

**GLOBEFORM RANKING
STRUB STAKES (G2) 4yo**

R8 SATURDAY

Santa Anita 4 February 2012 – 9 furlongs dirt

Top ranked on 100, others ranked down in pounds. Horses listed with best Globeform, GF last 3 starts, rider, \$% (top three) Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds, one length equals about 2lb over this distance.

100	TAPIZAR	GF 115p~	C Nakatani	113p	105p	115p	55%
99	ULTIMATE EAGLE	GF 116 turf	M Pedroza	110p	116t	112b	87%
97	PRAYER FOR RELIEF	GF 114	R Bejarano	108	0	112	81%
95	BALLADRY	GF 107~	J Talamo	?	?	107	41%
93	JAYCITO	GF 103p* /	M Garcia	91 //	103p /	? /	66%
89	CLUBHOUSE RIDE	GF 101~ /	V Espinoza	99	101	101	72%
89	BEER MEISTER	GF 100	G Corbett	93	86	97	71%
88	INDIAN WINTER	GF 100	J Rosario	100	?	97	62%

**) Jaycito: Globeform 111 in Oct 2010, GF 103p in March 2011*

*Horses rated with a "p" (improvement expected) are moved up by 2lb on the ranking.
Horses rated with a large "P" (significant improvement expected) are moved up by 5lb on the ranking.
Rating with "~" attached denotes best rating or rating with 1 length of best rating achieved last start.*

TOP THREE

TAPIZAR: Globeform 115p when leading from gate to wire to win the 8.5-furlong San Fernando Stakes (G2) at Santa Anita in January; raced with great zest throughout and pulled way for an easy 3 1/2-length win over **Balladry**, who beat **Prayer for Relief** by just a nose for second. Both Balladry, who finished gamely from off the pace, and Prayer for Relief (raced in third / second / third) are 5lb better off at the weights here. That is certainly a factor to consider but the added distance may make a greater impact. Will Tapizar be as effective over 9 furlongs? That is just half a furlongs further and he did not seem to be stopping at the finish in the San Fernando.
He is a bit keen early on in his races though, and he had the advantage of racing alone on the lead last time. If his rivals let him do that again, well then he will be hard to beat. With Ultimate Eagle in the mix, and also with Prayer for Relief likely to be ridden more aggressively, this could develop into a stamina test for Tapizar. His three wins prior to the San Fernando were gained over 8.5 furlongs (maiden event at two and last year's Sham, G3) and 7 furlongs (strong allowance heat at Belmont last fall). His dam, Winning Call, is a daughter of Deputy Minister and there is some stamina in her family.



Tapizar © Benoit & Associates

ULTIMATE EAGLE: Globeform 116 in the 2011 Hollywood Derby (G1), a prestigious turf event over 10 furlongs last November; was sent straight to the lead and made all for a game 3/4-length win from Imagining (the only one to chase him early), with European shippers Western Aristocrat and Slumber in third and fourth. Ultimate Eagle had been ridden the same way to win the 9-furlong Oak Tree Derby (G2) at Santa Anita on his previous start, but he was held up just off the pace in the Sir Beaufort Stakes (G2) over a mile back at the same venue in December; tactics that probably did not suit, and he finished third to Mr Commons, beaten 4 lengths while spotting the winner five pounds. Ultimate Eagle is very game and consistent (87% in the top three), he will stay the Strub trip well, but this is his first attempt on dirt (all four wins have been on turf).

It far from easy for front-running turf horses to succeed in a switch to dirt, simply because getting the lead is so much harder on the main track, where there is normally more early speed. This race will be fascinating to watch, as Tapizar, Ultimate Eagle and Prayer for Relief are all suited by racing prominently. >>>

Strub Stakes continued >>>

PRAYER FOR RELIEF: Globeform 114 when winning the Super Derby (G2) over 9 furlongs at Louisiana Downs in September 2011; went straight to the lead, controlled a moderate pace and ran on to beat Awesome Bet (minor stakes winner) by 2 ½ lengths. Prayer for Relief had won the West Virginia Derby (G2) on his preceding start, also over 9 furlongs, when racing in the first three throughout. After winning the Super Derby, he took third behind Redeemed and Alternation in the Oklahoma Derby at Remington Park (Awesome Bet now ninth) – but he ran a dull race when last of 13 behind Wise Dan in the Clark Handicap (G2) at Churchill Downs in November, his final start at three. The son of Jump Start made a pleasing return when third, 3 ½ lengths behind **Tapizar**, in the San Fernando (G2) over 8.5 furlongs at Santa Anita in January.

plus two...

BALLADRY: Improved to Globeform 107 when working his way gradually up from last to second in the San Fernando Stakes (G2) over 8.5 furlongs at Santa Anita in January, 3 ½ lengths behind **Tapizar** and a nose better than **Prayer for Relief**. Balladry, once tried over 11 furlongs on turf at three, would benefit from a strong pace and he becomes dangerous if a speed duel develops on the front end early on in the contest.

JAYCITO: One of the best juveniles in California in 2010, when he was runner-up to J.P.'s Gusto in the 7-furlong Del Mar Futurity (G1) before beating that same rival by a length to win the Norfolk Stakes (G1) over 8.5 furlongs at Santa Anita (Cushion Track). He flopped at the Breeders' Cup, came back to run a promising second, albeit well beaten, behind Premier Pegasus in the 2011 San Felipe Stakes (G2), but was derailed once more and not seen again until August, when he ran fifth in a Del Mar allowance race. This will be his first start since.

CONCLUSION

Tapizar may seem a bit of a risky bet, but he was so strong at the end of the San Fernando and will probably stay this trip. He is a May foal and thus open to further improvement, and the two that may want to give him company early – Ultimate Eagle and Prayer of Relief – are both dubious; the first one making his dirt debut after some tough races on the lawn, while the other is a horse who earned his best Globeform rating when getting away with a soft lead in a sub-standard Grade 2 at a lesser track. They may simply not be quite quick enough and end up racing outside their comfort zone if trying to put pressure on the favorite.

**View
Tapizar's speed**



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Mr Commons - goes for the Arcadia at Santa Anita on Saturday. © Benoit & Associates

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