

Globeform's Kentucky Derby Special '26

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell

Kentucky Oaks contender **PERCY'S BAR IN FOCUS**

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** 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 -, and she was helped by the short stretch run; going 9 furlongs at Churchill Downs - with it's much longer stretch - will be quite different. The moderate pace also benefitted Percy's Bar at Keeneland, and it worked against Zany. 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, though 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 as a yearling, Percy's Bar is a fantastic success story no matter what happens this week. She put up a solid performance when reversing the Spinaway form with Tommy Jo to win by 2 3/4 lengths in the Alcibiades Stakes last October- also 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 did 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.

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

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

