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Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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5:48 ET

GLOBEFORM RANKING

PENNSYLVANIA DERBY (G1) 9 fur dirt, Parx, Saturday Sep 19, 2026

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	IRON HONOR	117	110 - 117 - 97+	Brown / J L Ortiz
2	6	THE PUMA	115	115 - 109+ 112p	Delgado / Castellano
5	7	FURTHER ADO	114	106 - 114 - 98+	B Cox / Prat
7p	3	OUR MONEYMAN	108p	108p - 105 - 103	Calhoun / M Franco
10p	9	SASSMASTER	105p	105p - ?p - ?p	Pletcher / Gaffalione
8 / 10	5	TALK TO ME JIMMY <i>GF 107 in Feb '26</i>	107 / 105	104 - 105 - 103	R Rodriguez / Silvera
13	1	ZIHNAL	104	104 - 100 - ?p	Thomas / Velazquez
13	11	PONDER AND DREAM	100	100 - 100 - 90	Reid / Sanchez
17	10	MICANOPY	98	98 - ? - ?	Simone / Lopez
27	8	FREEDOM'S ECHO	86	78 - 86 - 0	Preciado / TBA

Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. The **"Rank"** column shows the horse best in at the weights based on Globeform ratings on top, with other horses ranked down in pounds. For example; rank figure 6 tells us that the horse is 6lbs below the top ranked horse. Length values: 5-6 furlongs: 3lbs per length. 7 fur: 2.5lbs. 8 - 11 fur: 2lbs. 12 fur: 1.5lbs

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 Pennsylvania Derby

2025	BAEZA	GF 119+	John Shirreffs	Hector Berrios
2024	SEIZE THE GREY	GF 118	D Wayne Lukas	Jamie Torres
2023	SAUDI CROWN	GF 112+	Brad Cox	Florent Geroux
2022	TAIBA	GF 122	Bob Baffert	Mike Smith
2021	HOT ROD CHARLIE	GF 122	Doug O'Neill	Flavien Prat
2019	MATH WIZARD	GF 114	Saffie Joseph Jr	Irad Ortiz Jr

Average winning Globeform: 117.8

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

IRON HONOR looks **too big at 5-1 on the morning line** for this contest. Having produced the best form on offer he gets into the race with 2lbs less than Further Ado and he meets The Puma at level weights - making this a perfect opportunity for a G1 win. The Gotham Stakes winner bypassed the Kentucky Derby to focus on the 9.5-furlong Preakness Stakes at Laurel Park in mid-May, when he was second 1 1/4 lengths behind Napoleon Solo; a run that moved Iron Honor up to a career best **Globeform 117**. He stayed on from a few lengths off the pace and was a clear runner-up, 3 1/4 lengths ahead of next-out Ohio Derby winner >>>

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>>> Chip Honcho. Iron Honor and Napoleon Solo met again in the 9-furlong Haskell Stakes at Monmouth Park two months later, with Napoleon Solo once more proving the strongest. He was a game half-length second to Baby Vino while spotting him - and Iron Honor - 3lbs. Iron Honor checked in third, beaten 4 lengths after having raced a few lengths off the pace throughout over the sloppy track. **THE PUMA** was a neck behind him in fourth place and **FURTHER ADO** finished fifth. This run was not as good as his performance in the Preakness but the track conditions would not have been in his favor. Iron Honor is the type of horse who will relish a test of stamina and 10 furlongs might prove to be his best trip in due course. Still, with Napoleon Solo's second in the Travers adding further weight to the Preakness form, the Chad Brown trainee is a logical selection in the Pennsylvania Derby, where he will get blinkers again (he ran without in the Preakness and Haskell). If the equipment change moves Iron Honor up a notch, well, then the son of Nyquist will be very hard to beat.

THE PUMA is also in with a good chance, having run his best race to date last time out; when he finished fourth behind the up and coming Leading Change, Preakness winner Napoleon Solo and Kentucky Derby winner Golden Tempo in the 10-furlong Travers Stakes at Saratoga in August. While the first two home were prominent throughout, The Puma ended up to far back in a race lacking pace - only to run on gamely at the finish and pass the post 3 1/4 lengths behind the winner. Taking a nice step up from his Haskell form, he improved to **Globeform 115** in the Travers and we may not have seen the best of this Essential Quality colt. The Haskell, where the slop compromised his chances, was The Puma's first start since the Florida Derby over 9 furlongs at Gulfstream Park back in March. It was just bad luck that denied him having his picture taken that day. Commandment beat him by nose. He and Commandment both stayed on with good runs from off a moderate pace and they came close to running a dead heat. Commandment got the nod, while Chief Wallabe was half a length behind in third place.

It was a tough Kentucky Derby prep and the two principals ran like horses wanting more ground. The Puma was ruled out of the Kentucky Derby due to injury but the Florida Derby form was given a mild boost in the first leg of the Triple Crown; as Chief Wallabe managed fourth and Commandment was seventh. The Belmont result reflected even more positively on the Gulfstream prep; Commandment was runner-up to Golden Tempo there; and Chief Wallabe ran fourth (with Kentucky Derby second Renegade between them). These formlines do not spell world class form but they tell us that The Puma fits in well with some of the best horses in the 3yo division, although the division isn't particularly strong. Prior to his good run in the Florida Derby, Gustavo Delgado's colt won the Tampa Bay Derby, beating **FURTHER ADO** by three parts of a length after delivering a very strong stretch run from well off the pace. The Puma is 2lbs better off compared to this early season clash at Tampa. Further Ado has improved since but so has The Puma and there must be a good chance that he will come out on top also in this race. 4-1 is not a bad price about this horse.

FURTHER ADO, who has been made 2-1 favorite by the track's linemaker, was below par as a well beaten fifth in the Haskell Stakes at Monmouth Park in July and he has had a break since. A prominent runner, he might have been suited by the sloppy track but the way he faded suggested that he wasn't happy at all. His run in the Matt Winn Stakes at Churchill Downs in June was much better. Having flopped in the Kentucky Derby, he bounced right back in the 8.5-furlong contest - racing in the first two throughout and winning readily by 2 lengths from **OUR MONEYMAN**, who carried 5lbs less than Further Ado. Further Ado improved to **Globeform 114** in the Matt Winn; as it was an even better performance than his stroll in the Blue Grass back in early April. There may be improvement in this Brad Cox trainee. He runs like a stamina test will suit but, based on his Matt Winn run, one can also argue that he may be better suited by a mile. This son of Gun Runner is a bit hard to assess when it comes to distances; and the Pennsylvania Derby is likely to answer a few questions; mainly 'how good is he?' and 'is this his best trip?'

He was left with little to beat when chief rival Reagan's Honor bled in the 9-furlong Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland. While Reagan's Honor (who has not raced since) slowed down rapidly and was eased after having traveled well heading for the home turn, Further Ado pulled away to win the 9-furlong prep by 11 lengths. Looking strong at the finish, he was visually impressive - but it's hard to assess this piece of form. Given **Globeform 111p** for this romp, he looked an interesting Kentucky Derby contender but it was surprising to see him going off favorite at Churchill. Never a factor, he finished 11th in the 18-runner field.

Further Ado's Blue Grass runner-up, maiden winner Otinho, was beaten 11 lengths also when third behind **TALK TO ME JIMMY** in the Withers Stakes over 9 furlongs at Aqueduct in February. Talk to Me Jimmy was then eighth, 4 1/2 lengths behind Albus in the Wood Memorial (though in fairness, he pulled and did not stay in that event). Talk to Me Jimmy has since been second in a sub-standard Peter Pan Stakes, won the New York Derby at Finger Lakes and run second in the Albany Stakes at Saratoga (both restricted to NY breds).

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OUR MONEYMAN has found gradual improvement through his last three starts, from a third behind Out of the Woods in an 8.5-furlong allowance race at Churchill Downs in May, to a runner-up effort 2 lengths behind **FURTHER ADO** in the Matt Winn Stakes over the same course and distance in June, and a career best performance in the Indiana Derby in July, when he made subsequent Travers winner Leading Change pull out all the stops at the end of what was another 8.5-furlongs task. Our Moneyman, who lost ground early through a troubled start, ran a very game race and went down by just a neck. The son of Mr. Money reversed previous form with the third placed Out of the Woods (admittedly at very favorable weight terms) and he improved to **Globeform 108p**. With Leading Change going to to beat Preakness winner Napoleon Solo for a win in the top 3yo event at Saratoga this form looks good on paper; though probably a bit better than it actually was. Either way, Our Moneyman is clearly on the upgrade and he could hit the board.

SASSMASTER, representing Todd Pletcher, is the dark horse in the mix. With two wins from just three starts, this son of Curlin beat older horses as he took a 9-furlong allowance heat at Saratoga in early August; grinding out a one-length win over Expect the Best (a two-time allowance winner), with fellow 3yo Thunderously third and 'the rest nowhere'. Sassmaster earned a provisional **Globeform 105p** for this win. A son of Curlin, he is out of Sass and Class, who ran just twice and won a 4.5-furlong maiden at Lone Star Park at two. Sassmaster's half-sister Royal Charlotte won the 6-furlong Prioress Stakes and the 6.5-furlong Victory Ride Stakes.

CONCLUSION: The morning line has Further Ado at just 2-1, two points shorter than The Puma, who is one point shorter than Iron Honor. It will be interesting to see whether the betting public agrees with that. I know that I don't. Surely, Iron Honor's Preakness run represents the best form in this field. If he is anywhere near **5-1** he's a great value bet. At that sort of odds he can even be backed across the board or each-way in the Pennsylvania Derby. Don't let 'blinkers back on' put you off. In Chad we trust and if the colt moves up a notch he'll be the one we need on our side. The Puma is also too big at **4-1**. Any one of the three that beat him in the Travers would be even money here and he was by no means disgraced at the Spa; in fact it was his best run to date. Ratings say that Further Ado needs to improve to beat these two and it would be folly to suggest that he can't take another step up; of course he should be respected. With these clear on the ranking the race looks like a three-horse affair but there was a lot to like about Our Moneyman's attitude when he worked his way up to almost get the better of subsequent Travers winner Leading Change at Indiana, where he lost ground by being squeezed soon after the gates opened. It would be no big surprise to see Our Moneyman hitting the board. Sassmaster is the next to use underneath, he's an unknown factor. None of the remaining six make any sort of appeal.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	2 IRON HONOR
B	6 THE PUMA, 7 FURTHER ADO
C	3 OUR MONEYMAN, 9 SASSMASTER

Iron Honor 3rd / Haskell Invitational: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oy6lCuMkl2M>
5th Further Ado

Iron Honor 2nd / Preakness Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZB6aGCBQpY&t=8s>

Iron Honor / Gotham Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hs7IU22vNUs>

The Puma 4th / Travers Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htdmh9MjDc>

The Puma 2nd / Florida Derby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlnwtNvl9hk&t=82s>

The Puma / Tampa Bay Derby: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKFK_IRzYmW
2nd Further Ado

Further Ado / Matt Winn Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spdr3YM4ND0>
2nd Our Moneyman

Our Moneyman 2nd / Indiana Derby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3NxigKsAvC>



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Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	8	BAEZA WON	123	119+ 116 - 123	Shirreffs / Berrios
9p	3	MAGNITUDE 2nd Exacta 26-1	118p	90 - 114+ 118p	Asmussen / Curtis
10	6	GOAL ORIENTED 3rd Trifecta 113-1	115	115 - 102+ 104p	Baffert / I Ortiz Jr
11	9	GOSGER	116	116 - 115 - 111p	Walsh / L Saez
14	7	BIG TRUZZ	111	111 - 90 - 105p	Lynch / Castellano
16	10	MO PLEX	111	104 - 111 - 96	J Englehart / Ramos
17p	1	SO SANDY	108p	108p - 103p - ?p	DeVaux / Carmouche
17p	4	DAVID OF ATHENS	108p	108p - ?p - ?p	Walsh / Gaffalione
?	2	ALTOBELLI	?	?	Nicholson / Castillo
30	5	HAPPILY DELUSIONAL	93	82 - ? - 84 - 93	Linder / Lopez

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	8 BAEZA WON
B	6 GOAL ORIENTED 3rd , 9 GOSGER
C	1 SO SANDY 4th , 3 MAGNITUDE 2nd , 4 DAVID OF ATHENS
	Exacta 26-1 Trifecta 113-1 Superfecta 997-1

