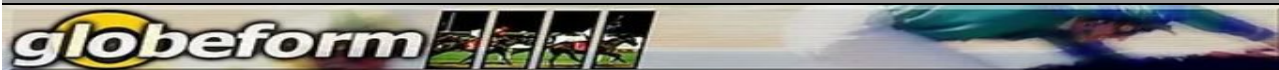


Globeform's Kentucky Derby Special '25

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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GLOBEFORM RANKING

TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT (G2) 5.5 fur Turf, Churchill Downs May 3

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 3 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	3	NOBALS	116	111 - 109 - 116	Rivelli / Corrales
2p	6	RUN CARSON	114p	102 - 114 - 114p	Danner / Velazquez
2	1	COPPOLA	114	102 - 114 - 112	Romans / Franco
3	5	ARREST ME RED	113	113 - 110 - 112	Ward / Lanerie
4	7	THINK BIG	116	116 - 106p - 94	Stidham / Curtis
4	8	ROGUE LIGHTNING	114	114 - 110 - 103	Clover / Prat
4	10	UNCONQUERABLE KEEN <i>GF 112 in Dec '23</i>	112	108 - 0 - 111	D'Amato / Rispoli
4 / 8+	11	EAMONN <i>GF 112 in Apr '24</i>	112 / 108+	106+ 108+ 0	Orseno / Zayas
5	4	ONE TIMER <i>GF 111 Kent. Downs Aug '24</i>	111	102 - 104 - 102	Rivelli / Loveberry
10	9	BOSS SULLY	106	105 - 106 - 102	Koriner / L Saez
10	2	AMBIVALENT	106	106 - 95 - 97	Maker / J J Hernandez
8 / 16	12	MISCHIEVOUS ROGUE <i>GF 107 in Nov '24</i> <i>GF 108 in June '24</i>	108	95 - 99 - 95	Vanden Berg / Emigh

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 Twin Spires Turf Sprint

2024	COGBURN	GF 119p	Steve Asmussen	Irado Ortiz Jr
2023	NOBALS	GF 116	Larry Rivelli	Gerrardo Corrales
2022	ARREST ME RED	GF 118	Welsey Ward	Irado Ortiz Jr
2021	FAST BOAT	GF 115	Joe Sharp	Irado Ortiz Jr
2020	DIAMOND OOPS	GF 115	Patrick Biancone	Florent Geroux

Average winning Globeform: 116.6

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

NOBALS, whose Hong Kong trip in December became wasted as he fell ill on the journey, has not been up to his very best form in two starts since, but he ran a game race to be second behind **ARREST ME RED** in the Big Daddy Stakes over the Tapeta track in March, and it is possible that he is on his way back to top form. He ended 2024 on a high note when bouncing right back to his best (**Globeform 116**) and beat Canada's undisputed sprint champion Patches O'Houlihan by three parts of a length in the Kennedy Road Stakes over 6 furlongs on Tapeta at Woodbine in November, and on that form he is absolutely one of the top players in this race. Nobals is versatile when it comes to riding tactics, he came from off the pace when winning the 5-furlong Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint at Santa Anita in 2023 and he was up with the pace all the way when winning big over 6 furlongs at Woodbine. Well drawn in stall three, he is in with a winning chance and 6-1 seems high on this contender - though it remains to be seen whether he can regain his best. He won both of his previous races over this course.

RUN CARSON is also interesting in this 5.5-furlong contest. Off the board just once from ten starts to date, with 4 wins under his belt, he has run to **Globeform 114** in three of his four most recent races, twice earning the important "p". He was below par in the Shakertown; beaten 4 1/4 lengths into sixth behind **THINK BIG**, who won the race from **ROGUE LIGHTNING** and **EAMONN** - and note that Run Carson is 4lbs better off against the winner this time. Run Carson ran second in the Holiday Cheer Stakes at Turfway Park in December, when the very smart Howard Wolowitz proved too good. That run confirmed that Run Carson belongs in these top sprints. This son of Maclean's Music turned the corner towards the end on 2024. Going for the Holiday Cheer, run on Tapeta, he was coming off two excellent wins on turf over different trips at different tracks and, perhaps most noteworthy, with such contrasting trips. After flashing speed throughout in the 5.5-furlong Carle Place Stakes at Aqueduct, where he sniffed at the track record while outclassing Live High Live Low, he overcame a start-miss to come from last to win a high quality allowance heat over 6 furlongs at Churchill Downs, finishing fast to beat stakes winner Joe Shiesty by 1 1/4 lengths. **COPPOLA** ran third, beaten 2 3/4 lengths. Run Carson might be overlooked by many in the Twin Spires Turf Sprint - don't make that mistake, he's in with a chance.

COPPOLA won two valuable 5-furlong stakes events at Gulfstream in the winter - starting incredibly fast and taking lengths out of the field within a matter of strides on both occasions, but he was not able to produce similar form in the Shakertown, where he set the pace but faded to finish fifth. Gulfstream Park is perfect for horses with his running style, quite different to Keeneland and Churchill Downs, so let's go without him here. Interestingly, he drew the rail; normally a good spot - but is it that for him? Not so sure; he broke from outside posts when winning at Gulfstream and he loved being out in the clear on his own. It's tempting to drop him but Coppola has run well at Churchill Downs in the past, so perhaps it's best not to.

ARREST ME RED has regained really good form as an older horse - something that is not at all unusual for sprinters. Now aged seven, he ran to **Globeform 113** when beating **NOBALS** by half a length in the Big Daddy Stakes over 6 furlongs at Turfway Park in March. Nobals was not at his best but it was a solid run by Arrest Me Red, who went straight to the lead from the inside post and could not be passed. He ran to the same level when he beat **ONE TIMER** by a head in stakes quality allowance heat over 6.5 furlongs at Kentucky Downs last August. A battle hardened, tough and versatile horse, Arrest Me Red has one big advantage over many of his rivals here; that he stays further than 5.5 furlongs. Kentucky Downs is a demanding track; you need a horse almost capable of running a mile on a flat track to be successful in a good 6.5-furlong race there, and Arrest Me Red is likely to get a good setup here, with so much speed signed on. He may well be part of it but he will keep going when other speedballs meet the wall. >>>

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THINK BIG has four horses above him on the ranking but he is the 'now horse', he can improve and he gets the nod as the selection - though this is a wide open race and he is by no means a confident selection. The way he won the Shakertown Stakes at Keeneland last month suggested that we have a new name at the top end of turf sprint division. He produced a strong kick from just off the pace (traveling with west in third spot) and ran down the Euro shipper **ROGUE LIGHTNING** to beat him decisively by half a length. His win at the Fair Grounds two months earlier was probably better than it seemed at the time - he performed to GF 106p there and he moved up to **Globeform 116** in the Shakertown. It was only his third race on the lawn and Think Big has won all three. If he continues his upward trajectory he will become the one to beat in this year's Twin Spires Turf Sprint.

ROGUE LIGHTNING also returned his best figure in the Shakertown, as an aggressive run almost paid off. He was in the first two from start to finish and proved hard to beat. The son of Kodiak is 2lbs better off at the weights with Think Big, so theoretically he should turn the tables. Two factors speak against that line of thought, however; the fact that Think Big seems to be on an upward curve and - probably more importantly - the fact that there is so much speed in this field. That scenario will be to Think Big's liking, while it may not be in the best interest of Rogue Lightning. The Shakertown provides a couple of other interesting contenders, namely **EAMONN** - who once more came flying late from the back to get third - and **RUN CARSON** - who did not have the best of runs still wasn't beaten more than 4 1/4 lengths. A versatile colt who can be ridden prominently or from the back, he is now 4lbs better off against Think Big.

UNCONQUERABLE KEEN has been underestimated by the line maker. There's now way this Phil D'Amato trainee would be **30-1** if this race was to be run in California, where he has shown form matching him well up with these rivals on more than one occasion. At that sort of odds, he is the small fun bet across the board - simply because 30-1 is completely out of sync with his form. He ran to **Globeform 112** when winning the Stormy Libeal at Del Mar back in 2023, produced GF 111 when taking that race again last December, and he third placed effort behind Sorrento Sky last time out is better than it looks on paper (he ran to GF 108).

CONCLUSION: This looks the most difficult race for us on Kentucky Derby day. One can make an argument for at least half the field - and racing luck is likely to play a big part. Think Big, who is unbeaten on the lawn and with 4 wins from just 8 starts to date, is coming off a career best effort; he can sit close behind the pace and he can come from further back, so he should get a good run from post 7 (he broke well from 10 last time). So he gets a narrow vote. As the race is so wide open, it is tempting to go for a low budget Tri / Super plan where we need one of our B-horses, Arrest Me Red and Nobals to finish end, 3rd or 4th. That way we can include many of the others. The thinking here is that if Arrest Me Red's is coming off a run making him a top player, then so is Nobals. It would come as no big surprise if a longshot hits the board.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	7 THINK BIG WON @ 12/5
B	3 NOBALS, 5 ARREST ME RED
C	1 COPPOLA, 6 RUN CARSON, 8 ROGUE LIGHTNING, 10 UNCONQUERABLE KEEN, 11 EAMONN

Think Big / Shakertown Stakes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yevxezOvu_Q
2. Rogue Lightning 3. Eamonn 6. Run Carson 8. Mischievous Rogue

Arrest Me Red & Nobals / Big Daddy Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rCtMab5h-Y>