MORNING LINE ODDS

Mike Battaglia has been Churchill Downs' morning line odds maker for 52 years since 1974. He also served as the track's announcer from 1977-97 and simulcast host from 1997-2007.

Battaglia, who resides in Northern Kentucky, is a former horse racing analyst for NBC and retired as the track announcer for Turfway Park in early 2016 and simulcast host for Keeneland Race Course in 2016. He also served as a Vice President for Turfway Park.

Morning line odds, which are odds given to horses in a race prior to the start of betting as a prediction how the linemaker thinks the public will bet, will be revealed at the Kentucky Derby Post Position Draw.

Battaglia has correctly predicted the Derby favorite 76.5% of the time: 39-for-51.

Morning Line Odds were first published in the official Kentucky Derby Day program in 1949. Records prior to 1949 are incomplete.

Battaglia's Morning Line Favorites (Since 1974)

		ML	Final
ML Favorite	Year	Odds	Odds
Journalism	2025	3-1	3.42-1*
Fierceness	2024	5-2	3.21-1*
Forte	2023	3-1	SCR
Zandon	2022	3-1	6.10
Essential Quality	2021	2-1	2.90-1*
Tiz the Law Omaha Beach	2020 2019	3-5 4-1	0.70-1* SCR
Game Winner (revised)	2019	9-2	6.80-1
Justify	2018	3-1	2.90-1*
Classic Empire	2017	4-1	6.80-1
Nyquist	2016	3-1	2.30-1*
American Pharoah	2015	5-2	2.90-1*
California Chrome	2014	5-2	2.50-1*
Orb	2013	7-2	5.40-1*
Bodemeister	2012	4-1	4.20-1*
Dialed In	2011	4-1	5.20-1*
Lookin At Lucky	2010	3-1	6.30-1*
I Want Revenge	2009	3-1	SCR
Big Brown	2008	3-1	2.40-1*
Curlin	2007	7-2	5.00-1
Brother Derek	2006	3-1	7.70-1
Bellamy Road	2005	5-2	2.60-1*
The Cliff's Edge	2004	4-1	8.20-1
Empire Maker	2003	6-5	2.50-1*
Harlan's Holiday	2002	9-2	6.00-1*
Point Given	2001	9-5	1.80-1*
Fusaichi Pegasus	2000	9-5	2.30-1*
Fusaichi Pegasus General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f	2000 1999	9-5 3-1	2.30-1 * 4.80-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie	1999 1998	3-1 2-1	4.80-1* 2.70-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit	1999 1998 1997	3-1 2-1 2-1	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song	1999 1998 1997 1996	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country /	1999 1998 1997	3-1 2-1 2-1	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2	2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5	2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2	2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer /	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2	2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 3.40-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone Snow Chief Chief's Crown	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989 1988 1987 1986	3-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 6-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 2.20-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone Snow Chief Chief's Crown Althea-f / Life's Magic-f	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1991 1990 1989 1988 1987 1986 1985	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5 5-2 6-5 9-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 2.20-1* 2.10-1 2.20-1* 2.10-1 2.80-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone Snow Chief Chief's Crown Althea-f / Life's Magic-f Marfa / Balboa Native /	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1991 1990 1989 1988 1987 1986 1985	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5 5-2 6-5 9-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 1.20-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone Snow Chief Chief's Crown Althea-f / Life's Magic-f Marfa / Balboa Native / Total Departure	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989 1988 1987 1986 1985 1984	3-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5 5-2 6-5 9-5 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 2.20-1* 2.20-1* 2.40-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone Snow Chief Chief's Crown Althea-f / Life's Magic-f Marfa / Balboa Native / Total Departure El Baba	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989 1988 1987 1986 1985 1984	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5 5-2 6-5 9-5 5-2 5-2	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 2.20-1* 2.10-1* 2.20-1* 2.40-1* 3.30-1
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone Snow Chief Chief's Crown Althea-f / Life's Magic-f Marfa / Balboa Native / Total Departure El Baba Proud Appeal / Golden Derby	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989 1988 1987 1986 1985 1984 1983	3-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5 5-2 6-5 9-5 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 2.20-1* 2.20-1* 2.10-1* 2.20-1* 2.30-1* 2.40-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone Snow Chief Chief's Crown Althea-f / Life's Magic-f Marfa / Balboa Native / Total Departure El Baba Proud Appeal / Golden Derby Rockhill Native	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989 1988 1987 1986 1985 1984 1983	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5 5-2 6-5 9-5 5-2 5-2 5-2 8-5 8-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 2.20-1* 2.20-1* 2.10-1* 2.20-1* 2.30-1* 2.40-1* 2.40-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone Snow Chief Chief's Crown Althea-f / Life's Magic-f Marfa / Balboa Native / Total Departure El Baba Proud Appeal / Golden Derby Rockhill Native	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989 1988 1987 1986 1985 1984 1983 1982 1981	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5 5-2 6-5 9-5 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-3 5-2 5-3 5-3 5-3 5-3 5-3	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 2.20-1* 2.20-1* 2.10-1* 1.20-1* 2.80-1* 2.40-1* 3.30-1 2.30-1* 2.10-1*
General Challenge / Excellent Meeting-f Indian Charlie Pulpit Unbridled's Song Timber Country / Serena's Song-f Holy Bull Prairie Bayou Arazi Fly So Free Summer Squall Easy Goer / Awe Inspiring Private Terms Demons Begone Snow Chief Chief's Crown Althea-f / Life's Magic-f Marfa / Balboa Native / Total Departure El Baba Proud Appeal / Golden Derby Rockhill Native	1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990 1989 1988 1987 1986 1985 1984 1983	3-1 2-1 2-1 8-5 5-2 8-5 5-2 6-5 5-2 7-5 3-5 5-2 6-5 9-5 5-2 5-2 5-2 8-5 8-5	4.80-1* 2.70-1* 5.70-1 3.50-1* 3.40-1* 2.20-1* 4.40-1* 0.90-1* 3.30-1 2.10-1 0.80-1* 2.20-1* 2.20-1* 2.10-1* 2.20-1* 2.30-1* 2.40-1* 2.40-1*

Battaglia's Morning Line Favorites (Since 1974)

ML Favorite	Year	ML Odds	Final Odds
Honest Pleasure	1976	3-5	0.40-1*
Foolish Pleasure	1975	9-5	1.90-1*
Cannonade / Judger	1974	8-5	1.50-1*

Morning Line Favorites (1949-73)

ML Favorite	Year	ML Odds	Final Odds
Secretariat / Angle Light	1973	1-1	1.50-1*
Riva Ridge	1972	9-5	1.50-1*
Eastern Fleet /	1971	5-2	3.80-1
Bold and Able	19/1	3-2	3.00-1
Terlago	1970	7-2	7.40-1
Majestic Prince	1969	7-5	1.40-1*
Forward Pass	1968	8-5	2.20-1*
Damascus	1967	2-1	1.70-1*
Abe's Hope	1966	5-2	3.20-1
Bold Lad	1965	8-5	2.00-1*
Hill Rise	1964	6-5	1.40-1*
Candy Spots	1963	6-5	1.50-1*
Ridan	1962	2-1	1.10-1*
Carry Back	1961	5-2	2.50-1*
Tompion	1960	7-5	1.10-1*
First Landing	1959	3-1	3.60-1*
Tim Tam	1958	8-5	2.10-1
Bold Ruler	1957	8-5	1.20-1*
Needles	1956	2-1	1.60-1*
Nashua	1955	4-5	1.30-1*
Correlation	1954	5-2	3.00-1*
Native Dancer /	1953	3-5	0.70-1*
Social Outcast			
Hill Gail /	1952	6-5	1.10-1*
Top Blend			
Mameluke /	1951	3-1	5.90-1
Counterpoint			
+Your Host	1950	5-2	1.60-1*
+Hill Prince	1950	5-2	2.50-1
Olympia	1949	6-5	0.80-1*

^{*} Favorite

⁺ Your Host and Hill Prince – not a coupled wagering interest – were made co-morning line favorites at 5-2 in 1950.