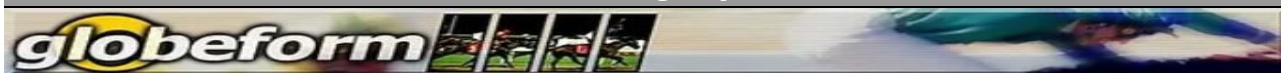


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Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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## GLOBEFORM RANKING ELKHORN STAKES (G2) 12 fur Turf, Keeneland Apr 19

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 1.5 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	9	MISSED THE CUT	115	101+ 112 - 115	DeVaux / Velazquez
3	6	LIMITED LIABILITY	112	109 - 111 - 112	McGaughey / Dettori
5p	1	REBEL RED	110p	97 - 109+ 110p	DeVaux / J L Ortiz
5	12	BALNIKHOV	110	106 - 110 - 101	D'Amato / Geroux
6	2	GRAND SONATA	111	110 - 107 - 111	Pletcher / Alvarado
6	10	STARTING OVER	109	0 - 109 - 107	Russell / Torres
8	11	IDRATHERBEBLESSED	107	107 - 104 - 105	Hartman / Curtis
(2) 10	4	VERSTAPPEN <i>GF 111 in Nov 2023</i> <i>GF 113 in July 2023</i>	(113) 105	0 - 105 - 103	Walsh / Cannon
9?	3	DEAN MARTINI	106?	91 - 96 - 106?	Eurton / Maldonado
10	13	NATIVE SHAMAN 4yo * Also Eligible	106	106 - 101 - 97	Arnold / Lanerie
10	5	UTAH BEACH	105	91+ 103 - 105	Correas / Cheminaud
6 / 12	7	ANGLOPHILE <i>GF 109 in Mar '24</i>	109 / 103	99 - 97 - 103	Lynch / Rosario
13	8	OLE CRAZY BONE	102	?+ 98 - 102	Calhoun / Hernandez Jr

*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*

*\* Globeform weight-for-age 4yo vs older 12 fur this time of the season: 1lb*

### Most recent winners of the Elkhorn

2024	SILVER KNOTT	115p	Charlie Appleby	Flavien Prat
2023	VERSTAPPEN	114	Brendan Walsh	Declan Cannon
2022	CHANNEL MAKER	112+	William Mott	Luis Saez
2021	SAY THE WORD	114	Phil D'Amato	Luis Saez
2020	ZULU ALPHA	114+	Mike Maker	Tyler Gaffalione

Average winning Globeform: 113.8

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## GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

**MISSED THE CUT** - second in this event 12 months ago - was incredibly unlucky when only seventh to Capture the Flag in the Mac Diarmida Stakes at Gulfstream Park in early March. Badly checked on the first bend, he dropped right back from a good position some three lengths off the pace to be dead last in a matter of strides (dropping 7 to 8 lengths). He lost any chance of winning the race there and then did really well to finish as close as he did; making up ground coming down the lane he passed the winning post 4 lengths behind the winner, Capture the Flag, who beat **GRAND SONATA** by a head. This is Missed the Cut's chance to gain revenge.

Missed the Cut is the clear top ranked horse in this field and it's hard to see why he should be as big as **6-1 on the morning line**. He was 9-2 on the morning line for the Mac Diarmida but went off as the 5-2 favorite. If he is anywhere close to his best rating, **Globeform 115** (produced twice last year), he won't be beaten. Cherie DeVaux's team has been in great form in recent weeks and Missed the Cut is the obvious pick. He won the San Marcos Stakes over 11 furlongs and the San Luis Rey Stakes over 12 furlongs at Santa Anita last year (beating subsequent San Juan Capistrano winner Planetario both times), and after that the son of Quality Road ran a game second to the smart Silver Knott in the Elkhorn Stakes over 12 furlongs at Keeneland, where he went down by 1 1/2 lengths at level weights. A winner of 7 of his 18 races to date, >>>

## Globeform's Kentucky Derby Weekend Special opens April 21

Daily GF Newsletters over 2 weeks leading up to  
Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby days on May 2-3,  
when all 16 stakes races will be covered

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>>> Missed the Cut was successful over four different tracks when trained in England and he is both experienced and versatile. This will be his second start after a long break; his highest rated win in England came after a three-month break, he has done his best when racing prominently or sitting just off the pace and he stays this trip well. It seems very likely that he would have won the Mac Diarmida with a clean run and one would have to say there's plenty to like about this horse's chances. Hopefully we will get close to that 6-1 though even half that price would be a fair deal.

**LIMITED LIABILITY** is the morning line favorite and the most likely danger. Coming off a game third behind Dashman and Cash Equity in the W L McKnight Stakes over 12 furlongs at Gulfstream Park in January - when he raced up with the pace all the way and lost by just a neck while spotting the winner 4lbs - he has been very consistent through his five most recent starts. Frankie Dettori rode him in his last three and he sticks with the gray son of Kitten's Joy. He is to sure to not set the pace, like he did in the Nashville Gold Cup three start back, but if he doesn't it's likely that he will be close to the the early speed. Limited Liability beat the well established marathon runner The Grey Wizard, who franked the form next time out, by 8 1/4 lengths, in the 2-mile Nashville Gold Cup at Kentucky Downs last September. That was his best run to date, worth **Globeform 112**. Two months later he ran in the Red Smith Stakes over 11 furlongs at Aqueduct, when **REBEL RED** was third. His barnmate Integration, one of the best turf runners around these days, proved too good but Limited Liability ran a good race in second, beaten 2 lengths at level weights. Then came an 11-week break leading up to the McKnight, and he is now coming off a 12-week break since that race, so he is right on schedule.

**REBEL RED** was disappointing when making his seasonal debut in the 9-furlong Muniz Memorial at the Fair Grounds in March. It became a bit of a strange affair, as the three best horses in the field, Spirit of St. Louis, Rebel Red and Redistricting all ran well below form, as did Brilliant Berti, leaving it to 86-1 shot **IDRATHERBEBLESSED** to win the race from Gigante (14-1) and Cameo Performance (15-1). Rebel Red was a dull seventh, beaten 4 lengths. That Cherie DeVaux brings him back just four weeks later is a good sign, but it seems a bit strange that she has decided to run him over 12 furlongs. Rebel Red looked a smart prospect last year but his run in the 11-furlong Red Smith Stakes, where he tired late to be third, made him look like a horse short on stamina. He made most of the running that day, only to succumb close home and be beaten 2 lengths and a nose by Integration and **LIMITED LIABILITY**. Now, the trainer knows the horse much better than we do - so let's just say it's interesting that he steps up in distance. A half-brother to top class milers (on turf and dirt) Without Parole and Tamarkuz, this 5yo entire is not bred to go long. Rebel Red, who lost his left eye in an accident after winning at Saratoga last summer, seems to have been able to adapt to life with his handicap. He was impressive when winning a 9-furlong allowance race at Keeneland last October; coming from well off the pace to beat Clyde's Got a Gun by almost three lengths, he returned Globeform 110p in that race. If he can build on that form he's in for a good season. It's likely that he needed the run in the Muniz Memorial and Rebel Red should not be dismissed in the Elkhorn.

**BALNIKHOV** ran one of his best races to date when producing **Globeform 110** to win the Dinner Party Stakes on heavy ground at Pimlico last May, when Frankie Dettori produced him with a great run from last to first; he beat Crabs n Beer (who relished the conditions) and the future stakes winner Running Bee by 1 1/2 lengths and 3 lengths. That was over 9 furlongs but conditions were so bad (nowhere near the official 'soft') and stamina did come into play. His third placed efforts in the 9-furlong Eddie Read and the paceless 11-furlong Del Mar Handicap were also gained by coming from off the pace, and Balnikhov was given his chance to try 12 furlongs in the Hollywood Turf Cup at Del Mar in November, when he was a good runner-up, beaten only half a length by the 11-10 favorite Truly Quality (who was winning his third straight marathon stakes). Balnikhov went for the Pegasus World Cup Turf next but he had no chance in that 9-furlong contest. The Elkhorn will suit him much better and he is in with a chance; having run to Globeform 110 three times over the past 11 months he is fairly consistent. He is at his best when coming off the pace. >>>

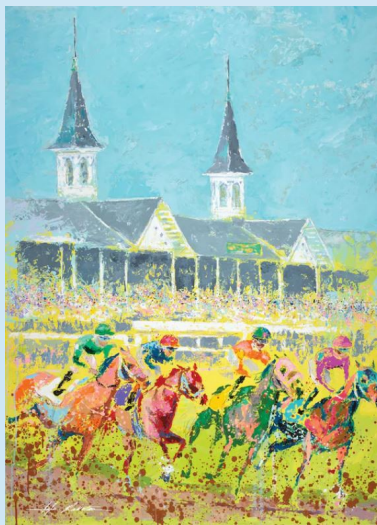
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**GRAND SONATA** is a consistent performer who stays this distance and he is coming off yet another game effort when beaten just a head by Capture the Flag in the 11-furlong Mac Diarmida Stakes at Gulfstream Park 7 weeks ago. Spotting the winner 6lbs, Grand Sonata performed close to his best in that event and he has been a tough, great earner over the past year. The Mac Diarmida was a drop back down in class after having run a respectable race in the 9-furlong Pegasus World Cup Turf. He was only eighth in that contest and thus not at his best, but he was beaten only 4 lengths behind Spirit of St. Louis after getting stuck much further back than where he prefers to be in his races. He ran to GF 110 when beating next out Sycamore Stakes winner Highway Robber in the Kentucky Turf Cup last September, having produced **Globeform 111** when fourth, 1 1/2 lengths behind Major Dude, in the Fort Lauderdale over 9 furlongs at Gulfstream Park in December. Grand Sonata may not be an obvious win contender in the Elkhorn, as he will have to give weight to his rivals, but he is one to include in Trifecta plans.

**STARTING OVER** ran to **Globeform 109** to take the 2023 edition of the Mac Diarmida Stakes, when he had **ANGLOPHILE** half a length behind him in third place. A reproduction of that off-the-pace performance would give this 8yo son of Liam's Map a chance of hitting the board, but he ran no sort of a race when finishing last in the United Nations Stakes at Monmouth Park last July, he has not raced since that race and will now be making his first start for Brittany Russel, having left the Mike Maker barn.

**IDRATHERBEBLESSED** led all the way for a huge 86-1 upset win in the Muniz Memorial, beating Gigante by a neck in the 9-furlong event at the Fair Grounds (with **REBEL RED** 4 lengths behind him in seventh place). He is in form and he has shown himself to be consistent but he is in much deeper waters here and the step up in distance also poses a challenge. He will probably be part of the pace scenario but it's unlikely that he's going to be seen at the forefront where it matters. >>>



## Races covered in **Globeform's Kentucky Derby Weekend Special**

**May 2**    **Kentucky Oaks**  
Alysheba Stakes  
Edgewood Stakes  
Eight Belles Stakes  
La Troienne Stakes  
Modesty Stakes  
Unbridled Sidney Stakes

**May 3**    **Kentucky Derby**  
American Turf Stakes  
Churchill Downs Stakes  
Churchill Distaff Turf Mile  
Derby City Distaff Stakes  
Knicks Go Stakes  
Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic  
Pat Day Mile  
Twin Spires Turf Sprint

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**CONCLUSION:** We felt 'robbed' when Missed the Cut did not win as the clear selection in the Mac Diarmida but that's racing; another day we will benefit from an incident. He has just as good a chance of victory here and he really does look like a solid win bet. With Limited Liability, Idratherbebblessed and possibly also Dean Martini, likely to be prominent we should be spared of seeing this 12-furlong race run at a crawl. A good pace will suit Missed the Cut, a strong pace won't trouble him and such a scenario would suit Grand Sonata and Balnikhov. The one that throws up a question mark is Rebel Red; how will he be ridden? From post one there must be a chance that he gets sent - though if there are doubts about his stamina then perhaps not. Either way; the logical - and a bit boring - conclusion is that Missed the Cut is the most likely winner with Limited Liability likely to hit the board (as he has done in 70% of his races).

## GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

<b>A</b>	<b>9 MISSED THE CUT</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>6 LIMITED LIABILITY</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>1 REBEL RED, 2 GRAND SONATA, 12 BALNIKHOV</b>

**Mac Diarmida Stakes (R14 / 35:25):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhIB8ONesDc&t=500s>  
2nd **Grand Sonata**, 5th **Anglophile**, 6th **Missed the Cut**

**Limited Liability 2nd / Red Smith Stakes:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HJyLouB\\_Ak&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HJyLouB_Ak&t=3s)

**Limited Liability / Nashville Gold Cup:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWY5Mbm882o>

**Limited Liability 2nd / Rebel Red 3rd / Red Smith S.:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HJyLouB\\_Ak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HJyLouB_Ak)

**Grand Sonata / Kentucky Downs Turf Cup:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jcnvW4-VWc>

**Grand Sonata 4th / Ft. Lauderdale Stakes:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_N5N7Jrippk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_N5N7Jrippk)

**Balnikhov / Dinner Party Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa-WjiOg9-E>

**Idratherbebblessed / Muniz Memorial:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-oGk-abQ\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-oGk-abQ_4)  
7th **Rebel Red**