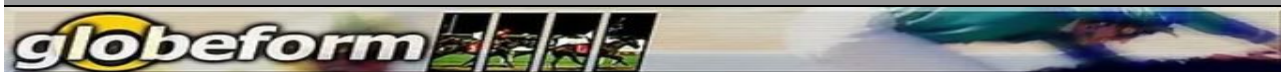


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Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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GLOBEFORM RANKING

QUEEN ELIZABETH II CHALLENGE CUP (G1) 9 fur Turf, Keeneland, Oct 11

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)					
0p	9	FIONN	109p	104+ - 109p - 103	B Cox / Prat
2p	2	LAURELIN	107p	107p - 104p - 101p	Motion / Carmouche
3	5	OPULENT RESTRAINT	106	101 - 106 - 100	Brown / Rosario
4p	7	DESTINO D'ORO	105p	93 - 105p - 100p	B Cox / I Ortiz Jr
4	3	SIMMERING	105	100 - 0 - 95 - 105	Sangster / Saez
4	1	LUSH LIPS <i>GF 105 in Mar '25</i>	105	102 - 104 - 101	Walsh / Gaffalione
6	6	CANDY QUEST	103	103 - 99p - 97	M Casse / J L Ortiz
9p	4	DAISY FLYER	100p	0 - 100p - 95p	Arnold / Geroux
7 / 10	8	WILL THEN <i>GF 102 in Nov '24</i>	102 / 99	99 - 96 - 99	Thomas / Dettori

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

Most recent winners of the Queen Elizabeth II

2024	SHE FEELS PRETTY	GF 118	Cherie DeVaux	John Velazquez
2023	MAWJ	GF 111	Saeed bin Suroor	Oisin Murphy
2022	GINA ROMANTICA	GF 110	Chad Brown	Flavien Prat
2021	SHANTISARA	GF 119	Chad Brown	Flavien Prat
2020	HARVEY'S LIL GOIL	GF 110	William Mott	Martin Garcia

Average winning Globeform: 113.6

Lexington weather forecast

Wed 08	70°/44°		Mostly Sunny	△ 10%	✓ NNE 11 mph
Thu 09	67°/41°		Sunny	△ 4%	← ENE 12 mph
Fri 10	72°/44°		Mostly Sunny	△ 6%	← ENE 4 mph
Sat 11	75°/44°		Sunny	△ 7%	← ENE 4 mph
Sun 12	76°/44°		Sunny	△ 6%	← NE 5 mph

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

FIONN, who is coming off a came half-length win over **CANDY QUEST** in the Dueling Grounds Oaks at Kentucky Downs, ran her best race to date when getting up for a narrow win over the heavy favorite Nitrogen in the Belmont Oaks at Saratoga in July. She finished strongly from off the pace in both these races, and this daughter of Twirling Candy promises to get ten furlongs - perhaps even further. Her connections have voiced Breeders' Cup ambitions, and the BC Filly & Mare Turf is set to be staged over 11 furlongs this year. It will be a much tougher race than this and Fionn would have to win the 'QE II' with authority to be taken seriously at Del Mar next month. She did not need to be at her best at Kentucky Downs, where she was a deserving winner spotting Candy Quest 4lbs. The Belmont Oaks, won by a nose as **OPULENT RESTRAINT** was 3/4 length behind in third place, earned Fionn **Globeform 109p**. If she runs up to that mark she will be hard to beat here; she might even improve - but there are reasons to oppose here too; firstly that she has had some hard races this season, secondly that she drew the wide post. The post may not be a big problem, as she will be dropped in for a late run - but it's not ideal. Another thing to note is the fact that it was her barnmate **DESTINO D'ORO** who (somewhat surprisingly) went off as an odds-on favorite at Kentucky Downs. Destino d'Oro did not handle the undulations of the tricky course and finished sixth. She ran a much better race when winning the 9-furlong Pucker Up Stakes at Ellis Park in early August, beating Hereforagoodtime comfortably by 3 3/4 lengths. Hereforagoodtime ran third in the Dueling Grounds Oaks, beaten exactly the same margin by Fionn. Notably, Admit - who was third to Destino d'Oro at Ellis - took fourth in the Dueling Grounds Oaks. Looking at these results one realizes that it's not just the betting in the Dueling Grounds Oaks that indicate Destino d'Oro is in the same league as Fionn. She ran to Globeform 105p in the Pucker Up, like the QE II run over 9 furlongs, and this is her chance to build on that effort. It will be interesting to see how these fillies are being bet on Saturday; though the name 'Irad Ortiz Jr' next to Destino d'Oro will also influence players.

LAURELIN, undefeated in five starts, is the main threat to the Brad Cox duo. This daughter of Zarak has a lower mileage, as she has been brought along somewhat quietly by Graham Motion, who has saddled her to wins in the Memories of Silver Stakes at Aqueduct in April, the Penn Oaks at Penn National in June and the Saratoga Oaks in August. She beat **OPULENT RESTRAINT** by a neck over a mile at Aqueduct, and she tackled the same distance when beating **CANDY QUEST** quite easily by 1 1/2 lengths while spotting her 4lbs at Penn National. Stepping up to 9.5 furlongs at Saratoga, Laurelin improved yet again - this time running to **Globeform 107p** with an impressive 1 3/4-length win over Evershed, who was 3/4 length better than the third placed **OPULENT RESTRAINT**. Laurelin travels well in her races, she is never far off the pace, and she has a good finishing kick. Almost certain to improve again, well drawn in post two and representing a team in good form, she makes a lot of appeal and gets the nod in this office.

OPULENT RESTRAINT's best performance is her third placed finish in the Belmont Oaks over 9 furlongs at Saratoga in early July. Exiting a break since her runner-up effort behind **LAURELIN** in the Memories of Silver at Aqueduct in late April, she was no more than 3/4 length behind **FIONN** and Nitrogen, improving to **Globeform 106** as she kept on gamely after setting the pace. This run confirmed that she copes with 9 furlongs but she tired at the end of the 9.5-furlong Saratoga Oaks two months later and was beaten 2 1/2 lengths into third behind **LAURELIN**. This Chad Brown trainee might actually be best suited by a mile going forward - but there's a chance that she becomes the lone speed in the QE II and hits the board once more.

SIMMERING was scratched from last week's First Lady Stakes in order to go for this race, where she has a much better chance. This English trained filly showed smart form as a juvenile and she ran her best race to date when taking third in the 1,000 Guineas over the straight mile at Newmarket back in May, having been below form on her seasonal debut two weeks earlier. Staying on from off the pace, she was 2 lengths behind the heavy favorite Desert Flower, as her stable companion Flight beat her by a length for second place. Simmering returned **Globeform 105** in the Guineas but she flopped badly both in the Irish 1,000 Guineas and in the Coronation Stakes - before returning to better form with her third, 3 3/4 lengths behind Better Together, in the Prix de Lieurey at Deauville in August. Like in the Guineas, that was also run over a straight course, though on soft ground. Better Together is a very good filly trained by Andre Fabre, but the three fillies that have run back after figuring in the Lieurey were all beaten (two pretty badly). >>>

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LUSH LIPS has produced **Globeform 104** twice. It happened when she was a half-length second to Nitrogen in the Florida Oaks at Tampa Bay Downs in the spring, and again as she came from just off the pace to gain an easy 3 3/4-length win in the Tepin Stakes at Churchill Downs in late June. Trying a mile on a flat course for the first time, she was much too good for Princess Attitude (who has since been well beaten behind Destino d'Oro and Fionn). The win set Lush Lips up for a crack at the 9-furlong Del Mar Oaks in August, when she came from further back to get up for second, half a length behind the 35-1 winner Velocity. Thought Process, who had won the San Clemente Handicap from Casalu and **WILL THEN** (who ran fifth in DMR Oaks) on her precious start, checked in third. Lush Lips was ridden on the lead in her first three races this year but she has been held up in her last three. It will be interesting to see what tactics are employed here, as she is in post one.

DAISY FLYER has a fair bit to find on all known form but there was a lot to like about her winning dash in the Lake George Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Saratoga in July. Sure to be better over longer distances, she is much better than her unplaced run in the Dueling Grounds Oaks might suggest. The distance would be right for her in that event but not all horses cope with the undulations at Kentucky Downs and Daisy Flyer should not be overlooked. Potentially a big improver, she's one to include in the Trifecta plan.

CONCLUSION: Laurelin has yet to lose a race and she is improving with each and every run. If that continues - and there's no reason to doubt that it will - she should be tough here. Not that it will be easy. The two Brad Cox fillies, Fionn and Destino d'Oro, are also good win contenders, while Daisy Flyer looks the best longshot; forget her run at Kentucky Downs and she has an interesting profile. Opulent Restraint is the consistent type who can take advantage when / if one of the top three fails to shine.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	2 LAURELIN
B	7 DESTIN D'ORO, 9 FIONN
C	4 DAISY FLYER, 5 OPULENT RESTRAINT

Fionn / Belmont Oaks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7zuYiJ2Syg>
3rd Opulent Restraint

Fionn / Dueling Grounds Oaks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVbFd4HKkDo>
2nd Candy Quest 11th Daisy Flyer

Laurelin / Saratoga Oaks: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5Zx-B2K_0g&t=1s
3rd Opulent Restraint

Destino d'Oro / Pucker Up Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWpriK4uzzo>

Simmering 3rd / 1,000 Guineas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrkxfd09nk0>

Daisy Flyer / Lake George Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbYrCodinv&t=1s>

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