



Triple Crown on the Line for Big Brown in Belmont Stakes

Since Affirmed in 1978 ten horses have won the first two legs of the Triple Crown only to fail in the Belmont Stakes. Will Big Brown stumble at the final hurdle or emerge triumphant?

RaceHorseOwner.com provides the necessary pre-race analysis but the betting suggests a win is a foregone conclusion.

Las Vegas, NV, May 24, 2008 --(PR.com)-- Big Brown has arrived in New York aiming to make history in the Belmont Stakes by becoming only the twelfth horse to win the American Triple Crown of horse racing. RaceHorseOwner.com identifies the main threat to his chances.

It has been thirty years since Affirmed won the fabled USA [Triple Crown](#) of horse racing (the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes) and became the 11th horse to achieve that feat, but when they line up for the 2008 Belmont Stakes few horses will have been in a better position in those three decades to join the list than Big Brown.

There have been many good horses who have won the first two legs only to falter at Belmont. The list of horses is a formidable one:

2004 - Smarty Jones, finished 2nd
2003 - Funny Cide finished 3rd
2002 - War Emblem finished 8th
1999 - Charismatic finished 3rd
1998 - Real Quiet finished 2nd (also ridden by Kent Desormeaux)
1997 - Silver Charm finished 2nd
1989 - Sunday Silence finished 2nd
1987 - Alysheba finished 4th
1981 - Pleasant Colony finished 3rd
1979 - Spectacular Bid finished 3rd

The truth is that most of those horses could not hold a candle to Big Brown, while the ones who were in his class were opposed by horses of equal quality on the crucial day. One thinks of the titanic clash between Sunday Silence and Easy Goer, or the desperately close defeats sustained by Silver Charm and Real Quiet in consecutive years. But there is plenty of evidence to suggest that this year's three-year-old crop is average at best, with the obvious exception of Big Brown, and that he will have no Easy Goer to deal with at Belmont. Or will he?

According to the editors at RaceHorseOwner.com the biggest challenge to the imperious Boundary colt who is trained by the man who does not know the meaning of the word hubris, Rick Dutrow Jr., could well be the new challenger from Japan, Casino Drive. This horse is related to Jazil (2006 Belmont Stakes winner) and Rags To Riches (2007 Belmont Stakes winner), and he seems genetically engineered to play the role of spoiler. He also has excellent form leading up to this race. Dutrow's response to the challenge was typically arrogant when he said he would make his way to the winner's circle at the quarter pole and



that Casino Drive had no chance of staying with his horse. He's probably right, but he's not making many new friends with his attitude.

Horse racing needs a feel-good story, and a Triple Crown winner would be a great boost for a flagging industry. In addition it would set up the most-anticipated match race in living memory in the USA as both Curlin and Big Brown would then be pointed for the [Breeders' Cup Classic](#). Dutrow has already suggested that Curlin will be no match for his colt. Time will tell.

RaceHorseOwner.com has provided award-winning coverage of the entire 2008 Triple Crown odyssey, and they will also offer a free pick for the Belmont that will be a Trifecta wager for the big race. We're guessing that Big Brown may well be the key horse as the latest Belmont Stakes betting makes him a 2/7 odds-on shot to win.

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