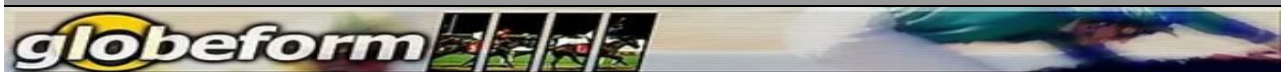


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GLOBEFORM RANKING

THE RIVER CITY STAKES (G3) 9 fur Turf, Churchill Downs, Nov 8

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	9	LAGYNOS	114	110 - 114 - 104	Asmussen / Dettori
0	2	EPIC RIDE <i>Also ent. Fri (likely to run there)</i>	114	100 - 114 - 108	Ennis / Machado
0	5	WOLFIE'S DYNAGHOST	114	110 - 105 - 114	Lynch / L Saez
1	6	CHASING THE CROWN	113	113 - 113 - 111	Maker / Gaffalione
3	4	ENCINO	111	105+ 111 - 110	B Cox / I Ortiz Jr
4	12	TAKING CANDY	112	109 - 112 - 104+	DeVaux / Concepcion
6	7	MERCANTE <i>GF 112 in May '25</i>	112	100 - 105+ 110	Knippenberg / Ramos
6	3	QUATROCENTO <i>Also entered Friday</i>	108	104 - 108 - 103	Gutierrez / Leparoux
7	8	CORRUPTION	107	107 - 107 - 101	M Casse / J L Ortiz
9	10	ENGLISH CHUNNEL	105	105 - 103 - 96	Catalano / Loveberry
10	1	MOUNT RUNLE	104	104 - 100 - 88	Nihei / Achard
11	11	TAPIT SHOES	103	99 - 98 - 103 - 103	Moger / Gutierrez

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

In the analysis and in horse bios: When you read for example "ran to **Globeform 114**" this tells you that it was the horse's best career rating; while when you see "ran to GF 114" written it simply tells you that the performance in question was worth 114 but it was not the horse's career best rating.

Most recent winners of the River City

2024	BATTLE OF NORMANDY	GF 111	Shug McGaughey	Luan Machado
2023	SMOKIN' T	GF 113	Shug McGaughey	John Velazquez
2022	HOZIER <i>Run on dirt</i>	GF ?	Rodolphe Brisset	Julien Leparoux
2019	MR. MISUNDERSTOOD	GF 111	Brad Cox	Florent Geroux
2018	MR. MISUNDERSTOOD	GF 113	Brad Cox	Florent Geroux

Average winning Globeform: 112

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

LAGYNOS produced his career best when winning the Tapit Stakes over an extended mile at Kentucky Downs in late August. The 4yo son of Kantharos improved to **Globeform 114** as he ran out an easy 5 1/4-length winner from Ohana Honor, who pipped Cameo Performance by a nose for second. Breaking well from the outside post in a nine-runner field, Lagynos was always prominent and he dominated in the home stretch. The further he went the better he looked, and the win made him favorite for the one-mile Mint Millions Invitational over the same course nine days later. The Steve Asmussen trainee put up another good performance in the big race, but had to settle for second, 2 lengths behind **EPIC RIDE** (who is expected to scratch from the River City). A really tough and consistent sort, Lagynos has a good chance based on ratings here - but will he appreciate the step up to 9 furlongs? There's a fair bit of pace signed on - even with Epic Ride defecting - so whoever wins this River City will be a horse that truly gets the trip.

Frankie Dettori, who has been named as the rider for Lagynos, announced last week that his ride in the Breeders' Cup Mile would be his last in North America before he heads to South America, where he will end his career. He has not been named to ride any other horses on Saturday.

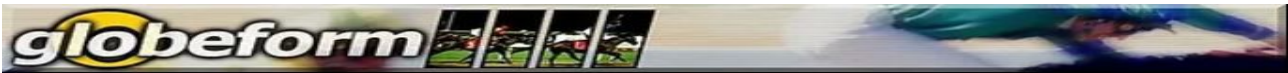
EPIC RIDE has also been entered for the Friday feature at Churchill Downs, and his trainer John Ennis has said that the plan is to run in that race, rather than in the River City. This preview will be updated Saturday if the running plan for this horse changes.

WOLFIE'S DYNAGHOST, a strong front-runner who tackled 9 furlongs when running to a career best **Globeform 114** (a figure he ran to three times also in 2023) to win the Prince George's County Stakes at Laurel Park in June, must be a live contender for this event. He won the race comfortably by 4 1/2 lengths from Crystal Quest, who was closer to the winner when fifth to Fort Washington in the Dinner Party Stakes at Pimlico on his preceding start. Prior to that, Crystal Quest had won a minor stakes and, with Fort Washington going on to win the Arlington Million, the Dinner Party offers a positive formlink. That was also the race where our 34-1 Sycamore Stakes winner Desvio was spotted as a horse to note. *[end of commercial...]*

Back to Wolfie's Dynaghost: He next ran in a 9.5-furlong allowance race at Saratoga, where he was odds-on favorite but disappointed badly and was second behind Goldeneye. It wasn't the added half-furlong that beat him; he simply had an off day. He bounced back to win a valuable handicap over 8.5 furlongs at Colonial Downs in September, beating Sky's Not Falling and Wow Whata Summer with ease. They both ran well in allowance company next time out; Wow Whata Summer winning and Sky's Not Falling running a good second. Wolfie's Dynaghost did not need to be at his best to win on that occasion; going off at 1/10, he enjoyed a soft lead and strolled home by 3 3/4 lengths. The River City will be a much tougher race and he's unlikely to be handed a soft lead here, but Wolfie's Dynaghost is in fine form and he is good enough to beat these and **10-1 morning line is too big** about this contender.

CHASING THE CROWN is the one that makes most appeal as the selection though. This Mike Maker trainee has raced only twice in 2025, on both occasions producing **Globeform 113** - his career best - , and there's a lot to like about him in the River City. Chasing the Crown showed consistent form also last year, when he rounded his season off by winning a stakes quality allowance race here at Churchill Downs in November, coming from off the pace to nail Wadsworth by a head on the wire. Chasing the Crown improved to GF 111 on the day and he moved up another notch when taking third in the 9-furlong Pegasus World Cup Turf 12 weeks later. Going off at 64-1 he overcame a wide post and finished strongly from off the pace and reached the winning post only 1 1/2 lengths behind Spirit of St. Louis, who beat Integration by a neck. Spirit of St. Louis has since won the Turf Classic at Churchill Downs (beating **MERCANTE**) and Integration has been placed in another three G1 events since. >>>

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Sycamore Stakes: Desvio (34-1) and Safe Trip Home, Globeform's two A-ranked horses in the race, dominate. 268-1 Exacta and 1073-1 Trifecta were hit. (Tri using just 30 lines).
Photo by Coady Media

It's been a good month; selective betting is paying off

Daryz 16-1, Desvio 34-1, Balantina 21-1, Gezora 10-1,
76-1 Pick 3 (from 2 lines): Balantina, Ted Noffey, Gstaad
78-1 Exacta Gezora / She Feels Pretty
32-1 Exacta Shisospicy / Ag Bullet
Plus 311-1 Tri... 260-1 Tri... 48-1 Double etc.
See website for full details



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REST OF 2025 - saves \$61

The Thanksgiving Week Special
Santa Anita Opening Weekend Special
Plus 6 weeks of normal service 'in between'

Starting with 5 races this week

Bought separately: \$394

Take 15% off, **Save \$61**

||| **SPECIAL OFFER \$333 / £253** ||| [SUBSCRIPTION LINK >](#) |||

Weekly subscriptions also available, from 2 to 6 weeks



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Chasing the Crown had high class performers like Mi Hermano Ramon, Fort Washington, Win for the Money, Nations Pride and Formidable Man behind him in the Pegasus Turf, and he proved that it was no fluke on his next start. It took some time before we got to see him again, however; he had been off for over seven months when making a winning return in a valuable handicap at Kentucky Downs in late August. With \$300,000 up for grabs, the mile event drew a very competitive field, with Mountain Bear as the 3-1 favorite, slightly shorter than Chasing the Crown's odds. Chasing the Crown came out best; held up for a late charge by Tyler Gaffalione, he powered past horses up the straight and won readily by 1 1/2 lengths from Lambeth, who he was spotting 4lbs. Mountain Bear was third, 4 lengths further adrift. He is far from reliable these days, but Lambeth was a Listed winner in the spring and smart runners like Gigante and Emmanuel (stakes winner since; runs on Friday) were further back and well beaten. Chasing the Crown ran every bit as well at Kentucky Downs as he did in the Pegasus at Gulfstream, and if he runs like that again he will prove hard to beat this weekend. He ran well twice over 8.5 furlongs at this venue last year, he has improved since and 9 furlongs suits him better; we also know that he can fire straight off the bench (it seems to be when he's at his best) and he is likely to get the right pace scenario for his running style. Chasing the Crown is the morning line favorite but 7-2 is actually not a bad price.

ENCINO switched from dirt to turf three starts back, and won the Schuster Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Horseshoe Indiana in early July; taking the race by 1 1/4 lengths from Runaway Storm as the 11-10 favorite. He improved again, albeit marginally, when third behind Beach Gold and **EPIC RIDE** in the Kentucky Downs Preview Turf Mile at Ellis Park two months later. Encino performed to **Globeform 111** there, and he did not need to be anywhere near that level when winning the Presque Isle Downs Mile on Tapeta in September. He broke slowly but showed that he does not need the lead (not in that sort of company anyway) as he came through from the back to win readily by 1 3/4 lengths from Grounded. He has been setting the pace or pressing it in most of his races though and that is his preferred style. Having run second to **MERCANTE** in the 9-furlong Kentucky Cup Classic on Tapeta in the spring, he stays this distance but his best form has come over shorter.

TAKING CANDY is a very interesting longshot; but I'm not so sure he will be as big as his 8-1 morning line when the gates open. After all, he was 8-1 for the G1 Turf Classic here at Churchill Downs back in May; when he was coming off a win in the 9-furlong Fair Grounds Stakes. He did not run well in the Turf Classic but the lightly raced 5yo son of Twirling Candy did so much better on his next outing; the 8.5-furlong Wise Dan Stakes in late June (also at Churchill). Staying on well inside the final furlong after having been ridden a few lengths off a slow pace, he checked in second just 3/4 length behind his G2 winning barnmate Brilliant Berti, with **LAGYNOS** a nose behind him in third. Taking Candy carried 2lbs more than his nearest rivals and he improved to **Globeform 112** with that effort. Cutting back in distance, he went for the Kentucky Downs Preview Mile at Ellis Park in early August; ran well again but as well, to be a 2-length fifth, beaten by Beach Gold, **EPIC RIDE**, **ENCINO** and **MERCANTE**. So why fancy Taking Candy to come out best of these in the River City? Reasons: The return to Churchill Downs, the longer distance, the likely pace scenario, and the weight swing against Mercante, who is now a pound worse off at the weights (and has been well below form in two subsequent races). Another thing worth considering is that it's not impossible that Taking Candy, who has had some issues and raced only 12 times, could improve.

MERCANTE was busy, and very productive, in the early part of the year, but the signs are that he has lost his form. He drops back down in class, having run in the Coolmore Turf Mile at Keeneland in early October, when he beat just two home as a 60-1 outsider. That was in high class company but he would have been a lot closer if he had run up to his best; and he had been below par also when a well beaten fourth behind Ole Crazy Bone in the Kentucky Turf Cup at Kentucky Downs a month earlier, a race that fell just over a month after a better effort in the Kentucky Downs Preview Mile at Ellis Park, where he was fourth (see **TAKING CANDY** for more on that race). His best form is the runner-up effort behind Spirit of St. Louis in the Turf Classic in May, run over this course and distance, so the River City should suit him but, with questionable form and a tough weight, Mercante makes limited appeal. He is likely to be part of or pressing the early pace.

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CONCLUSION: Chasing the Crown is the logical selection, in what is otherwise quite an open looking race. Wolfie's Dynaghost, who may try to lead all the way, and Taking Candy, whose running style is quite the opposite, are interesting contenders at good odds. In using these two as the B-horses, it's asking a lot to get them both on the board; as if the pace favors the one it probably won't suit the other - but playing Trifectas requiring one of these to fill second or third may be the solution. With a lot of luck, a lot of luck, it could create a bullseye win, though if one of them gets into the top three we should collect. Provided Chasing the Crown wins! Horses not in the selections box worth including underneath; Quatrocento (career best two back and respectable in G1 last out; but may defect), Mercante (*could* bounce back), Corruption (a cut below but course / distance suits and he is consistent) and English Chunnel (in-form and may improve again).

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GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	6 CHASING THE CROWN
B	5 WOLFIE'S DYNAGHOST, 12 TAKING CANDY
C	4 ENCINO, 9 LAGYNOS

Chasing the Crown / NTL Handicap: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBoBSrKD5pk>

Chasing the Crown 3rd / Pegasus World Cup Turf: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klgUMaM-gqA&t=2s>

Wolfie's Dynaghost / Price George's County Stakes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI_u7fYRuE0

Taking Candy / 2nd Wise Dan Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddDTVMqbB24>
3rd Lagynos

Lagynos / Tapit Stakes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmz_h0vwKyc

Encino 3rd / Kentucky Downs Preview Turf Mile: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnDM3oViF1U&t=3s>
2nd Epic Ride 4th Mercante 5th Taking Candy

Breeders' Cup, Del Mar 2025

Globeform ratings | 14 races: 4 winners were top rated, 3 winners were 2nd top rated. **50%**

Official ratings | 14 races: 4 winners were top rated, no winner was 2nd top rated. **28%**

Beyer speed figures | 8 races * : No top rated winner, 2 winners were 2nd top rated. **25%**

* 6 turf races omitted (No Beyer figures for European races)

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Recommended at 33-1 in the early betting with the bookmakers,
Balantina won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf easily at **21-1**

Email from satisfied subscriber after the Breeders' Cup

I just want to thank you so much for your in-depth information for Breeder's Cup 2025. I play handicapping contests in the United States on Horsetourneys and for the first time they had contest for the Breeder's Cup, for all the races at Del Mar on Friday and Saturday. **I picked Balantina as my horse in the contest and without your information there is no way I would have had that horse.** I was awarded \$941 for my fourth place finish for the first day of the contest. I missed Ethical Diamond on Day 2, which dropped me down the leaderboard, but I did have several other wins and ended up finishing 9th in the tournament and **picked up \$8,466, plus \$941 for the first day for a total of \$9,407.** So thanks again, and as long as you keep putting out the Breeder's Cup Report I will be a loyal customer.

Best Regards,

*Richard,
California*