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Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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GLOBEFORM RANKING

SYCAMORE STAKES (G2) 12 fur Turf, Keeneland Friday Oct 9, 2026

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 1.5 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+	2	JUST A TOUCH <i>GF 115 in Apr '25 (dirt)</i>	115 / 112+	108 - 0 - 112+	B Cox / I Ortiz Jr
1	8	TIZ DASHING <i>GF 114 in Feb '26</i>	114	112 - 107 - 106	Tagg / Castellano
3	3	MERCANTE <i>GF 112 also in May '25</i>	112	101 - 99 - 112	Knippenberg / Ramos
3 / 9	10	VOTE NO <i>GF 112 in July ' 25</i>	112 / 106	106 - 100 - 100	Danner / Rispoli
(3) 6 / 11	7	LIMITED LIABILITY <i>GF 109 in Jan '25</i> <i>GF 112 in Sep '24 (2 miles)</i>	(112) 109 / 104	100 - 98 - 104	McGaughey / L Saez
5	9	LAYABOUT	112	103 - 112 - 0	Biancone / Asmussen
6	13	LAMBETH AE1	109	105 - 92 - 95 - 109	Sharp / J L Ortiz
6 / 12	1	GOLDENEYE <i>GF 109 in Aug '25</i>	109 / 103	103 - 103 - 91	Eurton / Maldonado
9	4	NAVY SEAL	106	102 - 106 - 103	W Ward / J L Ortiz *
9	6	ENGLISH ACTOR	106	0 - 106 - 99	Halden / Alvarado
5 / 11	11	DESVIO <i>GF 110 this race in '25</i>	110 / 104	98 - 103+ 102	Meyers / Machado
9	12	ROTHSCHILD	106	92 - 106 - 89	N Casse / Concepcion
10	15	CARCANO AE3	105	105 - 103p - 100	Oliver / Velazquez
10	5	ECHO LANE <i>GF 105 also in Feb '26</i>	105	95 - 96 - 105	Crichton / Hernandez Jr
11	14	SUMOOD AE2	104	0 - 95 - 103 - 104	Walsh / Gaffalione
?p	16	UR BENJA AE4	?p	?p	Aranha / Graham

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 Sycamore

2025	DESVIO	GF 110	Madison Meyesr	John Velazquez
2024	HIGHWAY ROBBER	GF 111	Brian Lynch	Tyler Gaffalione
2023	BOLD ACT	GF 115	Charlie Appleby	Jamie Spencer
2022	HIGHLAND CHIEF	GF 114	Graham Motion	John Velazquez
2021	SPOOKY CHANNEL	GF 112	Jason Barkley	Julien Leparoux
2020	RED KNIGHT	GF 113	William Mott	James Graham

Average winning Globeform: 112.5

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

The Colonial Cup was the key to solving this race twelve months ago, when **our 34-1 selection Desvio** reversed Colonial form with Safe Trip Home for a tremendous payday. That's the prep race we should be looking at also this time; though don't expect 34-1 win, 268-1 Exacta and 1073-1 Trifecta.

JUST A TOUCH looks the one to be on as he comes here off a win in the 12-furlong Colonial Cup just over a month ago. Keeping on gamely from having been prominent throughout, he held on by a head from the improving 6yo **CARCANO**, who finished well from off the pace. Carcano is third on the also eligible list for this race and seems unlikely to get in; but if he does, well then we have no choice but to include him in our Trifecta plan. He may be six but he is clearly on the upgrade, having to to GF 103p when winning over 11 furlongs after a break in July and improved again, to Globeform 105, in the Colonial Cup. Just a Touch was spotting him 2lbs though (level weights here), and the Brad Cox trained winner returned GF 108. His career best runs came when he crushed stakes winner Parchment Party by 7 lengths over 9 furlongs / dirt at Keeneland in April '25 and when he was beaten just half a length by Surface to Air in the Monmouth Cup over the same distance two starts later. Both runs were worth **Globeform 115**. Reinvented as a turf horse this year, Just a Touch beat solid yardsticks Judge Davis and Maycocks Bay on his first start on the lawn, then moved up a notch to win the Cape Henlopen Stakes over 12 furlongs at Delaware Park in June. Sent straight to the lead by Irad Ortiz, who takes the mount again here, he proved much too good for his rivals and strolled home by 3 1/2 lengths from Soleil Volant, with **VOTE NO** back in third place. Just a Touch returned GF 112+ at Delaware and he went off second favorite when stepping up in class in the United Nations Stakes a month later - only to be eased right down and walked off after the race. He was on the work tab just four weeks later, however, and he bounced back with a good performance in the Colonial Cup. >>>

WEATHER FORECAST, KEENELAND

Wed 07	 5%	Sunny	55°  82°
Thu 08	 4%	Sunny	49°  83°
Fri 09	 4%	Sunny	51°  78°
Sat 10	 1%	Partly Cloudy	57°  79°
Sun 11	 79%	Rain	58°  72°

TIZ DASHING is an interesting contender stepping up in distance. He has never been asked to tackle further than 9.5 furlongs, the trip he covered when winning a good allowance race (albeit with just three to beat) at Saratoga in August. This is quite a big step up in distance but Tiz Dashing has plenty of stamina in his family and one might wonder why longer distances have not been tried before. His dam was a 2yo maiden winner who hit the board twice over a mile at three (she ran just seven times) but his second dam, Que Belle, was a top class runner over 11 and 12 furlongs as in Germany as a 3yo, when she won the German Oaks and ran third against older horses in the prestigious Aral-Pokal. She has produced winners at up to 12 furlongs in Europe. Tiz Dashing's sire Tiz the Law won the 9-furlong Belmont Stakes and the 10-furlong Travers Stakes. He has sired high class performers over different trips; the most interesting one in this context is 3yo Caroline St. Beat, who won the 10.5-furlong Nashville Derby at Kentucky Downs in September.

There's nothing in Tiz Dashing's pedigree suggesting he won't stay and if he does he has a winning chance. He produced a career best **Globeform 114** when winning the 8.5-furlong Canadian Turf Stakes at Gulfstream Park in February (outclassing in-form rivals Battle of Normandy and Beach Gold), and he reached GF 112 when beating Carson's Run easily by 2 1/4 lengths at Saratoga last time out. While he came with a strong kick from off the pace at Gulfstream, he was prominent all the way at Saratoga. Exiting a comfortable win and representing a barn with a strong graded stakes record, Tiz Dashing is a danger to all.

MERCANTE sits high on the ranking based on having run to **Globeform 112** twice in his career, most recently when he was second 3/4 length behind Lagynos in the Wise Dan Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Churchill Downs in late June; but two runs since were well below par. He was only sixth behind Brilliant Berti in a minor stakes at Ellis Park in August, and he finished last of eight behind high class miler Rhetorical after a tardy start in the Coolmore Turf Mile last Saturday (when Brilliant Berti ran fourth). Mercante is a prominent runner whose best form is over 8 and 8.5 furlongs. Running here would be a quick turnaround off of a poor effort and he is hard to fancy. Note that entries for this race closed on the day before the Coolmore Turf Mile; so perhaps we can expect Mercante to be scratched. >>>



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LAMBETH's connections would like to see a scratch, as this contender is first on the also eligible list. He would be in with a chance of hitting the board in this race. The son of Arrogate produced a career best **Globeform 109** as he came with a fine run from well off the pace in a good allowance heat over 8.5 furlongs at Churchill Downs in June; getting up to win the race by half a length from Herchee, who was 2 1/2 lengths better than the third placed Higgins Boat. Lambeth had a couple of below par efforts after that, but he came back to form with a good runner-up effort in the Bowling Green Gold Cup over an extended 2-miles at Kentucky Downs in September. Ridden for stamina, he saw the trip out well and lost by just 3/4 length to Tawny Port, who franked the form by running second in the Canadian International at Woodbine last week.

VOTE NO also returned to form with a good placed effort at Kentucky Downs, where he ran second half a length behind course specialist Plensa in the Tapit Stakes over 8.5 furlongs. That's too short for Vote No, and the way he finished from off the pace suggested that we may see better still when he gets 12 furlongs to work with. He has been a costly horse in this office on a few occasions since his excellent fourth to Redistricting in the 11-furlong United Nations Stakes at Monmouth Park last summer. Coming off a visually impressive win in the Cape Henlopen over 12 furlongs at Delaware, Vote No improved to **Globeform 112** at Monmouth; but he has been operating at a lower level since. Until the run at Kentucky Downs, that is, and perhaps he finally is on his way back to top form. That *can* be a risky notion, as there's always the chance that he tackled Kentucky Downs in a field where very few of his rivals did. Either way, it's impossible to not include him underneath. His Tapit run was positive and he relishes a test of stamina.

LAYABOUT, who made all and was ridden as if stamina was absolutely no issue in the W L McKnight Stakes over 12 furlongs at Gulfstream Park in January, is also a live contender. He produced even better form when taking fourth behind the classy trio Burnham Square, Gran Oriente and Dresden Row in the Arlington Million over 10 furlongs in August. Beaten just 3/4 length after setting the pace, he improved to **Globeform 112**. Next up was the Kentucky Downs Turf Cup but that was a bit of an optimistic move. Going off at 46-1, he was once more on the lead early but tired and checked in fifth, 8 1/2 lengths behind Breeders' Cup Turf contender Tiffany, who beat last year's BC Turf winner Ethical Diamond. Provided that experience didn't take too much out of him Layabout has a chance of hitting the board in the Sycamore.

CONCLUSION: Just a Touch will probably start favorite but he's hard to oppose and becomes the logical selection. Tiz Dashing may not be *quite* as logical as the B-horse but he also has more class than most of these and he's bred to stay further than what he has tackled previously. These two are both coming off good wins, while the likes of Layabout, Vote No Lambeth and Carcano (who needs three scratches to get in) qualify as C-horses based on positive placed efforts last time out. The brave Trifecta plan would be with Just a Touch on top with Tiz Dashing 2nd or 3rd but simply playing Just a Touch over the others in the selections box makes a lot of sense. Players wanting one more to strengthen the plan should look at **NAVY SEAL**. Not far behind Lambeth at Kentucky Downs, he is a consistent runner with stamina.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	2 JUST A TOUCH
B	8 TIZ DASHING
C	9 LAYABOUT, 10 VOTE NO, 13 LAMBETH (AE1), 15 CARCAO (AE3), 4 NAVY SEAL

Just a Touch / Colonial Cup: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOe8lxVQdAM>
2nd Carcano

Just a Touch / Cape Henlopen Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQC-ZynmKwU&t=4s>

Tiz Dashing / Saratoga Allowance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_WQwzhMopk

Tiz Dashing / Canadian Turf Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBEyMU-wzMY>

from Globeform's Sycamore preview 2025



Sycamore Stakes; how Globeform analysis found 34-1 winner

Desvio, plus a 268-1 Exacta boxing two horses and a nice

1073-1 Trifecta from playing just 24 lines

CONCLUSION: As many as eight horses in the selections box is hardly usual; and it's normally not a good idea when we are considering a possible Trifecta plan, but this is *that type of race* and, in taking the two Colonial Cup runners against the field, one at 6-1 and the other at 20-1, we can afford to fill up with six others on our Trifecta plan. It is an ambitious plan all right, but we are dealing with a very open looking and tricky contest. So why not apply this betting rule; "When a race looks too difficult, try something that looks impossible". Getting Safe Trip Home and Desvio both in the top three is asking a lot; it may seem impossible even, but it's not. They ran well at Colonial and they both have a chance on ratings, particularly if their rivals are bit below their best form after busy campaigns. So, here goes; a Tri plan with the two A-horses to hit the board with the six others (24 lines) + a Superfecta ticket where we use these two in 1st & 4th with the others in between.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS | SYCAMORE STAKES

A	6 DESVIO Won @ 34-1 , 2 SAFE TRIP HOME 2nd @ 9-1
B	5 GRAND SONATA, 9 GOLDENEYE
C	3 MERCANTE, 4 UTAH BEACH 3rd, 10 OHANA HONOR, 11 ANGLOPHILE

34-1 winner; 268-1 Exacta using the two A-horses, 1073-1 Trifecta hit playing just 24 lines