



Breeders' Cup value bet

MOIRA 20-1 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf

This is not recommended as a big bet but when **MOIRA**, one of the top rated names on the list of horses that have so far been listed a probable runners in the **Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf**, can be backed at **20-1** we simply must have at least *something* on. This price looks wrong. Yes, the field for this race has yet to take shape and there could be new names on it next week, but the Canadian champion Moira will be going to Del Mar with a live chance, whatever else turns up, and she should not be 20-1.

This will be Moira's third attempt at winning a BC Filly & Mare Turf and it may be easy to think 'why should she be successful this time, given that he has failed twice?'. Such a reasoning is too hasty. Look at what she was up against last year, when she was beaten just 1 1/4 lengths into third place at Santa Anita; Inspiral, a truly brilliant English filly trained by Team Gosden, and Warm Heart, a multiple G1 winner from Aidan O'Brien's powerful team in Ireland. Anything on the list of probables at the minute that looks better than those two? No there's isn't. The 'Arc' winner Bluestocking is not coming but the Gosdens have two possible contenders; Friendly Soul (who looks likely to go for the race) and Emily Upjohn (who could just as well end up in the 12-furlong Turf), but neither has better recent form than Moira's best and they are just 9-2 and 6-1.

Studying Moira's form this year and comparing it to what she did leading up to the Breeders' Cup in 2023, is also interesting. To assume that she has not (yet) been quite as good aged five as she was at four is correct, but only if you compare her recent form to her run at the 2023 Breeders' Cup, where the daughter of Ghostzapper performed to **Globeform 117**. If we compare her pre B Cup form in '23 to her form so far this year, she looks pretty much the same horse. Last year, she was coming off a third in the E P Taylor Stakes, beaten 4 lengths behind Fev Rover; Moira ran to GF 109+ after being compromised by a slow pace. This time, she will be coming off a runner-up effort in the E P Taylor, beaten 3 1/2 lengths by the gate to wire winner Full Count Felicia; Moira ran to GF 111+ after once more being compromised by a slow pace. Prior to that run, she was a staying-on second to Whitebeam when making a late seasonal debut in the 9-furlong Diana Stakes at Saratoga and a game head-winner of the 9.5-furlong Beverly D Stakes at Colonial Downs, where she nailed the long-time leader Fev Rover close home. These three runs is all the racing action Moira has seen in 2024 and she has been campaigned specifically with the Breeders' Cup as her big target, in what may be her last season before she is retired to the breeding shed. Last year she raced five times prior to the Breeders' Cup.

It makes a lot of sense for her connections to throw everything at this year's Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf with this mare. The race being run at Del Mar, it will be contested over 11 furlongs - a distance that is likely to bring out the best in Moira. The San Diego venue can be a bit tricky and it's no big secret that Del Mar favors course specialists, but Moira is an experienced and uncomplicated runner and she is unlikely to be troubled by coming to a new track. Most likely, she will handle Del Mar better than many other shippers. She has run well over very different tracks; at the wide, sweeping Woodbine, both on turf and on the Tapeta (she won the 10-furlong Queen's Plate by 7 lengths over the artificial track at three), at the downhill course at Santa Anita and around the inner tracks at Saratoga and Colonial Downs. In addition, she ran respectably when fifth in the Filly & Mare Turf at Keeneland two years ago. The keys to her chances are the distance and pace; present Moira with an honest pace over this trip and she will give us a good run for our money. With her fine 14-for-16 top three record, this 20-1 shot is a tempting each-way bet. **GS**

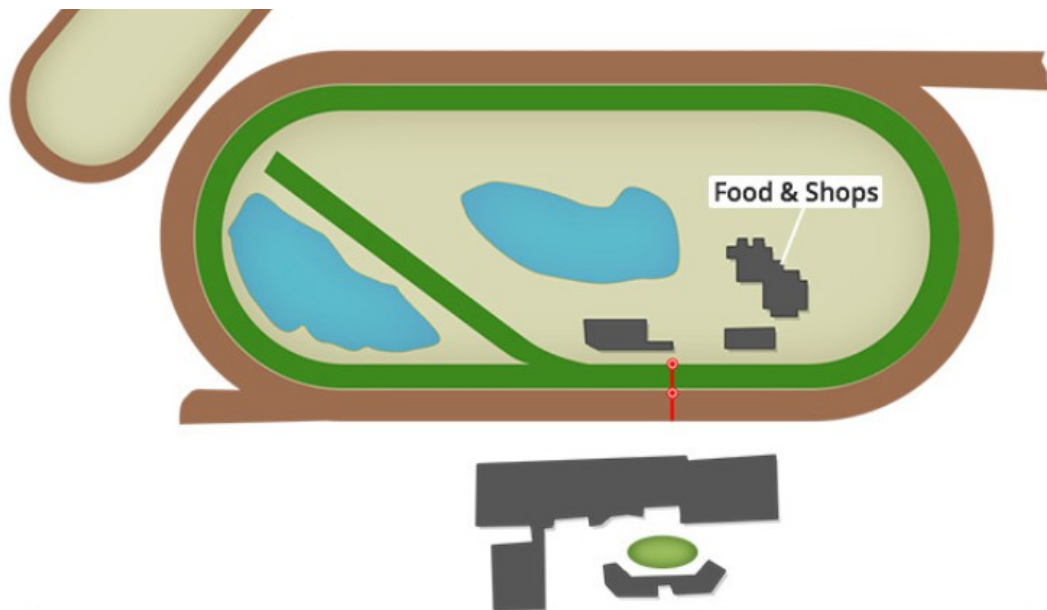
<u>Moira's Globeform ratings</u> last three starts before B Cup '23:	<u>106</u>	<u>116p</u>	<u>109+</u>
<u>Moira's Globeform ratings</u> last three starts before B Cup '24:	<u>113+</u>	<u>115+</u>	<u>111+</u>

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B Cup Filly & Mare Turf 2023



DEL MAR CONFIGURATON



TRACK	LENGTH	DIST. FROM LAST TURN TO FINISH
 Dirt	5280 ft	919 ft
 Turf	4620 ft	varies