

# Globeform Kentucky Downs Service

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



## 10

### GLOBEFORM RANKING

### NASHVILLE DERBY INTERNATIONAL (G3) 10.5 fur Turf, Aug 30

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	5	<b>BURNHAM SQUARE</b> <i>GF 113 on dirt</i>	113	103 - 113 - 105+	Wilkes / Hernandez Jr *
3p	8	<b>SANDMAN</b> <i>GF 110p on dirt</i>	110p	105 - 110p - 101	M Casse / J L Ortiz
4	1	<b>HILL ROAD</b>	109	104+ 109 - 104+	Brown / Gaffalione
5	12	<b>WIMBLEDON HAWKEYE</b>	110	110 - 107 - 107	Owen / Dettori
-5 or 5	11	<b>FINAL GAMBIT</b> <i>GF 118? sloppy dirt May '25</i> <i>GF 108p Tapeta Mar '25</i>	Dirt: 118? AW: 108p Turf: 103+	101 - 103+ 101	Cox / Geroux
10p	2	<b>TEST SCORE</b>	107p	106 - 107p - 107p	Motion / M Franco
11p	6	<b>SIMULATE</b>	102p	101+ 102p - 91+	W Mott / Alvarado
4 / 17	7	<b>TIZTASTIC</b> <i>GF 109 dirt in Mar '25</i>	109 / 96	96 - 84 - 95	Asmussen / Rosario
12	3	<b>KING OF ASHES</b>	101	88 - 101 - 98p	Walsh / Curtis
14	4	<b>TOMASELLO</b>	99	99 - 96 - 95	M Casse / De La Cruz
14	10	<b>MAXIMUM PROMISE</b>	99	93 - 99 - 92	McPeek / L Saez
9 / 23	9	<b>NOBLE CONFESSOR</b> <i>GF 104 in Nov '24</i>	104 / 90	88+ 83 - 90	Pletcher / I Ortiz Jr
<b>ALSO ELIGIBLE</b>					
18	13	<b>IRON HAND</b>	97	96 - 97 - 90p	D'Angelo / Gonzalez
19	14	<b>NATIVE RUNNER</b>	94	81 - 94 - 94	McPeek / Hernandez Jr *

*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*

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## GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

**BURNHAM SQUARE** tops the ranking thanks to his runner-up effort behind East Avenue in the Matt Winn Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Churchill Downs in June. They were both out to restore their reputations after unplaced efforts in the Kentucky Derby and they ran well in the Matt Winn though not well enough for anyone to think that they are going to climb to a position near the top end of the 3yo division. Only four took part in the Matt Winn so it's a little bit hard to assess the form, but it was better than what we have seen of any of the US based 3yo turf runners this term. Burnham Square improved to **Globeform 113** in the Matt Winn, having run to GF 111p when beating East Avenue narrowly in the Blue Grass Stakes in April.

The Blue Grass win was a case of silencing some critics after a disappointing fourth in the Fountain of Youth Stakes - when he was beaten 4 lengths as the 2-1 favorite. The reason for that price was an impressive win in the Holy Bull Stakes back in early February. Looking back on the Fountain of Youth result today we see that finishing fourth was better than it might have appeared to be at the time. It was won by Sovereignty. When Burnham Square won the Holy Bull, he did so by beating Tappan Street - and that colt went on to beat Sovereignty in the Florida Derby. The Liam's Map gelding was a deserving winner of the Blue Grass Stakes. Held up for a late run by Brian Hernandez Jr, he finished fast to just get up for a photo win over East Avenue, who almost managed to pull off a gate to wire win. The official margin given was a nose but a short head would have been a better description.

Burnham Square confirmed the impression given in the Holy Bull; that he wanted to go long. He got to try that in the Kentucky Derby but the sloppy track and a bumpy passage meant that he could manage only sixth place, fully 10 1/2 lengths behind Sovereignty. Then came his good Matt Winn run, before another disappointment in the Haskell Stakes at Monmouth (well beaten fifth to Journalism). So how does Burnham fit in here, as he gets his first run on turf? He is good enough to win the Nashville Derby and there's turf in his pedigree; his dam Linda won the Mrs Revere Stakes on the lawn at Churchill Downs and she also ran well in the Ladies Turf here at Kentucky Downs. If he takes to the turf, *and* handles the track *and* gets a strong pace to close into (not at all certain), *and* puts his best foot forward, well, then Burnham Square has a winning chance; but he is a bit inconsistent and there are too many "ifs" attached here for my liking.

**SANDMAN** makes more appeal, though he is also a deep closer whose chances increase if the pace is strong. It's unlikely to be slow but it's a bit hard to see where a fast pace is going to come from. Still, there is a lot to like about Sandman in this contest. Trainer Mark Casse has done well with dirt to turf runners and Sandman is a half-brother to She Can't Sing, a Bernardini daughter who was effective on dirt and turf; she was an 8.5-furlong stakes winner on turf and also ran well when third in a good edition of the Kentucky Downs Ladies Turf. Interestingly, Sandman also comes from the family of Moon Over Miami, winner of the Nashville Derby five years ago. He is coming off a below par effort in the Jim Dandy Stakes, when he was tried in blinkers (they come off here) and wound up last of the five runners, 10 3/4 lengths behind Sovereignty. Sandman ran much better in the Preakness Stakes in May, when he stayed on gamely from the back to be third behind Journalism and Gosger. Those two filled the exacta also in the Haskell Stakes, and the Preakness was a proper race, albeit rather a messy one. Having run close to the same level when winning the Arkansas Derby, Sandman improved to **Globeform 110p** at Pimlico and will probably be one of the major players this Saturday; the added distance and the long stretch is going to suit, let's hope the turf and the undulations won't bother him too much.

**HILL ROAD** won on turf in Ireland last year but his best form has come on dirt; a staying-on third to Citizen Bull in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf last year (a substandard edition) and a respectable fifth in the Belmont Stakes, when he checked in 9 1/2 lengths behind the mighty Sovereignty. Hill Road took the Peter Pan as a prep to the Belmont, beating McAfee by three parts of a length. That was not much of a race; his fifth in the Belmont was a better effort. This Chad Brown trainee is the third dirt horse in this field with performances telling us he wants a stamina test. He gets in with a good weight here, and he has a nice inside post, so there's every chance that he will get a good trip. He has looked rather one-paced at times but those types often do well over this track. He's not without a chance. >>>

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**WIMBLEDON HAWKEYE** is the only contender from Europe. A thoroughly game and genuine performer, he has run consistently well in strong company this season, and he is coming off a tough loss against the odds-on favourite Merchant in the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood (an undulating track) in late July. Merchant, a colt spoken of as a future G1 winner by his trainer, just got the better of Wimbledon Hawkeye and won by a nose; the par drew 7 lengths clear of the third placed horse. Two things worth noting about the 12-furlong Gordon Stakes. Firstly that it was run on heavy ground and in torrential rain (not of 'good' as the official charts say), secondly that the race was used as a prep for last year's Nashville Derby winner, Bellum Justum; he was also runner-up at Goodwood, a neck behind Aidan O'Brien's Jan Brueghel, who won the St. Leger next time out and has won the Coronation Cup at Epsom this year (one of Europe's most important 12-fur events). The Gordon Stakes was Wimbledon Hawkeye's sixth start in 2025 and he has had a hard campaign already. Prior to his run against Merchant he was second to subsequent Sword Dancer Stakes winner El Cordobes at Newmarket and going back to the spring we find solid placed efforts behind high class runners like Field of Gold, Pride of Arras and Amiloc. With such a record, and Frankie Dettori on board, Wimbledon Hawkeye is sure to get plenty of attention but this 7-2 morning line favorite could be vulnerable. Yes, he is proven over an undulating turf course and he takes the best turf form into the battle, but he is coming off two hard races now - and he was handed a tricky draw; which needs to be factored in - but so does the rider. Dettori is the right man for a difficult task over a European style turf course and Wimbledon Hawkeye must be respected.

The Bill Mott trained Moon Over Miami won this event from post 12 in 2020 and Mike Maker's Oscar Nominated won from post 10 in 2016, but the nine other editions of this race produced Trifectas filled by runners from these posts: 5-7-1... 5-7-8... 4-1-5... 1-3-8... 1-7-4... 9-5-7... 2-4-1... 3-2-4 and 3-6-1.

No horse drawn higher than 9 managed to win a race over 10.5 or 12 furlongs at this meet in 2024, but we are only talking about 21 runners and three horses won such a race from post 9. It's all a bit inconclusive though the start to this race is close to the first turn and getting stuck wide can't be ideal. Last year Dettori guided Bellum Justum from post 5 to a ground saving trip by the rail. That won't be easy this time.

**FINAL GAMBIT** ran a big race at Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May, only to perform more like a high end allowance horse in his three subsequent races; fourth in the Matt Winn Stakes, fifth in the Belmont Derby and fifth again in the Saratoga Derby (the last two on turf). It's hard to know what to make of this horse now - and it's tempting to throw his Derby result out when doing the handicapping. His Kentucky Derby fourth sticks out 'by a mile' in his results and it's somewhat puzzling that his connections run him on turf. We were given an explanation after his run in the Belmont Derby, as trainer Brad Cox said that his win in the Jeff Ruby Steaks at Turfway Park offered a free entry to the Belmont Derby. Well, is the Juddmonte team trying to save money on entry fees these days? The more believable theory is that they do feel he is a turf horse. He ran to **Globeform 118** when fourth in the Run for The Roses but perhaps it was a bit of a fluke; that rating now has a "?" attached. Final Gambit performed to **Globeform 108p** on Tapeta at Turfway Park back in March. If he can get back to that level he is competitive here, and - like Sandman - he is a horse that will relish a test of stamina and be favored by the long stretch.

**TEST SCORE** is the right type for this contest but he is also a G1 winner and therefore gets top weight. He has to give weight to horses that are better than him. Most of those are dirt runners trying turf for the first time but note that Test Score isn't ranked far above other turf runners likely to improve. His advantages, including a nice post position, are obvious but he will need a new career best to take this race. Those wanting to back him should pay close attention to him in the preliminaries; Test Score was edgy and nervous prior to the Saratoga Derby four weeks ago and prior to his below par effort in the Kitten's Joy first time out this year. He ran close to his best in the Saratoga Derby, taking third behind World Beater and Juwelier in a close finish, so one can't knock his recent form. Each time he has competed he has finished his race off in the manner of a horse wanting to go further. A thoroughly game and genuine runner, Test Score was close to the pace all the way when landing the Belmont Derby over 9 furlongs at Saratoga in early July, beating the staying-on World Beater by 1 1/4 lengths. World Beater turned the tables on him in the Saratoga Derby, probably because he was improving at the time. >>>

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**SIMULATE** seemed a bit unlucky when beaten a length by Giocosso in the one-mile Secretariat Stakes at Colonial Downs three weeks ago. While the winner enjoyed a perfect trip on the inside just off the pace, Simulate was shuffled back early and he stayed at the back despite traveling well, not given the best of rides; he finished best of all and made up a lot of ground coming down the lane. The Bill Mott trainee was 8-1 on the morning line that day but hammered down to be the 2-1 favorite. He is **10-1 on the morning line** this time, and at such odds Simulate is well worth a bet. Imagine what price he would be if he had won at Colonial. He was overlooked by most of our rivals when we backed him at 16.9-1 for his winning run at Saratoga in July; and I'm all set to back him again. He shaped like a stakes winner in the making when beating a good field in the 8.5-furlong allowance heat at the Spa. Not only did he beat them, he outclassed them with an excellent turn of foot at the finish. Coming from just off the pace, Simulate won by 2 1/4 lengths from Thirteen Colonies, who was 3/4 length better than the third placed Plensa. Simulate performed to **Globeform 102p**, improving nicely on his previous form, and he confirmed the level by returning GF 101+ in the Secretariat. He is likely to improve, he is bred to get the distance and he has a good draw.

**TIZTASTIC**, who won twice here at Kentucky Downs last year, earned **Globeform 109** as he beat Chunk of Gold by 2 1/2 lengths in the Arkansas Derby, but there's not much else on his CV making him an appealing contender. He was second last in the Kentucky Derby, where the company was way too hot, the track sloppy and his trip far from ideal. Switched back to the lawn, he went for the American Derby at Churchill Downs eight weeks later, and was last for five behind Minaret Station; and five after that he was last in the Saratoga Derby.

**CONCLUSION:** This is a difficult race. Let's take a shot with Simulate. There was 'something' about his win at Saratoga, and he had excuses at Colonial Downs, where the distance was probably too short, the pace definitely too slow and the riding tactics a bit too optimistic. He could well improve a lot and he does not need to find all that much to be a win contender. At around 10-1 (even bigger with the bookmakers) he is a win & show or each-way bet and a horse to use as 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a Trifecta plan. Wimbledon Hawkeye is the logical one to press a bit more often than the others in such a plan, while it's anybody's guess which of the dirt runners taking part will handle the track. It's likely that at least one of them will be fine but we need them all to have that horse on our side as they pass the post.

## GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

<b>A</b>	<b>6 SIMULATE</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>8 SANDMAN, 12 WIMBLEDON HAWKEYE</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>1 HILL ROAD, 2 TEST SCORE, 5 BURNHAM SQUARE, 11 FINAL GAMBIT</b>

**Wimbledon Hawkeye 2nd / Gordon Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dd481cLIOrM>

**Wimbledon Hawkeye 2nd / Princess of Wales St.:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0rnyUVIu8I&t=5s>

**Simulate 2nd / Secretariat Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8wQOoDGZmM&t=1s>

**Sandman / Arkansas Derby:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foQJoBhrXUU>

**Sandman 2nd / Preakness Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twsq2ydLIZk&t=3s>

**Hill Road / Peter Pan Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xftV6oQ38VY&t=1s>

**Test Score / Belmont Derby:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUJAYbcviQA&t=2s>

**Test Score 3rd / Saratoga Derby:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NGcl2BR7KI>