

Globeform's Kentucky Derby Special '25

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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GLOBEFORM RANKING

THE PAT DAY MILE (G2) 8 fur dirt, Churchill Downs May 3

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) | | | | | |
| 0p | 5 | GATE TO WIRE | 115p | 102+ 115p - ? | Pletcher / Prat |
| 5 | 7 | MACHO MUSIC | 110 | 110 - 102 - 80 | Crichton / Castellano |
| 7 | 2 | BUILT <i>GF 108 in Dec '24</i> | 108 | 93+ 103 - 103+ | Catalano / Rispoli |
| 6 / 17 | 6 | GAMING <i>GF 113 in Nov '24</i> | 113 / 102 | 102 - 0 - 101 | Baffert / Velazquez |
| 10 | 4 | SMOKEN WICKED | 105 | 105 - 0 - 100p | Stewart / B Hernandez Jr |
| 11 | 3 | CALIFORNIA BURRITO | 104 | 86+ 104 - ?p | Drury / Moncado |
| 13 | 8 | INNOVATOR | 102 | 82 - 0 - 102 | Lukas / Torres |
| 14 | 1 | MADAKET ROAD | 101 | 101 - 101 - 95 | Baffert / I Ortiz Jr |
| 16 | 9 | PERFECT FORCE | 99 | 99 - 99 - ? | Lukas / Juarez |

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 Pat Day Mile

| | | | | |
|------|------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2024 | SEIZE THE GREY | GF 113p | D Wayne Lukas | Jamie Torres |
| 2023 | GENERAL JIM | GF 112 | Shug McGaughey | Luis Saez |
| 2022 | JACK CHRISTOPHER | GF 119+ | Chad Brown | Jose L Ortiz |
| 2021 | JACKIE'S WARRIOR | GF 119 | Steve Asmussen | Joel Rosario |
| 2020 | RUSHIE | GF 112 | Michael McCarthy | Javier Castellano |

Average winning Globeform: 115

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

The odds compilers, on both sides of the pond, have got this race completely wrong. **Madaket Road**, who has never run better than **Globeform 101**, is the morning line favorite at 2-1 and he holds the same position also with the bookmakers. Next comes his barnmate **Gaming**, who produced **Globeform 113** as he ran second to Citizen Bull in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile last year - but has been well below that sort of level in three starts since. We simply must go against these two Baffert horses, as there's a good chance that they will both finish off the board.

GATE TO WIRE makes a lot of appeal, cutting back in distance after running respectably to finish fifth in the Fountain of Youth Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Gulfstream Park (4 1/2 lengths behind leading Derby contender Sovereignty). He did not stay the distance that day and a mile could also be above his limit, but this is a one turn mile and Gate to Wire could well be the one. Having won the 7-furlong Swale Stakes impressively from off the pace, he takes Globeform 115p to the table, making him the best horse in the field. His 5-length win over **MACHO MUSIC**, with Gunmetal 4 lengths further adrift looked very good at the time. It looks even better now; Macho Music took the OBS Sales Stakes by 11 1/4 lengths on his next outing and Gunmetal went on to win a Keeneland allowance race by almost four lengths on his subsequent outing. If Gate to Wire will be hard to beat if he handles this trip. His unraced dam, Sansibar Jewel, is a half sister to the high class 12-furlong turf runner Irresistible Jewel and, although he is by Munnings, Gate to Wire has stamina in his genes.

MACHO MUSIC may be a tough contender and morning line 12-1 is far too big a price about this fast improving colt. Like Gate to Wire, he could be a horse that doesn't care much for further than seven panels, but he was visually impressive when winning at Tampa Bay Downs in late March, powering home by 'half the stretch' from P Four and Cajun Venom. Macho Music's time was almost 2 seconds better than the time recorded by Win N Your In in the fillies' divisions (she won by 7 lengths) and he did not beat cheap claimers in this race. P Four was exiting a 5 1/4-length maiden win and Cajun Venom won an allowance race by almost three lengths next time out. This is one of those case where we need to ask ourselves "how moderate can the horses he beat actually be?". Even when assessing his runner-up to Globeform 70 only, Macho Music comes out on Globeform 110. If we compare him to Win N Your In using their times, well, then he comes out with an even higher ratings. Either way, he has clearly turned a corner in recent weeks and the way he was ridden out, and kept going, indicates that a mile is within his compass. His dam won 4 of her 7 races, including a stakes event over 7 furlongs; but she was also third in an 8.5-furlong allowance heat at Keeneland as a juvenile, so could not have been all about speed.

BUILT could have gone for the Derby but his connections - very wisely - made the call to run him in the Pat Day Mile instead. His best form gives him a chance here though his best form now lies four runs and well over four months back in the diary. He has not run badly in his recent races, and they have probably been over the wrong trip, so perhaps that should not worry us - but the fact remains that his Gun Runner Stakes win at the Fair Grounds, where he improved to **Globeform 108**, was on December 21. He made all over 8.5 furlongs in that contest, and drew off for a nice 6 1/2-length win over Magnitude. Magnitude produced a top class performance to win the Risen Star by almost ten lengths in February (with Built third) but Magnitude was nowhere near that sort of form when they met in the Gun Runner. Built proceeded to the Lecomte Stakes, run over the same trip but on a sloppy track, and was a game second after a far from perfect trip. Disco Time, who has not been seen out since, beat him by a neck, while **INNOVATOR** was third. The hunt for a Derby berth continued for Built but the step up to 9 furlongs in the Risen Star and the Louisiana Derby was not to his liking. Failing to stay, he was badly beaten on both occasions. The Pat Day trip - a mile around one turn - will be more his cup of tea. The question is, however, how much did his two most recent runs take out of him? If he is back to his best he has a shot, and any rain probably increases Built's chances. >>>

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CONCLUSION: Gate to Wire and Macho Music filled the exacta in the Swale Stakes and they could do the same here. We are taking a bit of a chance on stamina and it's probably asking a bit too much to expect them both to love a one turn mile, but it's possible. So at good odds, why not back them both to win and also in an exacta box + in a Tri plan where we use them as 1st and 2nd or 1st and 3rd. Gate to Wire is the A-horse but if the track comes up wet then the more speedy **Macho Music** moves up and we get joint A-horses in this race. Built ran well over a sloppy track in the Lecomte so use him a bit more than other 'filliers' if we get such conditions.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

| | |
|----------|--|
| A | 5 GATE TO WIRE, 7 MACHO MUSIC 13-1 WINNER |
| B | 2 BUILT |
| C | |

Gate to Wire & Macho Music / Swale Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcGCiUFmzfQ>

Macho Music / OBS Breeders' Sales Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ETLU4oS9Tg>

Built / Gun Runner Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjO1ghCkaYo>



As requested; Preakness Day Special coming up

Preakness Weekend was initially planned to be like just another week in this service.

Several subscribers have already been asking "when does the Preakness Special open?"

We hear you; so yes, there *will* be a Preakness Weekend Special. It opens on May 11.

Long term subscribers need not worry; it will be part of their package.

Subscription details will be posted on the website and sent out next week.

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THE KNICKS GO OVERNIGHT STAKES (LR) 8 fur dirt, Churchill Downs May 3

The Knicks Go is a race we ought to pass on - or if not then at least play with small amounts only. There's so many good opportunities on Derby day and getting off to a bad start in a race we don't really like all that much is not a good idea. This race drew a mixed, wide open and competitive field, but it did not draw a particularly appealing field.

One that sticks out a little is **PATRIOT SPIRIT**, who has been fairly consistent and ran one of his best races in the 5th Season Stakes over a mile at Oaklawn Park two starts back. Giving the smart performer The Wine Steward 7lbs, he ran a really good race to lose by just a neck against that rival. A reproduction of that form would made Patriot Spirit a win contender in the Knicks Go, and it's a bit hard to understand why he is as big as **12-1** on the morning line. **LIBERAL ARTS** finished third in the 5th Season Stakes, passing the winning post 2 3/4 lengths behind Patriot Spirit. Liberal Arts has two wins from four tries here at Churchill Downs, he is 4lbs better off at the weights this time, and it could be close between them.

CHIRON is a fascinating longshot at **30-1** as he switches back to dirt after some good runs over the Tapeta track at Turfway Park, where he won the Dust Commander Stakes in February, beating Hush of a Storm gamely by a length. They both went for the Kentucky Cup Classic five weeks later; Chiron did not fire at all that day but Hush of a Storm finished third behind Mercante and Encino, indicating that the Dust Commander form wasn't bad at all. Note that Chiron has won once and finished second once from four runs over wet tracks in the past, so any rain won't bother his connections. At a 30-1 he is well worth a sporting wager.

ACCRETIVE and **KUPUNA**, the first two finishers in a minor event run over a wet fast track last month, also come into the reckoning, as do **OSBOURNE** (if he can regain his best) and **NEW KING** (who ran well for second over a muddy track last time out).

CONCLUSION: Let's have fun bets only; backing two horses across the board or each-way: Patriot Spirit and Chiron + make two small Trifecta plans where we key these two in 1st, 2nd or 3rd with the others in the selection box. If we get one of them in the top three it may be well worth the trouble; if they both hit the board then please draw a line through the first few words in this preview!

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

| | | | |
|----------|---|------------|--------------------|
| A | 12 PATRIOT SPIRIT | 2ND | |
| B | 9 LIBERAL ARTS | WON | 15-1 EXACTA |
| C | 2 OSBOURNE , 3 ACCRETIVE , 6 KUPUNA 3RD , 8 CHIRON , 13 NEW KING 50-1 TRIFECTA | | |

Just four of our favorite hunting grounds...

