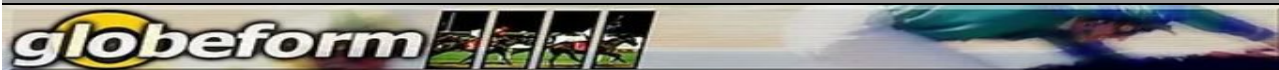


Globeform's Preakness Week Special

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



9

3:30 ET

GLOBEFORM RANKING

THE JAMES W. MURPHY STAKES (BT) 8 fur Turf, Laurel Park, May 16

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 / 6	6	TURF STAR <i>GF 97 in Oct '25</i>	97 / 91	74 - 91 - 96	Motion / Ruiz
1 / 4	5	PROTON <i>GF 100 in Oct '25</i>	100 / 97	90 - 97 - 94	Motion / Velazquez
4p / 11	4	ATTFIELD <i>GF 97p in Nov '25</i>	97p / 90	90 - 81 - 97p	Morley / Santana Jr
7	1	MY FAVORITE BIRD	90	90 - 86 - 88	Sweezey / Prat
?p	3	ZINHAL	?p	?p	Thomas / I Ortiz Jr
16	2	THEBABESLAYER	85	81 - 85 - 74	Asmussen / J L Ortiz
?	7	JESSICA'S EYES	?	?	Robb / Perez
?	8	J CODY	?	?	Montoya / Sanchez

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 James W Murphy (Pimlico)

2025	REAGAN'S WIT	GF 103p	Cherie DeVaux	Jose L Ortiz
2024	FULMINEO	GF 100	Arnaud Delacour	Flavien Prat
2023	NAGIRROC	GF 107p	Graham Motion	Flavien Prat
2022	JOE	Not rated	Michael Trombetta	Victor Carrasco
2021	T D DANCE	GF 109	Brad Cox	Javier Castellano
2020	DON JUAN KITTEN	GF 106	Danny Gargan	Gabriel Saez

Average winning Globeform: 105



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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

TURF STAR was one of the better turf juveniles last year, when he ran second to the hot favorite Final Score in the Bourbon Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Keeneland and sixth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf over a mile at Del Mar, where he checked in 5 3/4 lengths behind the Irish trained favorite Gstaad, who beat this year's American Turf winner Stark Contrast by 3/4 length. Gstaad was one of the best young colts in Europe, he has run second in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket this spring and he is odds-on in the future books for the Irish 2,000 Guineas on May 23. Turf Star met serious performers in his first season but his two outings this season have not been as good as his 2yo form. He ran to **Globeform 97** when beaten 1 1/4 lengths in the Bourbon and he returned GF 96 at the Breeders' Cup. His GF 91 when sixth to Thousandsticks in the 8.5-furlong Kitten's Joy Stakes at Gulfstream Park in January was respectable seasonal debut though, and he probably didn't like the Tapeta when unplaced in the Jeff Ruby Steaks at Turfway Park in March. With good tactical speed, this son of Carvaggio might be ideally suited by a mile but he is bred to stay further. He may not have been fit first time out and the Tapeta experience may be a result to ignore; this colt deserves another chance to show what he is capable of. Receiving 4lbs from from Proton is an advantage.

PROTON, like Turf Star trained by Graham Motion, was quite precocious at two, winning a Colonial maiden and the Laurel Futurity on his first two starts, before improving to **Globeform 100** as runner-up to Conducted in the TBA Aftercare Stakes over a mile at Del Mar in October. Conducted has not raced since but Plutarch, who was a length behind Proton in third, has done well; he was an impressive maiden winner next time out and he took the Robert Lewis Stakes on dirt this winter. Proton went from the TBA Stakes to the Cecil De Mille Mile, also at Del Mar, but he blew his chances in the preliminaries on that occasion, getting nervous and very washy (finished fourth). This son of Astern is talented but not mentally strong. He has been wearing a hood in his two races this term; a game second placed effort behind Alpyland in the Columbia Stakes over a mile at Tampa Bay Downs followed by a one paced seventh, 4 lengths behind Remember Mamba in the 8.5-furlong Transylvania Stakes at Keeneland. With Remember Mamba and the Transylvania second Honey Dutch filling second and third behind Stark Contrast in the American Turf Stakes on Derby day at Churchill Downs, it's obvious that Proton gets a bit of class relief here, and he has a winning chance. Keep an eye on him in the paddock and in the post parade.

ATTFIELD made nice progress through his three starts last year, winning a 5.5-furlong maiden at Saratoga on his debut, then running second to Intricate Spirit in the 6-furlong Futurity Stakes at Aqueduct and rounding the campaign off by capturing the 8.5-furlong Central Park Stakes at the same venue in November. Racing up with the pace all the way he won that contest by half a length from Noble Dynasty, with Honey Dutch a neck further back in third place. Noble Dynasty (6th in the Transylvania, 2nd in an allowance heat) has not enhanced the form this term, but Honey Dutch has. However, Attfield was only ninth in the Transylvania, beaten 4 1/4 lengths by Remember Mamba. He gets blinkers for this race.

MY FAVORITE BIRD seems to have been a late developing type, and he has been getting gradually better since switched to turf in his last four starts. He improved to **Globeform 90** to run second, 1 1/2 lengths behind Bolero Bay in the English Channel Stakes over a mile at Gulfstream Park in early May. Never far off the pace, he put up a game performance and didn't flinch when marginally impeded by the gate to wire winner in the closing stages. Bolero Bay was coming off an easy 4 1/2-length win in lesser company. A son of Noble Bird, My Favorite Bird cost just \$3,500 as a yearling and there's not much to glean from his pedigree, but the way he has been shaping of late it would not be a surprise to see further improvement. He was beaten 3/4 length in a good allowance race three starts back; the winner Ababajoni went on to be second in the Cutler Bay Stakes on his next start. >>>

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ZINHAL is the dark horse in this field. A well bred colt from a good team, he comes here with just one run under his belt; and that was a comprehensive defeat while racing over a mile in maiden company at Santa Anita in early April. He is bred more for turf so perhaps we should ignore that result, but Zihnal was only fourth of six, beaten by Memory, Silent Way and Authentic Patriot. Memory was sixth in a Churchill allowance race next, Silent Way was second in a Churchill allowance next (behind the very useful Powershift), while Authentic Patriot was sixth in a \$100k claiming heat at Churchill next. Suffice to say that the form hasn't worked out - so let's risk dropping Zihnal; despite his nice pedigree (which lends itself toward stamina) and the fact that Irad Ortiz Jr takes the mount. Zihnal is a son of Quality Road out of Theodora B., who won the 10-furlong Dance Smartly Stakes on turf at Woodbine as a 5yo. The second dam, Dyna Waltz, won an Oaks Trial over 11.5 furlongs in England. This mile trip could prove to be too short for Zihnal.

CONCLUSION: This can easily be a Graham Motion exacta; though Turf Star (5-2) seems a safer bet than the 9-5 morning line favorite Proton. The latter has a higher rating on his cv but it dates back to a run at Del Mar last fall and he has not been fully composed in any of his runs since. He behaved better in the Transylvania but it's always a worry when young horses begin to show nerves. Turf Star met proper horses at the Breeders' Cup and Final Score, who beat him in the Bourbon, was coming off a very impressive Saratoga win at the time. So the weight favored Turf Star becomes the selection, with Proton the B-horse over Attfield and My Favorite Bird. My Favorite Bird has to improve again to have a winning chance, but it's not impossible that he will do just that - while at the same time we need to bear in mind that the top three are all ranked based on 2025 form. Good recent form counts for a lot and **10-1 morning line** makes My Favorite Bird the value bet.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS | J W MURPHY STAKES

A	6 TURF STAR	WON @ 4-1
B	5 PROTON 4th	EXACTA 23-1
C	1 MY FAVORITE BIRD 2nd, 4 ATTFIELD 3rd	TRIFECTA 83-1 SUPERFECTA 137-1

Turf Star 2nd / Bourbon Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJoyGbOO6KY>

Turf Star 6th / Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqURU0fmIjc&t=1s>

Proton 2nd / Columbia Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVYSXwiahBo>

Proton 2nd TBA Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0qHZNGT0QI>

Proton / Laurel Futurity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu4v5ynHTI0>

Attfield / Central Park Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV48BYXxAVc>

My Favorite Bird 2nd / English Channel Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dd0P-lb0a6c>