

Globeform's Saratoga Service



Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell

9

5:20 ET

GLOBEFORM RANKING BELMONT DERBY (G1) 9 fur Turf, Saturday July 4

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	PACIFIC AVENUE	110	110 - 98 - 103	C Appleby / Buick
2p	3	REMEMBER MAMBA	108p	108p - 104p - 96p	DeVaux / J L Ortiz
3	9	TITLE ROLE	107	107 - 102 - 105	Crisford / Velazquez
8p	8	WEST END KID	102p	102p - 100+ 101p	Walden / Gaffalione
8p	10	TOUCH OF FIRE	102p	102p - 94p	B Cox / Prat
8	2	BOTTAS	102	102 - 94 - 100p	Clement / M Franco
9	1	BLACKMAIL	101	101 - 100 - ?	M Casse / Castellano
13p	5	TURF STAR <i>GF 97 also in Oct '25</i>	97p	97p - 75 - 91	Motion / D Davis
15p	7	TIERNANOQUE	95p	95p - ?p	Walsh / Santana Jr
20p	4	THIRD COAST	90p	90p - 86p	Proctor / Lezcano

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 Belmont Derby

2025	TEST SCORE	GF 110p	Graham Motion	Manuel Franco
2024	TRIKARI	GF 105	Graham Motion	John Velazquez
2023	FAR BRIDGE	GF 111	Todd Pletcher	Jose L Ortiz
2022	CLASSIC CAUSEWAY	GF 113	Kenneth McPeck	Julien Leparoux
2021	BOLSHOI BALLET	GF 111p	Aidan O'Brien	Ryan Moore
2020	GUFO	GF 109p	Christophe Clement	Junior Alvarado

Run over 10 furlongs at Belmont Park up to 2024

Average winning Globeform: 109.8

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

PACIFIC AVENUE is top rated going into this race and he best run was on his most recent outing, but he still feels like a horse to take on here; mainly because that one performance sticks out on his CV. Perhaps he is solidly capable of **Globeform 110**, the figure he returned in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, but none of his eight previous performances back that up. Going off at 40-1 in the one-mile classic at the Curragh in May, he missed the break, ended up racing too freely while stuck wide without cover, yet managed to get third behind the high class duo Gstaad and Distant Storm. They had run second and third to the brilliant miler Bow Echo in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket three weeks earlier, and Gstaad (who won the B Cup Juvenile Turf last year) was a good second to Bow Echo when they met again in the St. James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot in June. Pacific Avenue was 4 lengths behind Gstaad in the Guineas, where his barnmate Distant Storm beat him by a length for second place. After the race trainer Charlie Appleby mentioned the Belmont Derby as a possible target for Distant Storm (a G1 winner in 2025) but it's Pacific Avenue who's being shipped over for this race. After coming up short against the best in England as a juvenile, this son of Dubawi won a minor stakes in Qatar in December, and he was second, beaten a length by **TITLE ROLE**, in the Jumeirah 2,000 Guineas at Meydan in Dubai in February. So where did the improvement at the Curragh come from? The collective form of horses around him that day is solid enough and Pacific Avenue deserves to be respected. If he can repeat that sort of form, well, then he will probably win; but if he is back to his previous best (GF 103) he might struggle to hit the board even. His slow start at the Curragh was not a complete surprise; he broke tardily also when Title Role beat him in Dubai.

TITLE ROLE's rating puts him below **PACIFIC AVENUE**, but his overall record is better; creating a more reliable profile; and he probably has just as good a chance in the Belmont Derby. A son of top class miler Too Darn Hot out of Valiant Girl (Lemon Drop Kid), he expected to stay this distance and the way he won the German 2,000 Guineas also backs that up. A warm favorite, he came from just off the pace to outstay his rivals for a game 1 1/4-length win in the mile race at Cologne, beating 10-1 shot Shayem and 8-1 shot Loucas readily. Shayem was a Listed winner in England last year, while Loucas was coming off a third placed finish in G3 company in April; beaten a head by Asker, who ran fifth in the German 2,000 Guineas. Title Role improved to **Globeform 107** in Germany but it's questionable whether he can progress even further. Like Pacific Avenue, he is quite an exposed horse. He beat Pacific Avenue and the luckless Toast of New York in the Jumeriah 2,000 Guineas at Meydan in February, and was then fifth, 2 1/2 lengths behind Alparslan, in the Greenham Stakes over 7 furlongs at Newbury in England in April. Alparslan was 3/4 length behind Pacific Avenue in the Irish 2,000 Guineas (though he may not truly stay the mile so let's not take that forline to literally).

REMEMBER MAMBA makes a lot of appeal. The day this colt grows up and leaves his immature quirks behind, he could become a serious runner. He is a very good horse already and he is definitely open to further improvement. Erratic at the finish once more, he ran second in the 8.5-furlong American Turf Stakes at Churchill Downs in early May, beaten 2 1/4 lengths by Stark Contrast, who looks the best 3yo turf runner in the land right now. Stark Contrast was second to Gstaad in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf last year. Remember Mamba came from off the pace at Churchill Downs and the way he finished suggested that further would suit. The 9-furlong trip of the Belmont Derby should be ideal. He beat Honey Dutch by 1 1/2 lengths for second, with Alypland (who has impressed with two stakes wins since) further behind in fourth place. A May foal, this son of Kitten's Joy has improved each of his four starts to date. He looked potentially top class as he came from well off the pace to win the 8.5-furlong Transylvania Stakes at Keeneland. Overcoming inexperience, he swept by horses coming down the lane and won quite snugly, beating Honey Dutch by half a length, with Vasy and Street Beast close up in third and fourth. They were not beaten far but Remember Mamba was much the best, running to GF 104p. He moved improved again to **Globeform 108p** in the American Turf and he get the nod as the Belmont Derby selection in this office.

WEST END KID is another live contender for the home team, having beaten **BLACKMAIL** by 1 1/4 lengths to take the Pennine Ridge Stakes at Saratoga in early June. Racing prominently in the 8.5-furlong contest, he was in full control at the finish and ran to GF 102+. Blackmail, who was exiting a win in the Woodhaven at Aqueduct, is 2lbs better off at the weights this time but it's hard to see him reversing the form. Last year's Pilgrim Stakes winner **BOTTAS** was third in the Pennine Ridge (spotting West End Kid 4lbs) and, given that it was his seasonal debut, he may move forward this time to become a bigger threat. Note that Glavine (4th in the Pennine Ridge) runs in the Saranac Stakes on Friday.

TOUCH OF FIRE has won over this distance and he looked an interesting prospect when taking the Audubon Stakes at Churchill Downs in May. Coming off a narrow allowance win at Keeneland, he raced too freely at Churchill but that didn't stop him from dominating coming down the lane. He checked in 3 comfortable lengths in front of **TIERNANUGUE**, who suffered some interference early in the race and also improved on previous form (he broke his maiden going 10 furlongs at the same venue in April). Note that Zeppelin (3rd in the Audubon) runs in the Saranac Stakes on Friday.

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CONCLUSION: Euro shippers are always very dangerous in races like this, but Remember Mamba has looked a bit special - and above all like a horse with plenty of untapped talent - and he is taken to beat them here. With progressive form, he represents a strong team enjoying a super season and he is virtually certain to relish this step up in distance. If he improves another notch, which is likely, he will be hard to beat. Title Role and Pacific Avenue can be ranked equally and placed on the B-line in the selections box; while the same can be said for West End Kid and Touch of Fire - though they end up one line below. Bottas also qualifies for that spot; his seasonal debut was positive.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	3 REMEMBER MAMBA
B	6 PACIFIC AVENUE, 9 TITLE ROLE
C	2 BOTTAS, 8 WEST END KID, 10 TOUCH OF FIRE

Remember Mamba 2nd / American Turf Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B66f5oIriZU&t=3s>

Remember Mamba / Transylvania Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv4fel9batA>

Pacific Avenue 3rd / Irish 2,000 Guineas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3gjnM8g3-w>

Title Role / German 2,000 Guineas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MH216i2gBrg>

West End Kid / Pennine Ridge Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTKG2szedUI>
2nd Blackmail 3rd Bottas

Touch of Fire / Audubon Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN8NQb2iUro>

Bottas / Pilgrim Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbAjvt5uW1Q>



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TOO BIG, TOO SHORT ON THE MORNING LINES

SARATOGA SATURDAY July 4

Part of the free service | Saratoga opening weekend

R7 | BELMONT OAKS | KENSINGTON LANE | 10-1 | TOO BIG | WON AT 23-1

This filly was 2 1/4 lengths behind Abashiri in Ireland; she is 2nd top rated and should not be 10-1 for this race. Kensington Lane has been aimed at a US campaign ever since before she won a G3 in good style in early May. The impression was that she wasn't 100% when fifth in the Irish 1,000 Guineas at the Curragh three weeks later. 10-1 is too big and there's every chance that she will be totally overlooked and go off at even bigger odds. **Top price with bookmakers is 22-1.** Take it if you can. Tremendous Each-Way value.

R8 | SUBURBAN STAKES | PHILEAS FOGG | 8-1 | TOO BIG | WON AT 8-1 | 14-1 BOOKMAKERS

Antiquarian was the best horse when Phileas Fogg just managed to hold him off in this race last year. Antiquarian is even better this year and looks tough; but Phileas Fogg is exiting an easy win and he loves Saratoga. 8-1 seems too big about the 2025 winner of the Suburban. Even in a race where he may face competitive speed.

R9 | SUBURBAN STAKES | HIT SHOW | 5-1 | TOO BIG | 2nd at 6-1 | EXACTA PAID 88-1

Talking of speed; if a speed duel develops on the front end then Hit Show will come right into it at the finish. His third when he made his comeback was much better than it looks on paper; he met serious traffic that day. Sitting at the top of the ranking (based on his best 2025 form) this horse should not be 5-1.

BELMONT DERBY | PACIFIC AVENUE | 6-1 | TOO BIG

His run in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, when he was third to a pair of established G1 colts, may have been a fluke. But 6-1 is still too big about this contender. Based on that run, his most recent, he is the top rated horse here.

BELMONT DERBY | TITLE ROLE | 5-1 | TOO BIG | WON AT 7-1 | PICK 3 PAID 1182-1

Title Role beat Pacific Avenue in Dubai, ran fifth in a good G3 in England, then won the German 2,000 Guineas. He is third ranked behind Pacific Avenue and Remember Mamba. His obvious plus points: Experienced & reliable. Europeans are always - just about - strong win contenders when they ship in for 3yo turf stakes; 5-1 is too big about this contender.

KENSINGTON LANE & PHILEAS FOGG DOUBLE: 292-1

PHILEAS FOGG & TITLE ROLE DOUBLE: 100-1 | PICK 3 PAID 1182-1



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Globeform @ Saratoga

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[*Saratoga Calendar >*](#)

Saratoga subscriptions

June 28 SARATOGA SERVICE BEGINS | OPENING WEEK SERVICE IS FREE

The Saratoga meet runs from July 3 to September 7
5 to 6 races each week, except for Main Event Weekends. *

Saratoga races will be preferred but some Del Mar races will be included, and races at Del Mar (possibly also Monmouth & Colonial Downs) will be used as substitute events if we get cases of weather changes at Saratoga.

* Main Event Weekends, Saratoga, with 10 races covered:

WHITNEY WEEKEND (Aug 7-9) | TRAVERS WEEKEND (Aug 28-30)

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