$1,250,000 Grade I Arkansas Derby

Oaklawn Park | Race 12 | Dirt | 9 Furlongs | Post 7:24 ET

Runner-by-Runner Analysis/Comments

Leans:
Win: #6 or #7 at 5/1+
Trifecta: 6,7 / 2,6,7 / 1,2,5,7,10

#1 Bourbon Bash
Most experienced of the field including a heavy foundation of 7 juvenile races. 5 of those featured double-digit dirt spreads with a lot of forward spent energy so it's a nice step forward to the REV triggered 2-back. He did go back to a +4.4 in last but that was on the slop and a couple bomb shots prompted a faster pace resulting in a meltdown where the Top 3 runners were 5th-11th-8th after 6F. Figures to be mid-pack from the rail and could have some traffic to deal with if he tries to run on late which messed with him a bit in last. Ignoring the sloppy running line, I see him moving forward off his 65/69h REV running line 2-back. Only 1 rival has a sub-70 Final in last and only 2 rivals for 2-back Finals so would need some pretty good odds for the expected improvement to be enough today.

#2 Interlock Empire
Local threat comes off maiden win and progressing dirt spreads of -2 to -4h to 8 so things are trending the right direction. Runners facing winners for the first time don't historically have a high win percentage, however they are typically underbet for the wins they do get. This one figures to have a lot of work to do given the low 4F Figures compared to the field but the Finals are trending upwards toward competitive here and the extra distance is a plus. A win could be tough without a perfect set-up and trip but at the least, I could see him offering plenty enough price to be on exotics tickets. Has Arkansas Derby pedigree on both sides with sire Classic Empire and damsire Curlin having won this event. McPeek has had a 29/1 winner going maiden to graded sophomore stakes but overall just the 1 of 10 with 8 of them off the board.

#3 Harlocap
Originally a west coaster, was on the right track with dramatic tightening in dirt spread over first 3 races including a 67/73 REV before changing barns. Likes to get forward and draws a good post if the plan is to get position and steal it so does look tempting at double-digits, but with the regression in energy distribution as well as Final Figure on the barn switch and ship, confidence is shaky. New barn get to know this runner enough to turn it back around with just one published work since?

#4 Two Eagles River
Showed some talent and durability to survive 80+ 4F Pace in all three juvenile sprints although it's not an ideal look he was on the wrong end of two close finishes. Was well in control of a 70/74h REV last out which looks like it could translate well to today's stretchout at face value. However, this jump up in competition projects to put him deeper in the field than used to and ability to go by targets is a question mark here.

#5 Airtime
Came off winter break in new sophomore form jumping to 73/73h and 75h/72h wins. No Triple-Crown nomination but new connections like the current condition enough to try this spot anyway. Owns best Last 4F Figure of field and has been sustaining faster 4F Figures three races in a row. Has a good chance to be in first flight here with experience passing and some odds so race flow will be important to this one.

#6 Angel Of Empire
Solid as you'll get if you're looking for incremental progression as runner goes off consecutive NPTs here with slight bumps in both 4F and Final over the 3 preceding route tries. An obvious win contender on the sheets.

#7 Rocket Can

Quick progression as a juvenile to a 74/77 DTOP that earned him a break. Found a good spot back for new campaign with a SOFT win before spiking the 72/75 last out when following Derby favorite Forte around the track. Connections figure why stay home for the Florida Derby and repeat that result when they can ship here looking for a well-intentioned win instead.

#8 Reincarnate

West coaster worked up to a blowout 82/76 DTOP before shipping here for a regression in what was a bit of a messy race for him being off the pace and in the slop for the first time. Tempted to draw a line through that one giving us a runner several months removed from a peak performance and now going for a new trainer. Sure, foundational ability and proper freshness could lead to winning spot today, but when you add in the morning line favorite tag, he becomes less enticing all of a sudden. I want to know my favorites are on the right track, not have questions marks like a regression after a barn switch. Sure, the previous trainer is going to give notes, but all the same it's a change in surroundings, a tweak in medication and therapy schedules, different morning routines, and overall not worth yielding favoritism.

#9 King Russell

Been putting in some positive work lately triggering NPT-NPT-SOFT and has shown some versatility to have hit all kinds of different rated dirt tracks. Should be seeing a return to a fast-rated track today although that's questionable to be a good thing as the juvenile runs featured very slow 4F Figures on fast-rated tracks. Maiden last out winner makes big jump here and looks like an outsider. The other longshot to break maiden locally came out of a faster race than this one.

#10 Red Route One

Mixed looks here. On the positive, there's enough speed signed on to give this runner the chance for the set-up he needs to get going late as he has 2 negative double-digit dirt spreads in last 3 (equating to lots of late speed) while the rest of the rivals don't have a single one of those spread lines which makes him a clear standout to fit a certain pace scenario. On the negative, he figures to be somewhere in the 2nd to 3rd favorite range on price and he needs just that…given the right pace scenario to figure as a win contender for me. They'll experiment with blinkers to perhaps get him closer but at the end of the day, runner has never won on dirt yet, and that can probably be mostly attributed to running style.

#11 Kolomio

Turfer sports a PLOW in last, a Form Cycle Pattern that signals coming success on grass. Unsure that's going to factor here switching to the dynamics of dirt racing although it's a positive look for the added distance as it signals improved late speed. At the very best and IF the race falls apart, could catch the bottom of exotics but not banking on it.

Last 3 Races of Field

Runner	4F	Final	Spread	Dist	Track	4F	Final	Spread	Dist	Track	4F	Final	Spread	Dist	Track
1 Bourbon Bash	75.1	70.7	4.4	8.5	OPX SLY	65.1	69.4	-4.3	8.0	OPX	77.9	70.2	7.7	6.0	OPX
2 Interlock Empire	63.3	71.5	-8.2	8.0	OPX	65.7	70.2	-4.5	8.0	OPX	65.7	67.6	-1.9	8.5	OPX WF
3 Harlocap	74.6	69.4	5.2	9.0	FGX	67.2	73.0	-5.8	8.5	SAX	72.1	70.5	1.6	8.0	SAX
4 Two Eagles River	69.8	74.7	-4.9	8.0	OPX	73.0	71.1	1.9	8.0	OPX	81.2	71.7	9.5	6.0	OPX
5 Airtime	75.4	72.6	2.8	8.5	OPX	73.0	73.7	-0.7	8.0	OPX MDY	67.1	67.5	-0.4	8.0	IND
6 Angel Of Empire	70.0	73.8	-3.8	9.0	FGX	68.4	72.1	-3.7	8.0	OPX	64.4	71.5	-7.1	8.0	IND
7 Rocket Can	71.8	75.0	-3.2	8.5	GPX	62.5	69.0	-6.5	8.5	GPX	74.2	77.1	-2.9	8.5	CDX
8 Reincarnate	70.7	73.5	-2.8	8.5	OPX SLY	81.9	76.0	5.9	8.0	SAX	70.8	69.5	1.3	8.0	DMR
9 King Russell	64.1	70.2	-6.1	8.5	OPX SLY	67.4	71.1	-3.7	8.5	OPX WF	66.2	66.0	0.2	8.0	OPX GD
10 Red Route One	60.8	73.2	-12.4	8.5	OPX SLY	66.1	72.3	-6.2	8.5	OPX SLY	58.8	72.4	-13.6	8.5	CDX
11 Kolomio	61.8	70.3	-8.5	8.0	SAX T	68.5	73.5	-5.0	8.0	DMR T	68.6	68.4	0.2	8.0	SAX T

Energy Distribution Chart – Recent Changes in Runners' Energy Distribution.

"Late Up / Late Down" equates to the dirt spreads tightening (energy distributed more over entirety of race resulting in better late speed) or loosening (energy was more forward spent earlier)

Runner	Last Prep vs Previous					
	4F Up	4F Down	Late Up	Late Down	Final Up	Final Down
1 Bourbon Bash	X			X	X	
2 Interlock Empire		X	X		X	
3 Harlocap	X			X		X
4 Two Eagles River		X	X		X	
5 Airtime	X			X		X
6 Angel Of Empire	X		X		X	
7 Rocket Can	X			X	X	
8 Reincarnate		X	X			X
9 King Russell		X	X			X
10 Red Route One		X	X		X	
11 Kolomio		X	X			
	5	6	7	4	6	4

Observations:

#6 Angel Of Empire stands alone as the runner with an X in all 3 "Up" columns.

Of the runners who sacrificed late spread due to 4F increases, **#1 Bourbon Bash** and **#7 Rocket Can** were the 2 that increased their Finals making them standouts for runners that could be looking for prominent position with the ability to last.

A good chunk of this field went the opposite way sacrificing 4F in order to improve late spread. The tactic resulted in increased Final Figure for **#2 Interlock Empire**, **#4 Two Eagles River**, and **#10 Red Route One**.

Historical Trifecta – Last 3 Races before Arkansas Derby

2022 Trifecta	4F	Final	Spread	Dist	Track	4F	Final	Spread	Dist	Track	4F	Final	Spread	Dist	Track
Cyberknife	73.8	77.0	-3.2	8.5	FG	75.2	69.3	5.9	8.5	FG	69.6	71.9	-2.3	8.5	FGX
Barber Road	62.4	69.8	-7.4	8.5	OP	67.7	70.2	-2.5	8.5	OP	73.2	68.4	4.8	8.0	OP SLY
Secret Oath	73.2	73.6	-0.4	8.5	OP	63.9	70.9	-7.0	8.5	OP	71.6	73.4	-1.8	8.0	OP
2021															
Super Stock	67.0	72.4	-5.4	8.5	OP	63.6	76.6	-13.0	8.5	CD	64.2	72.0	-7.8	8.5	KEE
Caddo River	71.1	73.6	-2.5	8.5	OP	75.5	72.2	3.3	8.5	OP	87.2	76.2	11.0	8.0	OP
Concert Tour	72.2	75.9	-3.7	8.5	OP	75.3	72.0	3.3	7.0	SA	79.4	74.9	4.5	6.0	SA
2020 Div I															
Charlatan	74.4	75.8	-1.4	8.0	SA	81.2	78.7	2.5	6.0	SA					
Basin	79.2	72.2	7.0	9.0	OP SLY	77.8	68.8	9.0	8.5	OP SLY	76.3	73.7	2.6	7.0	SAR SLY
Gouverneur Morris	69.2	74.0	-4.8	9.0	GP	72.3	78.1	-5.8	8.3	TAM	69.4	71.6	-2.2	8.5	KEE
2020 Div II															
Nadal	82.5	72.5	10.0	8.5	OP SLY	88.2	76.2	12.0	7.0	SA	81.9	77.8	4.1	6.5	SA
King Guillermo	69.6	80.1	-10.5	8.5	TAM	82.3	80.4	1.9	8.0	GP T	66.0	69.0	-3.0	8.0	GPW T
Finnick The Fierce	68.9	69.8	-0.9	8.5	OP SLY	63.2	71.1	-7.9	9.0	FG	77.6	69.6	8.0	8.5	FGX
2019															
Omaha Beach	71.1	74.4	-3.3	8.0	SA	88.8	78.6	10.2	7.0	SA SLY	73.5	77.9	-4.4	8.5	OP
Improbable	69.9	77.7	-7.8	8.5	OP	67.8	77.8	-10.0	8.5	LRC	84.2	78.6	5.6	8.0	CD
Country House	67.3	75.4	-8.1	9.0	FG	65.7	71.8	-6.1	8.5	FG	57.9	69.7	-11.8	8.5	GP
2018															
Magnum Moon	74.6	78.3	-3.7	8.5	OP	69.4	77.3	-7.9	8.3	TAM	78.3	74.7	3.6	6.0	GP
Quip	61.7	73.9	-12.2	8.5	TAM	72.0	72.3	-0.3	8.5	CD	69.1	73.6	-4.5	8.5	KEE
Solomini	73.9	76.5	-2.6	8.5	OP	71.4	74.8	-3.4	8.5	LRC	73.0	70.2	2.8	8.5	DMR

Historical Trifecta – Energy Distribution Chart

2022 Trifecta	4F Up	4F Down	Late Up	Late Down	Final Up	Final Down
Last Prep vs Previous						
Cyberknife		X	X		X	
Barber Road		X	X			X
Secret Oath	X			X	X	
2021						
Super Stock	X			X		X
Caddo River		X	X		X	
Concert Tour		X	X		X	
2020 Div I						
Charlatan		X	X			X
Basin	X		X		X	
Gouverneur Morris		X		X		X
2020 Div II						
Nadal		X	X			X
King Guillermo		X	X			X
Finnick The Fierce	X			X		X
2019						
Omaha Beach		X	X			X
Improbable	X			X		X
Country House	X		X		X	
2018						
Magnum Moon	X			X	X	
Quip		X	X		X	
Solomini	X			X	X	
	8	10	11	7	9	9

Historical Predicteform Sheets – Last 6 Editions 1st/2nd/3rd with (Beaten Lengths) & (Off Odds)

CYBERKNIFE ('22) (5/1)

F	W75.2	W77.0	69.3
4F	76.5	73.8	75.2
4F-F	+1	-3	+6
P			
T	OPX	FGX	FGX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	8 1/2
C	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	04/02/22	02/19/22	01/22/22

BARBER ROAD (2.75L) (10/1)

F	73.9	69.8	70.2
4F	74.7	62.4	67.7
4F-F	+1	-7	-3
P			
T	OPX	OPX	OPX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	8 1/2
C	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	04/02/22	02/26/22	01/29/22

SECRET OATH (3.5L) (7/5)

F	73.2	W73.2	W70.9
4F	74.6	73.2	63.9
4F-F	+1	0	-7
P		NPT	SOFT
T	OPX	OPX	OPX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	8 1/2
C	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	04/02/22	02/26/22	01/29/22

SUPER STOCK ('21) (12/1)

F	W74.8	72.4	76.6
4F	76.8	67.0	63.6
4F-F	+2	-5	-13
P			
T	OPX	OPX	CDX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	8 1/2
C	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	04/10/21	03/13/21	10/25/20

CADDO RIVER (2.5L) (7/2)

F	73.5	73.6	72.2
4F	79.0	71.1	75.5
4F-F	+5	-2	+3
P		REV	
T	OPX	OPX	OPX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	8 1/2
C	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	04/10/21	02/26/22	01/29/22

CONCERT TOUR (2.5L) (2/5)

F	73.5	W75.9	W72.0
4F	78.4	72.2	75.3
4F-F	+5	-4	3
P		REV	SOFT
T	OPX	OPX	SAX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	7
C	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	04/10/21	03/13/21	02/06/21

CHARLATAN ('20 Div I) (2/5)

F	W78.8	W75.8	W78.7
4F	81.1	74.4	81.2
4F-F	+2	-1	+2
P		SOFT	COMP
T	OPX	SAX	SAX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8	6
C	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	05/02/20	03/14/20	02/16/20

BASIN (6L) (9/1)

F	76.8	72.2	68.8
4F	78.9	79.2	77.8
4F-F	+2	+7	+9
P		NPT	
T	OPX	OPX	OPX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	9	8 1/2
C	FAST	SLOPPY	SLOPPY
D	05/02/20	04/11/20	03/14/20

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS (6.25L) (4/1)

F	75.9	74.0	W78.1
4F	76.6	69.2	72.3
4F-F	+1	-5	-6
P			
T	OPX	GPX	TAM
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	9	8'
C	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	05/02/20	03/28/20	02/14/20

NADAL ('20 Div II) (4/5)

F	W80.0	W72.5	W76.2
4F	79.7	82.5	88.2
4F-F	0	+10	+12
P	REV	SOFT	NPT
T	OPX	OPX	SAX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	7
C	FAST	SLOPPY	FAST
D	05/02/20	03/14/20	02/09/20

KING GUILLERMO (3L) (9/2)

F	78.6	W80.1	80.4
4F	78.5	69.6	82.3
4F-F	0	-10	+2
P	NPT	REV	
T	OPX	TAM	GPX
S	DIRT	DIRT	TURF
L	9	8 1/2	8
C	FAST	FAST	FIRM
D	05/02/20	03/07/20	11/30/19

FINNICK THE FIERCE (4.5L) (62/1)

F	77.1	W69.8	71.1
4F	76.3	68.9	63.2
4F-F	-1	-1	-8
P			REV
T	OPX	OPX	FGX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	9
C	FAST	SLOPPY	FAST
D	05/02/20	04/04/20	02/15/20

	OMAHA BEACH ('19) (8/5)			IMPROBABLE (1L) (9/5)			COUNTRY HOUSE (6.75L) (8/1)		
F	W77.9	W77.9	W78.6	77.4	77.7	77.8	73.9	75.4	71.8
4F	73.1	73.5	88.8	70.9	69.9	67.8	66.0	67.3	65.7
4F-F	-5	-4	+10	-7	-8	-10	-8	-8	-6
P		SOFT	DTOP			REV		DTOP	DTOP
T	OPX	OPX	SAX	OPX	OPX	LRC	OPX	FGX	FGX
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	7	9	8 1/2	8 1/2	9	9	8 1/2
C	SLOPPY	FAST	SLOPPY	SLOPPY	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	04/13/19	03/16/19	02/02/19	04/13/19	03/16/19	12/08/18	04/13/19	03/23/19	02/16/19

	MAGNUM MOON ('18) (4/5)			QUIP (4L) (6/1)			SOLOMINI (4.25L) (5/2)		
F	W77.2	W78.3	W77.3	75.3	W73.9	72.3	74.4	76.5	W74.8-D
4F	66.3	74.6	69.4	65.7	61.7	72.0	63.9	73.9	71.4
4F-F	-11	-4	-8	-10	-12	0	-10	-3	-3
P	SOFT		REV						REV
T	OPX	OPX	TAM	OPX	TAM	CDX	OPX	OPX	LRC
S	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT	DIRT
L	9	8 1/2	8'	9	8 1/2	8 1/2	9	8 1/2	8 1/2
C	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST
D	04/14/18	03/17/18	02/15/18	04/14/18	03/10/18	11/25/17	04/14/18	03/17/18	12/09/17