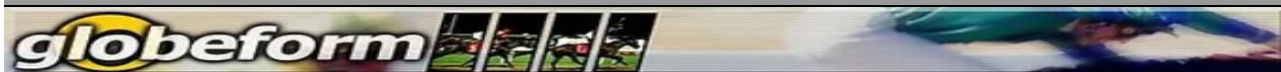


Globeform Subscription Service

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



8

2:43 PT

GLOBEFORM RANKING

LA BREA STAKES (G1) 7 fur dirt, Santa Anita Dec 28

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

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0p	5	USHA WON @ 5.6-1	110p	0 - 110p - 105p	Baffert / J Hernandez
3p / 10	1	SIMPLY JOKING 3rd @ 17-1 GF 107p in Mar '25	107p / 100	100 - 0 - 0	McCarthy / Kimura
4	3	FIVE G	108	107+ 108 - 105p	Weaver / I Ortiz Jr
6 / 10	4	ARTISMA GF 104 in Jan '25	104 / 100	100 - 90 - 92	Baltas / Maldonado
8p	9	FORMULA ROSSA	102p	101+ 102p - ?p	Glatt / Smith
9p	10	MAGNIFICAT	101p	101p - 90p - ?p	R Mandella / Demuro
10p	8	HER LAUGH	100p	100p - 93 - 92+	R Mott / J L Ortiz
10	2	SO THERE SHE WAS	100	99 - 100 - 95	O'Neill / Fresu
10	11	SILENT LAW	100	95 - 81 - 100	Baffert / Rosario
14	6	BRILLIANTLY	96	96 - 94p - ?p	Baffert / Prat
15	7	SCHILFLIED	95	90 - 95 - 83	Gallagher / T Baze

Globeform rating with a "p" attached = this was the horse's best rating to date and the horse is likely to improve

Globeform rating with a "+" = this was not its best rating but the horse ran better than the rating suggests

In the analysis and in horse bios: When you read for example "ran to **Globeform 114**" this tells you that it was the horse's best career rating; while when you see "ran to GF 114" written it simply tells you that the performance in question was worth 114 but it was not the horse's career best rating.

Most recent winners of the La Brea

2024	KOPION	GF 118p	Richard Mandella	Kazushi Kimura
2023	DADDYSRUBY	GF 110	Peter Miller	Juan J Hernandez
2022	FUN TO DREAM	GF 111	Bob Baffert	Juan J Hernandez
2021	KALYPSO	GF 105	Bob Baffert	John Velazquez
2020	FAIR MAIDEN	GF 114	Eoin Harty	Ricardo Gonzalez
2019	HARD NOT TO LOVE	GF 117p	John Shirreffs	Mike Smith

Average winning Globeform: 112.5

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

USHA looked like a proper racehorse when winning twice over 6.5 furlongs at Del Mar earlier this year, taking a maiden by 11 1/2 lengths in July and an allowance race by 5 1/4 lengths in September. Her trip to the Raven Run at Keeneland did not work out, however; she was not as sharp and she tired to be a well beaten seventh behind Kappa Kappa. Ignoring that run; either as an off-day or a something-amiss day; and we have a clear selection in this year's La Brea. *Provided* she has enough stamina, that is. She sat just off the pace when crushing Margarita Girl in her maiden, but led every step of the way when giving **ARTISMA** a similar experience when stepped up in class. So does Usha need the lead to run to her best, or can she be rated? Impossible to know. **What we do know, is that she takes the best form to the table.** She improved to **Globeform 110p** against Artisma, when Shared Future was third. The latter won an allowance heat next time out, readily beating No Cap, who ran third in the Betty Gable on her subsequent start. Margarita Girl, Usha's distant runner-up when she broke her maiden, also won her next race; beating Into the Hall, who had previously been a close second to **MAGNIFICAT**.

With a ton of speed in this field, getting to the winners' circle won't be possible with a horse devoid of at least some stamina. Usha finished her winning races off in a manner suggesting that 7 furlongs will be well within her compass, but it was at Del Mar, where she short stretch helps speed horses. Her dam, Animal Appeal, was a winner from 5.5 to 6.5 furlongs on turf; though Usha, who is by 10-furlong Belmont Stakes winner Tiz the Law, is a half-sister to a moderate mile winner by Twirling Candy. There's nothing in her pedigree to say that she absolutely won't stay a mile - but there's nothing to say that she will either.

SIMPLY JOKING was not at her best when second to Hope Road in the Bayakoa Stakes over a mile at Del Mar in early November but it was a respectable run; and it was way better than her flop in the Raven Run at Keeneland in October, when she was virtually pulled up. That was her first start since the wet-fast Kentucky Oaks in May (also badly beaten). We need to go back to her winter / spring form to find the real Simply Joking, and her career best performances do put her in with a chance here. **Morning line 20-1** almost looks like a mistake, even 10-1 would be great value about this contender. Combining speed with stamina, she is the right type for this race. The daughter of G1 winning 7-furlong runner Practical Joke ran to GF 106p to win the one-mile Silverbulletday Stakes at the Fair Grounds on only her second start (beating Bless the Broken and Drexel Hill / board hitters in the Kentucky Oaks), and she improved to **Globeform 107p** when second, 3/4 length behind Quietside in the 8.5-furlong Fantasy Stakes at Oaklawn Park in March. Quietside was coming off a win over **FIVE G** in the Honeybee Stakes a month earlier. >>>

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FIVE G was spotting Quietside 5lbs and beaten just a length in the 8.5-furlong Honeybee at Oaklawn, making her the clear number one of ratings in that race. Coming off an impressive 9-length win in the Cash Run Stakes at Gulfstream Park, she improved to **Globeform 108** at Oaklawn Park, and she confirmed that she belongs at that level (and possibly higher) when taking the Gulfstream Park Oaks over the same distance in late March. She made virtually all in the Cash Run, tried to make all in the Honeybee, and did make all in the Gulfstream Park Oaks, a race she won easily by 2 1/4 lengths from preceding allowance winner Anna's Promise, with next out allowance winner Cassiar third. Five G is a strong contender here. Yes, she has to run a big race after a long break but her good run in the Fantasy came after a break and trainer George Weaver has a tremendous 36% strike rate with runners firing straight off the bench.

FORMULA ROSSA is a fast, talented sprinter and well worth a look, though it's somewhat hard to agree with her 3-1 morning line. That says she will be shorter than Usha and Five G. We shall see. This Mark Glatt trainee gained impressive wins on her first two starts, taking a 6-furlong maiden at Santa Anita by 4 lengths from **BRILLIANTLY**, and then an allowance race over the same distance at Del Mar, where she beat the 4yo Wishtheyallcouldbe comfortably by 6 1/2 lengths. Wishtheyallcouldbe was coming off a fourth place on her preceding starts (where she was behind Margarita Girl, who was crushed by **USHA** in the summer), and she was a distant fourth at Los Alamitos next time out. She goes in R4 today. Formula Rossa met something else on her third outing, as she took on the high class sprinter Sweet Azteca in the Rancho Bernardo Stakes over 6.5 furlongs at Del Mar in August. A combination of an unwise / very aggressive ride, the added distance and facing a G1 performer, made her look like she did not care much for the last half-furlong, but she was a clear second and improved to **Globeform 104p**. It's hard to toss this filly; she is entitled to improve; but a hot pace in a 7-furlong might not be ideal for this Vekoma filly.

MAGNIFICAT beat **ARTISMA** and **BRILLIANTLY** by a neck and 1 1/2 lengths in a Del Mar allowance race over 6.5 furlongs in November. Artisma has the best piece of form in the book, as she reached a very respectable **Globeform 104** when beaten just a head by Look Forward in the Santa Ynez Stakes back in January (only her second start), but she has not progressed as one would have expected. These three are closely matched on ratings and luck in running will probably determine which one does best, but it would come as a surprise to see the La Brea winner coming from this trio.

SILENT LAW could be the sneaky longshot who takes a few by surprise. She does not have form in the book making her a win contender, but her best form was as runner-up in the 8.5-furlong Santa Anita Oaks in April, she is well drawn on the outside, and she gets Joel Rosario in the saddle. How many times have we seen Joel bide his time patiently off a strong pace in sprints, then deliver a horse with superior stamina to roll past rivals inside the final furlong? I've lost count - and this La Brea will probably be a riders' event. I also like this filly a little bit as a Trifecta filler because her two runs since the Santa Anita Oaks both worked against her; the turf did not suit in the San Clemente and she ran too fast too early in the Chillingworth.

CONCLUSION: Three names stick out in this field; Usha, Five G and Simply Joking. The Baffert filly has looked like a runner with plenty of upside, while the two others are proven graded stakes performers. That they stay further than this trip is also a big plus. But adding a fourth makes sense and it must be Formula Rossa. She was still immature when cruising in her first two starts and there's no disgrace in losing by 3 1/2 lengths to Sweet Azteca. Put her in this field and you'd have an even money favorite. Speaking of odds, **Simply Joking's 20-1 morning line is way too big**. She's a must bet across the board.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	5 USHA Won @ 5.6-1	243-1 Trifecta hit with 12 lines
B	1 SIMPLY JOKING 3rd, 3 FIVE G	
C	9 FORMULA ROSSA 2nd, 10 SILENT LAW	

Five G / Gulfstream Park Oaks (R9 / 22:40): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zehn3V_K94Q&t=1927s

Five G 2nd / Honeybee Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUKkkTHmM-8>

Simply Joking / Fantasy Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FQRCmYq300>

Simply Joking / Silverbulletday Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccjDGCTdwLg>

Simply Joking 2nd / Bayakoa Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ht2J9Rf49g>

Usha / Del Mar Allowance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UciQX62Z8XM>

Usha / Del Mar maiden: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2fRjG9qFrY>

Formula Rossa / Del Mar Allowance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mictgBXP1jl>