undecided	Holy Bull, 2/5 3rd by 2, 95	Fountain of Youth, 3/5, or Florida Derby, 4/2	P: Got scenic tour of GP in Holy Bull, when outside post and wide trip hurt him. W: All of that is true, but he still didn't have the kick he showed in the Aventura.
HIGH LIMIT <i>by Maria's Mon</i>	25-1	90s	Gary & Mary West R. Frankel/R. Dominguez	Del Allowance, 10/24 1st by 7 3/4, 88	Swale, 3/5, or GP Allowance	P: Scored two runaway victories at Delaware before moving to Frankel. Beware. W: Hey, Afleet Alex started out at Delaware, too; there's a lot of buzz on this one.
BANDINI <i>by Fusaichi Pegasus</i>	30-1	90	M. Tabor & D. Smith T. Pletcher/J. Velazquez	GP Allowance, 2/5 1st by 9, 90	Fountain of Youth, 3/5, or Louisiana Dby, 3/12	P: Crushed first-level GP allowance field last weekend for second straight win. W: Jamie Spencer was to ride in his debut, but smart colt kicked him in the gut.
CLOSING ARGUMENT <i>by Successful Appeal</i>	30-1	98	Phillip & Marcia Cohen K. McLaughlin/C. Velazquez	Holy Bull, 2/5 1st by 1 1/2, 98	Fountain of Youth, 3/5, or UAE Derby, 3/26	P: Benefited from inside draw, High Fly's trip, to score Holy Bull upset. W: Don't know how strong the Holy Bull was; his pedigree doesn't shout Derby.
GOING WILD <i>by Golden Missile</i>	30-1	104s	Robert & Beverly Lewis D. W. Lukas/undecided	Sham, 2/5 1st by 1, 100	Santa Catalina, 1 1/16 m Santa Anita, 3/5	P: Has improved significantly since arriving at SA; brave victory in the Sham. W: Like to see him rate, because I can't see him going wire-to-wire at Churchill.
HARLINGTON <i>by Unbridled</i>	30-1	88	Melnyk Racing Stables T. Pletcher/J. Velazquez	GP Allowance, 1/15 1st by 3, 88	Risen Star, 1 1/16 m Fair Grounds, 2/12	P: \$2.8 million yearling is 2 for 2; makes stakes debut in competitive Risen Star. W: Both of his wins have come in the slop, so the jury is still out on him.
LOST IN THE FOG <i>by Lost Soldier</i>	30-1	109s	Harry Aleo G. Gilchrist/R. Baze	Sun. Millions Dash, 1/29 1st by 4 1/2, 102	Swale, 7 furlongs Gulfstream, 3/5	P: Wickedly fast, but connections are circumspect about going down Derby trail. W: Was not an early Derby nominee, which may tell you all you need to know.
SPANISH CHESTNUT <i>by Horse Chestnut</i>	30-1	94s	D. Smith & M. Tabor P. Biancone/G. Stevens	San Rafael, 1/15 1st by 3/4, 93	Santa Catalina, 1 1/16 m Santa Anita, 3/5	P: Has same style as 2004 Derby runner-up Lion Heart, but isn't as brilliant. W: Has a license to improve, and must in order to crack the upper echelon here.
GREATER GOOD <i>by Intidab</i>	40-1	91	Lewis Lakin R. Holthus/J. McKee	Ky. Jockey Club, 11/27 1st by 1 3/4, 91	Southwest, 1 mile Oaklawn, 2/19	P: Won a stake at CD last fall, and acts like Derby distance will be up his alley. W: Two for two at two turns, but neither of those stakes wins were very quick.
STRAIGHT LINE <i>by Boundary</i>	40-1	98	Vanier & Cartwright H. Vanier/B. Blanc	Iroquois, 11/6 1st by 5, 98	Swale, 7 furlongs Gulfstream, 3/5	P: Won nicely in Iroquois, defeating Greater Good, but that was a one-turn mile. W: Nearly died last fall, and it may be a little while before he's ready to race.
RUSH BAY <i>by Cozzene</i>	50-1	88	Phoebe Mueller Trust T. Amoss/E. Razo Jr.	Ky. Jockey Club, 11/27 2nd by 1 3/4, 88	Risen Star, 1 1/16 m Fair Grounds, 2/12	P: Made fine progress last fall for outstanding trainer; eager to see 2005 debut. W: If I'm skeptical about Greater Good, and I am, then I must feel the same here.
STORM SURGE <i>by Storm Cat</i>	50-1	91s	Overbrook Farm D. Stewart/R. Albarado	Lecomte, 1/15 1st by a neck, 82	Risen Star, 1 1/16 m Fair Grounds, 2/12	P: Has won a lot of races, but has yet to earn a big fig; a question mark for me. W: Going to have to really raise his game just to contend in the Risen Star.
BUZZARDS BAY <i>by Marco Bay</i>	60-1	97	Fog City Stable J. Mullins/M. Guidry	Golden Gate Dby, 1/23 1st by a nose, 97	Risen Star, 1 1/16 m Fair Grounds, 2/12	P: Hard to get a line on him based on beating only two others in the GG Derby. W: The best I can say is he did seem to improve with the addition of blinkers.
TEXCESS <i>by In Excess</i>	60-1	91	Aguirre & Aldabbagh P. Aguirre/R. Baze	San Rafael, 1/15 3rd by 1 3/4, 90	San Mateo Mile, 1 m Bay Meadows, 2/12	P: Taking the easy way out this weekend at BM before heading to La. Derby. W: Beat Closing Argument at Delta, so he was flattered by the Holy Bull result.

Horses are listed in order of Watchmaker odds

(F) filly; (s) Top Beyer Figure in a sprint