# 2016 Jerome Stakes Contenders (8.3 furlongs)

**1 Silent Assassin** (3: 1-0-1) 50-1

*Jockey*: Angel Arroyo (different from last race)

*Race Record*: Last race was his maiden, one mile on turf at Aqueduct (pp. 8/11) in November, which he broke on his third try in a tie. Seems to be a frontrunner/pacesetter, being up with the action from the beginning. He previously came third in another turf race at 1 mile and 1/16th (Belmont, pp. 4/10), only half a length behind the second place finisher. Possibly important to note that his weight in his last two races was 120, and today it will be 116. Honestly, not sure why his odds are so terrible- seems like a safe bet for show.

*Pedigree*: Harlan’s Holiday x Brandolynn, by Bertrando. Harlan’s Holiday is a grandson of Storm Cat, so he has a direct sire line to him. He also has Seattle Slew a few generations back on his dam’s side. Only has Northern Dancer once on either side, otherwise no inbreeding within 5 generations.

*Conformation*:

**2 In Equality** (3: 1-0-0) 20-1

*Jockey*: Junior Alvarado (same as last race)

*Race Record*: Another one who just broke his maiden at Aqueduct, this time in a 1 mile 1/16th in mid December (pp. 5/7). In that race, he was bumped at the start but then settled just off the pace and ended up winning by a neck. Probably another decent show bet.

*Pedigree*: Quality Road x Inish Glora (CAN), by Regal Classic (CAN). Pretty good national origin diversity in pedigree, especially on dam’s side. 3x Northern Dancer, 2x Raise a Native. Quality Road has a direct sire line back to Gone West, progeny of Mr. Prospector and Secrettame, a daughter of Secretariat.

*Conformation*:

**3 Donegal Moon** (5: 1-1-1) 15-1

*Jockey*: Manuel Franco (different from last race)

*Race Record*: Most recently came 5th in the 1 mile and 1/8th Remsen Stakes at Aqueduct. He was pp. 1/9 and ran as the frontrunner initially, but the distance and competition (which included Flexibility) were just too much for him. He previously had broken his maiden, which was one mile at Keeneland in late October, and even then the notes say that he drew away late.

*Pedigree*: Malibu Moon x Perfect Cause, by Giant’s Causeway. This is a nice pedigree, with A.P. Indy Malibu Moon’s sire, and Storm Cat as Giant’s Causeway’s sire. 2x Northern Dancer on dam’s side, and Secretariat once on either side.

*Conformation*:

**4 Flexibility** (3: 1-2-0) 1-1

*Jockey*: Irad Ortiz (same as last race)

*Race Record*: Flexibility so far has been really good at coming second to Mohaymen in graded stakes races. First it was in November’s one mile Nashua Stakes at Aqueduct, and more recently in the Remsen. In the Nashua Stakes, Flexibility was pp. 8/8, and used this come 3 wide down the stretch. He definitely seems to like to stalk the pace, although stayed closer to the front in the Remsen (pp. 4). Can clearly handle distance (Remsen was 1 1/8th), and won’t have Mohaymen’s dirt to eat today. Odds indicate this.

*Pedigree*: Bluegrass Cat x Santa Vindi, by Vindication. Another good pedigree. Bluegrass Cat is of course sired by Storm Cat, and Vindication, Flexibility’s damsire, is a son of Seattle Slew.

*Conformation*:

**5 Vorticity** (3: 2-0-1) 4-1

*Jockey*: Jose Ortiz (different from last race)

*Race Record*: Most recently won the 7 furlong Marylander Stakes at Laurel Park, pp. 2/7. Stayed up by the front, gaining the lead going into the stretch, and ultimately winning by ¾ of a length. Whether he can muster up enough staying power for over an additional furlong is somewhat unclear, however he broke his maiden at Aqueduct (also 7 furlongs). I think the combination of the distance and increased weight are going to do him in here.

*Pedigree*: Distorted Humor x Tar Heel Mom, by Flatter. Damsire, Flatter, is a son of A.P. Indy. Otherwise, kind of a lot of Mr. Prospector.

*Conformation*:

\*\*Riding with 120lbs of weight- more than all of the other horses\*\*

**6 Bird of Trey** (5: 2-2-1) 10-1

*Jockey*: Kendrick Carmouche (different from last race)

*Race Record*: Another won who recently won a 7 furlong (on dirt) stakes race in a different park, also by staying close to or in the lead. Pp. 1/11. Previously came in second in a 6 furlong dirt race, so maybe likes more distance, but 1.3 furlongs is a tricky gamble, especially with more weight than the others.

*Pedigree*: Birdstone x Take Me Home Too, by Came Home. Came Home is by Gone West; Birdstone can trace his sire line back to Mr. Prospector through Unbridled and Fappiano.

*Conformation*:

\*\*Riding with 118lbs of weight- second heaviest of other contenders (otherwise at 116lbs)\*\*

**7 Condo King** (3: 1-1-1) 5-1

*Jockey*: Ruben Silvera (different from last race)

*Race Record*: Just broke his maiden at Aqueduct in a 6.5 furlong dirt race in early December, pp. 3/9. Frontrunner the whole time, won by just a neck. Previously came in 3rd at another race, at 7 furlongs. Seems like distance is an issue for him.

*Pedigree*:

*Conformation*:

**9 Let Me Go First** (3: 1-0-1) 30-1

*Jockey*: Roberto Rosado (same)

*Race Record*: Just broke his maiden at Parx in a RACE OF THE SAME LENGTH, pp. 11/12. Came toward the outside and stalked the pace, then driving clear. Good bet for place.

*Pedigree*:

*Conformation*: