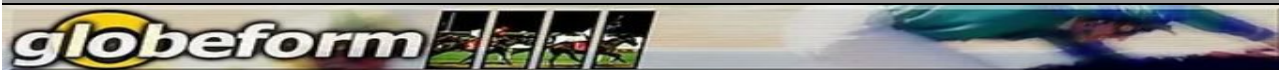


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Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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GLOBEFORM RANKING

MUNIZ MEMORIAL CLASSIC (G2) 9 fur Turf, Fair Grounds, March 22

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

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	6	SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS	117	117 - 114p - 113	C Brown / Gaffalione
1p	5	REDISTRICTING	110p	110p - 105+ PU	C Brown / Prat
1p	7	REBEL RED	110p	109+ 110p - 101p	DeVaux / J L Ortiz
3	3	WHAT SAY THEE	108	105 - 108 - 99	Maker / L Saez
4p	8	BRILLIANT BERTI	111p	108 - 111p - 109p	DeVaux / B Hernandez Jr
4	12	HIGGINS BOAT	107	107 - ? - 105	Amoss / Morales
3 / 9	2	JOHNY'S FIREBALL <i>GF 110 in June '24</i>	110 / 104	95 - 104 - 0	N Casse / Geroux
5	10	DANCIN IN DA'NILLE	108	98 - 108 - 103+	G Cox / Concepcion
6	1	GIGANTE	109	105 - 109 - 107	Asmussen / Rosario
6	11	IDRATHERBEBLESSED	105	104 - 105 - 105	Hartman / Curtiz
8	9	SMOKEY MANDATE	103	103 - 0 - 101	Maker / Loveberry
11	4	CAMEO PERFORMANCE	100	92 - 100 - 95	Walsh / I Ortiz Jr

Most recent winners of the Muniz Memorial

2024	I'M VERY BUSY	116p	Chad Brown	Irada Ortiz Jr
2023	SPOOKY CHANNEL	113	Jason Barkley	Joel Rosario
2022	TWO EMMYS	115	Hugh Robertson	James Graham
2021	COLONEL LIAM	119p	Todd Pletcher	Irada Ortiz Jr
2020	FACTOR THIS	117	Brad Cox	Shaun Bridgmohan

Average winning Globeform: 116

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS improved to **Globeform 117** when coming from a few lengths off the pace to take the valuable Pegasus World Cup Turf over 9 furlongs at Gulfstream Park and he sets the standard in the Muniz Memorial, a race his trainer Chad Brown won with I'm Very Busy last year. That horse was also exiting the Pegasus Turf, having run second to the Irish filly Warm Heart at Gulfstream Park. Spirit of St Louis was a bit of a surprise in the Pegasus Turf but this year's contest was not a strong renewal. That said, he did beat the smart Integration gamely by a neck, with Seabiscuit winner Mi Hermano Roman back in fourth place, ahead of Fort Washington and Major Dude. Those two fought out the finish to the Canadian Turf Stakes over the same course five weeks later, so we can safely say that the form has been working out. Spirit of St Louis, a 6yo New York bred had been making hay in restricted stakes on the NY circuit previously and he began improving when beating City Man and the next out Gulfstream winner Jerry the Nipper in the 8.5-furlongs Mohawk Stakes at Aqueduct last October. That win, gained from just off the pace, led to a three-month break before the Pegasus. Looking three starts back, we see that Spirit of St Louis ran fifth to Carl Spackler in the very good Keeneland Turf Mile, so his progress has been gradual. Can he improve again? It may seem unlikely, given his age, but he was fairly strong hitting the line at Gulfstream and it's not out of the question that he can find even better form. He tops the ranking here though only by one pound, because his weight, 124lbs, means that she has to give 6lbs to another Brown trainee, the talented **REDISTRICTING** (who had to bypass the Pegasus due to a minor set back pausing his works from Dec 31 to Jan 26) and Cherie DeVaux's interesting longshot **REBEL RED**. Spirit of St Louis travelled well throughout in the Pegasus. The Muniz lacks pace but note that he won twice when racing up with the pace last year (albeit in lesser company) so he probably doesn't have to be held up to be efficient. With 10 wins from 14 runs, this son of Medaglia d'Oro has finished worse than third just once - and that was when he met top class milers Carl Spackler and More Than Looks at Keeneland.

REDISTRICTING, the horse yours truly thought would be Chad Brown's main horse for the Pegasus Turf before he was ruled out, looks a big danger to his barnmate here. He has always shown talent but his career has been interrupted and this 5yo has had no more than six starts to date. He produced GF 106p when winning an allowance race on his third career start in 2023 (after a layoff), went from that win to the Hollywood Derby - where he bolted on the home turn and was pulled up - and was subsequently given a ten-month break. He came back in the Knickerbocker over 9 furlongs at Aqueduct last October and ran second, beaten a neck by Andthelwinneris after a troubled trip. Redistricting was unlucky not to win that day and he was heavily backed to make amends in the 8.5-furlong Seabiscuit Handicap at Del Mar in November. Favorite backers came close to collecting as he simply flew from way back to get up for second place, beaten half a length by 11-1 winner Mi Hermano Ramon. Those were joint A-ranked for us in the race, by the way, and they combined for a nice 43-1 exacta. There must be a good chance we can hit the exacta also in the Muniz Memorial, though a Chad Brown one-two won't give us that sort of return. Redistricting seems sure to appreciate this step back up in distance and he is also likely to improve; in other words, it is a bit hard to split these two barnmates. Whether Redistricting needs to come from well out of it is also hard to say; he was in the first three all the way both in his allowance win and in the Knickerbocker, so perhaps not.

Another factor to consider is that these horses are probably using the Muniz Memorial as a stepping stone to the Turf Classic at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby day, which means that being 100% tuned up this week is not the plan, and means that how they are ridden here will be with an eye on how they should be ridden when they meet even tougher rivals in the G1 event at Churchill. It's unlikely, therefore, that they will be ridden prominently on Saturday.

REBEL RED and Brilliant Berti represent Chad Brown's former assistant Cherie DeVaux, who has made an excellent start to her training career. Rebel Red, who lost his left eye in an accident after winning at Saratoga last summer, seems to have been able to adapt to life with his handicap. He was visually impressive when winning a 9-furlong allowance race at Keeneland last October (coming from well off the pace to beat Clyde's Got a Gun by almost three lengths) but he found 11 furlongs a bit too far when third to subsequent Pegasus World Cup Turf second Integration in the Red Smith Stakes at Aqueduct a month later. A half-brother to >>>

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>>> top class milers (on turf and dirt) Without Parole and Tamarkuz, this 5yo entire is not bred to go long but 9 furlongs suits him really well. His runner-up at Keeneland, Clyde's Got a Gun, was well beaten when ninth to **JOHNY'S FIREBALL** next time out, but Cowboy Justice - who ran third to Rebel Red - was third in Johny's Fireball's race so let's not read too much into that. Rebel Red produced **Globeform 110p** at Keeneland and that he ran to GF 109+ over an inadequate trip at Aqueduct suggests that he *is* capable of better than what we have seen from his thus far.

BRILLIANT BERTI is set for his 4yo debut, having been one of the best 3yos on turf last year, when won the American Derby at Churchill Downs in June, the Gun Runner Stakes at Kentucky Downs in September and the Bryan Station at Keeneland in October. In between the first two wins, he ran second in the Secretariat Stakes at Colonial Downs. A winner of 5 races, Brilliant Berti has run just 7 times but he has gained a lot of experience already and it will be interesting to see how he copes with meeting the best older horses this season. The 3yo turf division was not strong last year and he will need to improve to make his presence felt at the top level, but improvement can definitely be expected from this horse. Not just as a result of maturing but also as a result of being given chances to run over further than a mile With **Globeform 111p** on his CV, Brilliant Berti has always looked like a horse wanting to stretch out in distance. He came from well off the pace to win over a mile both in the Gun Runner and the Bryan Station, and he was foiled by Trikari getting an easy lead when beaten by that rival in the Secretariat, also staged over a mile. By the high class 12-furlong horse Noble Mission (a brother to the mighty Frankel), Brilliant Berti is out of Believe in Bertie (Langfuhr), a mile stakes winner who was places G3 company over 8.5 furlongs, and the Muniz distance is likely to suit him well. He is in with a chance here but his weight means that - unless the leading contenders are below par - he needs to improve a couple of lengths straight off the bench to win.

WHAT SAY THEE looked a live contender for the Fair Grounds Stakes in February, but his somewhat one-paced third placed effort fell a bit short of the form he had produced on his preceding outing. He passed the winning post a length behind **HIGGINS BOAT** - who almost managed to win the race from gate to wire but was caught late by Taking Candy, who won by a length. Higgins Boat once more finds himself in a race without much pace signed on, but this is a better field and he is in stall 12 (he overcame stall 9 last time). He meets What Say Thee at the same weight terms though so it could be close between the two again. Not if What Say Thee can run back to his best, however. He improved to **Globeform 108** when winning at Churchill Downs last fall and he probably needed the race in the Fair Grounds. A 10-1 shot on the morning line (and that may prove to be too low), he is one to mix into the Trifectas and Superfectas. He beat Ah Jeez by a head after a stretch duel over a mile at Churchill Downs last November. What Say Thee, who has had no more than 22 starts and won 7 times, came from off an average pace that day, and he was very deserving, game winner. Not that the Fair Grounds Stakes winner Taking Candy was third, giving the form a nice look. This son of world class turf champion Sea The Stars never ran at two and he had just three starts as a 3yo. Maker claimed him for \$35,000 from Jack Sisterson in October '23 and What Say Thee has rewarded his connections with six wins since, including in the Texas Turf Classic at Lone Star Park. >>>

CONCLUSION: Chad Brown to win. Not exactly a brave prediction. It's hard to separate Spirit of St Louis and **Redistricting**, who looks **too big as a 9-2 shot** on the morning line. Spirit of St Louis is also big (3-1) and other favorite's odds on the Fair Grounds morning line for Saturday are a bit hard to believe. Are we going to get 7-5 about Sierra Leone in the New Orleans Classic? And 4-5 about Good Cheer in the Fair Grounds Oaks? Really? We'll see. Back to this race... it is tempting to go for Redistricting. That he was able to go so close to winning from a seemingly hopeless position at Del Mar, where the home stretch is just a furlong, tells us that he will do even better over a track like the Fair Grounds. Spirit of St Louis becomes >>>



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>>> the obvious B-horse, ahead of Cherie DeVaux's duo, Rebel Red and Brilliant Berti, and What Say Three. A trifecta plan probably needs to be with our A-horse alone on top (to save on lines), while Superfectas can be played with Chad Bown's to finish 1st & 2nd in either order. A longshot to throw into the mix is Dancin in Da'nile, simply because his 9-furlong Canadian form is good enough to put him in with a chance of being in the top three or four and he will probably be overlooked, thus offer great value.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	5 REDISTRICTING
B	6 SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS
C	3 WHAT SAY THEE, 7 REBEL RED, 8 BRILLIANT BERTI

Spirit of St Louis / Pegasus World Cup Turf: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klgUMaM-gqA>

Redistricting 2nd / Seabiscuit Handicap: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Duw1f7z0B1U>

Brilliant Berti / Gun Runner Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEzqBA6aOqA>

Brilliant Berti / Bryan Station Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6WlgSLLHqY>

Rebel Red / Keeneland Allowance (R4 / 3h23min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKIA8NZ0P4k&t=12520s>

Higgins Way 2nd What Say Thee 3rd / Fair Grounds S: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSlXn9XULrA>
4th Idratherbebblessed, 6th Gigante

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