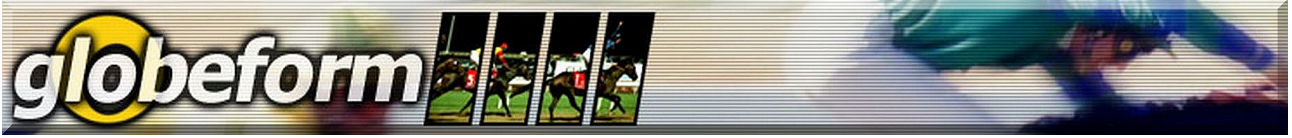


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GLOBEFORM NEWS - DUBAI WORLD CUP SPECIAL

COUNTING DOWN TO DWC DAY, 31 MAR 2018



Part of Globeform's DWC Day Special - Subscribers only

كأس دبي العالمي
DUBAI WORLD CUP

EARLY VALUE BETS: 8-1 SHOTS WORTH BACKING



Forever Unbridled winning the Breeders' Cup Distaff from Abel Tasman. Photo: Breeders' Cup



DUBAI WORLD CUP: FOREVER UNBRIDLED 8-1

FOREVER UNBRIDLED is not as good as **Dubai World Cup** favourite West Coast, but she is a clear second best on Globeform ratings, she is set to receive a useful sex weight allowance (2kg / 4.4lbs) and she represents good each-way value at 8-1 (on offer with several bookmakers, as we are two weeks out). This six-year-old mare looks the biggest threat to the World Cup favourite. She performed to Globeform 122 with her game win over Kentucky Oaks winner Abel Tasman in last year's Breeders' Cup Distaff – a race she won on stamina. A similar performance would make her very dangerous at Meydan, where she is sure to appreciate the step up to 1 ¼ miles. Forever Unbridled beat Songbird in another Grade 1 last term, and she could well be the first female runner to make a serious impact in the Dubai World Cup. A relatively lightly raced runner, she goes well fresh, and she has experience from various racecourses. Meydan should pose no problems. In fact, the long home stretch will be much to her advantage.

Dallas Stewart's star needs a strong pace to show her best – and a moderately run race would be a concern, especially over a course where so many speed horses have done well this winter. A full field seems likely, however, and it's hard to imagine this World Cup not getting an honest pace.

GODOLPHIN MILE: HEAVY METAL 8-1

HEAVY METAL is the best hope for the home team in the Godolphin Mile. He failed to deliver on Super Saturday, when he tired after being too aggressively ridden at the top of the straight – and as a result he has drifted right out to 8-1. This is a similar case as Forever Unbridled in the World Cup, as Heavy Metal is a clear second best – though up against it if the favourite runs to his best. Sharp Azteca is the favourite in the Godolphin Mile, and he will be tough to beat, but if he does not show up at his best, well then Heavy Metal is the one most likely to take advantage.

He may be eight years old now, and he may be closing in on his 60th start, but Heavy Metal has been as good as ever this winter. Interestingly, he is one of quite a few horses to have improved considerably as older horses in Dubai, after having been trained by Mark Johnston in England as a young horse. It's a pattern well worth bearing in mind. Heavy Metal was one of the top dirt milers in Dubai last season and he holds the same position this season, having won the Dubai Creek Mile in December (easily by 4 ½ lengths from Wild Dude), as a prep for the Al Maktoum Challenge Round 1 in January, where he was very popular in the betting – and controlled affairs from start to finish for another 4 1/2-length win, this time over dual Group 1 winner Thunder Snow. The two met again in the second round of the series, when the distance was upped from a mile to 9.5 furlongs. Stamina won the day, as a fitter Thunder Snow came out best, a neck in front of North America – who was 4 lengths in front of Heavy Metal. Running further than a mile did not suit Heavy Metal. He was dropped back down to his favourite trip nine days later, and bounced right back to win the Firebreak Stakes by almost ten lengths from Cosmo Charlie. Softer opposition, yes, but he showed the same enthusiasm, going to the lead and taking his rivals right out of their comfort zones well before the race was over. He is a most efficient front-runner, and – given a decent draw – he has a good chance of going much better than he did in the Godolphin Mile twelve months ago, when he tired badly in mid-stretch and finished eighth. He seems to be the sort who goes considerably better when allowed a loose lead, than when he has pace pressure.

RECOMMENDED BETS

FOREVER UNBRIDLED EACH-WAY AT 8-1

HEAVY METAL EACH-WAY AT 8-1 71-1 EW DOUBLE: 8-1 and 7-1 (www.bet365.com)