

Globeform's Pegasus World Cup Special '25

GULFSTREAM PARK, JANUARY 25



13

GLOBEFORM RANKING

PEGASUS WORLD CUP (G1), 9 fur dirt, Gulfstream Park Jan 25

Invited 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 // 17+	4	WHITE ABARRIO <i>GF 124+ in Nov '23</i> <i>GF 128 in Aug '23</i>	128 // 111+	111+ 110 - 103	S Joseph Jr / I Ortiz Jr
9p	11	LOCKED	119p	119p - 119p /	T Pletcher / J Velazquez
10	2	SAUDI CROWN	118	118 - 0 - 115+	B Cox / F Geroux
10	12	POWER SQUEEZE <i>filly</i> <i>5lbs sex weight allowance</i>	113	107+ 113 - 106+	J Delgado / J Castellano
11	10	SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING	117	109 - 115 - 117	S Joseph Jr / T Gaffalione
11	9	MYSTIK DAN <i>GF 117 in May '24</i>	117 /	0 - 0 - 112 - 117	K McPeck / B Hernandez Jr
13	3	NEWGRANGE	115	97 - 0 - 115	J D'Angelo / E Jaramillo
15	6	STRONGHOLD	113	113 - 110 - 105	D'Amato / A Fresu
15	5	CRUPI	113	103 - 95 - 113	T Pletcher / L Saez
16	1	MIXTO	112	112 - 93 - 111	D O'Neill / L Dettori
16 / 21	7	STEAL SUNSHINE <i>GF 111 in March '24</i> <i>GF 112 in April '23</i>	112 / 107	106 - 107 105	B Dibona / D Davis
30	8	VITALITY	98	92 - 98 - 98	H Ladouceur / R Maragh

Most recent winners of the Pegasus World Cup

2024	NATIONAL TREASURE	GF 120	Bob Baffert	Flavien Prat
2023	ART COLLECTOR	GF 125	William Mott	Junior Alvarado
2022	LIFE IS GOOD	GF 127	Todd Pletcher	Irak Ortiz Jr
2021	KNICKS GO	GF 124	Brad Cox	Joel Rosario
2020	MUCHO GUSTO	GF 120	Bob Baffert	Irak Ortiz Jr

Average winning Globeform: 123.2

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

WHITE ABARRIO has by far the best form in the book, but his best form dates back to 2023, when he produced a sensational performance, running to **Globeform 128**, in the Whitney Stakes over 9 furlongs at Saratoga, and confirmed his class by winning the Breeders' Cup Classic over 10 furlongs at Santa Anita, where he beat Derma Sotagake by a length after tiring a little bit in the closing stages. Nine panels suits him better; she absolutely crushed his rivals when racing over that distance in the Whitney, a race he won by 6 1/4 lengths from Zandon, with Cody's Wish almost four lengths further adrift in third. Very strong form.

White Abarrio powered away for an impressive win after having taken the lead 2 1/2 furlongs from home. He broke sharply and was ridden in second quite early, just off the 20-1 leader Giant Game. Irad Ortiz Jr guided White Abarrio, who was stepping up in trip that day, like a horse guaranteed to stay the trip, and he was right - the son of Race Day took charge at the top of the lane and drew right off, racing home with great zest. He never looked in any danger through the stretch.

His Breeders' Cup win was also solid but disappointments were to follow. White Abarrio was badly beaten in the Saudi Cup last February, and didn't shape much better when resurfacing in the Met Mile at Saratoga in June (a distant fifth to National Treasure). That was going to be his run for Richard Dutrow, who took over the training from Saffie Joseph Jr in the summer of 2023. And after last year's Met Mile, White Abarrio moved back to Saffie's base at Gulfstream Park, where he captured the Florida Derby as a 3yo. His flop in Saudi could - perhaps - be put down having been chasing a hot pace (though **SAUDI CROWN**, who set that pace, stuck around to be third), while his run in the Met Mile made him look like a horse that's lost his appetite for the game. Well, he appears to have regained that now. His runs at Gulfstream Park in November were both positive; he had little to beat in a five-runner allowance race but winning by 10 1/4 lengths over 7 furlongs at Gulfstream is not to be sniffed at; and his runner-up, Flying Liam, actually ran well on his next start. It was still easy to go against White Abarrio on his next outing, in the 7-furlong Mr Prospector Stakes, where he cut back in distance and was facing the high class sprinter Mufasa. While the latter enjoyed a perfect trip and won well, White Abarrio blew the start and was right at the back going down the back stretch. He was in a hopeless position and it was impressive that he managed to get up for second, 1 1/4 lengths behind Mufasa (who was spotting him 4lbs). The main positive to take out of the race what White Abarrio's attitude, he really did put everything he could into the battle; this was not a horse without interest. He returned GF 111+ in the race. That figure indicates that White Abarrio is on the way back. He may never again reach the level he was operating at in 2023 but that level is unlikely to be needed to win the Pegasus World Cup. He has home court advantage, we know that this is his trip, he has a very successful team in his corner, and he has a better post position than his most likely rival Locked.

LOCKED is coming off a strong win in the Cigar Mile Handicap at Aqueduct in early December. He was receiving 5lbs from Mullikin, who he outstayed to the tune of 1 1/2 lengths, but his performance was one that would have made his connections excited about the upcoming campaign. Most of all, he showed stamina and grit, running very much like a horse who would improve again when stepping up in distance (the Pegasus will be his first race over further than 8.5 fur.). He hit a bit of a flat spot approaching the turn, then gradually found his stride and he finished the race off in a thoroughly game manner. Mullikin, who had won the Forego Stakes and run third in the Breeders' Cup Sprint, is better over shorter but it's clear that Locked was running over what is his absolute minimum trip in the Cigar. They both ran over the 'wrong' distance and they should both be set for a fine season this year. Locked is making up for lost time; he was out of action from the 2023 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (third behind Fierceness and Muth at Santa Anita) until October 19 last year, when he returned in a good allowance race over 7 furlongs at Aqueduct. Going off at 2/5, he won the race by 7 1/4 lengths from Gun It, who was 1 1/2 lengths clear on the third placed Quality Chic. Quality Chic won his next race and then went on to take third to Scotland in the Cherokee Mile. Locked's consecutive wins since his long break both earned **Globeform 119p**, and his sequence could well be stretched to three on the bounce in the Pegasus. He is open to improvement, he will almost certainly love this distance and he is a serious contender. He was done no favors at the post position draw though; ending up in stall 11. With a short run to the first turn, that is not an easy starting point. >>>

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SAUDI CROWN was on the fence regarding this race right up to the last invitation stage and it's interesting that Brad Cox gave him the green light to run at Gulfstream Park. Owned by the Saudi Arabia based FMQ Stakes, his main task is the Saudi Cup in February, a race he ran so well in when third behind **SENIOR BUSCADOR** and Ushba Tesoro last year. He set a strong pace, opened up a clear lead turning for home, then tired inside the final furlong, when the two that beat him came rolling from well off the pace. He became the favorite for the Godolphin Mile just over a month later but ran a poorly at Meydan; he probably bounced after his big run in Saudi. He was denied his prep run for the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile in the Ack Ack Stakes at Churchill Downs due to a minor foot issue and thus came off a near three-month break when running unplaced in the big race at Del Mar. His run in the Tenacious Stakes last time out was much better; Saudi Crown traveled really well all the way in the 8.5-furlong event and he was an easy winner, beating his younger barnmate Kinetic by 2 lengths as the latter was a bit erratic negotiating the final furlong. The son of Always Dreaming was back to his best and the Pegasus World Cup is a logical race for him. The Saudi Cup, facing Laurel River and Sierra Leone, could prove to be a different ballgame. >>>

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POWER SQUEEZE won the Alabama Stakes over 10 furlongs at Saratoga last August, finishing gamely from off the pace to beat Candied by a head. She has since been below such form when seventh of eight in the Cotillion Stakes at Parx in September and when second to Windy Walk in the 6-furlong Rampart Stakes at Gulfstream Park in December. Having run to **Globeform 113** in the Alabama, and set to receive 5lbs from the males, she has a chance of hitting the board in the Pegasus - but the three main players are solid; so Power Squeeze would have to improve to have a winning chance. Her run in the Rampart, a race the winner stole from the front, was better than it looks on paper though. The trip was far too short for her and the slow pace also worked against her. She did well to get to within a neck of the upset winner, who carried 4lbs less than her, and don't miss the fact that Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint winner Soul of an Angel was behind her in third (also badly pace compromised of course).

SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING comes back after a rest since running sixth in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Del Mar in early November, when he checked in 5 3/4 lengths behind Full Serrano. He was third in the BC Dirt Mile in 2023, running one of his best races as he was chasing Cody's Wish and National Treasure. Skippy Longstocking is a tough, battle hardened and honest performer. He has run to **Globeform 117** on a few occasions, most recently when he won his second Charles Town Classic last August. He was a bit below that level when beaten by Tapit Trice in the Woodward Stakes at Aqueduct next time out but that was also a game effort. He is a prominent runner - often seen on the lead all the way - and he drew post 10. Which means that if he wants the lead he will have to accept being wide on the first turn. Not ideal.

MYSTIK DAN ran very badly when last in the 7-furlong Malibu Stakes last month; it was a strange move to send him to Santa Anita for that race; it meant a long ship after a layoff and the distance was way too short for him. Perhaps we should not read much into the result but the question 'what will it have done to his confidence' is a valid one. He was making his return after having been out of action since the Belmont Stakes at Saratoga in June. He was way below his best in the third leg of the Triple Crown; beaten 15 3/4 lengths he had just two horses behind him passing the winning post. It was his sixth run of the season already. Having won the Kentucky Derby, he was unable to follow up in the Preakness Stakes, looking a bit flat two weeks after his big effort in the Kentucky Derby, looking like a tired horse in need of a break, but the lure of a Triple Crown got in the way. He ran a solid race at Churchill Downs, where he was also given a fine ride. Things did really go his way in the Derby though, and he had no excuse in the Preakness - where he enjoyed almost a carbon copy trip but was very tame coming down the home stretch. He was beaten 2 1/4 lengths by Seize the Grey and just held second by a head when Catching Freedom came with a late rally.

Looking at the Kentucky Derby result, it's easy to think that Mystik Dan is a top class horse - as he won a triple photo finish against Sierra Leone and Forever Young (first and third in the Breeders' Cup Classic six months later) - but he simply isn't. The Derby fell into his lap due to circumstances on a day when his main rivals were unlucky, not quite ready and - in Sierra Leone's case - erratic at the finish. With Catching Freedom beaten no more than 1 3/4 lengths in fourth and the Japanese allowance winner T O Password beaten 4 3/4 lengths in fifth, the form simply wasn't particularly strong. Mystik Dan ran to **Globeform 117** in the Kentucky Derby. A reproduction of that form would put him in with a chance in the Pegasus World Cup but his run in the Malibu (when the short distance could hardly be the full explanation) - and also his disappointing effort in the Belmont - makes it hard to fancy him as a win contender.

NEWGRANGE, whose best piece of form thus far was his one-length win over subsequent Santa Anita Handicap winner Newgate (when Newgrange was a distant sixth) in the San Pasqual Stakes over 9 furlongs at Santa Anita 12 months ago, will be making his first start for new handler Jose D'Angelo, having been with Phil D'Amato in California. Beaten over eleven lengths in the Santa Anita Handicap, and even further when fifth in the San Diego Stakes in July, he is in a tough spot here. >>>

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STRONGHOLD, winner of a sub-standard Santa Anita Derby last April and runner-up in all of his three most recent races, might have a better chance of promoting Californian form. He has never been better than he was in the Malibu Stakes a month ago; finishing a game second, 1 1/4 lengths behind the high class sprinter Raging Torrent over 7 furlongs. Stronghold was never far off the pace in that contest and he improved to **Globeform 113**. It was his first run over a sprint distance since his 2yo days in 2023, when he was second to Nysos (beaten 8 3/4 lengths) in the 7-furlong Bob Hope Stakes at Del Mar. Nysos, who went wrong later on, was a top class prospect. Taking good recent form into these races is always a plus but Stronghold needs to improve markedly to match strides with the heavyweights in this contest.

CONCLUSION: Three stand out; White Abarrio, Locked and Saudi Crown. With Brad Cox's team having enjoyed a big race double at the Fair Grounds last Saturday, Saudi Crown may attract a fair bit of money as he is going up against two of the best horses in training. He has a good draw in post 2 but is he quite good enough? He is probably running here simply because he is very good form at the moment, not because he needs a prep for the Saudi Cup. Still, he can only be seen as the third pick, with White Abarrio a bit tempting as the narrow selection over Locked because of the draw. Set to break from stall 4, he has two front-runners, Mixto and Saudi Crown, to his inside and should therefore get a nice lead through the first part of the contest.

It may be risky to go for the 6yo though, because - impressive as he was in defeat against Mufasa - there is always a chance of a bounce after such a hard race. Against that, if we go for Locked we may end up with a top selection getting a bad trip. Then again, Locked is a flexible horse, he can be held up at the back (as he was when winning the Breeders' Futurity at two), he can be close to the pace (as he was on his comeback) or he can be positioned just off the pace (like in the Cigar Mile).

Using two A-horses is mainly a strategy of value when we are dealing with a more open race and the two horses both seem to offer value. But; when a race really does have two A-horses, well, then we should play the race with two A-horses. In this case White Abarrio and Locked. They are the two best horses in the field but it's not hard to see negative factors for both. White Abarrio might start slowly again, and he could even bounce. Locked might find himself stuck wide around both turns or in traffic as he is trying to work out a ground saving trip. There's enough speed signed on to suit him though; this lightly raced 4yo will stay 10 furlongs in due course, no doubt about that.

Power Squeeze is a 30-1 longshot one should definitely throw into Trifecta and Superfecta plans. Yes, she drew post 12 (that will put even more people off using this filly) but in her case a wide post may not be all bad, as she is likely to be dropped in behind horses from the outset; in an attempt at delivering her with a late run from off the pace. That's how she won the Alabama. With her 5lbs weight pull she should be treated as a GF 118-horse. In other words, equal to Saudi Crown.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	4 WHITE ABARRIO, 11 LOCKED
B	2 SAUDI CROWN
C	12 POWER SQUEEZE

White Abarrio / Breeders' Cup Classic '23: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkXW9ryIEqo&t=105s>

White Abarrio / Whitney Stakes '23: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cbe1Injb8XM>

White Abarrio 2nd / Mr Prospector Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxmS-aSbSI4>

Locked / Cigar Mile: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ktr8Kq9qztM>

Saudi Crown / Tenacious Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xp2l8fEZX-U>

Power Squeeze / Alabama Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awkM78YV0T8>