

Globeform's Kentucky Derby Special '25

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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GLOBEFORM RANKING

THE MODESTY STAKES (G3) 9 fur Turf, Churchill Downs May 2

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 / 3+	2	GIMME A NOTHER	115p / 112+	112+ / 111+ 115p	Motion / J L Ortiz
2	7	SHE FEELS PRETTY	118	113+ 118 - 109	DeVaux / Velazquez
3	8	SAFFRON MOON	114	114 - 108+ 104+	Brown / Prat
7	3	SEGESTA	108	108 - 104p - 99p	Brown / I Ortiz Jr
10	4	PIN UP BETTY <i>GF 105 in Aug '24</i> <i>Also ent. Distaff Turf Mile, Sat</i>	105	99 - 104 - 96	Maker / J Hernandez
15p	1	WAVES OF MISCHIEF	102p	0 - 100 - 102p	Walsh / Curtis
18	5	TAKEMETOTHEBEACH	97	97 - ?+ 0	Cowans / Machado
?	6	BIRDIE ROSE	?	? - ? - ?	Sales / Garcia

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 Modesty

2024	FAST AS FLIGHT	GF 109	Martin Drexler	Jose L Ortiz
2023	DIDIA	GF 113p	Ignacio Correas	Vincent Cheminaux
2022	BLEECKER STREET	GF 112+	Chad Brown	Flavien Prat

This race was run at Arlington Park in June up to 2022

Average winning Globeform: 111.3

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

GIMME A NOTHER lost against **SAFFRON MOON** when they met in the Hillsborough Stakes over 9 furlongs at Tampa Bay Downs in early March. Beaten 3/4 length at level weights, Graham Motion's South African import was impressive in defeat as she made her first start in the US - and also her first since last March. She was compromised by the slow early pace but came with a fine run to cut into Saffron Moon's lead. Gimme A Nother was never a real threat but she did enough to suggest that she could reverse the form in a later meeting. That meeting comes here, she is 2lbs better off at the weights, the pace is likely to set the race well up for her and she can gain revenge.

Gimme A Nother was unbeaten in seven starts in her native South Africa, and this well bred daughter of Gimmethelight (a son of More Than Ready) looks somewhat special. She ran her best race when taking one G1 South Africa Fillies Classic easily by 4 1/4 lengths from Silver Sanctuary, who captured a G1 event herself next time out. Gimme A Nother outclassed her rivals in the 9-furlong race at Turffontein, where she followed up with another impressive win in the one-mile Empress Club Stakes a month later, taking that event comfortably by 1 1/2 lengths from Humdinger, who also won a G1 on her subsequent outing. Turffontein is quite different to most US tracks. It is right handed and the home straight is about four furlongs. Gimme A Nother, who takes a bit of time to get going, was produced to lead going into the final furlong in both of these valuable events and she was soon in full command once she had her head in front. She ran to **Globeform 115p** in the Fillies Classic and returned GF 111+ in the Empress Club, a race her dam Nother Russia won for the same connections back in 2018. The way she ran at home suggested that she wants a good pace to close into.

This race has two contenders that are well out of their depth - Takemetothesea and Birdie Rose - but their participation is not insignificant, as the both have early speed and like to go to the lead. **SEGESTA** tried to make all when running her best race to date as runner-up to Cinderella's Dream (with a below par **SHE FEELS PRETTY** third) in last year's Belmont Oaks - and **WAVES OF MISCHIEF** raced prominently in her best race (a head verdict over **PIN UP BETTY** at Colonial Downs), so there seems to be enough pace in this race to create a scenario that will suit Gimme A Nother. She is selected to beat them all, in what is a fine renewal of the Modesty.

SHE FEELS PRETTY did not need to run up her best to win the American Oaks over 10 furlongs over the downhill course at Santa Anita on December 26. She was a 3/5 favorite and she took the race quite comfortably, beating Kathrynmarissa by 2 1/2 lengths and running to GF 113+. Kathrynmarissa could manage only fifth when favorite for the Santa Ana Stakes next time out but let's not read anything into that - she pulled way too hard and had an off day and she was an easy winner of the Dueling Grounds Oaks last year. Not that the American Oaks result is of much importance when we assess She Feels Pretty. She ran a better race when it was needed in the much stronger Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup at Keeneland last October. She Feels Pretty absolutely outclassed the English G3 winner Soprano (who was coming off a good third in G1 company in Ireland) to win by 6 lengths at Keeneland. Trainer Cherie DeVaux soon nominated the American Oaks as her next target, and taking that contest after a 10-week break worked well. She will be coming off a 18-break this time though and there's always the chance that she will be needing this outing before hitting another peak - but she can only be seen as a strong contender. The distance suits her, she has performed well at Santa Anita, Keeneland, Saratoga (although beaten there), Woodbine and Pimlico so it's unlikely that she won't be able to adapt to Churchill Downs. She improved markedly when fitted with blinkers for the first time in the "QE II" and rider John Velazquez says that the key to this filly is to have her covered up for as long as possible and side her for a late finishing kick. Whether that's going to be easy from post 7 may be debatable but if those prominent types to her inside all do go forward Velazquez can tuck her comfortably in behind them and ride She Feels Pretty for one big run coming down the home stretch. She's in with a good chance. >>

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SAFFRON MOON, was visually impressive when justifying short odds in the 8.5-furlong Endeavour Stakes at Tampa Bay in early February and she followed up with another fine win in the 9-furlong Hillsborough Stakes at the same venue in March, when she improved to **Globeform 114** and held **GIMME A NOTHER** at bay to win by 3/4 length. Saffron Moon came from a few lengths off what was no more than a moderate pace in the Hillsborough, while her runner-up came with a good run from further back. Clashing at level weights, the two were nicely clear of the third placed Venencia, who was third also when Saffron Moon won the Endeavour. Saffron Moon delivered a great kick from off the pace to win that contest by 2 1/2 lengths from See You Around. That was Saffron Moon's first start in '24 and the way she won suggested that there was nothing wrong with the GF 110p she earned back in 2023. She has had her problems necessitating breaks but this 6yo mare is talented; she has won 5 of her 11 races to date and further progress is not at all impossible. She had both a fitness edge and a tactical advantage over Gimme A Nother last time, the weights favor the latter and then there's the small matter of having to deal with She Feels Pretty. Can Saffron Moon win again? Of course the likelihood is that she will need to improve again to do so.

SEGESTA, like Saffron Moon representing Chad Brown, is the one that could surprise, even after a layoff going all the way back to last July. Brown is just as good with layoff runners as he is overall so that's no reason to dismiss her chances. This well bred filly needs to find further improvement but this lightly raced daughter of Ghostzapper improved markedly with every run in 2024, producing GF 99p, GF 104p and **Globeform 108** in her three last races, ending her campaign with a nice second place finish in a course record edition of the Belmont Oaks, beaten 3/4 length by Cinderella's Dream after trying to make all over 9.5 furlongs, **SHE FEELS PRETTY** was a nose behind in third. Cinderella's Dream won the Saratoga Oaks on her next start and went on to run second behind Moira at the Breeders' Cup, while She Feels Pretty did even better - so the form worked out all right. Another step up on her Belmont Oaks form and Segesta might hit the board in the Modesty.

CONCLUSION: This should be some race, with three really smart turf performers set to meet; and it will be interesting to see which one ends up as the post time favorite. Gimme A Nother might not be the one the majority of the public latch onto but she is a likely winner. She ran so well on her come back and a return to her best South African form appears to be on the cards. That level will be good enough at these weight terms. Not just that, remember that her best performance at home was not considered to be her limit - there may be better still to come from Gimme N Other. She Feels Pretty, possibly in need of the outing after a break, and Saffron Moon, who we know is fit and well, become the joint B-ranked horses, with Segesta the one to throw in for a bit of value on those Trifecta tickets.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS | Based on firm or good ground

A	2 GIMME A NOTHER
B	7 SHE FEELS PRETTY, 8 SAFFRON MOON
C	3 SEGESTA

She Feels Pretty / Queen Elizabeth II Cup: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=808V7Eb8aF0>

Gimme A Nother / Empress Club St.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LrztMHYppE>

Gimme A Nother / South Africa Fillies Classic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77814Xxmlrw>

Gimme A Nother feature: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLEmUkBg3A0>

Saffron Moon / Endeavour Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUutlWh9Hu0&t=2s>

Segesta 2nd / Belmont Oaks Invitational: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUwPppgz-_U
3rd She Feels Pretty 4th Pin Up Betty