

Globeform Subscription Service

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell

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4.30 CT

GLOBEFORM RANKING

FAIR GROUNDS STAKES (G3), 9 fur Turf, Fair Grounds, Sat Feb 14

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	2	BRILLIANT BERTI	112	112 - 109 - 112 - 112	DeVaux / Hernandez Jr
2 / 10	9	LAGYNOS	114 / 106	106 - 103 - 110	Asmussen / J L Ortiz
(5)	10	AGATE ROAD <i>GF 107 in Feb '24</i>	(107)	92 // 97 - 102	Pletcher / Velazquez
6	4	GIGANTE <i>GF 110 in Mar '25</i>	110	97 - 92 - ?+	Asmussen / Graham
6	5	CAMEO PERFORMANCE <i>GF 106 in May '25</i>	106	101 - 104 - 103	Walsh / Curtis
9	7	KUPUNA	107	107 - 103 - 107	N Casse / L Saez
9	8	IDRATHERBEBLESSED <i>GF 107 also in Mar '25</i>	107	98 - 107 - 93	Hartman / Pedroza
10	3	POINT PROVEN	102	95 - 102 - ?+	Terre / Loveberry
11	1	SAND PIPER	101	99 - 98 - 101	Schultz / Lopez
12p	6	MONTADOR	104p	104p - 99 - 100	Stidham / Gaffalione

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 Fair Grounds

2025	TAKING CANDY	GF 109	Cherie DeVaux	Irada Ortiz Jr
2024	BEATBOX	GF 108p	Cherie DeVaux	Joel Rosario
2023	TWO EMMYS	GF 116	Hugh Roberts	James Graham
2022	CAVALRY CHARGE	GF 111	Dallas Stewart	Brian Hernandez Jr
2021	CAPTIVATING MOON	GF 110	Chris Block	Marcelino Pedroza
2020	FACTOR THIS	GF 114p	Brad Cox	Shaun Bridgmohan

Average winning Globeform: 111.3

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

BRILLIANT BERTI, rested since early October, has been a bit below his best twice when returning from a break - but he stands out as a clear number one on the ranking in this edition of the Fair Grounds Stakes, and he is hard to oppose. He developed into one of the better turf runners around last year, when he also showed remarkably consistent form, running to **Globeform 112** in three of his six races and close to that level in the other three. After winning by half a length from **LAGYNOS** with a good finish from off the pace in the Opening Verse Stakes over a mile at Churchill Downs, he was beaten just a neck by G1 winner Mercante in the Arlington Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at the same venue (**LAGYNOS** was third); and a month after that (in late June), Brilliant Berti won the Wise Dan Stakes, also over 8.5 furlong at Churchill Downs, beating Taking Candy by 3/4 length (**LAGYNOS** again third). Brilliant Berti set the pace in the Arlington Stakes, he was held up at the back in the Opening Verse, and he was ridden just off the pace in the Wise Dan. Such flexibility is invaluable in turf racing, where the pace scenario is often unpredictable. The son of Noble Mission reverted to late running tactics when fourth in the Mint Millions at Kentucky Downs and third in the Coolmore Turf Mile at Keeneland in the fall. He ran up to his best in the latter; staying on gamely to lose by a length behind Rhetorical, who was fourth in the Breeders' Cup Mile on his next start. Brilliant Berti's only run over 9 furlongs was in last year's Muniz Memorial, when he was only eighth behind **IDRATHERBEBLESSED** - but the pace of that race was very slow, making him (and others) badly compromised. There's no reason to doubt his ability to cope with this distance. Brilliant Berti is a strong selection.

LAGYNOS was conceding weight to both when second to **KUPUNA**, with **CAMEO PERFORMANCE** one place behind him, in the 8.5-furlong Colonel Bradley Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at the Fair Grounds in January; but it was still a performance well below his best - as was his preceding third placed effort behind Wolfie's Dynaghost in the River City Stakes at Churchill Downs. He peaked when winning the Tapit Stakes over an extended mile at Kentucky Downs last August. The son of Kantharos improved to **Globeform 114** as he ran out an easy 5 1/4-length winner from Ohana Honor, who pipped **CAMEO PERFORMANCE** by a nose for second. Breaking well from the outside post in a nine-runner field, Lagynos was always prominent and he dominated in the home stretch. The further he went the better he looked, and the win made him favorite for the one-mile Mint Millions over the same course nine days later. The Steve Asmussen trainee put up another good performance in the big race, but had to settle for second, 2 lengths behind Epic Ride. A two-month break led to the River City, then a similar rest before the Colonel Bradley. A Lagynos back to his best would be a threat in the Fair Grounds Stakes - but he did have a hard campaign last year and it's worth noting that his **Globeform 114** was achieved over the unique Kentucky Downs course.

GIGANTE, like Lagynos trained by Asmussen, ran his best race to date when second behind the front running **IDRATHERBEBLESSED** in the Muniz Memorial over 9 furlongs at the Fair Grounds last March, when a slow pace played the cards right into the lap of the winner, while it was a day to forget for **CAMEO PERFORMANCE** (fast finishing third) and **BRILLIANT BERTI** (8th). Ridden close to the pace, Gigante went down by just a neck while spotting the winner 4lbs, and he improved to **Globeform 110**. He meets Idratherbebled at level weights this time but a lot has happened since last year's Muniz Memorial. After several runs, they met again in the Diliberto Memorial over the same distance in December, with **IDRATHERBEBLESSED** once more going gate to wire and beat **KUPUNA** to win by 3/4 length. **SAND PIPES** checked in third half a length further back, and **GIGANTE** was a well beaten fifth. Four weeks later, this form was turned around; as **KUPUNA** captured the Colonel Bradley, beating **LAGYNOS**, **CAMEO PERFORMANCE** and **SAND PIPES**, with **IDRATHERBEBLESSED** (7th) and **GIGANTE** (8th) way behind. This group of older horses is a closely matched bunch and it's impossible to give one of them clear preference. Equally, it's very hard to imagine any of them troubling Brilliant Berti. >>>

MONTADOR, a 4yo with three wins from just seven career starts, makes more appeal, despite the fact that ratings tell us that he needs to improve again to have a chance. In fact, this son of Nyquist sits last on the raking with a big gap up to the top contender. The gap up to the others is not too big, however, and the way Montador won last time out suggested that there will be better to come. Having won nicely in allowance company at Churchill Downs in early November, and run fifth in the Commonwealth at the same track three weeks later, he improved to **Globeform 104p** as he ran out an easy winner of the Woodchopper Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at the Fair Grounds in December. Never far off the pace, he quickened right away coming down the lane, beating Juris Doctor comfortably by 4 1/4 lengths. Montador did not beat proper stakes performers but he was so much the best and it makes perfect sense to step him up in class. Note that Faber, who was almost six lengths behind him in third place, is set to run in R8 on Thursday.

AGATE ROAD, now a 5yo, had not raced since August '24 when making his comeback in a stakes quality allowance race over 8.5 furlongs at Gulfstream Park in December. He went off at 11-1, was never a factor and finished last of nine runners 6 lengths behind Abrumar, who beat Win for the Money and Missed the Cut. They both disappointed next time out. Agate Road was a good performer at two and three, winning the Pilgrim Stakes on turf at Aqueduct in his first season and recording a career best **Globeform 107** when second in the Sam F Davis Stakes on dirt in his second. Disappointing in two subsequent outings, he came back to respectable form with a fifth placed effort behind Brilliant Berti in the 2024 edition of the American Derby at Churchill Downs. >>>



**ONE-WEEK BREAK LEADING UP TO
THE NEXT MAIN EVENT SPECIAL**

Please note that we are approaching our one-week February break; with no service for the Feb 21-22 weekend; as we prepare for a comprehensive **FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH DAY SPECIAL**, covering 10 stakes events on Saturday, February 28. This service can now be purchased on the website's [order page](#) or directly via [this payment link](#).

CONCLUSION: This is not a win at all costs race for Brilliant Berti; it's just a starting point to a season when he will be chasing G1 glory. Will he be 100% fit for reappearance? Probably not. Will he need to be fully fit to win this race? Certainly not. Montador, a young horse on the upgrade; coming off his career best while winning over this course and distance, is taken as the B-horse. Not only is he a horse likely to improve, he is the only horse in this field we can expect to improve. A moderate pace is likely, something that will suit Idratherbeblesed well - but Lagynos has better back class, and his 1 1/4-length second to Kupuna (who is now 2lbs worse off at the weights) last month was not far behind what will be needed to hit the board here. He becomes the C-horse, but just by a nose and much because the line should no be left empty. Relying on Brilliant Berti as a single in horizontal exotics, he can be keyed on top in a Tri / Super plan where we use Montador as the main horse underneath. This is otherwise an open looking race where it makes sense to include all others - so the strategy should be two Trifecta tickets, with Montador 2nd and 3rd; plus one Superfecta ticket where we use Montador in 4th place.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	2 BRILLIANT BERTI
B	6 MONTADOR
C	9 LAGYNOS

Brilliant Berti 3rd / Coolmore Turf Mile: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JS78kfCPjxE>

Brilliant Berti / Wise Dan Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddDTVMqbB24>
3rd Lagynos

Brilliant Berti 2nd / Arlington Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmDGyRisTIM>
3rd Lagynos

Brilliant Berti / Opening Verse Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHtANlc7lp8>
2nd Lagynos

Montador / Woodchopper Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twp30e2u7EA>

Lagynos / Tapit Stakes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmz_h0vwKyc

Kupuna / Colonel Bradley Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORYmSafeLs0>
2nd Lagynos 3rd Cameo Performance 7th Idratherbeblesed 8th Gigante

NEW ORELEANS WEATHER FORECAST

Tue 10	74°/58°		Partly Cloudy	◇ 20%
Wed 11	75°/55°		AM Clouds / PM Sun	◇ 21%
Thu 12	69°/55°		Partly Cloudy	◇ 8%
Fri 13	72°/58°		Partly Cloudy	◇ 20%
Sat 14	72°/60°		Showers	◇ 64%
Sun 15	66°/50°		AM Showers	◇ 36%