

GLOBEFORM'S BREEDERS' CUP SERVICE

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC CONTENDER NEVADA BEACH IN FOCUS



NEVADA BEACH is the dark horse in this year's Breeders' Cup Classic. Does anybody actually *know* how good this colt is? A late developing 3yo trained by Bob Baffert, he captured the 9-furlongs Goodwood Stakes at Santa Anita in late September. He outstayed the odds-on favorite Full Serrano to win readily by 1 1/2 lengths, with his barnmate Privman 3 1/4 lengths further adrift in third place. It was not a particularly deep field for a top level contest and Full Serrano failed to stay the trip, but Nevada Beach was still a bit impressive. Improving markedly from his win against just two rivals in the 9-furlong Los Alamitos Derby two months earlier, he returned a career best **Globeform 120p**. He came from off the pace in the Goodwood and stayed on gamely at the finish, signaling that another furlong would be very welcome. There are two reasons to expect further progress from this son of Omaha Beach. Firstly, he is likely to step up again with more experience; secondly, the 10-furlong trip is probably going to suit him even better than nine furlongs did. He has a fair bit to find with Sovereignty of course but - *on this year's form* - Nevada Beach isn't all that far behind Sierra Leone, Fierceness, Sierra Leone, Journalism and Baeza. He is definitely a horse that should be considered by Trifecta players.

Getting 'boosting help' from a Baffert trained longshot in exotics is not exactly common but we only need to look a year back to last year find such a runner. Baffert's 15-1 chance Newgate finished fourth in the 2024 BC Classic. With Sierra Leone winning the race from Fierceness and Forever Young, there's little doubt as to which horse contributed most to a massive 2024-1 Superfecta return that day. Nevada Beach's credentials are just as good and, unlike Newgate, he comes into the big race as a potential improver.

It might even be tempting to have a future bet on Nevada Beach for the BC Classic, as he is as big as 25-1 with the bookmakers but it makes more sense to wait and have a little interest in him after the fields are drawn, with no risk of losing if he is ruled out. We will probably get at least 20-1 also at that stage, provided the other heavyweights are still standing.

Nevada Beach is out of Morrow Cove (Yes It's True), who won the Serena's Song over an extended mile at Monmouth Park and the Cat Cay Stakes over 7 furlongs at Aqueduct as a 3yo. She is also the dam of Camp David (Pioneer of the Nile), a winner of five races to date (successful at up to 8.5 furlongs).

Nevada Beach / Goodwood Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlzzCk6cE6g>

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