



# Handicapping Analysis

## Sat June 8th, 2024



### Stakes Spotlight

#### Saratoga Race 12

Post Time 5:41 PM CST

Analysis by Ron Uchman

**9** Sierra Leone - 9/5   **3** Mystik Dan - 5/1   **1** Seize the Grey - 8/1   **10** Mindframe - 7/2

#### THE BELMONT STAKES

Interesting race and interesting morning line. I believe the linemaker has the right favorite pegged but he made a horse with only two lifetime starts the second choice over the winner of the Kentucky Derby and the winner of the Preakness. Maybe he's right but we'll see.

I think 9-SIERRA LEONE is the best horse. That being said, we all know he has an issue lugging in. That trait probably cost him the Kentucky Derby win and it at least bothered Forever Young enough that a look by the stewards should have been warranted. His connections are replacing his bit with a cage bit which often helps runners that have a tough time maintaining a straight line. But why wasn't this done sooner? It was an ongoing issue. It might help, it might not.

3-MYSTIC DAN won the Kentucky Derby and ran well enough to finish second in the Preakness, unable to catch the lone front runner. It would be foolish to think that he wasn't capable of winning this race.

You have to figure that 1-SEIZE THE DAY will be sent again. It worked so well in the Preakness, even though it hadn't been his typical M O. But the secret is out and I doubt someone won't test him early.

That leaves 10-MINDFRAME. He'll be the "now" horse after two dominating wins. But you have to remember that he hasn't faced much, certainly not as much as the rest of the highly seasoned runners in this race. Many maintain that this was the weakest 3yo crop in a long time. Is he that good? Maybe. But I think he'll be overbet.