

CHOCOLATE CANDY

So, what's not to like? For a colt who has won four of his last six starts, including three stakes, and has been in the money in his last seven races, including a pair of grade I events, Chocolate Candy still doesn't seem to be getting much respect.

His second-place finish in the Santa Anita Derby (gr. I), in which he rallied from six wide at the head of the stretch, is the stuff of Kentucky Derby (gr. I) winners.

With his running style, pedigree, and consistency, while competing against the likes of I Want Revenge and Pioneerof the Nile, there is no reason why Chocolate Candy shouldn't be taken seriously on the first Saturday in May.

In the Santa Anita Derby he was coming off a seven-week layoff, was hampered by a slow pace and having to lose a good deal of ground at the top of the stretch, and still finished a strong second to Pioneerof the Nile, beaten only one length. With this race under his belt, the son of Candy Ride should be ready for a peak performance at Churchill Downs.

Of course, there is always the question of dirt, which is the one unknown factor for the California-based horses that have remained there all year. Chocolate Candy does have two good efforts on the Cushion Track at Hollywood Park, which is said to be closer to dirt than the Pro-Ride and Polytrack surfaces.

From a speed standpoint, Chocolate Candy's Beyer Speed Figures are nothing to get excited about, but neither were those of I Want Revenge before he went East and freaked on dirt. And most everyone agrees Beyer numbers are lower in general in California. Chocolate Candy, however, is on a good Thoro-Graph pattern, coming off two solid efforts. So, if you're looking for a potential Derby overlay, this could be like taking candy from a baby. 🍬

One doesn't have to peel back the wrapper very far to find plenty of stamina and classic flavorings in the pedigree of Chocolate Candy.

Chocolate Candy's damside is chock full of American classic influences, with liberal doses of stamina thrown into the mix thanks to the last two Triple Crown winners from the Golden Age of racing in the 1970s. Chocolate Candy's dam, Crownette, won the 8½-furlong Santa Ysabel Stakes in 1992 for Sid Craig and trainer Ron McAnally, and is a daughter of 1977 Triple Crown winner and North American stamina influence Seattle Slew. Slew sired not only a Kentucky Derby (gr. I) winner in Swale, but also classic winner, Horse of the Year, and leading sire A.P. Indy, the pro-tem leader of two-turn sire power today.

Crownette's dam, In Memory, is a half-sister to Triple Crown winner (and two-time Horse of the Year) Affirmed by Alydar, who finished second to Affirmed in all three legs in 1978. A kicker here is Alydar is a son of Raise a Native,

who is also the sire of Affirmed's sire, Exclusive Native.

Unplaced in three starts, In Memory is also a half-sister to two stakes winners: Love You Dear and Won't She Tell. Won't She Tell is the second dam of 2006 Prix de Diane-Hermes (French Oaks, Fr-I) winner Confidential Lady.

The Santa Anita Derby (gr. I) runner-up is from the first crop of Candy Ride. Three of the last eight Derby winners have been by first-crop sires (Monarchos, Funny Cide, Street Sense). Candy Ride, a champion miler in his native Argentina, won the 10-furlong Pacific Classic (gr. I) in the Northern Hemisphere.

Candy Ride's grandsire, Cryptoclearance, was no match for Alysheba and Bet Twice in the 1987 classics, but did win three graded stakes at 1¼ miles as an older horse and managed to earn more than \$3.3 million back when it was worth \$3.3 million. 🍬

CHOCOLATE CANDY

Bay colt, foaled Feb. 6, 2006
Bred in Kentucky by Sid & Jenny Craig

Candy Ride	Ride the Rails
	Candy Girl
Crownette	Seattle Slew
	In Memory

