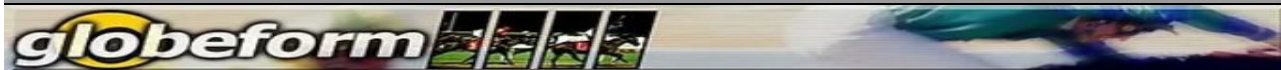


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GLOBEFORM RANKING

APPALACHIAN STAKES (G2) 8 fur Turf, Keeneland Apr 8

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)					
0	1	NITROGEN	108	108 - 100+ - 105p	M Casse / J L Ortiz
3	8	LUSH LIPS	105	105 - 98p - 86p	Walsh / B Hernandez Jr
7	2	VIXEN	101p	98 - 101 - 101	M Casse / I Ortiz Jr
8	6	TOTALLY JUSTIFIED	100	98 - 100 - 93p	Arnold / L Saez
10p	3	FIONN	98p	98p - 92p - ?p	B Cox / Machado
13p	10	TABLE FLIRT	95p	95p - 80p - ?	W Mott / Prat
14	7	LIAM IN THE DUST <i>GF 94 in Sep '24 Also ent. Gazelle S., Aqueduct Sat and Allowance race Kee Sun</i>	94	0 - 90 - 90	Brisset / Velazquez
17	9	FOXTASTIC	91	91 - 89 - ?p	Carroll / Leparoux
20p	5	GOOD TEMPER	88p	88p - 85 - ?p	Walden / Smith
28	4	FAST MARKET	80	76 - 80 - ?p	Terranova / Torres

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 Appalachian

2024	BUCHU	GF 104	Philip Bauer	Martin Garcia
2023	PAPILIO	GF 104	Mark Casse	Javier Castellano
2022	SPENDARELLA	GF 110p	Graham Motion	Tyler Gaffalione
2021	JOUSTAR	GF 108p	Todd Pletcher	Luis Saez
2020	ENOLA GAY	GF 102p	Shug McGaughey	Julien Leparoux

Average winning Globeform: 105.6

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

NITROGEN improved again, returning **Globeform 108**, when beating Lush Lips by half a length in the 8.5-furlong Florida Oaks at Tampa Bay Downs in early March. Deloraine, beaten 4 1/2 lengths into third place that day, is set to run in the Gazelle Stakes at Aqueduct on Saturday (that's a dirt race so may not be all that relevant but let's keep an eye on how she does there). Nitrogen raced in the first three throughout at Tampa Bay and she was a solid winner, landing the odds while giving 2lbs to the two closest up behind her. This race has a few new faces mixed in but, unless there's strong improver among them, this is not a tougher race for Nitrogen, and the cut back to a mile isn't much of a worry either. With plenty of pace signed on the Appalachian should get an honest pace and that will suit this daughter of Medaglia d'Oro. The Florida Oaks was Nitrogen's second win from as many starts this year. She signalled that she will be every bit as good at three as she was in the juvenile campaign when winning the Ginger Brew Stakes over a mile at Gulfstream Park in early January. Back after a two-month break since running such a good race at the Breeders' Cup, she finished strongly from what had looked an almost impossible position at the top the lane to get up for a cheeky half-length win over Love Cervere. Nitrogen ran to GF 101+ in the Ginger Brew.

She was a good third after trying to make all in the Natalma Stakes at Woobine on her second start in 2024 (3/4 length behind her barnmate And One More, with **VIXEN** third) and she improved again when coming from off the pace to fill the same place in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf Mile over a mile at Del Mar, where she was almost ten lengths down turning for home (not five to six, as PPs will have us believe). Nitrogen finished really well that day, and was beaten only by the top class Irish filly Lake Victoria and May Day Ready, who had previously won stakes events at Kentucky Downs and Keeneland. Very good form and one can easily argue that Nitrogen ran better than margins of 1 1/2 lengths and 1 length indicated that day. She was the obvious favorite for the Florida Oaks, where she helped to a 667-1 Superfecta and a nice 126-1 Trifecta hit (from just 2 lines). That's no reason to back her again of course; the reason is that she is simply the best horse in the race and conditions will suit her also this time.

Note to Premier Members | Nitrogen's Florida Oaks win was initially assessed to GF 106 but has since been re-evaluated and changed to Globeform 108.

LUSH LIPS could prove to be the main danger once more as she takes Nitrogen on in the Appalachian. Despite being far too headstrong, this Euro import has improved considerably on her two most recent runs. She moved up from GF 86p (an easy maiden win in November) to GF 98p for her allowance win over Ramsey Pond in January, then she climbed up to **Globeform 105** in the Florida Oaks at Tampa Bay Downs, where she tried to make all but was caught and beaten half a length by **NITROGEN**. The day this filly learns to settle and conserves her energy she could be just as good as Nitrogen; but will that happen in this race? There are three reasons to be skeptical about that. Firstly the distance; with her speed she is almost certainly better over a mile. Secondly the fact that there are others in this field with a prominent running style, meaning that she could get pace pressure, and thirdly (perhaps not so important) is the rider switch. With Tyler Gaffalione out due to injury, Lush Lips gets Brian Hernandez on board, and he has never ridden her before. Hernandez rides Thorpedo Anna, so he has experience with harnessing a keen-going filly, but horses like Lush Lips do take a bit of knowing (and she is not way the best in the field, like Thorpedo Anna often is). Prior to the Florida Derby Lush Lips led all the way for an impressive 2-length win in a stakes quality allowance heat over 8.5 furlongs at Gulfstream Park. She was pulling hard for most of the way (blinkers came off at Tampa) but still had plenty left for the stretch run and won with a bit in hand. Her runner-up Ramsey Pond ran second, 2 1/4 lengths behind **VIXEN** in the Sweetest Chant Stakes three weeks later. >>>

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VIXEN, like the favorite trained by Mark Casse, has also won both of her races this year but, in contrast to her barnmate, she was actually a bit disappointing on her second start. Sent off as the 4/5 favorite for the second time at the Gulfstream Park winter meet, she only just scraped home when winning the one-mile Herecomesthebride Stakes in March, a race she took by a neck from 31-1 shot Mrs Worldwide, who held second by a head from the late charging 87-1 shot Daisy Flyer. Those two improved on the day, no doubt about that, but Vixen ran to no more than GF 98 in the Herecomesthebride and the race has not been advertised since; Classic Q (an unlucky fourth) and Civetta (fifth) were both readily beaten behind Spirited Boss in the Sanibel Island Stakes four weeks later. Vixen's win in the Sweetest Chant, run over 8.5 furlongs in January, was better. February. She was up with the pace from the word go and ran out a dominant 2 1/4-length winner from Ramsey Pond (who was coming off a second to **LUSH LIPS**).

The Sweetest Chant win was on a par with Vixen's best juvenile form - but it's worth bearing in mind that she was a very precocious horse last year. It's often being said that the early 3yo stakes events are "the last 2yo runs" for precocious runners - and perhaps we have seen the best of Vixen. After two impressive runs at Ellis Park last summer, she was a good second in the Natalma Stakes at Woodbine and then ran to the same level for sixth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (when **NITROGEN** ran third). What should we expect from Vixen this time? Will she get back to her best of will she regress again? She did have a hard race last time out and it is hard to agree with her morning line (3-1) being just one point longer than the favorite.

TOTALLY JUSTIFIED is set for her seasonal bow here and it's quite a tough spot to come back in, but her juvenile form stacks up well here and, despite that fact that her trainer has a poor record with layoff runners, she should not be dismissed - at least not by Trifecta / Superfecta players. Interestingly, George Arnold has decided to run her in blinkers, so one would assume that the trainer means business; this is probably not an outing just to get her 3yo campaign up and running. This daughter of Justify was given fine runs over five different tracks in 2024 (the first two on dirt) so she is not short on experience. She won somewhat sub-standard edition of the P G Johnson Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Saratoga, and improved to Globeform 100 when beaten just a nose by May Day Ready in the Jessamine, run over the same distance at Keeneland, before running respectably to be eighth at the Breeders' Cup (when May Day Ready was second). Totally Justified had a troubled trip and never got into the race at Del Mar; she raced prominently throughout both in the P G Johnson and the Jessamine. With blinkers on, it's likely that she will race that way again here, and thus have an impact on the pace scenario. She has the speedy 6-furlong maiden winner directly to her inside and Lush Lips just two lanes to her outside. Are we going to see these three hook up on the lead?

Such a scenario would not be a problem for Nitrogen, who is flexible, and it would probably suit a couple of longshots with chances, namely Brad Cox's contender Fionn and Table Flirt, trained by Bill Mott.

FIONN has been quietly creeping up the ratings ladder through three straight wins over 8.5 furlongs at the Fair Grounds, and this Twirling Candy filly is an interesting player. Having run second on her only start at two, she cruised home by over four lengths when breaking her maiden in December, progressed nicely to an allowance win in February and minor stakes success in March, when she was confidently ridden from well off the slow pace (raced a bit freely early on) to win easily by 1 1/4 lengths from Love and Poetry, with Play With Fire third and Aterradora fourth. Love and Poetry was coming off a maiden win over Aterradora, while Play With Fire was coming off a fourth to Virginia Oaks third Anonima on dirt. Fionn only won the La Combe Memorial by a little over a length but she was much the best despite still being a bit green, looking like a performer ready to continue with the progression. She improved to **Globeform 98p**, a figure putting her in with a good chance of hitting the board in the Appalachian.

Note that Paris Lily, who ran second to Fionn at the Fair Grounds in early February, is entered for R6 at Keeneland on Sunday.

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TABLE FLIRT is not far off Fionn on ratings but she has only won a maiden so may be overlooked by the majority, but **20-1 does seem a big price** about this Bill Mott trainee. Having run to **Globeform 95p** when winning over 9 furlongs at Gulfstream Park a month ago, she has a big gap up to the two top raced horse but the gap up to the fillies ranked third, fourth and fifth is not big. It's hard to say how good Table Flirt is - she could well be significantly better than her current rating. 20-1 makes her a bet well worth having and she is definitely one to include in Trifectas. She did have the run of the race (sitting comfortably just off the speed in a slowly run race) when winning but there was a lot to like about how she won, beating Todd Pletcher's newcomer Hideaway easily by 2 3/4 lengths after an impressively sharp final furlong dash. She was value for more than the bare margin and has been rated accordingly. A daughter of Constitution, Table Flirt is out of Into Chocolate (Tapit), who won the 6.5-furlong Chillingworth Stakes and ran third in the 8-furlong Torrey Pine Stakes, so it seems that this filly gets her stamina from her sire.

Note that three fillies coming out of Table Flirt's race at Gulfstream Park, Hideaway (2nd), Hereforagoodtime (3rd) and Chere Amia (last), are all entered for R4 at Keeneland on Monday.

CONCLUSION: Although there are some unknowns in the mix it's hard to go against Nitrogen. The one question is how she might handle soft ground (which seems likely) but that goes for most of the others too, except Fionn. She won over a course labeled as good last time out (it looked a bit loose), so perhaps the expected rain will be to her advantage. Still, we might see a repeat of the Florida Oaks exacta and the way to play this race is probably using Nitrogen 1st with Lush Lips 2nd / 3rd in a Trifecta plan, plus a Superfecta with Lush Lips 4th, in case she get too much pace pressure and tires at the finish. Table Flirt is definitely worth an across the board or each-way bet at big odds. That idea leads logically to a Tri / Super plan as with Lush Lips, albeit to smaller stakes. Let's ambitiously aim for those two in the top four behind Nitrogen; it's not at all impossible and it should pay well.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	1 NITROGEN
B	8 LUSH LIPS
C	2 VIXEN, 3 FIONN, 6 TOTALLY JUSTIFIED, 10 TABLE FLIRT

Nitrogen & Lush Lips / Florida Oaks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0zhNL6VAUk>

Vixen / Sweetest Chant Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QxEMRtUUxY>

Vixen / Herecomesthebride Stakes (R4 / 8:30): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Bs5HXeK5bY>

Totally Justified / 2nd Jessamine Stakes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjRDF2S-A_k&t=157s

Fionn / La Combe Memorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBSE_Y6XAm0

Table Flirt / Gulfstream Park Msw (R8 / 17:15): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUQQm_smNW8&t=1176s