

Globeform's Kentucky Derby Special '26

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



13

8:40 ET

GLOBEFORM RANKING

KENTUCKY OAKS (G1) 9 fur dirt, Churchill Downs, Friday, May 1

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	11	PERCY'S BAR	115p	115p - 104 - 108p	Colebrook / Machado
2p	2	ZANY	113p	110+ 110+ 113p	Pletcher / I Ortiz Jr
4p	5	MEANING	111p	111p - 107p - 104p	McCarthy / J J Hernandez
5	1	EXPLORA	110	108 - 108 - ?+ 110	Baffert / Prat
6p	10	PROM QUEEN	109p	109p - 99p - 95p	Joseph Jr / Castellano
7p	4	COUNTING STARS	108p	108p - 106p - 0	M Casse / Arrieta
10	12	BELLA BALLERINA	105	105 - 105 - 103	Walsh / Gaffalione
10	14	BROOKLYN BLONDE	105	105 - 92p - 86p	McCarthy / Kimura
11	8	BOTTLE OF ROUGE	104	104 - 104 - 100	Baffert - SCRATCHED
12p	9	ALWAYS A RUNNER	103p	103p - 94p	Brown / J L Ortiz
12	6	MY MISS MO	103	103 - 96 - 79	Joseph Jr / Husbands
12	3	SEARCH PARTY	103	96 - 103 - 100	M Casse / C Torres
13p	7	DAZZLING DAME	102p	94 - 102p - 96p	Russell / L Saez
15	13	PASHMINA	100	100 - 98 - 98	Atras / Vazquez
18	15	LOVELY GREY	97	97 - 93 - ?p	Danner / D Davis
22	16	NYCON	AE1 93	84 - 92 - 93	Beckman / J Torres
21	17	RESIST	AE2 94	94 - 83 - ?p	Drury Jr / B Hernandez Jr

Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. The "Rank" column shows the horse best in at the weights based on Globeform ratings on top, with other horses ranked down in pounds. For example; rank figure 6 tells us that the horse is 6lbs below the top ranked horse. Length values: 5-6 furlongs: 3lbs per length. 7 fur: 2.5lbs. 8 - 11 fur: 2lbs. 12 fur: 1.5lbs

*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 Kentucky Oaks

2025	GOOD CHEER	GF 114	Brad Cox	Luis Saez
2024	THORPEDO ANNA	GF 121p	Ken McPeck	Brian Hernandez Jr
2023	PRETTY MISCHIEVOUS	GF 115	Brendan Walsh	Tyler Gaffalione
2022	SECRET OATH	GF 118	D Wayne Lukas	Luis Saez
2021	MALATHAAT	GF 117p	Todd Pletcher	Johnny Velazquez
2020	SHEDARESTHEDEVIL <i>Sep4</i>	GF 120	Brad Cox	Florent Geroux

Average winning Globeform: 117.5

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

PERCY'S BAR delivered a particularly impressive seasonal debut when winning the 8.5-furlong Ashland Stakes at Keeneland, where she showed good cruising speed, quickened into the lead while saving ground by the rail, and beat the odds-on favorite **ZANY** readily by 2 1/4 lengths. Percy's Bar, who was reported to have worked really well coming into the race, improved to **Globeform 115p** with her Ashland win, a figure that makes her the top rated horse in the Kentucky Oaks field. Looking at the Ashland result on paper one might easily conclude that she will be at Zany again but she did enjoy a clear tactical advantage - she may well have been the fittest of the two -, she was helped by the short stretch run, and going 9 furlongs at Churchill Downs - with it's much longer stretch - will be quite different. The moderate pace also benefitted Percy's Bar, and it worked against Zany, at Keeneland. So can Percy's Bar win the Kentucky Oaks? Absolutely she can, though in order to do so she will have to produce a different type of performance. She looked like she had plenty of stamina as a juvenile, but speed was clearly her main asset in the Ashland. That was by far her best run to date, and it is therefore the race we should focus on as we assess her chances in the classic. Based on ratings, she is the one to beat - but stamina is not guaranteed with this contender.

Bought for just \$52,000, Percy's Bar has been a fantastic success story no matter what happens this week. She put up a solid performance when reversing the Spinaway Stakes form with Tommy Jo to win by 2 3/4 lengths in the Alcibiades Stakes last October - also run over 8.5 furlongs at Keeneland -, but was demoted to second as she interfered with her runner-up at the finish. Tommy Jo was given a real bump when Percy's Bar veered out but she looked to be tiring at the time and probably wouldn't have beaten Percy's Bar in any case. She had done so when they met over 7 furlongs in the Spinaway Stakes at Saratoga in August, and that by 6 1/2 lengths. Percy's Bar progressed from that run to the Alcibiades, and she did well also leading up to the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies at Del Mar, where she was third behind Super Corredora and **EXPLORA** after being bumped into the rail early in the straight. Checking in 3 lengths behind Explora, Percy's Bar showed great grit after the incident and she would have been much closer with a clean trip that day. Many a horse would have backed off but she just went again. That sort of attitude is worth a lot. Bookmakers William Hill's **7-1 is tempting for Percy's Bar** (her morning line is 6-1, with independent lines as big as 10-1).

ZANY lost her unbeaten record when running second to **PERCY'S BAR** in the Ashland Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Keeneland in April, but she was compromised by the slow pace and the short stretch run to the first winning post that day - and she probably has a good chance of revenge as they meet over 9 furlongs at Churchill Downs. The way Zany stayed on again in the closing stages was encouraging, and she will have learnt a lot from the experience. True, she had won well in races without much pace previously, but that was in different company and this daughter of American Pharoah won over 9 furlongs already as a juvenile. Most likely, she's a runner that will improve when given a proper test of stamina and (most likely again) that is what will happen in the Kentucky Oaks. She ran to GF 110+ as she passed the winning post 2 1/4 lengths behind the winner in the Ashland, the same figure she had returned when winning the Suncoast Stakes on her seasonal debut. Understandably, Zany was odds-on favorite for both races; she was very good in the 9-furlong Demoiselle Stakes at Aqueduct last December, and again when she reappeared with an easy win in the Suncoast Stakes over an extended mile at Tampa Bay in February.

She led for most of the 6.5-furlong distance when winning her maiden by 6 1/2 lengths at Gulfstream Park, a month before her 8 1/2-length win in the Demoiselle. She may not have had potential G1 performer behind her that day, but Zany was very impressive as she 'parked' Jumping the Gun and Concurrently early in the straight, and she clocked a better time than Paladin's time in the Remsen Stakes three hours later. The early pace was stronger in the Remsen, making the finish slower, but bear in mind that Zany won without being fully extended. Paladin, on the other hand, was all out to beat Renegade, and those two have both impressed this year. Zany performed to **Globeform 113p** in New York; an exceptionally high rating for a young filly having only her second starts, and pretty high also when it comes to the history of the Demoiselle. She was no big secret going into the event; and backed right down to 3/5 favoritism. Irad Ortiz Jr had her just off the pace and unleashed the filly for a stroll coming down the lane. Zany's seasonal debut at Tampa Bay was also excellent. She won it with ease, beating Life of Joy by 2 3/4 lengths (despite running green in the closing stages). Life of Joy gave the form a massive boost when winning the Fair Grounds Oaks by 3 1/2 lengths from Golden Rod and Rachel Alexandra winner **BELLA BALLERINA** in March - but unfortunately; she will not be in the starting gate for the Kentucky Oaks. >>>

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>>> It's not easy to predict how the betting will go for the Oaks; Percy's Bar, Zany and Meaning should all be popular with the players; though perhaps Zany is the one the big hitters will side with, thus making her the shortest priced horse in the field. She's got class, she's almost certainly open to plenty of improvement, she is proven over the distance, and she is also bred to stay. Bought for \$350,000 as a yearling, Zany is by Triple Crown winner American Pharoah. Her dam, Mo'Green, won the 9-furlong Top Flight Stakes and was placed in the 9-furlong Allaire Dupont as well as in the 8.5-furlong Royal Delta. She has previously produced two mile winners (on dirt and turf), both by Medaglia d'Oro.

MEANING steps outside of California for the first time as she goes for the Kentucky Oaks, and this will also be her first try over further than the 8.5-furlong trip she covered when winning the Santa Anita Oaks in early April. She had previously beaten **EXPLORA** by 1 1/2 lengths when receiving 4lbs from her runner-up in the one-mile Las Virgenes Stakes, and the competition was nowhere near as stiff in the Santa Anita Oaks. She was still quite impressive though, taking the race comfortably by 2 lengths from her far less accomplished barnmate **BROOKLYN BLONDE**, who 13 3/4 lengths clear of the third placed Bank Shot (she was a lot closer when third also in the Las Virgenes). Meaning had plenty up her sleeve passing the winning post in the Santa Anita Oaks, and she galloped out well. Clearly a filly on the upgrade now, she was lacking experience when fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies at Del Mar last November, and she must be respected in the Kentucky Oaks. The daughter of Gun Runner ran to GF 104p at Del Mar, then moved up to GF 107p in the Las Virgenes and improved again, returning **Globeform 111p**, in the Santa Anita Oaks. Explora was 3 lengths in front of her at the Breeders' Cup but Meaning appears to be the more likely of the two these days. The Santa Anita Oaks trip did not at all stretch her, and 9 furlongs might just suit this Mike McCarthy trainee. A \$440,000 Keeneland yearling, she is out of Figure of Speech, who won on her debut and ran third in the 7-furlong Spinaway on her second start (but ran just twice thereafter).

EXPLORA ran her best race to date when second in last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies. Beaten 3/4 length by gate to wire winner Super Corredora in the 8.5-furlong event, she was well in front of the luckless third placed filly **PERCY'S BAR** and the inexperienced fourth placed filly **MEANING**. Explora was having her fourth start that day. She was coming off an easy 4 1/4-length win over La Wally in the Oak Leaf Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Santa Anita - having previously been beaten a length in second behind **BOTTLE OF ROUGE** in the 7-furlong Del Mar Debutante. La Wally ran third in that contest and she was second last in the BC Juvenile Fillies. So, with these meeting again and again it was impossible to assess the form with any confidence. Other than to accept that Explora was about as good as Percy's Bar was at the time. It didn't help us much when we got to the Santa Ynez Stakes in January. Explora won it by over five lengths but she was a 1/20 favorite; and who ran second? La Wally. A month later Explora was beaten 1 1/2 lengths as the Las Virgenes runner-up behind an improved **MEANING**, who carried 4lbs less than the Baffert filly - and four weeks further into early spring she shipped to Oaklawn Park to win the Honeybee Stakes over 8.5 furlongs. Explora had tried to make all over a mile in the Las Virgenes, but she stalked the pace before taking charge in the straight at Oaklawn, where she beat **COUNTING STARS** by 3/4 length. With Counting Stars winning the Fantasy Stakes by open lengths next time out, that piece of form was solid enough; but still not as good as Explora's Breeders' Cup performance, which earned her **Globeform 110**. She's been game and consistent but two questions linger; does she have any upside to speak of, and will she stay 9 furlongs? From what we have seen so far, the distance has to be a concern for the connections of this daughter of Blame. Her sire was a Breeders' Cup Classic winner but her dam, Collections Choice, won nothing more than a maiden at Belterra Park; and that was a \$14k contest over a mile on turf. The second dam, Model, was miles better; she won four times and was placed in three Grade Ones; the 8.5-furlong Santa Maria Handicap, the 9-furlong Santa Margarita Stakes and the 9-furlong Spinster Stakes. There's some stamina in her pedigree but Explora's running style does not augur too well for nine panels at Churchill. >>>

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PROM QUEEN is a very interesting longshot in this year's Oaks and **players in a position to bet with the bookmakers should take the 14-1 available** about this filly. The Brad Cox trainee has been taking giant leaps up the ratings ladder in her three starts to date, and she improved to **Globeform 109p** when winning the 8.5-furlong Gulfstream Park Oaks in late March, beating **MY MISS MO** easily by 2 3/4 lengths after sitting close to the pace all the way and more or less outclassing her rivals coming down the lane. That's a running style that works much more often at Gulfstream than at Churchill Downs - but there's a lot to like about this daughter of Quality Road. If she improves again (quite likely) she can be big a danger. She ran second to subsequent Davona Dale Stakes winner She Be Smooth when they both made their debut over a mile at Gulfstream in January, then won an 8.5-furlong maiden by 8 lengths three weeks later. Cox has had several horses making significant progress from their first to their second starts this season and she was one of those. She stepped up again in the GP Oaks, where she had She Be Smooth 6 1/2 lengths behind her in third place. That's a big turnaround compared to their first meeting, when She Be Smooth won by 2 1/4 lengths. The first half-mile of the GP Oaks had no more than a moderate pace though, something that did not at all suit She Be Smooth, whose best performance came when she closed from way off the pace to beat **MY MISS MO** by 6 lengths in the one-mile Davona Dale Stakes.

COUNTING STARS, who was 3/4 lengths behind **EXPLORA** when running second in the Honeybee Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Oaklawn Park in early March, improved by about a length on that form when winning the Fantasy Stakes over the same course and distance four weeks later. Racing up with the pace throughout, she was much the best in that contest, coming home 5 1/2 lengths in front of her barnmate **SEARCH PARTY**, who was beaten 3 1/2 lengths when fourth in the Honeybee. Counting Stars was pulled up in the Martha Washington Stakes back in February; ignoring that mishap she has a very consistent record and she returned **Globeform 108p** last time out. The "p" could be debated perhaps, as we are dealing with a filly who has raced seven times (just six if we discount the Martha Washington), but she *did* have more in hand passing the winning post.

BELLA BALLERINA, a half-sister to the 2023 Kentucky Oaks winner Pretty Mischievous, won the Golden Rod Stakes over 8.5 furlongs here at Churchill Downs last November (on only her second start) and she opened her 3yo campaign well by winning the Rachel Alexandra Stakes over the same distance at the Fair Grounds in February, when she beat Luv Your Nighbor by half a length. She was odds-on for that contest and went off at even money in the Fair Grounds Oaks over the same trip in March; but was beaten 3 3/4 lengths by the high class filly Life of Joy (sadly missing this week) when racing too freely. Luv Your Nighbor was third, 4 3/4 lengths behind Bella Ballerina, who looks more and more like a runner who would benefit from dropping down to a mile, rather than stepping up to 9 furlongs. She ran to **Globeform 105** last time out.

BROOKLYN BLONDE improved significantly on her maiden winning form when running second to her barnmate **MEANING** in the Santa Anita Oaks, returning **Globeform 105** in the process, but the winner was much the best and value for more than the two-length margin that day - and she is a much stronger card. Brooklyn Blonde was exiting a maiden win over a mile at Santa Anita; justifying favoritism with a 1 1/4-length win over Wolf Hill (who was fifth of six when odds-on in another maiden four weeks later).

ALWAYS A RUNNER may be the most interesting of the lower rated contenders. Having won a maiden at Tampa Bay Downs by 6 1/2 lengths on her debut in early February (as the 3/5 favorite), she improved nicely to **Globeform 103p** by landing the Gazelle Stakes over 9 furlongs at Aqueduct two months later. Always a Runner showed good stamina at Aqueduct, and having won over the Oaks distance is a plus, but the Gazelle was not a strong race. She beat **PASHMINA** by 1 1/4 lengths, with **PARADISE** well beaten in third. Pashmina was coming off a third in the Sunland Park Oaks (3 lengths behind the somewhat exposed filly **BOTTLE OF ROUGE**), while Paradise had beaten an ordinary looking bunch when winning the Busher Stakes in February. Always a Runner is not on a high rating compared to the best here, but GF 103p is a good mark for a filly having only her second outing, it's far to early to say where her ceiling might be and it would be folly to dismiss her completely.

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CONCLUSION: There's more than enough pace in this field to make it a test of stamina, and that's going to suit Zany well. Drawn in post 2, with prominent runners Explora to her inside and Counting Stars two lanes to her outside, she should find favorable racing room and be able to save ground by the rail not too far off the pace. The Ashland Stakes was the best prep for this classic, and Percy's Bar - who beat Zany there - is an obvious danger; if she stays 9 furlongs. One that promises to relish the trip is the rapidly improving Prom Queen, who is 8-1 on the morning line and **14-1 with the bookmakers** - and what about **Percy's Bar's 10-1 morning line**. That really is way too big. Those are prices worth taking, and 4-1 about Zany is also a decent price. Explora, Meaning, Always a Runner and Counting Stars make most appeal of the others; they are all open to improvement and should be used underneath by Trifecta / Superfecta players; while boxing the top three in the selections box; both in Exactas and Trifectas; makes a lot of sense as separate wagers. An attempt at solving the Superfecta needs to be affordable; so let's go with our two B-horses Prom Queen & Percy's Bar to fill 2nd & 3rd or 2nd & 4th or 3rd & 4th behind Zany, with the four C-horses included. Three tickets.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS | Based on a fast or good track

A	2 ZANY
B	10 PROM QUEEN, 11 PERCY'S BAR
C	1 EXPLORA, 4 COUNTING STARS, 5 MEANING, 9 ALWAYS A RUNNER

Percy's Bar / Ashland Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW7pBlmrZwk>
2nd Zany

Percy's Bar (DQ) / Alcibiades Stakes '25: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dz_H0kwjYk&t=1s

Zany / Suncoast Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCpiOmo48kw>

Zany / Demoiselle Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtpZqvbLdd4>

Meaning / Santa Anita Oaks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSISu0xO8Dk>
2nd Brooklyn Blonde

Meaning / Las Virgenes Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCe4JX3SbWE>
2nd Explora

Explora 2nd / B Cup Juvenile Fillies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhxldRQteVs>
3rd Percy's Bar

Prom Queen / Gulfstream Park Oaks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWpXqDhAsAU>
3rd She Be Smooth

Counting Stars / Fantasy Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xef4VhywyWk>



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Globeform's main events coming up

Preakness Weekend, Laurel Park

10 stakes covered, Preakness Weekend May 15-17

Belmont Stakes Festival, Saratoga

10 stakes covered during Belmont week; June 3 - 7

Saratoga / Del Mar

All weeks at Saratoga, with subscriptions from min. 2 weeks to the entire Saratoga meet available.

Five selected races per week covered.

We will go to Del Mar for additional races when needed due to weather changes or other changes







Main events Saratoga: Travers day & Whitney day (10 races covered for both days)

Breeders' Cup, Keeneland

Breeders' Cup Service starts in early September.

40+ Globeform Newsletters leading up to the big weekend

LOUISVILLE WEATHER FORECAST

Mon 27	83°/64°		Partly Cloudy	☁ 7%
Tue 28	76°/58°		AM Showers	☁ 41%
Wed 29	66°/46°		AM Showers	☁ 75%
Thu 30	67°/46°		Mostly Sunny	☁ 5%
Fri 01	66°/45°		Partly Cloudy	☁ 9%
Sat 02	65°/42°		Partly Cloudy	☁ 15%

