Globeform Preakness Weekend Special

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell

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9

GLOBEFORM RANKING JIM McKAY TURF SPRINT (LR) 5 fur Turf, Pimlico May 17

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+	4	WITTY	112 / 109+	109+ - ? - ?	Merryman / Prat		
		GF 112 in this event & Aug '24					
2	5	DETERMINED KINGDOM	110	95 - 110 - 104+	Trombetta / Sanchez		
2	6	COPPOLA	114	105 - 102 - 114	Romans / Rispoli		
4	8	MATTINGLY	108	108 - 0 - 101	Orseno / Lopez		
4	1	BOAT'S A ROCKIN	108	100 - 84 - 106	Kulp / A Rodriguez		
		GF 108 in July '24					
5р	2	NO NAY HUDSON	109p	109p - 105 - 101	Ward / Alvarado		
6	9	FORE HARP	109	109 - 104 - ?	R Reid Jr / Adorno		
?	3	HONEYQUIST	?		Farrior / Bocachica		
?	7	DUNCAN IDAHO	?	?	Runco / Cruz		

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 Jim McKay							
2024	GROOMS ALL BIZNESS	GF 113+	Jorge Duarte Jr	Jorge Ruiz			
2023	BEER CAN MAN	GF 115	Phil D'Amato	Flavien Prat			
2022	CAROTARI	GF 111+	Brian Lynch	Luis Saez			
2021	FIRECROW	GF 113	Ron Moquett	Joel Rosario			
2020	HOLLIS	GF ?	John Ortiz	Gabriel Saez			

Average winning Globeform: 113

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

Finding a 10-1 bet that makes a lot of appeal on these high profile days is not unusual but it's not often that the horse in question has just about everything in his favor; that's likely to be the scenario when **WITTY** tries to go one better than his runner-up effort in the 2024 Jim McKay Turf Sprint on Preakness day.

WITTY performed to Globeform 112 when running such a good second behind Grooms All Bizness in this race twelve months ago. Tackling heavy ground and giving the winner 4lbs, he went down by just 1 1/2 lengths to Grooms All Bizness (an impressive winner of the Get Serious at Monmouth Park the following month) and Witty ran to the same mark also on firm ground when second to Dream Shake in the Van Clief Stakes at Colonial Downs in August; he was beaten just three parts of a length and once again he carried 4lbs more than the winner. This time it's Witty who is favored by the weights and he is coming off a very promising seasonal debut. He was slow early and fast late when finishing second to FORE HARP in the Leatherbury Stakes at Laurel Park in April. Fore Harp made all that day, while Witty lost some four to five lengths in the early stages. He came with a really good run down the lane - catching Fore Harp was never going to happen but in passing the winning post 1 3/4 lengths behind him, Witty ran to GF 109+. The run told us that he has retained his enthusiasm for the game, a question that was very valid after seeing him lose his form last fall. He is no less than 8lbs better off against Fore Harp in this race, so reversing that form should be a formality, especially since this McKay field is loaded with early speed. A very strong pace is likely to develop and the race should therefore set up ideally for Witty's closing style. He likes the track, he won't mind the ground whatever it is, he seems to be sitting on a big run and he gets Flaven Prat on board. What more do we want? Not much, and **10-1 is a massive overlay** for this horse.

DETERMINED KINGDOM is high on the ranking thanks to his two best runs last year, both returning **Globeform 110**; a strong allowance win over 5.5 furlongs at Laurel and a third behind Dream Shake and **WITTY** in the Van Clief Stakes over the same distance at Colonial Downs. Three weeks after that race he returned to the same venue and set a track record over the trip. Determined Kingdom is speedy and he is a tough runner. His effort in the Leatherby Stakes (beaten 6 3/4 lengths) was a bit dull and he has a lot to find against **FORE HARP** and **WITTY** on that running, but he may have needed the race and can't be ruled out.

COPPOLA reverts to his best distance after below par efforts over 5.5 furlongs at Keeneland and Churchill Downs. Five furlongs is his game but the question with this Gulfstream Park specialist must be whether he has lost his form. It would be perfectly understandable if he has, because he was being kept pretty busy in the winter, when his explosive start and high cruising speed took him to victories in the Janus Stakes and Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint. The home stretch at Pimlico is about 250 feet longer than Gulfstream Park's and lends itself more to closers than speed merchants like Coppola. It was easy to drop him at Churchill Downs two weeks ago and it is easy to drop him now.

MATTINGLY, a 4yo who has hit the board in 10 of his 14 races, took a big step forward when winning a 5furlong allowance race at Gulfstream Park last time out, racing up with the pace from start to finish and beating Louie the Sun King easily by 3 1/2 lengths. His time was just 6/10th of a second off the track record and this colt is clearly thriving. He is a bit similar to Coppola, a speedy type and just the sort for Gulfstream, but Mattingly has also run well over 6 furlongs and he ran respectably in the 8-furlong Secretariat Stakes last year, so he looks interesting.

BOAT'S A ROCKIN will be making his seasonal debut, having run three good races in 2024, two over 5 furlongs and one over 5.5 furlongs. He set the pace in this race last year but tired badly through final furlong and finished seventh (the heavy ground didn't help). Drawn by the rail, he is a prominent runner who will probably contribute to a hot early pace. >>>

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NO NAY HUDSON will probably be popular in the betting after his visually impressive win over 5.5 furlongs at Keeneland in April; he won like a horse with better still to come that day, beating next out winner Clear the Air by half a length after strong finish from just off the pace (racing a bit freely after a layoff). The son of No Nay Never improved to **Globeform 109p** in the process, a rating that makes him competitive here - but only if he *does* improve again, because with 122lbs on his back that will be needed. He has to give weight to all but Coppola and Fort Harp. So the weight is a negative factor, the positives are that he may become better than at Keenelend and that Wesley Ward has such strong stats with runners with his profile.

CONCLUSION: With about half the field being speed runners, Witty has a great chance. It's not easy to pick a B-horse but a strong pace will also suit No Nay Hudson, while Mattingly is a speed runner with a bit of stamina. These are also contenders coming off a career best effort, so let's go with these. The main bet, however, is a solid wager on Witty. At big odds, we can bet across the board or each-way and this horse also warrants an extra win bet.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

Α	4 WITTY				
В	2 NO NAY HUDSON				
С	8 MATTINGLY				

Witty 2nd / Jim McKay Turf Sprint '24: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdnh9oGC9Gw 7th Boat's a Rockin

Fort Harp & Witty / Leatherbury Stakes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdnh9oGC9Gw

No Nay Hudson / Keeneland Allowance (R8 / 5:20.00): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-F-tvv5bXo



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