Jim Mazur's 2025 Oaks Day Epilog

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As is my custom, I always recap the Oaks and the Derby day cards. Earlier in the week, rain was predicted for the Oaks card but the system slowed and didn't hit the area until very late in the card and thus didn't affect any of the races. Let's see how things turned out.

Selections For Race 1

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
Most Likely to Win	3	Shred the Gnar (5-2)	Only has to replicate last out win to beat these. Moves up on off track.
Value Plays	5	Sierra November (8-1)	Improving with each race. Moves up on off track.
Bombers	6	Talent Show (30-1)	Tries dirt after three starts on TP syn.
Heads Up	1 4	Anonima (3-1) Chasten (2-1)	Both of these fillies are taking a major class drop and get Lasix but they hold no speed fig advantage.

SHRED THE GNAR was an easy wire winner at 3-5.

Selections For Race 2

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
Most Likely to Win	4	Defiant Lass (4-1)	On Oaks and Derby days stick with locals on the undercard. This one is set up to graduate and should move up on an off track to boot.
Value Plays	3	Saucier (6-1)	Blinkers on for stretchout to route for top connections. Shows only average pedigree for off tracks.
	5	Endorse (8-1)	Tough to win around 2 turns with FTS but this one is bred to run long AND to excel on an off track.
Bombers	1	Joyous Song (12-1)	Bred to win. first time out but only avg off track pedigree. Bug jockey won for Mott previously at 32-1.

Two in a row for my MOST LIKELY as DEFIANT LASS scored at 9-2.

Selections For Race 3 If Run on FIRM TURF

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
Most Likely to Win	11	**Vivaldi (5-1)**	**Ran 2nd off a 16-month layoff. Plenty of time to recover. Top turf trainer. Colt is NOT bred for OFF TURF.**
Value Plays	6	**World Beater (6-1)**	**His Beyers jumped when Riley moved him to the turf, the surface he is bred for.**
	10	**Some Performance (9-2)**	**At 9-2 not the greatest of value for this Euro invader that gets 1st Lasix but trainer bats 50% with runners right off the plane.**
	12	**Moon Channel (6-1)**	**Tough post but colt is bred for turf and to run all day. Had trouble in his debut.**
Bombers	7	**Mighty Mike (30-1)**	**This colt is well bred for turf and showed improvement when moved to the sod. Trainer has saddled just one runner at the last three CD spring meets...and scored with that runner at 20-1. Good enuff for me!**

VALUE PLAYER WORLD BEATER topped MOST LIKELY VIVALDI for a $25 exacta.

Selections For Race 4

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
Most Likely to Win	3	**Stable Currency (7-2)**	**Woke up when put on Lasix and has won two straight at the FG. C+/B+ on OFF DIRT TRACK.**
Value Plays	1	**Bilyana (5-1)**	**Broke mdn on dirt but then ran twice on synthetic. Back on Lasix. B+/B+ on OFF DIRT TRACK.**
	2	**Wondrous (5-1)**	**Tries dirt for first time. Moves back on Lasix after dull stakes try. C+/B+ on OFF DIRT TRACK.**
Bombers	9	**Mindy's Union (8-1)**	**Ran on Lasix first time last out and scored maiden victory off layoff. Trainer bats 31% at CD spring meets. C+/C+ on OFF DIRT TRACK.**

My 3-race win streak ended as my MOST LIKELY could manage just 3rd at 6-5.

Edgewood (Opening Leg of Pick 5 that begins in Race 5)

Selections For The Edgewood	
Most Likely to Win	**Nitrogen (8-5)**
Value Plays	**Vixen (3-1)** **Lush Lips (7-2)** **Will Then (9-2)**
Bombers	**Admit (20-1)**

"A" TEAM
#	Horse
5	Nitrogen (8-5)
8	Will Then (9-2)

"B" TEAM
#	Horse
2	Vixen (3-1)
7	Lush Lips (7-2)

"C" TEAM
#	Horse
	#1 #3 #4 #6

Trainer Mark Casse played a strong hand as his NITROGEN ran on top of the two VALUE PLAYERS, LUSH LIPS and the other Casse, VIXEN. Chalkfest.

The Alysheba   (1st leg of Oaks P6)

Selections For The Alysheba	
Most Likely to Win	**Locked (2-1)**
Value Plays	**Hall of Fame (4-1)** **Most Wanted (7-2)**
Bombers	**NONE**

"A" TEAM
#	Horse
2	Locked (2-1)
4	Fierceness (6-5)

"B" TEAM
#	Horse
3	Hall of Fame (4-1)
5	Most Wanted (7-2)

"C" TEAM
#	Horse
	#1 #6

This time is was Todd Pletcher with the strong uncoupled entry of FIERCENESS and LOCKED. FIERCENESS was impressive in his seasonal debut and scored at odds-on. VALUE PLAYER MOST WANTED ran 2nd.

La Troienne   (1st leg of Oaks-Derby Pick 6); (1st leg of Oaks Pick 5);

Selections For The La Troienne	
Most Likely to Win	**Thorpedo Anna (2-5)**
Value Plays	**Randomized (6-1)** **Raging Sea (9-2)**
Bombers	**Literate (30-1)**

"A" TEAM	
#	**Horse**
2	**Thorpedo Anna (2-5)**

"B" TEAM	
#	**Horse**
3	**Literate (30-1)**
4	**Raging Sea (9-2)**
5	**Randomized (6-1)**

"C" TEAM	
#	**Horse**
	#1 #6 #7

THORPEDO ANNA was vulnerable as she had just put in a top effort just 3 weeks back. Both RANDOMIZED and RAGING SEA were making their respective seasonal debuts for trainer Chad Brown. I expected the former to take it to ANNA allowing RAGING SEA to post the mild upset. Brown used this tactic to defeat Idiomatic last summer at Saratoga. So I used all three in the opening leg of the OAKS/DERBY P6. ANNA chased RANDOMIZED and then spit out heading for home. Longshot TAXED rallied to split the two Chads.

The Modesty   (1st leg of the Oaks P4)

Selections For The Modesty	
Most Likely to Win	**Saffron Moon (3-1)**
Value Plays	**Gimme a Nother (7-2)**
Bombers	**Pin Up Betty (12-1) SCR**

"A" TEAM	
#	**Horse**
2	**Gimme a Nother (7-2)**
7	**She Feels Pretty (6-5)**
8	**Saffron Moon (3-1)**

"B" TEAM	
#	**Horse**
3	**Segesta (9-2)**
4	**Pin Up Betty (12-1) SCR**

"C" TEAM	
#	**Horse**
	#1 #5 #6

I thought both SAFFRON MOON and GIMME A NOTHER had a conditioning edge on heavy fave SHE FEELS PRETTY. But trainer Cherie DeVeux had her ready and she won by daylight at 3-5 over the other two. Again, a chalky result.

Eight Belles (1st leg of the Oaks Pick 3)

Selections For The 8Belles	
Most Likely to Win	**Verity (3-1)**
Value Plays	**Bourbon Memory (8-1)**
Bombers	**Evanescence (20-1)** **Kimchi Cat (15-1)** **Mendela (15-1)**

"A" TEAM fast trk	
#	Horse
5	Verity (3-1)
6	Kimchi Cat (15-1)
7	Mendela (15-1)
9	Bourbon Memory (8-1)

"B" TEAM fast trk	
#	Horse
2	Evanescence (20-1)
8	Blue Fire (12-1)
10	Impulse Buy (7-2)
12	Eclatant (5-2)

"C" TEAM				
#				
	#1	#3	#4	#11

I tabbed eight runners for my A and B TEAMS. But the winner, LOOK FORWARD, came from the C TEAM. She was turning back route to sprint after a speed fade in the Ashland. She had made that move earlier in the year winning the Santa Ynez at 7f. The issue was that her speed fig in the Santa Ynez was painfully slow. But big bucks showed on the tote knocking her down from 12-1 ML to 7-1 as they left the gate. For me, this was one of those "head scratcher" winners.

The Unbridled Sydney   (Daily Double into the Oaks)

Selections For The Unbridled Sydney	
Most Likely to Win	**Awesome Treat (15-1)**
Value Plays	**Epona's Hope (6-1)** **Bling (8-1)**
Bombers	**Crown Imperial (12-1)**

"A" TEAM firm turf	
#	Horse
4	A G Bullet (8-5)
5	Epona's Hope (6-1)
9	Queen Maxima (2-1)

"B" TEAM firm turf	
#	Horse
2	Awesome Treat (15-1)
7	Crown Imperial (12-1)

"C" TEAM	
#	Horse
	#1 #3 #6 #8

Two Socal invaders—AG BULLET and QUEEN MAXIMA— were favored. But the course was now listed as "good" and neither had much experience at 5.5f. I tried to beat them both. My MOST LIKELY hopped at the start and never ran a step. But BOMBER CROWN IMPERIAL stalked and then pounced and gamely held 2nd at 18-1 as A TEAMER QUEEN MAXIMA got past her late. AG BULLET attended the early pace and faded. Not her day.

THE KENTUCKY OAKS (2nd Leg of Oaks/Derby P6)

Selections For The Ky Oaks

Most Likely to Win	**Good Cheer (6-5)**
Value Plays	**La Cara (6-1)** **Quietside (8-1)**
Bombers	**Take Charge Milady (12-1)**

"A" TEAM *fast or off*

#	Horse
7	La Cara (6-1)
10	Take Charge Milady (12-1)
11	Good Cheer (6-5)
14	Quietside (8-1)

"B" TEAM *fast or off*

#	Horse
2	Simply Joking (10-1)
8	Five G (12-1)
9	Tenma (12-1)
13	Bless the Broken (30-1)

"C" TEAM

#	Horse
	#1 #3 #4
	#5 #6 #12

Last year at this time, my table was set with Pick 5 will pays ranging from $92k to $1 million. But this year, the Oaks Pick 5 looked chalky so I passed on the wager. And I was correct. It was chalky. Plus the rain had finally hit and the track was listed as wet fast. I thought LA CARA would zoom to the lead and wire the field on the off track. So I keyed her.

As is my custom, I always print *Twilight Zone* exacta and trifectas for these big races. This angle is based on the concept that history repeats itself. So I religiously analyze the relevant preps. It costs me some bankroll $$$ but I'm way ahead over time.

LA CARA did go the lead but was pressed by Bob Baffert's TENMA. They went way too fast and each was cooked by the time they hit the stretch. Heavy favorite GOOD CHEER swept past the leaders and won by daylight over two longshot closers— DREXEL HILL and BLESS THE BROKEN.

Earlier in the campaign GOOD CHEER had won the Rachel Alexandra and BLESS THE BROKEN had run 3rd. So I played that one back with ALL in the middle and caught a nice $360 trifecta multiple times. Love that *Twilight Zone* angle.

Selections For Race 12

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
Most Likely to Win	7	**Resilience (7-2)**	**'24 Wood Memorial winner comes off bench for '25 debut for trainer who can get them ready off the bench. Not a single so best to spread in this race.**
Value Plays	10	**Not This Boy (4-1)**	**Was in fine form before heading to the sidelines last August. Another trainer who can have them ready off the long layoff. Moves up on OFF TRACK.**
	5	**Moonlight (6-1)**	**Comes off new top but has plenty of recovery time and a bullet in the holster. Would prefer a fast trk.**
Bombers	4	**Yellow Brick (20-1)**	**Use only if the track is OFF. Ran huge in slop at CD last fall. Fast track is just 14-1-4-3. Pieces.**
	12	**Lure Him In (8-1)**	**Distance specialist ships in from Gulfstream just for this. Use only if the track is FAST.**

Now it was pouring rain. Per my comments that should have compromised MOON-LIGHT'S chances. It didn't. He won at 9-2 with NOT THIS BOY running 2nd

Selections For Race 13

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
Most Likely to Win	10	**Chaching Chaching (7-2)**	**Sharp effort last out versus the boys. Now she is back against the girls. That's a key angle for me.**
Value Plays	12	**Cue the Duckboats (8-1)**	**Was game in debut at Tampa. Bullets in the holster for CD Win Early trainer.**
Bombers	8	**Tetiaroa (8-1)**	**Working lights out for debut and sire is rated A+ with FTS. Maybe compromised by an OFF TRACK.**
	9	**Speighter Woman (10-1)**	**Ran as fast as these last year. Working bullets for the return. Only negative is that trainer doesn't win for a high % during the WIN EARLY period at CD (first 12 racing days). Lovell is 2/29 during that time frame.**

Some BOMBER. TEITAROA won the race despite just average OFF TRACK SIRE RATING grades. But she paid just $7. SPEIGHTER WOMAN ran 3rd at 16-1.