

# Globeform Special – 29 Feb 2020

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH DAY GULFSTREAM PARK + SAUDI CUP



Sat 29 Feb 2020 / King Abdul Aziz Racecourse / Riyadh / 12.40pm ET / 5.40pm UK / 8.40pm local

## THE SAUDI CUP

9 furlongs dirt

Globeform ranking

Top ranked horse on 100, with others ranked down in pounds.

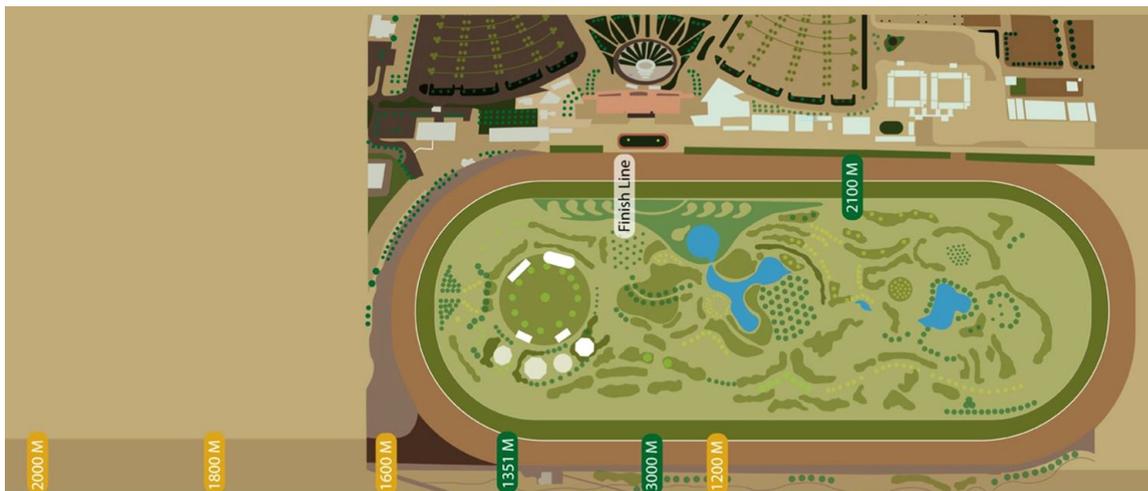
Length values: 5-6.5 fur: 3lbs / 7 fur: 2.5lbs / 8-11 fur: 2lbs / 12 fur: 1.5lbs

Horses presented with best GF, followed by GF most recent runs (from left-to-right)

|     |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 100 | MAXIMUM SECURITY |      | 130  | 122p | 121+ | 130  |
| 98  | MIDNIGHT BISOU   | mare | 124  | 124  | 121+ | 117  |
| 95  | McKINZIE         |      | 125  | 125  | 118+ | 120  |
| 93  | BENBATL          |      | 123  | 0    | 117+ | 115+ |
| 89  | MUCHO GUSTO      |      | 119  | 115+ | 107  | 119  |
| 89  | NORTH AMERICA *  |      | 119  | 115+ | 102  | 113  |
| 89  | MAGIC WAND       | mare | 115  | 108  | 112  | 108  |
| 87  | CAPEZZANO        |      | 117  | 117  | 0    | 117  |
| 87  | TACITUS          |      | 117  | 113p | 116  | 117  |
| 86  | GRONKOWSKI       |      | 116  | 116  | 102  | 99   |
| 83  | MJJACK           |      | 113  | 94   | 113  | ?    |
| 83  | GOLD DREAM       |      | 113  | ?    | 113  | ?    |
| 83  | GREAT SCOT       |      | 113  | 0    | 108  | 113  |
| 82  | CHYRSOBERYL      |      | 112p | ?p   | ?p   | 112p |

Mares: 2kg (4.4lbs) sex weight allowance, add 4.4 to GF rating for direct comparison with males

\* North America ran to GF 119 when winning the Al Maktoum Challenge Round 1 at Meydan in January 2019





29 February 2020 / Fountain of Youth Day / Membership Service

## GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS / SAUDI CUP

**MAXIMUM SECURITY's** performance in the Cigar Mile (G1) at Aqueduct was one of the best seen in 2019, and he certainly looks the one to beat in the inaugural running of the Saudi Cup, staged over 9 furlongs on dirt. Disqualified from what was a 'much the best' win in the 2019 Kentucky Derby, he gained some compensation later in the season, by winning the Haskell Invitational (G1) at Monmouth Park and the Cigar Mile (G1), where he produced a career high GF 130 to outclass his rivals. Racing with great zest, as always, the son of New Year's Day slammed the impressive Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) winner Spun to Run by 3 1/2 lengths while spotting him two pounds. His prep for the Cigar was a comfortable 1 3/4-length win from Tale of Silence in the Bold Ruler (G3) at Belmont Park, where he dominated throughout and had no problems with cutting back to 7 furlongs. The Bold Ruler came after a near three-month break going back to the Haskell, a race he won readily by 1 1/4 lengths from **Mucho Gusto**, who reopposes in the Saudi Cup. Mucho Gusto has improved since but he was receiving two pounds at Monmouth Park, and it's hard to see him turning the tables on Maximum Security. If the Jason Servis trainee runs up to the best he will win this, quite simply. The distance and the course should suit him well – and his run in the Kentucky Derby proved that he also possesses good stamina. With a fair bit of speed signed on in this race, he is the one to side with. Some bookmakers have him as big as **11/4**, which is a price well worth taking.

**MIDNIGHT BISOU** – bought for just \$80,000 at the Ocala Sales in 2017 – was the best filly or mare in North America last year and she may be the biggest danger to Maximum Security. With her sex weight allowance of 2kg, she has a serious chance. Yes, she lost at the Breeders' Cup, but take that (excusable) run off her PPs and you are looking at quite an impressive record.

The track had been prepped to become unusually slow at Santa Anita at the Breeders' Cup, and it did not suit her at all. Nor did the trip she was given. She was too far back, in traffic, and hopefully we will see getting a clean trip this time. It was a shame she was beaten by Blue Prize in the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1). Otherwise Midnight Bisou would have been a perfect 8-for-8 in 2019. She prepped for the Distaff with a comfortable 3 1/4-length win over Wow Cat in the Beldame Stakes (G1) at Belmont Park in September, having produced a top notch performance to beat Elate by a nose in the Personal Ensign (G1) at Saratoga in August. A defeat that day would have been perfectly understandable, as Elate was coming into the race in top form and also enjoyed a four-pound pull at the weights. Elate got first run on her but Midnight Bisou got the last laugh. She came from off the pace, with a strong and determined finish, to get up in time. It was a run on a par with her win in the Ogden Phipps Stakes (G1) over the same track last June, when she trounced the classy sprinter Come Dancing to win by 3 1/2 lengths, on that occasion spotting the runner-up 6lbs.

Midnight Bisou has produced top class form over six different courses. In other words, she is a contender whose connections have little to fear when it comes to facing a new track, new surroundings. Her experience will stand her in good stead, she is well suited by this distance, and she has always done well when returning from a layoff. There's a lot to like about Midnight Bisou. The one thing that may count against her is the likelihood of a strong early pace but, at around 10-1 she is the obvious each-way bet in the race. >>>



29 February 2020 / Fountain of Youth Day / Membership Service

### The Saudi Cup

**McKINZIE** disappointed a bit in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) last November, when he was back to his tail swishing habits coming down the home stretch, with no chance whatsoever against Vino Rosso. It was a performance below what we know he is capable of. That said, McKinzie was ridden aggressively in the BC Classic, taking the lead soon after entering the last half-mile and it was probably not ideal. The thinking must have been, 'let's ride him as if he is a surefire stayer and see what happens'. What happened was that he did not get the 10-furlong distance, was unhappy at the finish and swished his tail to let us know. McKinzie has done that before from time to time, going right back to his juvenile days. Though when things have panned out perfectly, he has been very good. Like when he won the the Malibu Stakes (G2) over 7 furlongs at Santa Anita, the Alysheba Stakes (G2) over 8.5 furlongs at Churchill Downs and the Whitney Stakes (G1) over 9 furlongs at Saratoga. In between the Alysheba and the Whitney, McKinzie was an unlucky second to champion sprinter Mitole in the Met Mile (G1) at Belmont Park. There's no doubt; his best form has come over shorter than 10 furlong and, given that the BC Classic became a serious stamina test, we should not knock him too hard for his effort in the championship event. The Saudi Cup gives him an opportunity of redemption, and this distance will be more to McKinzie's liking. Baffert sends him here without a prep run, meaning that he is up against a near four-month layoff. That is certainly by design and not a negative factor. McKinzie can be a bit tricky and such horses often go best fresh, straight off the bench, as he did in the Whitney last summer.

**BENBATL** is a high class turf performer who has taken well to the dirt in Dubai. A multiple G1 winner on turf, he has been in excellent form with two wins at Meydan this winter, the most recent coming when he dominated against inferior rivals in the Al Maktoum Challenge II (G2) over 9.5 furlongs on dirt just over three weeks ago. Benbatl travelled well, racing close to the pace throughout and he drew off for a comfortable 2-length win over Military Law, as Gronkowski made some late headway to take third, beaten almost nine lengths. This was Benbatl's first run on dirt and the way he powered down the lane suggested that he could hold his own also in better company over this surface. His runner-up had been a Listed winner over the same course back in December. Benbatl will face much tougher rivals in the Saudi Cup, and he needs to step up again to make an impact here, but he has two things in his favor; recent form and a much easier shipping schedule than the North American team. The six-year-old son of Dubawi was capable of Globeform 123 at his best on turf and he performed to GF 115+ in the Al Maktoum II. He had previously gained an impressive win on turf, running to GF 117+ to beat For The Top by 4 3/4 lengths in the Singspiel Stakes (G2). English bookmakers made him an 1/8 favorite on that occasion, and it's interesting to note that For The Top was 13 1/4 lengths behind Benbatl when the met again on dirt four weeks later. >>>

---

**Next Globeform Special: Dubai World Cup day, March 28**



كأس دبي العالمي  
DUBAI WORLD CUP

Service kicks off on March 18 – members only

[www.globeform.com](http://www.globeform.com)



## 29 February 2020 / Fountain of Youth Day / Membership Service

**MUCHO GUSTO** had little to beat when capturing the Pegasus World Cup (G1) over this distance at Gulfstream Park last time out, but it was still his career best performance. With Omaha Beach and Spun to Run both scratched, and Higher Power tailed off and found to be unwell afterwards, all Mucho Gusto needed to do was run faster than Mr Freeze, War Story and Diamond Oops. None of these are proper Grade One performers, and he simply trounced them, winning the race by 4 1/2 lengths from Mr Freeze, whose previous best was a win in the Ack Ack Stakes at Churchill Downs last fall (when he ran to GF 114). Mucho Gusto, runner-up to Maximum Security in last year's Haskell Invitational (G1), improved to Globeform 119 in the Pegasus. Undoubtedly in good form, he is part of a much deeper field this time. Can he improve again? Not impossible, but there's big jump up to what would be required to match strides with the top three.

**NORTH AMERICA** ran a close third to Kimbear (a horse he had beaten by 9 lengths to win a G2 last winter) when making his seasonal debut in the Al Maktoum Challenge II (G2) at Meydan in January. It was a performance suggesting he can come back to his best form this year. Like Capezzano, he is a runner that is normally sent straight to the lead, and he drew by far the best post of the two. Set to start from stall 4, with Gold Dream, Tacitus and Benbatl to his inside, plus Gronskowski to his immediate outside, North America should get a smooth run to the lead here – and work out a ground saving trip. It's hard to imagine North America winning but he does have things in his favor and could well finish in the top three or four. Winner of two legs of the Al Maktoum Challenge Series during the 2019 Dubai Carnival, he has proved efficient from 8 to 10 furlongs. Odds of 33-1 makes him worthy of a small each-way wager. Just in case he gets away with a soft lead.

**CAPEZZANO**, making his first start since disappointing in last year's Dubai World Cup (G1), bounced right back to his best with a 7-length win over Secret Ambition in the one-mile Firebreak Stakes (G3) at Meydan two weeks ago. Leading virtually throughout, he raced with great zest and was never threatened. He produced similar form when winning the Al Maktoum Challenge III (G1) at Meydan last year, but finished last in the Dubai World Cup (G1) three weeks later. He would be seen as a winning candidate from any post position and even less so having landed in stall 13 at the draw. This was good news to Maximum Security's supporters, as it makes it less likely that Capezzano and North America (stall 4) hook up in crazy speed duel from the outset.

**MAGIC WAND** is set to make her dirt debut here – in what will be tough race for the Irish trained mare. She has been campaigned really hard, and must be a thoughtfully sound and mentally strong sort. She is coming off a runner-up effort against Zulu Alpha in the Pegasus World Cup Turf (G1), when Ryan Moore set out to make all on the daughter of Galileo. How she will take to dirt is impossible for us to say, but this seems a big ask for Magic Wand, whose excellent sire has yet to get a top class dirt performer.

**TACITUS** represents Juddmonte, owned by Saudi prince Khalid Abdullah, and that – rather than his bare form – may be the main reason he is going for the Saudi Cup. He ran some solid races in the 3yo division last year (which, Maximum Security aside, was not particularly strong) but he has never shown anything suggesting he is in with a winning chance in this event.

**GRONKOWSKI**'s claim to fame is a runner-up effort in the Belmont Stakes (G1) in 2018 (behind a below form Justify) and a close battle with Thunder Snow in a sub-standard edition of the Dubai World Cup (G1) last year. He is a talented runner but not top class, and his two runs in Dubai this winter were both well below his previous best. He was beaten almost nine lengths behind Benbatl in the Al Maktoum Challenge III (G2) three weeks ago.

## GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: MAXIMUM SECURITY    B: MIDNIGHT BISOU    C: MCKINZIE

[www.globeform.com](http://www.globeform.com)