

Analysis By: **Brad Free**

**2** **SMOOTH LIKE STRAIT**, the top 3yo grass horse in California, meets the top 3yo grass horses from the East and Midwest in a compelling edition of the G1 Hollywood Derby. 'STRAIT is a three-time graded winner including two on the DMR course, he has tactical speed and he can finish. From post 2, he should get a great trip tucked inside behind modest splits. **10** **DECORATED INVADER** missed as the odds-on favorite both recent starts in New York, but he ran well both times. A mile and three-sixteenths was slightly out of reach two back when he finished fifth by less than a length, he ran winning race last out when runner-up by a head while giving six pounds to the winner over a "yielding" course. He did not draw well (post 10), but is sufficiently tactical to establish position before losing too much ground. He is trained by Christophe Clement, who also starts **13** **GUFO**. The latter wants every bit of this mile and one-eighth trip, the deep closer has won 5 of 7 and will roll from the back. DOMESTIC SPENDING, 3-for-4, ships in for Chad Brown, who won this race in 2016 and 2018. TAISHAN got bogged down in traffic last out in a strange trip; he has a chance to outrun his likely high odds.