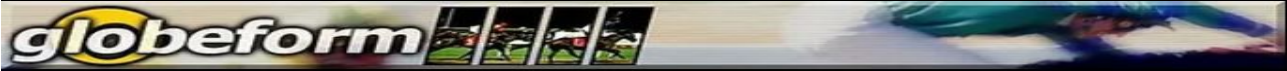


Globeform's Kentucky Derby Special '25

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



Stakes winner over the course, likely to stay - in with a big chance.

Kentucky Derby | Sovereignty in focus

SOVEREIGNTY is a strong Derby contender. He looked a high class colt in the making when winning the Street Sense Stakes here at Churchill Downs last fall and he has continued his progress with two fine performances at Gulfstream Park this spring. He took the 8.5-furlong Street Sense by 5 lengths, proving much too good for **TIZTASTIC**, who was a neck better than **SANDMAN**. Nobody could say for sure how good a race that was at the time but - even allowing for the fact that the placed horses have improved a lot this year - it sure looked okay now, right? Tiztastic has won the Louisiana Derby and Sandman has won the Arkansas Derby and they are both also part of the Kentucky Derby field. Sovereignty, wan attractive, big scopey son of Into Mischief, enjoyed a long winter break and came back in the Fountain of Youth Stakes in early March. Facing the race fit, impressive allowance winner River Thames over a course that would play more to the latter's strength, Sovereignty seemed to be up against it in the 8.5-furlong test - and he was, but he overcame it to get up for an impressive win. Making up ground from the pack, he got the better on River Thames in the last few strides and beat him by a neck, with **NEOEQUOS** a non-staying third and subsequent Blue Grass winner Burnham Square back in fourth. Sovereignty could not have had a better start to his 3yo campaign and he went off favorite to follow up in the Florida Derby four weeks later. Nine furlongs was expected to suit him better and he was the logical selection; but favorite players lost their money. He came up short against Tappan Street, who beat him by 1 1/4 lengths. The prominent runner Tappan Street got first run on Sovereignty and Gulfstream is a track that favors horses with his running style - but he kept on running right to the wire that day and Sovereignty never got close enough to make it an exciting finish. Mott's horse was beaten fair and square, checking in 2 3/4 lengths in front of the third placed **NEOEQUOS**. There was a bit more to the story though; as we have seen some mornings at Churchill Downs the past two weeks, Sovereignty can get a bit sweaty - and that happened also behind the gate prior to the start of the Florida Derby (but not prior to the Fountain of Youth), so it may have been a case of the colt not feeling good. He has seemed to be getting better as the days went by when out on the track past week, so hopefully this is not going to be a factor on Derby day; though anyone planning go in with a win bet on this horse should wait until seeing him in the paddock and the parade before determining the size of that wager.

Sovereignty is out of the unraced Bernardini daughter Crowned, who has not produced anything else worth mentioning but is a daughter of Mushka (Empire Maker), a filly Bill Mott trained to win the 9-furlong Spinster Stakes and run second in the Breeders' Cup Distaff when she was a four-year-old. Having an unusual campaign, she was also runner-up in the 11-furlong Sheepshead Bay Stakes on turf the same season. Crowned came from the family of top class filly Lakeway, a winner of three Grade Ones and second in the Kentucky Oaks. There is, in other words, stamina in Sovereignty's family - and it shows when he runs. He is likely to stay 10 furlongs and there's also a good chance that he will get a fast pace in front of him, setting things up for his closing style. Give Sovereignty a traffic free trip, and he will be in with a winning chance.

Sovereignty 2nd / Florida Derby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvZFFGoTCeU>
3rd Neoequos

Sovereignty / Fountain of Youth Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNliQ20UOqU>
3rd Neoequos 4th Burnham Square