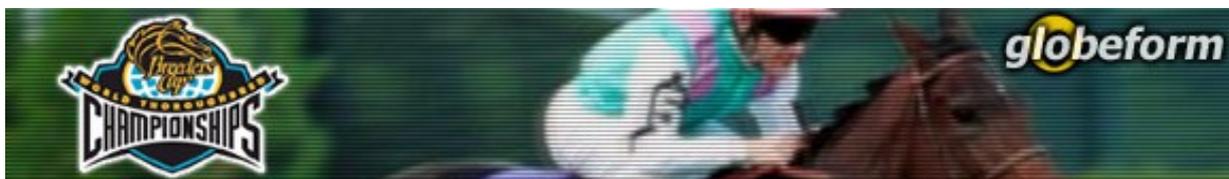


Globeform's Breeders' Cup Special

Value bet alert 18 October – Subscribers only



October 19

TWO WEEKS OUT

AN EARLY LOOK AT THE OLDER HORSES' B CUP RACES – Part 1

The Classic ACCELERATE TOP RATINGS

John Sadler's star Accelerate deserves to be a clear cut favorite in the Breeders' Cup Classic. He produced GF 130 in the Gold Cup at Santa Anita, moved up to a staggering Globeform 139 in the Pacific Classic, and overcame a less than ideal trip to win again and produce GF 124+ in the Awesome Again.

This five-year-old has – for whatever reason – improved markedly this year, when he has been stretched out in distance. Perhaps he was that good all along - but simply lacked consistency. Remember his 8 1/2-length romp in last year's San Diego, when most observers – yours truly included – thought it was a bit of a fluke. Well, that piece of form is easier to understand now that we have seen how good the son of Lookin At Lucky actually is.



BC Classic favorite Accelerate (c) Benoit

The one question mark is Churchill Downs, quite different to Santa Anita and Del Mar, but Accelerate is an experienced, uncomplicated runner, and he ran a solid race also when second to City of Light at Oaklawn Park in April. Accelerate went down by just a neck that day, when he was spotting the winner three pounds. City of Light is a high class horse too, one of the favorites for the Dirt Mile, and note that these two drew 10 lengths clear of the third placed horse, Untrapped, at Oaklawn. Untrapped ran second to Irish War Cry in the Pimlico Special next time out. Accelerate has improved since that strong effort. Simply outclassing Dr. Dorr, Pavel and West Coast, he has won three straight Grade Ones without ever having a hard race (he had to work a bit in the Awesome Again but did not have a 'hard' race). >>>

Tomorrow: Breeders' Cup Sprint & Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint

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AN EARLY LOOK AT THE OLDER HORSES' B CUP RACES

>>> Accelerate is the horse to beat in this year's BC Classic, not just because he is top class but also since just two of his rivals, **West Coast** and **Catholic Boy** have shown form strong enough in route races to pose a threat. **Mind Your Biscuits** also has the class, but he ought to run in the Dirt Mile – where he belongs – not go for the Classic over 10 furlongs, based on a bloodless victory against Toast Of New York and Honorable Duty over nine in the Lukas Classic. He beat the latter by almost five lengths. Can we imagine Honorable Duty finishing within five of Accelerate? Probably not. West Coast is a bigger player. He needed the run in the Awesome Again and he could well improve on his 3yo form – so beware, Baffert is taking dead aim. So is Jonathan Thomas, who has Catholic Boy in his corner. He stamped himself as the best of the 3yos still standing when beating **Mendelsshon** by 4 lengths in the Travers. Only problem is, how good are those sophomores of 2108?

Roaring Lion, who has been declared for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot tomorrow, would be a fascinating contender if running in the BC Classic. It does seem likely, and John Gosden won the Classic with Raven's Pass in 2008 (albeit over an artificial surface) and if he feels the colt will handle dirt, then he probably will. Though any horse running on testing ground at Ascot on October 20, will not be wanting a hard race there to set him up for a big effort at Churchill Downs just two weeks down the road.

The Turf

ENABLE LONG ODDS-ON

Back-to-back Arc winner Enable is already odds-on with UK affiliated bookmakers for the Breeders' Cup Turf – and it is as hard to oppose her as it is to be tempted by odds such as 4/7 and 8/13. Anyone backing her now, with the risk of losing the money if something were to go wrong with the next 14 days, must be very brave. Perhaps a bit naïve too, as she will not be any shorter at Churchill Downs on November 3. This is the Breeders' Cup, remember. Lucky for us, that we took **4-1** about Enable winning the BC Turf a few days before her win in Paris. Some might call it very clever, I couldn't possibly comment. One comes to regret some future bets – I doubt that this will be one of them.

What's going to be up against her? Well, it seems we can forget about most of the US based turfers. Sure, they will take a shot, but are they good enough? **Robert Bruce** strikes me as a horse that could improve again and step up on the big day. Then again, he appeared not to stay when beaten by **Channel Maker** in the 12-furlong Joe Hirsch Turf Classic, and perhaps 10 furlongs is his trip. Robert Bruce handled that well when taking the Arlington Million. Channel Maker improved to Globeform 120 with his front-running win in the Joe Hirsch and he could get a similar setup at Churchill - especially if the ground has a bit of give in it.

Still, if there is a threat to Enable it is almost certain to come from another European barn. Andre Fabre intends to send **Waldgeist** and **Talismanic**, who won the BC Turf at Del Mar last year but has been struggling for form in 2018. Waldgeist makes most appeal. He has the right profile for the BC Turf, having won the Grand Prix de Chantilly, Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud and Prix Foy in France prior to finishing fourth in the Arc, where he was beaten 1 ¾ lengths by Enable. Waldgeist was carrying 3.3lbs more than Enable at ParisLongchamp and will be carrying 3lbs more than her at Churchill. It's hard to find an argument in his, or any other male's, favor as they meet Enable. **Roaring Lion** (who may run in the Classic) and **Crystal Ocean** have both shown much better form than the four mentioned above – but let's see how they come out of Champions Day at Ascot before we start fretting. (19 Oct 2018)

Geir Stabell