



2016 Derby Recap, and a controversial opinion.

Who is fastest of
them all ?

(No, that guy is not me and,
thankfully, he is not one of
my brothers-in-law.)

First, a victory lap.

That's 2 winners
in the last 3 years,
but they were
favorites. Still,
when you can get
a 200% + profit
on obvious
winners – Nyquist
and, in 2014,
California
Chrome - why
look elsewhere?



Wouldn't it be great to get a 200% return on your pension plan in about 2 minutes?

I do not suggest this mode of investment for our ERISA pension clients.

Now let's get to business. Who is the best colt in 2016?

It's clearly Nyquist.



What about Exaggerator, who was rallying and almost caught him?



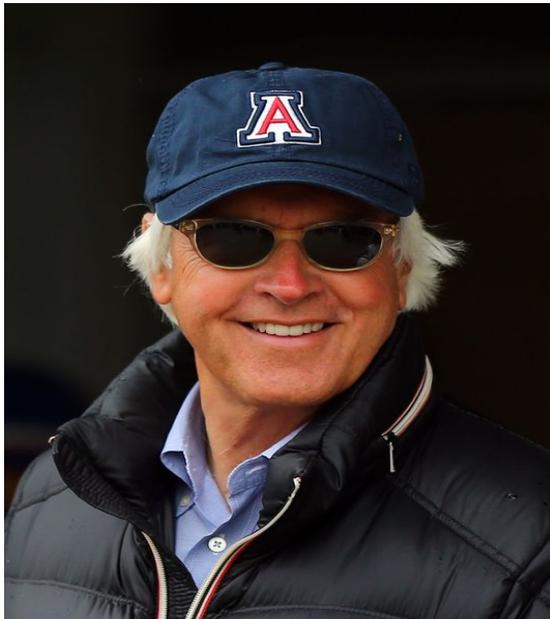
Exaggerator, my second choice, made a wonderful rally. If you bet him in the exacta, you made 14:1. He did not contest the fast pace like Nyquist, so do not be too impressed.

The Derby makes it his 4th loss to Nyquist.

Is Nyquist faster than American Pharoah, the Triple Crown winner of 2015?

Don't listen to humans when deciding who is fastest. Look at the watch.

American Pharoah's trainer



Superstar Bob Baffert

Nyquist's trainer



Plain ol' Doug O'Neill

Let's compare the times for the 1 & ¼ mile Derby.

Horse

Nyquist (2016)

American Pharoah (2015)

Final Derby time

2 minutes, 1.3 seconds

2 minutes, 3 seconds

Hmmm. A horse moves about 5 lengths in 1 second. A 1.7 second advantage means Nyquist is almost 8 lengths faster than American Pharoah in his 2015 Derby. It gets even better. A horse who runs fast early won't have as good a final time as a horse who reserves early and then rallies at the end. So, in a 1 & ¼ mile race, who was quickest at the ¾ mile mark? That fast early horse is less likely to have the best final time. Nyquist was almost 1 second faster (4 lengths) at the ¾ mile mark.

Horse

Nyquist (2016)

American Pharoah (2015)

First ¾ mile time

1 minutes, 10.4 seconds

1 minutes, 11.3 seconds



Who's the fastest horse? Compare their Derbies and Nyquist wins on both counts, 4 lengths faster after $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and 7-8 lengths faster after 1 & $\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Handicappers will point out that raw times vary, based on the track conditions that day and many other variables, even wind.



Still, this quick comparison shows that Nyquist, at least on Derby Day, was on a higher level than American Pharoah, who continued to improve after that.

It's an open question whether Nyquist will do the same or if he has reached his peak.

Just don't ask the trainers who is fastest.

Signing off until 2017.

George Chimento