

Globeform's Kentucky Derby Weekend Previews

Churchill Downs, May 3-4, 2019



By **GEIR STABELL**

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Races covered

Kentucky Oaks – Friday

**Kentucky Derby,
Turf Classic, Humana Distaff, American Turf,
Churchill Downs St., Pat Day Mile, Distaff Turf Mile**

Plus 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket

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GLOBEFORM RANKING KENTUCKY OAKS (G1) 9 fur dirt, Churchill Downs

FRIDAY

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	Horse	Globeform	GF last 3 runs	Top3	Trainer / Jockey
				%	
0	BELLAFINA	121	121 – 118+ 118+	87	S Callaghan / F Prat
2	SERENGETI EMPRESS	119p / 114+	86 – 114+ 0	57	T Amoss / J Ortiz *
3	JAYWALK	118 / 106	118 – 97 – 106	71	John Servis / J Castellano
10p	OUT FOR A SPIN	111p	? - ?p – 111p	4-of-5	D Stewart / I Ortiz Jr
10p	POSITIVE SPIRIT	111p / 107+	111p – 0 – 107+	83	R Brisset / M Franco
11	RESTLESS RIDER	110	106 – 107 – 110	100	K McPeek / B Hernandez Jr
14	CHAMPAGNE ANYONE	107	103 – 93 – 107	85	I Wilkes / C Landeros
14	STREET BAND	107	?p – 96 – 107	62	L Jones / S Doyle
14	LIORA	107 / 104	87 – 104 – 99	71	W Catalano / C Hill
15	LADY APPLE	106	?p – 99p – 106	71	S Asmussen / R Santana Jr
16	MOTION EMOTION	105	?p – 105 – 105	66	T Van Berg / M Smith
17	CHOCOLATE KISSES	104	93 – 104 – 92	62	M Casse / J Leparoux
18	JELTRIN	103	74 – 100 – 103	66	A Delgado / L Saez
18	FLOR DE LA MAR	103	95p – 86 – 103	2-of-3	B Baffert / J Rosario
AE					
15p	DUNBAR ROAD	106p	100p – 106p	2-of-2	C Brown / J Ortiz *
19p	POINT OF HONOR	102p	?p – 100p – 102p	2-of-3	G Weaver / J Velazquez

Top 3: % in the top three from all starts, given only for horses with at least six starts to date. Others given as "2-of-2" etc.

2018: MONOMOY GIRL – GLOBEFORM 117p
Brad Cox / Florent Geroux

2017: ABEL TASMAN – GLOBEFORM 110+
Bob Baffert / Mike Smith

2016: CATHRYN SOPHIA – GLOBEFORM 118
John Servis / Javier Castellano

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS KENTUCKY OAKS

BELLAFINA (Benoit photo) is the clear favorite for the Kentucky Oaks, and it isn't exactly hard to see why the daughter of Quality Road holds this position. She has gone from strength to strength at her home track, Santa Anita, this winter / spring, winning all of her three races quite comfortably, and she has the best form in the book. She will be very popular with the horseplayers, though anyone taking very short odds about Bellafina must know that there are a couple of uncertain factors mixed in here. Bellafina ran way below her true form when fourth, beaten almost ten lengths behind **JAYWALK**, as she came to Churchill Downs for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies last fall, and she is quite a speedy lady, whose stamina will be tested like never before. That said, Bellafina is the best filly in the lineup, except for Serengeti Empress none of the others come anywhere near her level of form, and perhaps she can win the Kentucky Oaks without truly appreciating 9 furlongs over this demanding track. Her run at the Breeders' Cup might have had more to do with the fact that it was the first time she shipped out of California, than the course. Still, Santa Anita and Churchill Downs are two quite different tracks and form does not always translate from one to the other.

If Bellafina performs as well here, as she does at home, and stays the trip, well, then she will be hard to beat. She was an easy 8 1/2-length winner of the Santa Ynez Stakes when making her sophomore debut back in January, beating Mother Mother while landing odds of 2/5. That was over 7 furlongs, and she went up to a mile in her next race, the Las Virgenes just over a month later. Hammered down to 1/10, she gave her >>>

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>>> supporters a bit of a scare that day, as Enaya Alrabb got within three parts of a length of her at the wire – but Bellafina won well enough, while spotting her runner-up four pounds, and she was earned a two-month break leading up to the Santa Anita Oaks on April 6. Tackling half a furlong more than in the Las Virgenes, and going off at 1/3, she blew home by 5 1/4 lengths from **FLOR DE LA MAR** with Chasing Yesterday 3 1/2 lengths further adrift in third place. Bellafina looked high class once again but a quick glance at the 1-2-3 result does not tell the whole story. Only four ran, with the badly outclassed Slewgoodtoetrue coming home 19 lengths behind Chasing Yesterday. In effect, the Santa Anita Derby had just three contenders, and the second placed horse was a twice raced filly with just a maiden win to her name. It was hardly a competitive Grade One.

Bellafina may not have beaten all that much but the way she has won suggests that she is up to handling much better. She was high class also as a two-year-old, when she won the Sorrento Stakes, Del Mar Debutante and Chandelier Stakes. In the latter she was an impressive 6 1/2-length winner from Vibrance, who went on to take third, 6 lengths behind Jaywalk, at the Breeders' Cup. Interestingly, Bellafina produced her best rating to date in the 7-furlong Santa Ynez, where she took the lead after half a mile. She led from gate to wire in the Las Virgenes, and in the Santa Anita Oaks she kicked on when entering the home straight, after having rated just behind the pace setter Chasing Yesterday. Bellafina raced wide in the Santa Anita Oaks, and she settled well enough to suggest that she will not need to lead to be happy at Churchill Downs. In fact, a stalking position just a few lengths off the pace would be her ideal scenario. She is the one to beat, no doubt, but Bellafina is also a filly coming into a full field of 14 runners, after having raced in fields of just five, five and four in her three races this term.

SERENGETI EMPRESS is the main danger to Bellafina, and she could well prove to be this year's Oaks winner. Recommended as an early value bet at 14-1 one week out, she is likely to be much shorter in the betting at Churchill Downs, where she has run so well in the past. Her preparation for this classic has been anything but ideal but she seems to be back on the right track now, and this talented daughter of Peter Pan winner Alternation gets the nod as my selection. Serengeti Empress ran to Globeform 119p when winning the Pocahontas Stakes here at Churchill Downs last year, a mark that puts her no more than a length below Bellafina, who returned Globeform 121 in the 7-furlong Santa Ynez in January. While Bellafina has won all of her three races this term, Serengeti Empress has had one good day at the races, followed by a very bad one. She absolutely crushed her rivals when winning the Rachel Alexandra on her seasonal debut, then bled when virtually pulled up as the long odds-on favorite for the Fair Grounds Oaks.

It's risky to back a horse that has bled through Lasix, but what happened last time she ran appears to have been a one-off. Serengeti Empress has scoped clean after her training sessions since, and she put in a strong 5-furlong work on April 23. Stopping the clock in 58.2 in an energetic bullet work, she looked to be in rude health. After another perfect scope, Amoss announced that she would go for the Kentucky Oaks. She is the only threat to Bellafina, in what does look a two-horse affair.

If Serengeti Empress takes her best form to the contest, well, then Bellafina's supporters will get something to worry about. Both these fillies have excellent tactical speed. The question will be; which one has the best stamina? That could well turn out to be Serengeti Empress, whose best two runs to date both came over 8.5 furlongs, in a 19-length romp winning the Pocahontas, and in a most comfortable 4 1/2-length stroll winning the Rachel Alexandra. One big plus, comparing her to Bellafina, is that she has shown winning form over this track. Bellafina's best runs have all come around the more speed favoring Santa Anita oval and it is interesting to note that her best rating came when she covered seven panels. Of course, one can >>>

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>>> counter this by pointing at Serengeti Empress' inconsistent record, as she was well below par also at the Breeders' Cup (when she raced to freely and tired, in a race where Bellafina also flopped), but her Breeders Cup Juvenile Fillies and Fair Grounds Oaks results may be more of a product of coincidences, rather than an indication of inconsistency. Serengeti Empress is a very smart, game runner, with a big chance here.

JAYWALK was a very efficient two-year-old last year, when she produced Globeform 118 with a dominant win in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies here at Churchill Downs. The daughter of Cross Traffic was coming off a wide margin win in the Frizette Stakes over a mile at Belmont Park, and tackling another half-furlong was no problem. She went straight to the lead and the further she went, the better she looked. Her winning margin was 5 1/2 lengths, with the second placed filly, Restless Rider, half a length better than Vibrance, who was a bit of a surprise in third place. Restless Rider franked the form – to a certain extent – when beaten just a nose by Liora in the Golden Rod Stakes next time out. Jaywalk was a success story at two, but things have not gone so well this year. She is not a very big filly and she was clearly precocious. She does not seem to have developed much with age. Of course, if Jaywalk returns to her best she will be in with a winning chance here, but it does seem unlikely. Her two runs this season were both disappointing, though at least she did move forward on her second outing, when third behind Out for a Spin and Restless Rider in the Ashland Stakes at Keeneland. Beaten 2 lengths that day, she might be capable of better this Friday, and it probably won't take more than GF 110 - 112 to be a trifecta horse, but lack of positive, recent form and a question mark over her stamina must be a worry for Jaywalk's connections.

OUT FOR A SPIN, trained by Dallas Stewart – not a stranger to big price surprises in championship races – was 52-1 when taking the Ashland Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Keeneland in early April, and this filly has certainly come good at the right time. She raced in the first two throughout at Keeneland, and battled on well when being challenged by the oncoming **RESTLESS RIDER** in the closing stages. Out for a Spin held on to win by a neck, while Jaywalk was a non-threatening third. Out for a Spin had won an allowance race by over three lengths at Fair Grounds on her preceding start, when she was also prominent all the way (over a muddy track). Both she and Restless Rider posted a career best rating in the Ashland and they are obvious trifecta / superfecta candidates. Restless Rider may turn the tables though. The Ashland was her first run since her runner-up effort in the Golden Rod last November, she is proven over this track, and she appears to have more stamina than Out for a Spin.

POSITIVE SPIRIT is another to consider for tri / super players. This Pioneer of the Nile daughter has already won a valuable stakes race over the full Oaks distance, having romped home in last year's Demoiselle, and the way she performed when second to Always Shopping in the Gazelle at Aqueduct last month suggested that she's heading back into form. Positive Spirit's seasonal debut was completely wrecked when she became restless in the gates prior to the Rachel Alexandra in February, and it makes sense to see the Gazelle as her first run at three. She shaped like a horse in need of the race, and returned GF 107+. Positive Spirit earned Globeform 111p when running away with the Demoiselle at Aqueduct six months ago, making her joint third on the ranking in this year's Kentucky Oaks.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 13 SERENGETI EMPRESS **WON AT 14-1 / 13-1!**

B: 4 BELLAFINA

D: 1 OUT FOR A SPIN, 6 POSITIVE SPIRIT, 7 JAYWALK, 14 RESTLESS RIDER

BETTING PLAN

EW / Win & Show: 13 Serengeti Empress (take 14-1 bookmakers)

Trifectas: 4, 13 with 4, 13 with 1, 6, 7, 14 / 4, 13 with 1, 6, 7, 14 with 4, 13 (16 lines)

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GLOBEFORM RANKING

Race 6

HUMANA DISTAFF (G1) 7 fur dirt, Churchill Downs

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2.5 pounds over this distance

Rank	Horse	Globeform	GF last 3 runs	Top3	Trainer / Jockey
				%	
0	MARLEY'S FREEDOM	125	119 – 122+ 114	68	B Baffert / M Smith
5	AMY'S CHALLENGE	118	116p – 118 – 113	81	M Robertson / A Canchari
9	SPICED PERFECTION	119	111 – 114 – 119	87	P Miller / J Castellano
12	TALK VEUVE TO ME *	111p	111p – 103 – 95 - 110+	81	R Brisset / J Leparoux
12	MIA MISCHIEF *	113 / 106	97 – 106 – 93	84	S Asmussen / R Santana Jr
17	EMBOLDENED	106	106 – 106 – 103	5-of-5	B Baffert / J Rosario
?	SPRING IN THE MIND	?	? - ? - ?	66	A Quartarolo / I Ortiz Jr

* **Mia Mischief** would be ranked on 10, above **Talk Veuve to Me**, based on her best form last year (when she actually beat Talk Veuve to Me to win the 8 Belles Stakes here at Churchill, but Talk Veuve to Me has better 'recency' going into this race, and she has therefore been ranked marginally above Mia Mischief.

2018: AMERICAN GAL – GLOBEFORM 118

Simon Callaghan / Jose L Ortiz

2017: PAULASSILVERLINING – GLOBEFORM 118

Chad Brown / Jose L Ortiz

2016: TARIS – GLOBEFORM 121

Simon Callaghan / Flavien Prat

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

MARLEY'S FREEDOM gets the nod here, but this is a somewhat tricky race. Only seven runners but still an open affair. Marley's Freedom is coming off a below par effort at Santa Anita (when second to yesterday's La Troienne runner-up Secret Spice) but that was over a mile. This 7-furlong trip is right up her alley, she has drawn a good post, Baffert / Smith seem to be on fire, and she deserves to start favorite. Her best two races came over this distance, win in the Ballerina at Saratoga last year and the Santa Monica at Santa Anita in February. The latter came over a good track, so 'wetish' if you like, but how we would handle slop is hard to say. She's quite tough, however, and she has an ideal stalking style (four potential speed horses in the field will most likely result in a strong pace).

SPICED PERFECTION raced in the first two throughout when winning the Madison over this distance at Keeneland a month ago, when she ran to a career best GF 119 to beat **AMY'S CHALLENGE** by a neck while spotting her five pounds. The weight difference is the same here and Spiced Perfection can uphold the form – today's trip suits her well, while Amy's Challenge is better over a furlong shorter. She was at her best when capturing the Spring Fever over 5.5 furlongs at Oaklawn Park two starts back.

TALK VEUVE TO ME is interesting at decent odds. Her ranking was upgraded when Awestruck won a good allowance race from Upset Brewing yesterday. They ran third and fifth behind Talk Veuve to Me in a similar contest at Keeneland last month, when Talk Veuve to Me led from gate to wire over 6 furlongs and was going away at the finish. She won really well by 2 1/4 lengths and looks the type to step up to G1 winning form this term. The Keeneland win was her first start after a six-month layoff. Talk Veuve to Me ran her best race to date when winning the 8.5-furlong Indiana Oaks last summer (Globeform 111p) and note that her comeback win has now been upgraded to GF 110+. That she stays further than 7 furlongs is a big plus if, as expected, this contest gets a hot pace.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 7 MARLEY'S FREEDOM

B: 2 SPICED PERFECTION, 4 TALK VEUVE TO ME

C: 5 AMY'S CHALLENGE

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GLOBEFORM RANKING

Race 7

CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE (G2) 8 fur Turf, Churchill Downs

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	Horse	Globeform	GF last 3 runs	Top3 %	Trainer / Jockey
0	PROCTOR'S LEDGE	117 / 109+	106 – 103 – 109+	58	B Walsh / J Velazquez
3	VALEDICTORIAN	114	113 – 112 – 114	76	K Breen / L Saez
3	PRECIEUSE	114	104 – 114 – 107+	88	C Brown / J Castellano
3	DADDY IS A LEGEND	114	106 – 105 – 114	63	G Weaver / M Franco
5	GOT STORMY	112	? – ?+ 112	66	M Casse / T Gaffalione
6	CAPLA TEMPTRESS	111	102 – 100 – 111	54	W Mott / J Rosario
10p	ENVIRONS	107p	103p – 96 – 107p	75	C Brown / J L Ortiz
11	BEAU RECALL	108 / 105	105 – 105 – 106	47	B Cox / I Ortiz Jr
11	TAKE THESE CHAINS	106	106 – 100 – 103	57	M Hogan / M Smith
11	RAVEN'S LADY	106	106 – 106 – 99	63	J Cassidy / F Geroux

2018: PROCTOR'S LEDGE – GLOBEFORM 114
Brendan Walsh / John Velazquez

2017: ROCA ROJO – GLOBEFORM 114p
Chad Brown / Florent Geroux

2016: TEPIN – GLOBEFORM 122
Mark Casse / Julien Leparoux

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

PROCTOR'S LEDGE is top ranked based on her excellent form when she was second under a tough weight in the Just a Game Stakes at Belmont Park last summer, and she is in with a good chance of taking the Distaff Turf Mile back to back. She beat On Leave gamely by half a length to win this race twelve months ago, prior to her second behind A Raving Beauty at Belmont. Proctors Ledge ran a respectable race on her comeback in the Sand Springs at Gulfstream Park last month, but could never get to grips with the front-running winner **VALEDICTORIAN**, who beat her by a head. Normally, one would expect the runner-up to turn the result around, as she probably needed the run at Gulfstream, but take a look at the weights. Valedictorian is actually four pounds better off with Proctor's Ledge, and she is even six pounds better off with **PRECIEUSE**, who beat her by half a length when they filled the exacta in Honey Fox at Gulfstream in early March. Precieuse, who did not need to run up to her best that day, had been off since last August, so she must be expected to move forward here. She is also proven over soft ground. Still, it is hard not to like Valedictorian's chances. She has been in such fine form this season. Yes, this may be a case of one bridge too far, as she has been on the go since December, but she has a lot going for her. Not just the weights. The fact that she is the only proper front-runner in the mix also favors Kelly Breen's runner. Rain is expected and we all know how that affects these turf races, they become even more paceless. Valedictorian handled yielding turf well when winning the All Along at Laurel Park last year, so any give underfoot is probably no worry. She is good value at 6-1 (even 9-1 with bookmakers) and she is my selection.

ENVIRONS was visually impressive, and improved on her European form, when coming from off the pace to win a mile allowance race at Keeneland four weeks ago. Like Precieus, she represents Chad Brown, who has a tremendous record in this division. **GOT STORMY** is also interesting, having returned her career best rating last time out, when third to Rushing Fall in the Jenny Wiley at Keeneland, but she probably wants firm ground. **DADDY IS A LEGEND** and **CAPLA TEMPTRESS** are also in with a shot, and must be used on the trifecta tickets.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 10 VALEDICTORIAN

B: 3 PROCTOR'S LEDGE, 6 PRECIEUSE, 9 ENVIRONS

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GLOBEFORM RANKING CHURCHILL DOWNS STAKES (G1) 7 fur dirt, Churchill Downs

Race 8

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2.5 pounds over this distance

Rank	Horse	Globeform	GF last 3 runs	Top3	Trainer / Jockey
				%	
0	MITOLE	128p	125p / 119+ 128p	100	S Asmussen / RSantana Jr
5	WHITMORE	123	119+ 110+ 121	84	R Moquett / J Castellano
7	PROMISES FULFILLED	123	123 – 110 – 110	66	D Romans / L Saez
7	LIMOUSINE LIBERAL	121	119+ 97 – 115+	88	B Colebrook / J L Ortiz
10	BOBBY'S WICKED ONE	118	107 – 115 – 118	80	A Stall Jr / M Mena
10	WARRIOR'S CLUB	118	98 – 90 – 115	58	D W Lukas / J Rosario
10	UNCONTESTED	118	118 – 114 – 101+	46	J Patterson / J Velazquez
12	DO SHARE	116	100 – 105+ 116	73	M Maker / I Ortiz Jr
14	STILL HAVING FUN	114 / 110	110 – 103 – 0	53	T Keefe / T Gaffalione
14	UNO MAS MODELO	114 / 109	108 – 109 – 102	47	A Quartarolo / J Graham
17	MAJESTIC DUNHILL	111	102 – 111 – 107	61	G Weaver / M Franco
15/27	WILD SHOT *	113* // 101	101+ 0 – 0	50	G Arnold II / C Lanerie

*) Wild Shot ran to GF 113 when winning the Pat Day Mile in 2017 but has been well below that level in all of his three races since he returned from a long break last November.

All runners except Promises Fulfilled (120lbs) carry 118lbs

2018: LIMOUSINE LIBERAL – GLOBEFORM 119

Ben Colebrook / Jose L Ortiz

2017: LIMOUSINE LIBERAL – GLOBEFORM 116

Ben Colebrook / Jose L Ortiz

2016: CATALINA RED – GLOBEFORM 116

Jorge Navarro / Javier Castellano

This race was a Grade 2 up to 2019.

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

MITOLE will be making his first start in a Grade 1 and this is something we have all been waiting to see for some time. The Steve Asmussen trainee has won his last five races, and he is 6-for-9 thus far in his career. He has impressed more and more with experience and he looked particularly strong when beating **WHITMORE** easily by 2 3/4 lengths in the Count Fleet Sprint at Oaklawn Park in April. The sloppy track may have been to his advantage but Mitole has been highly efficient also over fast tracks and, if he runs to that level again here, the others may be fighting for second place. The one question mark is the distance, as all of Mitole's nine starts to date have come over 6 furlongs. Will he be as good over seven? It is a bit of a specialist distance, you need a horse with speed and some stamina thrown in. Mitole is all about speed. He led every step of the way in the Count Fleet, as he had done also in the Bachelor Stakes at Oaklawn in April 2018, the Chick Lang at Pimlico a month later, and in an allowance heat back at Oaklawn in early March. He returned GF 125p in the Chick Lang, a race he took by 6 1/2 lengths from Still Having Fun (who won the Woody Stephens at Saratoga next time out) and he improved to Globeform 128 in the Count Fleet. Due to the track conditions, and the fact that it was in effect a two-horse affair, that rating is provisional. This time he has to prove himself in what will be a really tough sprint, against experienced and battle hardened speedsters – in a race that has sufficient speed signed on to make this a test. The extra furlong is the question mark. Either way, it is hard not to like his chances and Mitole is the selection.

WHITMORE – a rock solid and game sprinter rated just a notch below the very best in the division – comes here making his third start of the year, and he appears to be coming nicely back to top form. Ron Moquett's star ran to GF 110+ when beating a lighter bunch (but not at all hopeless) bunch in the Hot Springs Stakes over 6 furlongs at Oaklawn Park in March, and he moved up to GF 119 when finishing second to **MITOLE** in the Count Fleet Sprint over the same course and distance in April. The Count Fleet was run over a sloppy track. Whitmore has two wins over wet tracks but the conditions probably suited Mitole better, as he beat Whitmore quite easily by 2 3/4 lengths. Whitmore's supporters will not have overlooked that he was giving the winner two pounds at Oaklawn while this time they meet at level weights. Nicely drawn on the outside, he could turn the tables.

Whitmore was second to Roy H in the Breeders' Cup Sprint here at Churchill Downs last fall, when he went down by 3 1/4 lengths. Roy H is a seriously good sprinter but that margin may have flattered him somewhat – Whitmore broke slowly and was playing catch up the whole way. He is a bit better than he was able to show on that occasion, and ran to Globeform 123 twice in 2018; to beat the subsequent Breeders' Cup Mile champion City of Light in the 7-furlong Forego Stakes at Saratoga, and to go down by just a head when trying to give **PROMISES FULFILLED** two pounds in the Phoenix Stakes over 6 furlongs at Keeneland. As effective over seven as he is over six furlongs, Whitmore is an experienced runner who has shown excellent over different tracks, Belmont Park, Churchill Downs, Keeneland, Oaklawn Park and Saratoga, and he is always in with a shot in these top level sprints. He was fourth in this contest twelve months ago, when the track was sloppy.

LIMOUSINE LIBERAL has won the last two editions of this sprint, and no doubt helped it to be promoted from Grade 2 to Grade 1 status this year. Now seven years of age, the son of Successful Appeal is still a force to be reckoned with. He made an encouraging start to the new season when finishing third behind **BOBBY'S WICKED ONE** and **WARRIOR'S CLUB** in the Commonwealth over 7 furlongs at Keeneland last month. Limousine Liberal had been out of action since his fifth in the Breeders' Cup Sprint here at Churchill Downs four months earlier and he needed the run. He finished well from off the pace, in a race where the winner led from gate to wire at just an average clip, and was beaten 1 3/4 lengths while giving Bobby's Wicked One two pounds. Warrior's Club was half a length in front of him in second place – carrying the same weight as Limousine Liberal. This was much better form than what Limousine Liberal managed to produce at the Breeders' Cup, when he passed the winning post 11 1/2 lengths behind the champion sprinter, Roy Ho. His best piece of form last year came when he beat **WHITMORE** by a neck to win the Belmont Sprint over 7 furlongs in July, the Keeneland outing should set him up for a big run on Derby day, and Limousine Liberal is definitely one to consider. Limousine Liberal, who handles all conditions well but does have an advantage if it rains (3-for-3 on off tracks), is ideally suited by today's distance. A third straight win in the Churchill Downs is not at all impossible. >>>

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PROMISES FULFILLED has a chance based on his best form of last year, but that came when he won the Phoenix Stakes over 6 furlongs and this speedball may find the distance, and the long home stretch a bit tough here at Churchill Downs. Capable of Globeform 123, he ran to GF 110 both at the Breeders' Cup (fourth behind Roy H, **WHITMORE** and Imperial Hint) and in Dubai this spring (fourth to X Y Jet).

BOBBY'S WICKED ONE is coming off his career best and, though he enjoyed a relatively easy lead, he impressed with how he saw the race out to win the 7-furlong Commonwealth at Keeneland a month ago. He kept on strongly to win by 1 1/4 lengths from **WARRIOR CLUB**, with **LIMOUSINE LIBERAL** taking third. Bobby's Wicked One has moved up the ratings ladder in each of his last four races and it is not impossible that he is improving still – though this contest is likely to be quite differently run and most likely he will be a longshot (as he was also at Keeneland). He is a trifecta horse.

DO SHARE is a deep closer in top form. It would be a bit of a surprise to see him win this race, but if the early pace becomes crazy, well, then who knows. He improved to Globeform 116 when taking the Tom Fool by over six lengths at Aqueduct in March. That rating may be a bit on low side (it was a difficult race to assess), he is 3-for-6 over wet tracks, and could well pass tiring horses down the Churchill lane and hit the board.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

- A: 8 MITOLE
- B: 12 WHITMORE
- C: 2 LIMOUSINE LIBERAL
- D: 1 DO SHARE



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GLOBEFORM RANKING

Race 9

AMERICAN TURF STAKES (G2) 8.5 fur turf, Churchill Downs

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	Horse	Globeform	GF last 3 runs	Top3	Trainer / Jockey
				%	
0p	AVIE'S FLATTER	109p	109p – 100+ 107+	4-of-5	J Carroll / J Vastellano
1	HENLEY'S JOY	106	100 – 88 – 106	75	M Maker / M Smith
2	THE BLACK ALBUM	105	102 – 98 – 105	71	R Brisset / J L Ortiz
5p	WAR FILM	102p	?p – ?p – 102p	2-of-3	S Asmussen / R Santana Jr
6p	A THREAD OF BLUE	103p	97 – 103 – 103	85	K McLaughlin / L Saez
6	CASA CREED	101	97 – 87 – 101	42	W Mott / J Velazquez
6	MARQUEE PRINCE	100	97p – 100 – 100	50	B Cox / F Geroux
8p	SEISMIC WAVE	99p	?p – 92p – 99p	4-of-4	W Mott / J Rosario
8p	DIGITAL AGE	99p	?p – 99p	2-of-2	C Brown / I Ortiz Jr
8p	SOCIAL PARANOIA	99p	97p – 99 – 97+	100	T Pletcher / M Franco
8	LOUDER THAN BOMBS	99	99 – 99 – 97	55	D Fawkes / J Leparoux
10	FOREVER KID	97	?p – 97 – 96	50	A Sano / T Gaffalione
16	WEEKLY CALL	91	88 – 84 – 91	37	V Foley / C Lanerie

2018: MARAUD – GLOBEFORM 108

Todd Pletcher / John Velazquez

2017: ARKLOW – GLOBEFORM 110

Brad Cox / Mike Smith

2016: CAMELOT KITTEN – GLOBEFORM 111p

Chad Brown / Irad Ortiz Jr

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

AVIE'S FLATTER is the best horse in this field. He is the proven one, who we know for sure is up to proper Grade 2 standard, but there's a group of lightly raced talents in opposition – from which a new star could well emerge. Seismic Wave and Digital Age, in particular, look very interesting. Still, they will have to step up quite a bit to match strides with Avie's Flatter, who takes the highest rating into the battle and is also open to improvement. He made a nice seasonal debut when winning the Transylvania Stakes over this distance at Keeneland last month, when he had been off since taking a minor event on the all-weather track at Woodbine last November. That was his second valuable success on home soil. The Canadian bred son of Flatter also took the Cup and Saucer on turf. That was his best run to date, and note that it came over 8.5 furlongs over a yielding turf course. He was a comfortable 5 1/2-length winner from Bold Script (a winner on his subsequent start). The Transylvania confirmed three things; that Avie's Flatter is a horse ready to break the 110-barrier, that he had trained on well from two to three, and that he could take his a-game south of the border. He raced a bit freely at Keeneland, but not in a bad way, 'with zest' is the best way to sum it up. >>>

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>>> He was soon in the top four, after having dwelt slightly when the stalls opened, and he looked the most likely winner as soon as they turned for home. Castellano did not need to be hard on him, and Avie's Flatter was value for a bit more than the half-length margin over **HENLEY'S JOY**, who ran on gamely from the back to round out the exacta. **THE BLACK ALBUM** finished third, while the inexperienced **WAR FILM** ran a promising race for fourth (he was immature in the preliminaries and should improve). These three are all two pounds better off at the weights this time, but it's hard not to side with Avie's Flatter to uphold the form. The American Turf should get a pace scenario to suit his style, and it is a plus that he is a horse who can be sent to the lead or take up a stalking position. Another plus is the fact that he handles softish ground, something we might get at Churchill Downs on Derby day. Avie's Flatter is a big, attractive colt with plenty of scope – and the one to beat here.

SEISMIC WAVE showed a remarkable turn of foot close home when winning the Cutler Bay Stakes over a mile at Gulfstream Park in late March. He had won his maiden going 9 furlongs over the same course in February, when he raced in the first three throughout, but raced dead last – some ten lengths off the pace – early on in the Cutler Bay. Coming into the home straight, he looked hopelessly placed, but suddenly it clicked for him, and he dived forward between the rail and his rivals, to go past them in a matter of strides and win the race snugly by a neck from **FOREVER MO**, who was half a length in front of the third placed Art G Is Back. Seismic Wave had his head in front five strides from the winning post, he won the race going away, and galloped out well. In short, the son of Tapit looked a classy performer ready to take the next step up in class. An attractive well bred Juddmonte colt, he is likely to improve again and morning line 8-1 looks too big.

DIGITAL AGE, coming off two narrow wins at Tampa Bay, falls into the same bracket – though this contender has less experience. He won a mile maiden on his debut in January, and created a most favorable impression with winning the Columbia Stakes over the same trip in early March. The Chad Brown trainee finished strongly from well off the pace, to get up for a solid neck-win over **FOREVER MO**, who went on to be runner-up also behind Seismic Wave in the Cutler Bay. Like Seismic Wave, Digital Age is a runner virtually guaranteed to improve again, and this step up in distance will be very much to his liking. He is in with a chance.

A THREAD OF BLUE, the morning line favorite based a game win over Kitten's Joy winner **CASA CREED** and **LOUDER THAN BOMBS** in the Palm Beach Stakes at Gulfstream Park, is a game and genuine speed runner who can be expected to go forward from stall one. He has a shot but he is beginning to look a bit exposed and perhaps it will be tough to carry his early season form into the summer months, never mind improve on it. **SOCIAL PARANOIA** is set to break from stall two and this wide margin Gulfstream maiden winner could well give him company on the lead. Social Paranoia outclassed his rivals completely when beating Bad Boy by 8 lengths over this distance in March. He was prominent all the way and quickened really well when given the office in the stretch. The win was not a surprise however, as the Street Boss colt was second to Forty Under in the Pilgrim Stakes at Belmont Park last year (over a yielding turf course). Social Paranoia is well worth his place in this company and must also be respected.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 8 AVIE'S FLATTER

B: 3 DIGITAL AGE, 5 SEISMIC WAVE

C: 2 SOCIAL PARANOIA

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GLOBEFORM RANKING

Race 10

PAT DAY MILE (G3) 8 fur dirt, Churchill Downs

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	Horse	Globeform	GF last 3 runs	Top3	Trainer / Jockey
				%	
0	INSTAGRAND	122p / 115+	122p – 110+ 115+	4-of-4	J Hollendorfer / J Castellano
13p	MR MONEY BAGS	109p	?p – 109p – 107+	5-of-5	M Neatherlin / C Landeros
14	DREAM MAKER	108	108 – 91 – 0	33	M Casse / J Leparoux
19p	LAST JUDGMENT	103p	?p – 92p – 103p	2-of-3	T Pletcher / J Velazquez
20	MR. MONEY	102	102 – 92 – 97	50	B Calhoun / G Saez
22	MANNY WAH	100	100 – 94 – 93	66	W Catalano / Bridgmohan
23	HOG CREEK CASTLE	99	98 – 98 – 91	57	V Foley / C Lanerie
24p	CAPTAIN VON TRAPP	98p	98p – 93+ 95+	66	S Asmussen / Santana Jr
24	MARKET KING	98	96 – 98 – 0	50	D W Lukas / M Smith
24	DUNPH	98	82 – 98 – 88	42	M Maker / T Gaffalione
25	EVERFAST	97	97 – 0 – 89	33	D Romans / R Albadao
26	DURKIN'S CALL	96	87 – 90 – 96	55	W Mott / J Alvarado
27	FROLIC MORE	95	95 – 0 – 93	71	D Stewart / Hernandez Jr
27	TOBACCO ROAD	95	? - 88 – 90	50	S Asmussen / T Baze
AE					
17p	GLOBAL CAMPAIGN	105p	?p – 105p – 101+	2-of-3	S Hough / L Saez

2018: FUNNY DUCK – GLOBEFORM 110?

George R Arnold II / Brian J Hernandez Jr

2017: WILD SHOT – GLOBEFORM 113

George R Arnold II / Corey Lanerie

2016: SHARP AZTECA – GLOBEFORM 111p

Jorge Navarro / Edgar Zayas

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Pat Day Mile

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

INSTAGRAND stands out in this, otherwise disappointing, Pat Day Mile field, and he will probably be many a player's single on the Pick 6 ticket. Which is easy to understand. He is likely to be the heaviest favorite on the day, and if he brings his best game to the table, the others are running for second. Dropping back to a mile, after a third place finish behind Derby contenders Roadster and Game Winner in the 9-furlong Santa Anita Derby, he drew well in post ten, this distance should suit him ideally, and he deserves a nice win on the big day. Not qualified for the Derby, he can now focus on becoming a high class miler. He produced one of the best, if not the best, juvenile performances when winning the Best Pal Stakes by over ten lengths at Del Mar last summer (on only his second start), and bypassed the Breeders' Cup to prepare for a good 3yo campaign. One can say that 2019 has not taken off as expected, but his run at Santa Anita last month augurs well. He tried to lead all the way, ran out of stamina, and kept on gamely for third, 2 1/4 lengths behind Roadster, who finished fast from off the pace to beat his barnmate Game Winner by half a length. If those two Baffert trainees are serious Derby contenders, well then Instagrاند is a lock here. The one worry (there's always one...) is the weather, as he has raced only over fast tracks so far. Judged on all known form, he can afford to run below his best and still win.

MR MONEY BAGS is the one if you fancy taking a shot against what will be a short priced favorite. 20-1 on the morning line, this Texas bred contender seems underrated. He is probably much, much better than your average 3yo stakes winner at Sam Houston. Mr Money Bags is coming off three wide margin wins, all over 6 furlongs, and he looked destined for bigger things when strolling home by 11 1/2 and 7 lengths in minor stakes races on his two most recent outings. His form has worked out well too, as My Bling (second in both events) went on to win an allowance heat at Lone Star Park next time out (beating a horse who was coming off a win), and Truly Bling (third in Mr Money Bags's penultimate race) was a runner coming off a maiden win and going on to an easy 4-length allowance win next time out. Mr Money Bags takes a step up in class here of course, and he runs like he is bred – to be a sprinter – but there is no way of knowing how good this gelding is, nor how far he can stretch his speed, and he is worth a bet today.

DREAM MAKER is an intriguing contender. Nothing at all to like about his last two races, quite a bit to like about his nice allowance win over 8.5 furlongs at Fair Grounds three starts back. He performed to Globeform 108 that day, as he drew right off for an easy 8 1/2-length success, beating subsequent winner Courtyard comfortably. Given that Dream Maker was an impressive maiden winner first time out (here at Churchill) and ran fifth in the Hopeful at Saratoga last year, it made sense to start looking for bigger tasks again. He took part in the Tampa Bay Derby and Blue Grass Stakes, and disappointed badly in both. If he runs like he did in those Derby preps he will be unplaced again, but if he recaptures his Fair Grounds form he can hit the board.

LAST JUDGEMENT makes more appeal, even from his tricky post position. Set to break from post 14, he will have to go forward, but he is potentially much better than most of these and has a good chance of hitting the board. He improved nicely when upsetting the Baffert trained favorite in a good allowance race over 8.5 furlongs at Oaklawn Park in March. That was his third start and improvement can be expected.

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN should be given a look if he draws into the field. Reportedly injured when fifth, beaten 5 1/2 lengths behind Derby contender Code of Honor in the Fountain of Youth at Gulfstream Park in March, he has been rested since. He looked a smart prospect when taking an allowance race over the same course and distance on his second start. However, Global Campaign is a speedy sort who will have to overcome a wide post if he gets to take part at all on Derby day. He needs one scratch to get in.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 10 INSTAGRAND

B: 4 MR MONEY BAGS

C: 3 DREAM MAKER, 14 LAST JUDGEMENT

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GLOBEFORM RANKING TURF CLASSIC (G1) 9 fur Turf, Churchill Downs

Race 11

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	Horse	Globeform	GF last 3 runs	Top3	Trainer / Jockey
				%	
0	BRICKS AND MORTAR	124p	114p – 124p - 120+	100	C Brown / I Ortiz Jr
2	SYNCHRONY	118 / 115+	113+ 115+ 114	85	M Stidham / J Velazquez
4	BREAKING THE RULES	114	108p – 113p – 114	77	C McGaughey / J Ortiz
4	QURBAAN	116	113 – 116 – 110	72	K McLaughlin / M Smith
5	PRIME ATTRACTION	113	112 – 108 – 102	47	J Cassidy / T Baze
6p	TICONDEROGA	112p	109p – 112p – 109+	64	C Brown / J Castellano
6	NEXT SHARES	116 / 110	110+ 102 – 103	50	R Baltas / D Van Dyke
7	CLYDE'S IMAGE	111	100+ – 106p – 111	75	T Bush / L Saez
8	MARKITOFF	110	98 – 103+ 110	39	M Maker / M Franco
8	MARCH TO THE ARCH	110	105 – 91 – 110	63	M Casse / T Gaffalione
9p	RAGING BULL	115p	107 – 114p – 115p	75	C Brown / J Rosario
11	MULTIPLIER	107	103 – 93 – 104	50	W Mott / F Prat
15	SABADOR	103	94 – 103 – 100	46	C Murphy / J Graham

2018: YOSHIDA – GLOBEFORM 120

Bill Mott / Jose L Ortiz

2017: DIVISIDERO – GLOBEFORM 118

William Bradley / Julien Leparoux

2016: DIVISIDERO – GLOBEFORM 114

William Bradley / Edgar Prado

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

BRICKS AND MORTAR, an excellent **9-1 winner** for us when he won the Pegasus World Cup Turf at Gulfstream Park in January, is the best turf runner in US training these days, and he is impossible to oppose in the Turf Classic. Getting on as soon as the bookmakers offered odds was the key to our value bet at Gulfstream but even the earliest of early bets will not get such odds this time. Still, there should be way to make money from this horse once more. He was deeply impressive when slamming a strong field over 9 furlongs on Pegasus day, when he beat the Irish trained filly Magic Wand by 2 1/2 lengths while spotting her 12 pounds. Bricks and Mortar, a five-year-old with a serious turn of foot, performed to Globeform 124p that day, as subsequent G1 winner Delta Prince was third and Breeders' Cup Mile runner-up Catapult finished third. He did not repeat that rating next time out, when he just scraped home in a very tight photo finish against **MARKITOFF** in the Muniz Memorial at Fair Grounds in March. Bricks and Mortar won by just a nose. It was still a very good effort though, as he carried 9 pounds more than the winner and was badly compromised by the slow early pace (set by Markitoff, who had plenty left and proved a stubborn foe coming down the lane). Bricks and Mortar did get the verdict, on a day when he probably wasn't fully cranked up, and he ran to GF 120. With the reliable yardstick Synchrony back in third, the form was solid enough. The Turf Classic will be Bricks and Mortar's second Grade One task of the year, and he will probably win again.

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SYNCHRONY was third in this race last year, and he stepped up a notch to win the Oceanport Stakes at Monmouth Park in July, beating Doctor Mouny readily by 2 1/4 lengths over 8.5 furlongs, to return a career high GF 118 in the process. He was close to the same mark when following up in the Red Bank Stakes over a mile at the same venue next time out, and he has run three solid races since, including a win in the Fair Grounds Handicap on his seasonal debut this winter. He was compromised by the lack of pace when third to Bricks and Mortar in the Muniz Memorial last time out – and he looks a player here. Note that he will be racing with blinkers for the first time, and also that he gets a rider change to John Velazquez.

BREAKING THE RULES is a 15-1 shot well worth taking a look at for trifecta / superfecta players. He was visually impressive winning the Tropical Park Derby at Gulfstream in late December, and ran a game second (under a tough weight) when beaten just a head by Krampus in the Canadian Turf over the same course in March. He is open to improvement and will probably appreciate this step up to 9 furlongs.

QURBAAN (now with blinkers and Mike Smith on board) disappointed a little bit last time he ran, when third behind Delta Prince and the improved **CLYDE'S IMAGE** (who is facing a tougher task here) in the Maker's 46 Mark Stakes at Keeneland, a race Qurbaan had previous form good enough to win. His best race to date came on his start prior, when he was a good third in the Tampa Bay Stakes, narrowly beaten behind Inspector Lynley and Divisidero when trying to give them seven pounds and five pounds respectively.

RAGING BULL will probably get a lot of attention, and rightfully so – he is a smart performer - , but he is burdened with 124 pounds, the same as Bricks and Mortar and markedly higher than the others, and will need to improve again to win this event. He is open to improvement, but quite how much is hard to say. He had a tough weight also when making his seasonal bow in the Maker's 46 Mark Stakes, and ran really well to be fourth, beaten less than two lengths behind the race fit Delta Prince (who had 5lbs less on his back). Raging Bull, who looked a top class runner in the making when winning the Hollywood Derby last fall, will enjoy being back over 9 furlongs. He raced over a yielding course when taking the Racing Hall of Fame at Saratoga last summer.

TICONDEROGA, another Chad Brown trainee, may have just as good a chance. He finished his 2018 campaign on a high note, looking like a horse who would progress further with age, and his off-the-pace win at Gulfstream Park in March was visually impressive. Note that his best run to date was over a yielding turf course, when he beat the subsequent winner Aquaphobia over 8.5 furlongs at Saratoga last August. Today's distance will be to his liking.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 12 BRICKS AND MORTAR

B: 9 SYNCHRONY

C: 1 QURBAAN, 2 RAGING BULL, 8 BREAKING NEWS, 10 TICONDEROGA

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GLOBEFORM RANKING

Race 12

KENTUCKY DERBY (G1) 10 furlongs dirt, Churchill Downs

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	Horse with placings	Globeform	GF past 3 runs	Top3	Trainer / Jockey
				%	
0p	MAXIMUM SECURITY 1-111	120p	108p – 119p – 120p	4-of-4	Jason Servis Luis Saez
0p	ROADSTER 13 - 11	120p	102p – 111p – 120p	4-of-4	Bob Baffert Florent Geroux
1p	GAME WINNER 1111 - 22	119p	119p – 117+ 119	100	Bob Baffert Joel Rosario
2p	IMPROBABLE 111 - 22	118p	118p – 110+ 118p	5-of-5	Bob Baffert Irada Ortiz Jr
5	VEKOMA 11 - 31	115	110p – 113p – 115	4-of-4	George Weaver Javier Castellano
6p	BY MY STANDARDS 22 - 311	114p	? – 100p – 114p	5-of-5	Bret Calhoun Gabriel Saez
7p	TACITUS 41 - 11	113p	94p – 107p – 113p	3-of-4	William Mott Jose L Ortiz
7p	CODE OF HONOR 12 - 413	113p	85+ 113p – 105+	4-of-5	Shug McHaughey John Velazquez
8p	SPINOFF 13 - 12	112p	98 - ?p – 112p	4-of-4	Todd Pletcher Manny Franco
8	BODEXPRESS 9 - 2422	112	72 - ?p – 112	3-of-5	Gustavo Delgado C Landeros
9p	LONG RANGE TODDY 4111 - 2316	111p	105p – 111p – 91	75	Steve Asmussen Jon Court
10p	WAR OF WILL 32451 - 119	110p	105p – 107p – 110p	62	Mark Casse Tyler Gaffalione
10	TAX 21 - 312	110	104p – 105 – 110	5-of-5	Danny Gargan Junior Alvarado
11	PLUS QUE PARFAIT 3312 - 501	109	109 – 93+ 0 – 107	71	Brendan Walsh Ricardo Santana Jr
11	CUTTING HUMOR 231 - 271	109	100 – 90 – 109	83	Todd Pletcher Mike Smith
12p	WIN WIN WIN 1121 - 32	108p	104p – 101 – 108p	100	Micael Trombetta Julian Pimentel
15p	COUNTRY HOUSE 92 - 1243	105p	105p – 102 – 100	66	William Mott Flavien Prat
15	GRAY MAGICIAN 323 - 14522	105	89 – 90 – 105	75	Peter Miller Drayden van Dyke
?	MASTER FENCER 241 - 142	?	? – ? – ?	66	Koichi Tsunoda Julien Leparoux

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2018: JUSTIFY – GLOBEFORM 123

Bob Baffert / Mike Smith

2017: ALWAYS DREAMING – GLOBEFORM 117

Todd Pletcher / John Velazquez

2016: NYQUIST – GLOBEFORM 120

Doug O'Neill / Mario Gutierrez



Gulfstream Twitter Photo

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

MAXIMUM SECURITY goes into the Kentucky Derby as an unbeaten horse, and one that has moved up to a high level of form in the space of just four runs. It is highly unusual to see horses produce Globeform 120, or even close to that mark, at such an early stage of their careers. Don't worry about the fact that this colt ran in a claimer, and could be bought for 'pocket money', on his first start as a three-year-old. Some thoroughbreds surprise even those working closely with them, and Maximum Security seems to be one of those. He looked a top class performer in the making when romping home by 18 1/4 lengths in a 7-furlong allowance race at Gulfstream Park in February, and he confirmed it with a solid win in the Florida Derby on March 30. Yes, Maximum Security got away with an easy lead that day, as he made all to beat Bodexpress by 3 1/2 lengths, but don't forget that he was a very inexperienced horse that acquitted himself extremely well when taking a

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>>> big step up in class. Despite that fact that he was coming off a sprint win, he raced with great zest, without wasting too much energy, and he was very strong at the finish. Bodexpress was a 72-1 shot and appeared to cast a shadow over the value of the form, and he was racing in second throughout. The pace made the race, no doubt about that, though perhaps this should not make us dismiss Maximum Security's chances in the Run for The Roses. After all, he trounced the Fountain of Youth winner Code of Honor by almost seven lengths, with Fountain of Youth runner-up Bourbon War back in fourth. They were both compromised by the slow pace but they were both also outclassed by the winner. How good are they and how badly could they have under-performed on the day? The Fountain of Youth form was given a boost when Vekoma, third in the 'FOY' ran out an easy winner of the Blue Grass Stakes next time out.

Whether Maximum Security will stay 10 furlongs at Churchill Downs, is another matter. He has good tactical speed, and he may turn out to be a natural miler, though note that he rated kindly when winning his allowance race, so perhaps he doesn't need to be on the lead to run a big race. In fact, with just three runs (and only one proper race) under his belt, it is far too early to say exactly what setup this son of New Year's Day does or does not need to perform well.

Looking at his pedigree, it is mainly mile orientated but there is some stamina mixed in. His sire won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and was a son of Street Cry, a winner of the Dubai World Cup and Stephen Foster Handicap. Maximum Security's dam, Lil Indy (Anasheed), won over 5.5 furlongs and a mile, and she is also the dam of Coastal Hideaway (also by New Year's Day), who won four races over a mile (on dirt and turf), and Prince Tito (Pioneerof the Nile), another four-time winner, who was successful over 7 furlongs and a mile. Maximum Security's dam is a half-sister to Flat Out (Flatter), and he won the 10-furlong Jockey Club Gold Cup twice. This pedigree does not spell out that Maximum Security is a sprinter, nor does it indicate that he will become a champion. Who knows, perhaps he will turn out to be a freak? He is one of three top rated horses in this field, and must have a big chance.

With Omaha Beach out of the race, Maximum Security – who has an ideal post in seven – could get a nice trip around Churchill Downs. He might lead or he might sit just off the pace, depending on what else goes forward – mainly whether War of Will breaks sharply. He is a big player if he does, if not, well then he's probably going to be up against it.

If there is a 'freak' in this Derby field, it is probably Maximum Security, and he is my selection.



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ROADSTER (Benoit photo) burst into the Kentucky Derby favorites' group with a visually most impressive off-the-pace win in the Santa Anita Derby on April 6, when he made up a lot of ground to get up and beat his barnmate Game Winner by half a length. Instagrاند, who set the pace but failed to stay the 9-furlong trip, finished third, beaten another length and a quarter. Roadster had just beaten last year's champion juvenile and for good measure he also put the colt many saw as Game Winner's equal (at least) in 2018 firmly in his place. His trainer Bob Baffert added yet another strong contender to his Churchill team – and perhaps Roadster is the best of the lot. He certainly looks the one who is most likely to appreciate a stamina test. By no means are we guaranteed to see a Derby run at a fast yearly pace, but ten furlongs at Churchill Downs is ten furlongs at Churchill Downs. Winning the Kentucky Derby with a horse lacking in stamina is never easy. The way Roadster finished at Santa Anita indicates that he has enough stamina for the task. He has tactical speed too, by the way, and was quite close to the early pace that day, before dropping out of it and settling nicely at the back of the field. Going into the home turn, he looked like a runner who would do well to finish third, never mind win the contest. It was a big step up for the gray colt. He was coming off a smooth 2 1/2-length win from Nolo Contesto (fourth in the Santa Anita Derby) in a mile allowance win when making his seasonal debut over the same track in early March. Manhattan Up, who was third in that race, franked the form by winning on his start (the day prior to the Santa Anita Derby).

Roadster's big win was not an absolute shocker, as he had worked really well leading up to the race, but the way he did it was a bit of a surprise. Another surprise came when jockey Mike Smith announced that he would ride Arkansas Derby winner Omaha Beach at Churchill Downs, thus desert Roadster and his good friend Baffert. Could Smith and his agent have made a mistake here? Tough call of course, and his decision should not deter anyone who like Roadster from backing him. Roadster is a serious candidate, that's for sure. He began his career with an easy maiden win over 6 furlongs at Del Mar last summer, before being beaten by both Game Winner and Rowayton in the Del Mar Futurity. The son of Quality Road was odds-on favorite for the Futurity, being considered the best two-year-old in Baffert's care, but it was to be his final raceday appearance as a youngster – Breeders' Cup Juvenile plans were shelved and he underwent a breathing operation. In the meantime, Game Winner continued to thrive, winning both the American Pharaoh Stakes and the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. If the Del Mar Futurity betting is anything to go by, his exploits can be seen as excellent advertisement for Roadster's talent. >>>

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>>> The breathing operation has obviously been successful, and Roadster's two runs this term point to a lucrative campaign – which could well begin with a win in the Run for The Roses. As mentioned, he looks a runner who will have no problems with the Derby distance. His sire, Quality Road, was sidelined after winning the Florida Derby but he came back in full force at four, when he won the Donn Handicap, Met Mile and Woodward Stakes. Quality Road is also the sire of Kentucky Oaks favorite Bellafina, and his name made the headlines when his excellent ambassador City of Light won the Pegasus World Cup earlier this year. Roadster's dam, Ghost Dancing (Silver Ghost), was a useful winner of five races at age three and four, but she was a sprinter, including a minor stakes over 5.5 furlongs on turf at Colonial Downs in her collection. She also won over 6 and 6.5 furlongs on dirt. Ghost Dancing has done markedly better as a broodmare. Turf racing enthusiasts might recognize her name, as she is the dam of Ascend (Candy Ride), whose best form came when he captured the 10-furlong Manhattan Stakes at Belmont Park. Moro Tap (Tapit), another good winner out of Ghost Dancing, ran third in the Louisville Handicap (G3) over 9 furlongs turf here at Churchill Downs, and he was a winner at Keeneland, Churchill and Kentucky Downs. Roadster cost \$525,000 at Keeneland as a yearling. So far he has recouped just over a fifth of that amount. There should be more to come. >>>



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GAME WINNER has been beaten on both of his starts this season. Does this mean we should forget about last year's champion juvenile as a potential Kentucky Derby winner? Probably not. Completing the Breeders' Cup Juvenile / Kentucky Derby double is very hard, and that he has failed to get into the winners' circle at three also counts a bit against this Bob Baffert trainee – but he has run two solid races in defeat, and anything but improved form on the big day would be a bit of a surprise. Game Winner is a colt who should relish the step up to a mile and a quarter, and of course he is in with a chance, in what is quite an open looking Derby.

Unbeaten in four runs last year, Game Winner took the Del Mar Futurity over 7 furlongs (beating Rowayton and Roadster), American Pharoah Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Santa Anita (from Gunmetal Gray) and Breeders' Cup Juvenile here over the same distance at Churchill Downs (2 lengths in front of Breeders Futurity winner Knicks Go) in his first season. He came from off the pace at the Breeders' Cup, and it is safe to say that he outstayed the runner-up, who was the only one capable of posing a threat coming down the stretch. Game Winner's superior stamina won the day, and secured an Eclipse Award. Signalman stayed on to finish third, beaten 3 lengths, and he went on to beat Plus Que Parfait by a neck to land the Kentucky Jockey Club on his next start. Game Winner's form looked solid, though perhaps not brilliant. This son of Candy Ride is a bit of a grinder. When he gains momentum it is a gradual thing, accelerating stride by stride rather than with an instant turn of foot. This running style might make him an ideal candidate for the Belmont Stakes, where the more speedy types are normally found wanting through the last half mile. First though, is the small matter of the Kentucky Derby – and Game Winner is a leading contender for the first leg of the Triple Crown.



Bob Baffert, who runs last year's juvenile champion Game Winner, plus Improbable and Roadster in the Kentucky Derby. Globeform Photo

Omaha Beach enjoyed fitness advantage when beating Game Winner in a tight photo finish to the best division of the Rebel Stakes at Oaklawn Park in March. It was Game Winner's first race since the Breeders' Cup. Omaha Beach had already run three times in 2019. The two were separated by only a nose as they hit the wire, eight lengths clear of the third placed horse, Market King. Game Winner was carrying one pound more than Omaha Beach, and he looked like a horse in need of the run in the preliminaries. His next start, the Santa Anita Derby, saw him go off favorite once more, but another runner-up finish was what he had to settle for, as Roadster came with a strong run from off the pace to catch him in the dying strides and win by half a length. The speedy Instagrind was a non-staying third, while Nolo Contesto finished a well beaten fourth.

We have seen enough of Game Winner on the track to feel confident he will stay ten furlongs. His dam, the unraced Indyan Giving (A. P. Indy), is a half-sister to champion older mare Fleet Indian (Indian Charlie), who won 13 races, including the Beldame Stakes and Personal Ensign Stakes.

Bob Baffert has three of the top names in this Derby; Game Winner, Improbable and Roadster. We all know the old saying "if a trainer thinks he has a bunch of serious Derby horses he probably doesn't have any". Well, those words stem from England, where the prep races are seldom as tough tests as those leading up to the first Saturday in May. We have seen we have these how colts respond when questions have been asked, and it's a fair bet that Baffert is in with a shot – yet again.

IMPROBABLE is, like his barnmate Game Winner, a Kentucky Derby contender with winning form over the track, as he was an easy winner of the non-graded Street Sense Stakes over a mile here at Churchill Downs last year, winning by over seven lengths from Trophy Chaser. The second was not a potential G1 performer but he was no mug either, and it seemed certain that Improbable would be able to hold his own at the top

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>>> level. He had won his only previous race, taking a 6-furlong maiden at Santa Anita by a neck from Stretford End, with Gray Magician third. With these two wins on the book, Improbable went o post as a red hot favorite for the Los Alamitos Futurity in December, and he did not disappoint. The son of City Zip raced prominently throughout the 8.5-furlong contest, and drew right off in the straight – to win by 5 lengths from Much Gusto, another Baffert trainee who went in at first time of asking this year when capturing the Robert Lewis Stakes at Santa Anita. His easy win that day gave the Los Alamitos Futurity form a nice boost.

Improbable's seasonal debut came in the Rebel Stakes at Oaklawn Park in mid March, a race that was run in two divisions. He ended up in what turned out to be the easiest one, but was still beaten. Once more racing over 8.5 furlongs, he shot to the lead at the top of the lane and looked like running away with the contets, but Improbable tired in the closing stages and was passed by Long Range Toddy, in the end losing by a neck. Galilean, another Californian, was third, 2 ¼ lengths behind Improbable while conceding three pounds. Improbable turned the tables on both of these rivals when they met again in the 9-furlong Arkansas Derby, also staged at Oaklawn Park but this race was run over a sloppy track. The wet track did not seem to bother Improbable, but lots of other things certainly did, and he did really well to finish second, beaten a length by Omaha Beach (who had won well over a wet track previously). Improbable was getting edgy as they came on to the track, and even more so in the stalls, where he was bordering on panicking. He was even taken out of the stalls and reloaded, before the field could be sent out their way. He broke well from post one, and ran a game race, though came up short against Omaha Beach. Both colts produced an impressive prep. Country House filled third, almost six lengths behind Improbable, while Galilean (fifth) and Long Range Toddy (sixth) were well beaten. Improbable was trying blinkers for the first time in the Arkansas Derby, and Baffert said after the race that he would not be using them at Churchill Downs, suggesting that they might have been the reason Improbable got upset.

With three wins from three starts last year, and two runner-up efforts this spring, Improbable is an interesting horse. He looked like a runner who would stay well last year, but his performances this term may have told us that ten furlongs will be a touch too testing for this colt. His sire was a speedy runner, who won the Hopeful Stakes at two and Amsterdam Stakes at three. City Zip is a half-brother to Ghostzapper, an absolute freak who was top class over sprint distances before winning the Breeders' Cup Classic. Improbable is the first foal out of Rare Event (A. P. Indy), a mare who comes from the same family as Hard Spun, a King's Bishop Stakes winner who managed second behind Street Sense in the Kentucky Derby twelve years ago.

VEKOMA has done nothing wrong in his four runs to date and, although he is not one of the favorites, he is an interesting contender for the Kentucky Derby. He was won three times and been third once, when beaten three parts of a length and two lengths behind Code of Honor and Bourbon War in the Fountain of Youth Stakes at Gulfstream Park in early March. Vekoma, unlike the two others, was making his first start of the year and he was also giving them six pounds. Ratings wise, he ran as well as Code of Honor, as they both performed to GF 113p. Vekoma has since moved past Code of Honor in terms of ratings, by winning the 9-furlong Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland in April. He was a clear favorite for that contest and ran a solid, no-nonsense, race to win by 3 ½ lengths from Win Win Win. He did get first run on Win Win Win, who stayed on in the manner of a horse needing further, but Vekoma won with authority and he is a smart, game and genuine runner. Like Game Winner, he is a son of Candy Ride but while Game Winner is out of an A. P. Indy mare, Vekoma is a son of Mona de Momma, who is a daughter of champion sprinter Speightstown. Stamina might well be an issue with this contender – meaning that a moderate early pace would increase his chances. He is by the same sire as Gun Runner and Shared Belief but his dam was a smart sprinter who won the Humana Distaff and Las Flores Handicap. Furthermore, Mona de Momma is a half-sister to the speedy pair Jigadee (2nd in the Sapling and 3rd in the Sanford) and Treasure Hunt (both by Prospectors Gamble), and she comes from the same family as high class sprinter Mr. Greeley.

Vekoma won an above average maiden over 6 furlongs at Belmont Park and the one-mile Nashua Stakes at Aqueduct last year. He has raced over four different tracks already – giving him valuable experience – and George Weaver's candidate looks a possible value longshot play in this Derby, or the sporting each-way alternative if you prefer. He is likely to go off a fair bit higher than what he ought to be based on form. >>>

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>>> When noting his race record, bear in mind that – because of the weight assignment – Vekoma can be seen as the 'winner' also of the Fountain of Youth. If that race had been run at level weights, he might have come to Churchill Downs as an unbeaten contender with four straight wins in the book – and been considerably shorter in the betting.

BY MY STANDARDS is a bit of a 'dark horse' in this Derby field. A son of top class miler Goldencents, this colt certainly turned a corner in his fourth start, when breaking his maiden by over four lengths at Fair Grounds in February. He was stepped right up in class for his next task, and followed up with a 22-1 win in the Louisiana Derby over 9 furlongs at the same venue in March. By My Standards raced just off the pace, and outbattled **SPINOFF** to win by three parts of a length. Sueno was 5 lengths further adrift in third place. This vital Triple Crown prep did not quite live up to expectations, as the favorite, War of Will, picked up an injury and ended up nearer last than first, but take nothing away from By My Standards. He ran a game race and could well be a horse about to blossom into something seriously nice. He moved markedly up in terms of ratings. Another jump up would make him an interesting player – and he should not be left out of trifecta and superfecta plans.

TACITUS has been steadily improving, and he stayed on gamely to win both the Tampa Bay Derby, where he beat Outshine and **WIN WIN WIN**, and the Wood Memorial at Aqueduct, a race he won readily from **TAX** and **HAIKAL**. If one of these four proved good enough to make an impact on the Run for The Roses, it must be Tacitus, who is still learning and seemed to idle in front at Aqueduct, though he has been shaping more like a decent candidate for the Belmont Stakes, where stamina will be even more of a factor. A strongly run Derby would suit him best.

CODE OF HONOR has been a bit in and out, but he ran a fine race when coming from off a wickedly strong pace to land the Fountain of Youth Stakes at Gulfstream Park in March. Finishing to some effect, while finding a nice seam by the rail, the son of Noble Mission outstayed his rivals, then saw off a late charge from Bourbon War to win by three parts of a length. Vekoma, making his seasonal debut and conceding six pounds was beaten 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths in third – and went on to win the Blue Grass next time out. Code of Honor failed to build on his 'FOY' success in the Florida Derby and he needs to bounce back, once more, from a below par effort. Stamina is his forte and he is another who would appreciate a fast early fractions.

SPINOFF stepped up nicely from an easy 11-length allowance win (when 3/5 in the betting) at Tampa Bay Downs, to run second behind By My Standards in the Louisiana Derby at Fair Grounds. The Todd Pletcher trainee looked a likely winner a furlong out on that occasion, but By My Standards had more stamina. This run, plus the speed Spinoff showed at Tampa, may tell us that he is horse who will prove best when dropped back to a mile, rather than stepped up to a mile and a quarter. His sire, Hard Spun, ran second in the Kentucky Derby but he was also a winner of the 7-furlong King's Bishop Stakes, and Spinoff's dam, Zaftig (Gone West), won the Acorn Stakes over a mile and the Nassau County over 7 furlongs as a three-year-old.

BODEMEISTER, who was a surprise runner-up in the Florida Derby - when he ran in the slipstream of the winner, **MAXIMUM SECURITY**, from gate to wire - is still a maiden. He drew into the Derby field after defections, and he is a bit of a dark horse – though it is hard to see him making an impact. He was favored by the pace scenario at Gulfstream, and he will not be able to get a similar position here, especially from the widest post.

LONG RANGE TODDY was disappointing in the Arkansas Derby last month, when beaten 14 lengths into sixth place behind Omaha Beach, who won by a length from Improbable – the colt Long Range Toddy had defeated by a neck when taking a division of the Rebel Stakes on his previous outing. Long Range Toddy continued built on gradual progression that day, improving to Globeform 111p from GF 104 and GF 105 on his preceding starts and – willing to forgive one poor run – we have to respect this colt. He needs to take another step forward to be a major player but this is an open Derby and he may come away with a valuable slice of the pot.

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WAR OF WILL drew the dreaded 'one hole' – a very tricky starting point, but at least he will break from post two, as all horses move out one lane following Haikal's late defection. Some bookmakers have him as big as **25-1** and that really makes him a tempting each-way bet. Forget his run in the Louisiana Derby, when he took a couple of bad steps soon after the stalls opened, got injured and ran accordingly. Jockey Tyler Gaffalione was not hard on the colt as it was obvious something was amiss and he was without a winning chance. War of Will coasted home in ninth. He three previous runs, all winning efforts, had marked him down a seriously smart performer and he is fully recovered, so do not underrate his chances. Like Omaha Beach, he is a son of War Front, who thus has two interesting ambassadors in the Kentucky Derby. War of Will won impressively, clocking a sharp time while on the bridle, in a maiden heat at Churchill Downs last November. It was his first run on dirt, after four good efforts on turf (including a nice fifth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf), the track was sloppy and War of Will raced prominently throughout. Understandably, his turf days were over. He set out on the Derby trail by winning the LeComte Stakes at Fair Grounds in January, beating Hog Creek Hustle very smoothly, and followed in the Risen Star over the same track in February, when he was in the first two all the way, pulled right off in the straight and kept on far to well for the oncoming **COUNTRY HOUSE**, who was second, beaten 2 ¼ lengths. This form made sure War of Will was an odds-on favorite for the Louisiana Derby. Imagine if he had bypassed that race, and come here off three straight wins. Would it be possible to back him at 25-1 then? Probably not.

PLUS QUE PARFAIT won a weak edition of the UAE Derby and secured his berth in the Kentucky Derby, where he probably has no chance whatsoever. How the 'classic' in Dubai, a race that must soon be in line for a downgrade, should offer 100 Derby points to the winner, is hard to fathom. However, Plus Que Parfait, was a one-paced, staying-on winner at Meydan, where he beat **GRAY MAGICIAN** by just under a length, with the rather ordinary 40-1 shot Manguzi a close third. Plus Que Parfait actually ran a bit better when runner-up to Signalman in the Kentucky Jockey Club here at Churchill Downs last fall.

CUTTING HUMOR beat Anothertwistafate by a neck to win the Sunland Derby, a race run at a strong pace (which cost the eventual third, Mucho Gusto, any chance). It was a fine run by Cutting Humor, as he improved on his previous form, but he is one of the lesser lights in the Kentucky Derby. He gets Mike Smith on board, which is a plus.

WIN WIN WIN is also low on the ranking but this colt is actually one that could outrun his odds and sneak into the superfecta. He has not had the smoothest of time, as he has moved up in class with a third in the Tampa Bay Derby and a second in the Blue Grass Stakes, and he has been running like a horse who will improve when stepped up to ten furlongs.

COUNTRY HOUSE looked a bit immature (lugged in at the finish) and was no match for War of Will in the Risen Star, and he has failed to improve on that form in two subsequent starts; when fourth to By My Standards in the Louisiana Derby and third to Omaha Beach in the Arkansas Derby (beaten over six lengths in both). This Bill Mott trainee is hard to fancy against the best here.

GRAY MAGICIAN was readily beaten by Plus Que Parfait in Dubai and there is nothing on his cv indicating that he will be a player in a Triple Crown race.

MASTER FENCER is hard to assess but his Japanese form seems to be on a par with what Lani produced before running ninth in the Kentucky Derby three years ago, before taking fifth in the Preakness and third in the Belmont (though that colt had won the UAE Derby). When Master Fencer ran fourth in the Hyacinth Stakes in Tokyo in February, he was ¾ behind the third placed runner, Derma Louvre, who could manage only fourth to Plus Que Parfait in the UAE Derby (beaten 6 ¼ lengths). Allowing a foreign horse that hasn't even run in a graded stakes, never mind winning one, into the Kentucky Derby in preference of US based horses with decent form in top company seems odd to say the least.

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Churchill Downs, May 4, 2019

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 7 MAXIMUM SECURITY

B: 5 IMPROBABLE, 16 GAME WINNER, 17 ROADSTER

C: 1 WAR OF WILL, 3 BY MY STANDARDS, 8 TACITUS

KENTUCKY DERBY BETTING PLAN

EW / Win & Show: 7 Maximum Security (take 10-1 bookmakers)

90 Trifectas

A: 7 with 1, 3, 5, 8, 16, 17 with 1, 3, 5, 8, 16, 17

B: 1, 3, 5, 8, 16, 17 with 7 with 1, 3, 5, 8, 16, 17

C: 1, 3, 5, 8, 16, 17 with 1, 3, 5, 8, 16, 17 with 7

All other betting plans in separate email 8am Easter / 1pm UK time

Thanks for joining in & Good luck to us!

Globeform's Kentucky Derby Day Special

Bonus race, Newmarket, May 4, 2019

GLOBEFORM RANKING

15:35 local / 9:35 ET

2,000 GUINEAS (G1) 8 fur Turf, Newmarket, 4 May 2019

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	Horse	Globeform	Trainer	Jockey
0p	TEN SOVEREIGNS	118p	A P O'Brien	R Moore
1p	ADVERTISE	117p	M Meade	F Dettori
6p	MAGNA GRECIA	112p	A P O'Brien	D O'Brien
7p	MADHMOON	111p	K Prendergast	C Hayes
8p	SKARDU	110p	W Haggas	J Doyle
8	ROYAL MARINE	110	S bin Suroor	C Soumillon
8	SHINE SO BRIGHT	110	A Balding	S de Sousa
8	DARK VISION	110	M Johnston	J Fanning
9p	EMAARATY ANA	109p	K Ryan	D Egan
9	MOMKIN	109	R Charlton	S Heffernan
9	GREAT SCOT	109	T Dascombe	R Kingscote
12p	SET PIECE	106p	H Palmer	J Crowley
12	SPORTING CHANCE	106 / 98	S Crisford	P Cosgrave
13	KICK ON	105	J Gosden	O Murphy
13	URBAN ICON	105	R Hannon	T Marquand
14	AZANO	104	J Gosden	R Havlin
18p	AL HILALEE	100p	C Appleby	W Buick
?p	NAME THE WIND	?p	J Tate	P J McDonald
26p	KING OF CHANGE	92p	R Hannon	S Levey

2018: SAXON WARRIOR – GLOBEFORM 120

Aidan O'Brien / Donnacha O'Brien

2017: CHURCHILL – GLOBEFORM 120

Aidan O'Brien / Ryan Moore

2016: GALILEO GOLD – GLOBEFORM 118p

Hugo Palmer / Frankie Dettori

Globeform's Kentucky Derby Day Special

Bonus race, Newmarket, May 4, 2019

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

TEN SOVERIGNS was unbeaten in three starts as a juvenile, when he capped a fine season by landing the Middle Park Stakes over 6 furlongs at this venue in late September, beating Jash readily by half a length, with Rumble Inthejungle 3 1/2 lengths further adrift in third spot. Ten Sovereigns, whose two preceding wins were both also gained over six panels, is a talented son by No Nay Never out of the Exceed And Excel mare Seeking Solace, who won over 10 furlongs at Saint-Cloud and was Listed placed over 11 furlongs at Longchamp as a three-year-old. A rather speedy sort, he has shown that he handles this course, he comes from a strong team with plenty of success in these early season classics, and he has a decent chance in this Guineas. Like out selection, Advertise, Ten Sovereigns could turn out to be a sprinter – but class counts for a lot in this game and a moderate early pace would increase his chances.

ADVERTISE was recommended as a 12-1 value bet one week before Guineas day, and let's stick with him. He caught the eye when working at the Craven meeting, just over two weeks prior to the 2,000 Guineas. He put in a very positive, game, gallop over the Guineas course, and is a really likeable sort. Not too big, though well put together, this son of Showcasing handles Newmarket's somewhat unique track well, and he has strong form in the book too. Quite why he is was big as 12-1 in the betting is hard to understand. He was trading at around 16-1 during Craven week, before Too Darn Hot, Persian King, Mohaather and Calyx all dropped out. One argument against Martyn Meade's contender is the distance, as Advertise may be more of a sprinter, but he saw the seven furlongs out well enough when runner-up to last year's champion Too Darn Hot in the Dewhurst Stakes (G1), and – after key horses having defected – this does not look like a very hot Guineas. Too Darn Hot would be an even money favourite if turning up for the Guineas, yet his Dewhurst runner-up is plenty big enough in the betting to be called a good each-way bet. Interesting, isn't it?

Advertise ran five times as a juvenile. He won a decent maiden at Newbury in May, then stepped right up to show high class form as runner-up in the Coventry Stakes (G2) at Royal Ascot (came from off the pace, beaten a length by Calyx), before winning the July Stakes (G2) at Newmarket (again from off the pace, to beat Konchek by 2 lengths) and the prestigious Phoenix Stakes at The Curragh in Ireland (raced up in the firing line throughout, beat the smart filly So Perfect by 3/4 length). All of these races were contested over 6 furlongs and it was interesting to note how Advertise was ridden when stretched out to seven in the Dewhurst. He settled nicely just off the pace, racing on the outside with little cover, and was committed two furlongs out, when he went into a joint lead with Anthony Van Dyck. His rider did not seem concerned about any stamina limitations. The brilliant Too Darn Hot swept past them to win by almost three lengths but Advertise kept on gamely to the line, and he drew 1 1/4 lengths clear of Anthony Van Dyck, who was coming off a good second behind Quorto in the National Stakes (G1) and was the second favourite in the Dewhurst. Advertise went off at 7-1. But for this race, and the Coventry (where he was 10-1), Advertise has been well backed every time he has raced. One reason a horse with his profile goes off at a value price in championship races is that punters are drawn to horses from the big stables in such events. Martyn Meade's is not one of those, but the Manton based handler has shown that he knows how to get a good horse ready on more than one occasion. It is also worth noting who rode Advertise last year. Oisin Murphy partnered him at Royal Ascot, and he was back on board in the Dewhurst, won by Frankie Dettori on Too Darn Hot. Who rode Advertise in the July Stakes and Phoenix Sakes? Frankie Dettori, and he has accepted the ride again in the Guineas. If he likes the colt, well, so should we.

Advertise is by a sprinter out of a dam who won a sprint race (but ran just three times), and he is a half-brother to a sprint winner by Lethal Force (another sprinter), so it makes sense to question his prospects of staying a stiff mile. Showcasing is a sire of sprinters, and his dam, Furbelow (Pivotal), was speedily bred (she did not get enough racing to confirm her preferred distance though). Furbelow is a sister to Red Diadem, who won the Daisycutter Handicap (LR) over 5 furlongs at Del Mar and was also successful twice in allowance company tackling 6.5 furlongs at Santa Anita's downhill turf course. Although Advertise's third dam, Heart Of Joy, was runner-up in both the 1,000 Guineas and the Irish 1,000 Guineas, this is a family mainly of speedy runners.

So why is it a good idea to back Advertise? For three reasons; firstly 8-1 is still the wrong price for a colt with G1 form over the course and has enjoyed a smooth preparation for this classic, secondly this is not a strong renewal of the Guineas, and thirdly it is not at all guaranteed to get a fast early pace. >>>

Globeform's Kentucky Derby Day Special

Bonus race, Newmarket, May 4, 2019

MAGNA GRECIA, like Ten Sovereigns running for the powerful Ballydoyle team, should have no problems with the distance, as he ran two solid races over this distance at two. He took the Futurity Trophy Stakes over a mile at Doncaster on his third start. The son of Invincible Spirit came from just off the pace, got the upper hand inside the final furlong, and kept on to beat Phoenix Of Spain by a head. His stable companion Western Australia, who has disappointed in two outings this spring, was beaten three parts into third place, in what appeared to be a sub-standard of the race (formerly known as the Racing Post Trophy). Magna Grecia had previously won a 7-furlong maiden at Naas and run second in the Autumn Stakes over a mile here at Newmarket (a neck behind the French trained Persian King).

MADHMOON, representing Irish trainer Kevin Prendergast, looked a really exciting prospect last year, when he was unbeaten in two starts over a mile at Leopardstown. After beating Sydney Opera House by almost three lengths on his debut in August, he went on to beat the smart Ballydoyle colt Broome by 2 1/2 lengths to capture the Champions Juvenile Stakes in September. Going off as the 6/5 favorite, Madmoon won comfortably under a hand ride that day – having raced prominently throughout and taken the lead on approaching the final furlong. Broome went on to take second in the Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere (a neck behind Royal Marine, who looked like a horse that hasn't trained on in the Craven Stakes), and he was an impressive 8-length winner of the Ballysax Stakes this spring. Madmoon has also had one run at three, but he failed to defend his unbeaten record when beaten a neck by Never No More (while conceding 3lbs) in the 2,000 Guineas Trial at Leopardstown in April. Never No More had won a good handicap in March and he probably held fitness advantage over Madmoon, who looks a serious contender for the 2,000 Guineas. At around 15-2 he is decent value.

SET PIECE is an interesting longshot, having run such a promising race to finish third behind **SKARDU**, a well backed 3-1 winner, and the positive 28-1 shot **MOMKIN** in the Craven Stakes last month. Set Piece could turn out to be the best of these three. He is a strong, attractive colt with plenty of scope and seemed compromised by the moderate pace in the Craven, where he was beaten just a neck and 1 3/4 lengths after recovering from a troubled start. Set Piece can be backed at 25-1 for the Guineas, while Skardu is only 8-1. Set Piece seemed the one to take out of the Craven and he should be backed each-way.

Let's take two against the field; the thoroughly likeable **ADVERTISE**, whose juvenile form was given yet another boost when his Coventry conqueror Calyx impressed at Ascot on Wednesday, and the Irish raider **MADHMOON**, whose price would have been a lot shorter had he been part of the O'Brien team. Make no mistake, Prendergast can train a top class colt, and that he comes here, rather than wait for the Irish 2,000 Guineas on home soil, indicates confidence.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 1 ADVERTISE, 9 MADHMOON
B: 18 TEN SOVEREIGNS
C: 10 MAGNA GRECIA, 14 SET PIECE

BETTING PLAN

3 EACH-WAY BETS:

All ew bets placed with Skybet (offering 5 places)

A: 1 Advertise at 7-1, 9 Madmoon 7-1
C: 14 Set Piece at 20-1

6 Exactas: 1 – 9 – 14 combined / boxed

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Globeform's Ratings & Rankings

2019

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Rank (ranking): Horse best in at the weights (compared to Globeform ratings) is top ranked with rank figure "0" (zero), and all others ranked down in pounds (lbs), i.e. "3" rank means that the horse is 3 pounds worse off than the top ranked horse. The higher the 'rank figure' the worse off the horse is in this race – based on previous form.

Globeform (GF): The horse's best Globeform rating. In cases where it is relevant two GF ratings may be given (i.e. 119 / 114) and this means that the horse has run to GF 119 in the past but it's a long time ago, and the best rating in his more recent form is GF 114.

GF last 3 runs: How the horse would be ranked in this race based on his three most recent runs (from left to right). For example: "0 – 4 – 7" would tell us that the horse is top ranked and ran to his best GF rating three starts back ("0") but ran 4lbs below that form on his penultimate race and 7lbs below on his most recent start. This column shows whether the horse is consistent, whether the horse has good recent form, and whether the horse has been progressing / regressing in his most recent races. "X" = ran too badly to get a rating.

Top3: Each horse's top three % strike rate – used only for horses with six runs or more. For horses with fewer runs info given like '3-of-5' = 3 times in top three from 5 runs.

Overweights: Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds (lbs). Globeform rankings are based on Globeform ratings compared to riding weights. In cases of overweight, add the overweight to the Globeform rank figure. For example; The Big Horse has ranking figure "2", telling us that he is ranked 2lbs below the top ranked horse – but when changes are announced The Big Horse is set to carry 2lbs overweight. His new GF rank figure becomes "4" (2+2).

Globeform Rating codes

- p = improvement expected
- P = significant improvement expected
- + = improvement expected from this run, but the horse had already run to a higher rating in the past.
- ? = provisional rating or uncertain form
- * = best GF rating was achieved over today's distance & surface