

Globeform Subscription Service

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



7

3:00 PT

GLOBEFORM RANKING

JOE HERNANDEZ S. (G2) 6.5 fur Turf, Santa Anita Dec 27

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 3 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	1	IMAGINATION	120	120 - 119 - 109	Baffert / J Hernandez
0 / 3	6	MOTORIOUS <i>GF 118 in B Cup Turf Sprint '24</i>	118 / 115	113 - 115+ 115	D'Amato / Fresu
0	15	FIRST PEACE AE5 <i>GF 116 in Sep 24 (6.5f turf)</i>	116	89 - 100 / 116	Glatt / Smith
3	10	SUMTER	113	103 - 113 - 103	Mandella / Prat
4 / 13	14	SON OF A BIRCH AE4 <i>GF 112 in July '24 (6f turf)</i>	112 / 103	103 - ? - 97	Falcone / Rispoli
5 / 8+	7	UNCONQUERABLE KEEN <i>GF 111 in Dec '24</i>	111 / 108+	108+ 109 - 108	D'Amato / Pyle
7p	8	EL POTENTE	111p	110 - 111p - 106p	Blacker / Berrios
7	4	FLYOVER	109	109 - 107p - 95	Sadler / T Baze
7	5	YELLOW CARD	109	107 - 109 - 108	McCarthy / Kimura
7	11	AWESOME RHYTHM AE1	109	98 - 109 - ?p	Garcia / Ayuso
8	2	ZIO JO	108	107 - 107 -102 - 108	O'Neill / Rosario
8	9	GAS ME UP	112	112 - 109 - 107p	Eurton / Demuro
9	3	SORRENTO SKY	107	107 - 100 - 104	D'Amato / Rispoli
17	12	SCHWARZMEINER AE2	99	88 - 95 - 99	Eurton / Maldonado
19	13	FEEL THE MAGIC AE3	97	97 - 96 - 0	Valder / G Franco

Most recent winners of the Hernandez Stakes

2024	MOTORIOUS	GF 114	Phil D'Amato	Antonio Fresu
2023	FORBIDDEN KINGDOM	GF 116p	Richard Mandella	Flavien Prat
2022	AIR FORCE RED <i>Run on December 31</i>	GF 117	Leonard Powell	Juan J Hernandez
2022	CHEWING GUM <i>Run on January 1</i>	GF 109	William Mott	Umberto Rispoli
2020	TEXAS WEDGE	GF 112p	Peter Miller	Flavien Prat
2019	CARIBOU CLUB	GF 119	Thomas Procter	Joseph Talamo

Average winning Globeform: 114.5

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

IMAGINATION, representing the red hot Baffert team, will be making his first start on turf here. If he translates his dirt form to the downhill sprint he wins this race. Well drawn for a smooth trip in a field that isn't exactly loaded with early speed, he takes the best form to the table, having run to GF 119p when beating Dr Venkman easily by 1 3/4 lengths to win the Santa Anita Sprint, and improved to **Globeform 120** to get second behind top class performer Bentornato in the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Del Mar (this time a nose in front of Dr Venkman). Imagination had an eight-month break leading up to these races and he came back a vastly improved runner. A million dollar purchase at the Keeneland Sales in 2022, this son of Into Mischief is out of Magical Feeling, an Empire Maker daughter who has also produced Monmouth Oaks winner Occult, and there's no clue in his pedigree as to how he might handle the lawn. Let's just trust that he will.

MOTORIOUS won this event last year, beating **SUMTER** by a head after having been a close second in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. This time, he is coming off a non-threatening fifth at the Breeders' Cup, where he was beaten 4 3/4 lengths behind Shisospicy. Motorious ran to **Globeform 118** at the 2024 B Cup Turf Sprint, and he needed GF 114 to win the Joe Hernandez. His three runs in 2025; wins in the Daytona and the Green Flash and the Breeders' Cup effort, have returned GF 115, GF 115+ and GF 113. He is still a very good sprinter and he keeps on showing consistent form, but perhaps this gelding, who officially turns eight on Thursday, is not quite as good as he was. It's hard to get away from him as the logical B-horse though; he loves the downhill course; and this *is* a specialists' trip.

FIRST PEACE would need an unusual scenario of scratches to get into the field; which is a shame, as his best form last year would make him an interesting runner in this race. He performed to **Globeform 116** when winning the 6.5-furlong Eddie D Stakes at Santa Anita in September last year (beating Air Force Red and King of Gosford), but has had just two starts since; unplaced in the Green Flash in August and in this year's Eddie D in September.

SUMTER ran as if something was amiss in the Seabiscuit last time out. He had every chance turning for home but faded suddenly half a furlong out and finished second last behind our 68-1 winner Call Sign Seven, who won the race from yesterday's San Gabriel runner-up Astronomer. There probably wasn't anything physically wrong with Sumter - it's getting more and more obvious that he is an unreliable runner. Very good when he feels like performing, rather frustrating when he he doesn't. He sits high on the ranking though, and he went very close to winning the Joe Hernandez last year, when **MOTORIOUS** had to pull out all the stops to win by a head. He was impressive as he won the Lure Stakes over a mile at Santa Anita in October; powering past the pace setting Goliad at the top of the lane and cruising away for comfortable 4-length win over St Anthony, who was coming off a sixth placed finish 5 lengths behind Epic Ride in the Mint Millions at Kentucky Downs. Having run to GF 111 in the 2024 Hernandez, Sumter improved to **Globeform 113** in the Lure. He had more up his sleeve passing the winning post and has been rated as a 5-length winner. A repeat of that sort of form would make him interesting today. Interestingly, the pattern is route in the same as last year; when he won the Lure, flopped in the Seabiscuit and then bounced back with a big run in the Hernandez. He is what he is, and may let the team down again, but Sumter is well in at the weights, he gets Prat in the saddle, and morning line **20-1 is actually too big** about this contender.

EL POTENTE is only 50-50 to run in this race, according to trainer Dan Blacker, who may scratch and wait for the Thunder Road on February 7 (which he won in '24). It would be interesting to see him in this contest. He ran very close to his best when returning after a long layoff in the Seabiscuit, taking third behind Call Sign Seven and Astronomer, who franked the form by running second the San Gabriel yesterday. **El Potente** was in great form at Santa Anita in the winter, when two nice wins made him a contender for the Kilroe Mile in March, but he was scratched from that event and ended up on the sidelines. He improved race by race through three starts before he was stopped, winning twice while easily overcoming a wide post to be up with the pace - where he likes to be. He raced with great zest throughout in the one-mile Thunder Road Stakes, and kicked away to win the race by 3 lengths from Seal Team, who beat Air Force Red by 1 1/4 lengths for second place. El Potente was never given a hard time by his rider and he was value for more than the bare margin. His **Globeform 111p** did not seem likely to be the ceiling; he could well prove to be a GF 114-115 performer but the question here is whether that will happen in a sprint. He is a natural miler - and such horses have done well over this unique 6.5-furlong trip in the past. >>>

UNCONQUERABLE KEEN comes here in fine form after having won the 5-furlong Stormy Liberal Stakes for a third time a month ago, when he produced a strong run from off the pace to beat **ZIO JO** and **SORRENTO SKY** in a close finish. Unconquerable Keen can beat these two again - but he is not as good on the downhill course as he is on the flat course and a top three or four finish seems to be the realistic ambition.

FLYOVER, a massive **30-1** on the morning line, is a progressive 4yo coming off two nice wins, both in allowance company over 5 furlongs at Del Mar. He did not seem to care for this 6.5-furlong trip when tiring after setting the pace in the California Flag Handicap in October, but there is a chance that he gets an easier lead here - and he has undoubtedly improved since that effort. He was a very game neck-winner from Incanto (previously 2nd to **YELLOW CARD**) last time out; and the form of Flyover's comfortable win two starts back was given a boost yesterday; as Proof He Rides (sixth to Flyover) won a good allowance heat, with Balluvaugan Gig (second to Flyover) a good third. Flyover might be worth including in the Trifecta plan.

YELLOW CARD has been very consistent this year, returning GF 108, GF 108, **Globeform 109** and GF 107 in his four races. A good second to subsequent Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint fourth and Janus Stakes winner Reef Runner in the Eddie D over this trip in September, he has a good chance of hitting the board.

GAS ME UP, a 6-furlong winner at Woodbine in July, produced his best form to date when seventh, 4 1/4 lengths behind Notable Speech in the Breeders' Cup Mile, having filled third behind the same rival in the Woodbine Mile and prior to that overcome a slow start to win the King Edward Stakes at Woodbine. He might be just the type to do well over this downhill course.

CONCLUSION: Unless Motorious regains his very best form - a bit unlikely - this is a great opportunity for Imagination. Backing him is taking a chance that the surface switch will work, but the main track sprint division is much stronger than the turf division and he is coming off a career best. Morning line 7-2 is very tempting; though after Baffert's results yesterday it's more likely that he will be a clear favorite. Motorious is the lone B-horse, to be used in 2nd / 3rd in the Trifecta plan. Including quite a few of the others may not be a bad idea; as behind the top two this race is quite open. At 20-1, the enigmatic Sumter is the value bet.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	1 IMAGINATION
B	6 MOTORIOUS
C	4 FLYOVER, 5 YELLOW CARD, 7 UNCONQUERABLE KEEN, 8 EL POTENTE, 9 GAS ME UP, 10 SUMTER

Imagination 2nd / Breeders' Cup Sprint: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSCPve_okns

Imagination / Santa Anita Sprint: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uF_T77xsKo

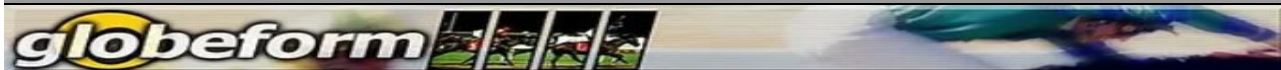
Motorious 5th Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qElhvu50bMQ>

Motorious & Sumter / Hernandez Stakes '24: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcA6W-xsTA4>

Sumter / Lure Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9gtH2NL9k0>

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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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10 selected stakes races covered

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=mictgBXP1jI>

Greetings!

From the very last sentence of the report for the Seabiscuit:

"Call Sign Seven is the longshot play. At 20-1 he's worth an across the board wager"

Wow, what a call - I still can't get over the price this horse went off at... 68-1...

THANKS again and as always, great work on the reports! ||| David G / NY

