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A filly might test the boys at Belmont

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Now that Street Sense has been denied a shot at a Triple Crown, the most intriguing angle of the June 9 Belmont Stakes could be a battle of the sexes.

The early list of possible starters includes 10 colts and one filly, Rags to Riches, who confirmed her status as the nation's top distaff runner with an overpowering win in the May 4 Kentucky Oaks.

Trainer Carl Nafzger told Pimlico officials that Street Sense, who won the Kentucky Derby but lost a head-bob to Curlin in the Preakness Stakes, is unlikely for the Belmont.

Pimlico lists Curlin as possible for the Belmont and Hard Spun, second in the Derby and third in the Preakness, as probable.

At 1-mile Arc de Triomphe, for five consecutive years from 1979-83.

The other possible Belmont starters include four horses from the Kentucky Derby and four that would be new to the Triple Crown trail.

Imawildandcrazguy and Tiago, fourth and seventh in the Derby, are pointing for the Belmont, while Nobiz Like Shobiz and Great Hunter, 10th and 13th in the Derby, are possible starters.

Also possible for the Belmont are Chelokee, who won Saturday's Barbaro Stakes on the Preakness program; Sightseeing, who took Sunday's Peter Pan Stakes by a nose at Belmont Park; Slew's Tizzy, who won the Lone Star Derby; and Cristobal, who has raced in France.

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News of the day

Thatsalottabull made a good first impression on his newest owner when he won Saturday's first race at Prairie Meadows.

It was the first time that David Van Arkel, an accountant from Indianola, had seen the horse in person since buying into the Dare to Dream partnership that owns him. It's also the first horse that Van Arkel has co-owned.

"I had to say it was more than I expected, although I expected a lot," Van Arkel said. "It was really cool. You puff your chest out when you see all your friends waving at you in the winner's circle. It was a lot of fun. It probably meant more winning here than winning at Arlington, because my friends are here."

He bought into Thatsalottabull, who is based at Arlington Park, because he liked his breeding — he was sired by Holy Bull and out of a mare by the champion sprinter Housebuster.

"I've always had this dream of owning a horse," Van Arkel said. "I liked Holy Bull, I liked Housebuster. I loved both those horses, so I said, 'I'll do it.' "



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Curlin, left, ridden by Robby Albarado, begins to make his move on the fourth turn at the Preakness Stakes. Curlin is listed as possible for the Belmont.

This week at Prairie Meadows

Prairie Meadows will offer a 5 p.m. Sunday program as part of five consecutive days of racing because of Memorial Day weekend. There will be two stakes races for Iowa-bred 3-year-olds. The Bob Bryant stakes for fillies will be Saturday and the Gray's Lake for colts and geldings will be Monday.

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