

Globeform's Kentucky Derby Special '26

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell

Kentucky Derby contender

POTENTE IN FOCUS

POTENTE, a \$2.4 million son of Into Mischief, made a winning debut over 6 furlongs at Santa Anita in late January, and he improved markedly to produce **Globeform 110p** when beating Robusta and **SO HAPPY** by a head and 2 1/4 lengths in the 8.5-furlong San Felipe Stakes at the same venue in early March, but was then readily beaten by So Happy when they met over 9 furlongs in the Santa Anita Derby four weeks later. He is clearly talented but, from what we have seen of this colt thus far, he is a lot more about speed than stamina. Baffert has had any number of extremely expensive colts in recent years and interestingly so many of the good ones have all lacked stamina. Names like Barnes, Brant, Cornucopian and Imagination spring to mind. Could Potente be another to fall into the same category? With just three starts it's far too early to say but - if he was fully fit on the day - his Santa Anita Derby run did not augur well when it comes to tackling 10 furlongs at Churchill Downs. His sire has already made his mark on the Run for The Roses with three winners, most notably Sovereignty last year. Baffert's most recent Derby winner Authentic is one of them. Authentic also ran second in the Santa Anita Derby - but he did so with an altogether different (tenderly handled) performance; and it was in June, not April (Covid delayed). He won the Haskell Invitational next time out, a run that set him for the big win at Churchill Downs.

Potente's dam Sweet Sting is a daughter of the top class 10-furlong runner Awesome Again. She was a turf runner who won a 9-furlong maiden at Gulfstream Park as a 3yo, and was a well beaten third of six in the 8.5-furlong Memories Of Silver Stakes at Aqueduct later that season. Her dam, the well known Red Ransom Daughter Perfect Sting, was a top class turf performer whose finest hour came when she captured the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf over 11 furlongs at Churchill Downs at four. She won 14 of her 21 races. This family has produced plenty of good turf runners, mostly active in Canada.

Potente / San Felipe Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEQGVtrx1r0>
3rd So Happy

So Happy 1st, Potente 2nd / Santa Anita Derby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2q15B2VUp6Y>

