

Analysis By: **Brad Free**

It was surprising that **2 THUNDER CODE** made the lead last time, dueling through a wicked pace after running so well first out rallying from behind. He ran super anyway, finishing second while more than six clear of a next-out maiden-50 winner. Assuming THUNDER CODE rations his speed more efficiently this time, he will be formidable. He has an experience advantage over his two main rivals and figures to start as a legitimate favorite. **8 THOUSAND WORDS**, a million-dollar Pioneer of the Nile yearling produced by multiple graded stakes-winning sprinter Pomeroy's Pistol, debuts for a well-stocked stable that typically sends rookies out ready to fire. Outside post, okay-looking works, contender. **1 DIVINE ARMOR** appears to have trained well into his debut, although his pedigree leans toward distances longer than a sprint. Sired by Include, his second dam is a stakes-winning sibling to G1 route winners Include Me Out and Check the Label.