

## Worth a Second and Third Look

DEVIOUS COURSE is a horse with some ability and some obvious physical problems. He has many gaps in his career. Even though he's still running at 5yrs old (and running a new top!) you'd have to be a little cautious when it comes to projecting his next race.

DEVIOUS COURSE was entered in the Cigar Mile at Aqueduct. He was in against a full field of good horses – many with much more positive, consistent lines. It looked like many of them could run a 7 or better.

At first glance, the recent 5 at a mile at Belmont jumps off the page. Secondly, the horse was 20-1 morning line. Thirdly, the horse drew near the inside and was getting a few pounds from many of the contenders.

Even though the horse isn't the model of consistency, he has managed to steadily improve throughout his career. You may look at that 5 as the end of the line for the horse, but look way back as a 2yr old. He ran a 10+ at a mile at Aqueduct. He ran a 10- at the same distance at the same track early in his 3yr old campaign. Even after that recent 5 he took a reasonable bounce to a 9+ - a quarter point move from a recent 9". Now, he's back at his obvious best distance at a track he has proven substantial ability.

As a strong favorite, even with that 5, I may have talked myself into betting against this horse because of his iffy physical soundness. I wouldn't have looked way back to his 2yr old campaign. I would have said the 5 killed the horse. However, at 20-1 morning line, you have to look closely at the entire history of the horse.

DEVIOUS COURSE won convincingly and paid \$21.20.

