

# Globeform Subscription Service

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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### GLOBEFORM RANKING

#### WHITMORE STAKES (G3), 6 fur dirt, Oaklawn Park, March 15

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 3 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	8	CLOSETHEGAME SUGAR	118	0 - 115 - 118	A Rice / Leparoux
5?	4	BOOTH	116?	116 - 95 - 97	Asmussen / K Asmussen
5	7	MILES AHEAD <i>GF 116 in Nov '23</i>	116 // 113	113 - 0 - 0	McGee / C Hernandez
6p	3	GIANT MISCHIEF	116p	112+ - 116p - 111	B Cox / Torres
6	2	HAPPY IS A CHOICE	115	115 - 111 - 113	J Ortiz / R Vazquez
9	1	TEJANO TWIST	112	110 - 110 - 112	Hartman / Bacon
9	5	JAXON TRAVELER <i>GF 112 in this race '24</i>	112	108 - 108+ 110	Asmussen / E Asmussen
16	9	DURANTE	105	105 - 96 - 97	Jacobson / Santana Jr
16	6	GLENGARRY	102	102 - 99 - 0	Anderson / Arrieta

#### Most recent winners of the Whitmore

2024	JAXON TRAVELER	GF 112	Steve Asmussen	Flavien Prat
2023	TEJANO TWIST	GF 112	Chris Hartman	Fransisco Arrieta
2022	BOB'S EDGE	GF 113	Larry Jones	Luis Quinonez
2021	C Z ROCKET	GF 119	Peter Miller	Florent Geroux
2020	WHITMORE	GF 114+	Ron Moquett	Joe Talamo

Average winning Globeform: 114

*This race was run as the Hot Springs Stakes up to 2022*



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## GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

This must be one of the Grade 3 sprints we have seen for some time. It is a highly competitive field, with more than half the field in with a chance of winning; and that's not including last year's winner Jaxon Traveler, who can't be written off entirely either.

**CLOSETHEGAME SUGAR** has been off since mid-September, when finished last as second favorite in the Louisville Thoroughbred Society Stakes at Churchill Downs. He ran too bad to be true that day and something must have been amiss. He had no recorded works for the rest of 2024 but he has been stepping his works steadily up with nine breezes since early January. Take out his 'flop' last time he ran and this smart sprinter is 2112 from four races on dirt. He caused an 18-1 upset when beating Skelly by a length in the 6-furlongs Aristides Stakes at Churchill Downs last June, running to **Globeform 118** in a race where **TEJANO TWIST** finished third. Closethegame Sugar showed us that it was no fluke when following up with an impressive win in the Kelly's Landing, run over the same course and distance four weeks later, beating Angkor easily by 2 1/2 lengths and returning the same high rating in the process. Angkor, a good but inconsistent horse, had beaten Closethegame Sugar a month earlier.

A trip to the prestigious Bing Crosby Stakes at Del Mar followed for Closethegame Sugar and the son of Girvin ran another solid race in California. He did not win but second 2 1/4 lengths behind The Chosen Vron - who was gaining his sixth straight win - was no mean feat. Closethegame Sugar has never run at Oaklawn but he has run well over four different tracks on three different surfaces in the past and there's no reason to think that this venue won't suit him. Well drawn in stall eight, he has a nice weight and is top ranked in the Whitmore, he has 5 wins from 10 starts (and is 80% top 3), he could well show further improvement as a lightly raced 5yo, and he gets the nod in this office. Perhaps not as clear cut selection but he is the obvious one to go for. Morning line **9-2** looks tempting and, given that others have more recent form, perhaps we will get that sort of odds.

**BOOTH**'s most recent performance was almost too good to be true. It's not impossible for a sprinter to run to **Globeform 116** in a minor stakes - we have seen such wins many times over the years - but it was a massive jump up compared to anything he had done in his seven preceding starts. Those closest to the horse must have been surprised too; how else could he run such a race at odds of 12-1? He went straight to the lead in the 6-furlong Commodore Stakes at Oaklawn Park in February; and opened up impressively coming down the lane to beat the good allowance winner Wendelssohn by 4 3/4 lengths, with Disco Ball 7 1/4 lengths further adrift in third place. Wendelssohn was coming off a 5 1/2-length win over the same trip three weeks earlier and Disco Ball had beaten **TEJANO TWIST** by 3/4 length at Churchill Downs in December. It's hard to knock this form and it seems that Booth has suddenly improved a lot. His rating gets a "?" attached for now, however, and it will be interesting to see how he fares in the Whitmore.

**MILES AHEAD** won the Thanksgiving Classic for a second time when beating the smart next out winner Montalcino by a head at the Fair Grounds in late November. It was Miles Ahead's first start since early April and this talented sprinter is obviously a bit fragile. He normally gets breaks between his races. When he's right he's very good though, and he comes here with a chance. He finished strongly from just off the pace - set by the somewhat immature and edgy Montalcino - and just got up to win the Thanksgiving Classic, running to GF 113, a bit below **Globeform 116**, which was what it took to win the 2023 edition of the 6-furlong event. Montalcino was coming off an impressive allowance win at Keeneland and he bolted up again on his first start in 2025 (albeit at long odds-on) so Miles Ahead was probably up against a proper horse when winning at the Fair Grounds. >>>

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## Tampa Bay Derby day returns

667-1 Super, 168-1 Super, 126-1 Trifecta (from 2 lines)

### GLOBEFORM RANKING

#### FLORIDA OAKS (G3) 8.5 fur Turf, Tampa Bay Downs, March 8

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Train
From right to left (most recent first)					
0p	9	NITROGEN	105p	101+ 105p - 99p	M Ca
2p	3	DELORAINE	101p	89 - 101p - ?p	Harty
5p	6	LUSH LIPS	98p	98p - 86p - 0	Wals
11p	7	OPULENT RESTRAINT	94p	94p - 84p - ?p	C Bro
13p	10	PRETTY LAVISH	90p	90p - 80p	Motic
13	1	SMART UNION	90	90 - 89 - 84	Motic

Result: 1 Nitrogen 2 Lush Lips 3 Deloraine 4 Oplent Restraint

Exacta 11-1, Trifecta 125-1, Superfecta 667-1

Hillsborough Stakes 168-1 Superfecta hit

Gulfstream Park: **10-1 winner Eamonn** top rated by Globeform

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**GIANT MISCHIEF**, who looked a star in the making when beating future G1 winner Arabian Lion as a juvenile on Breeders' Cup day in 2022, became a bit of disappointing horse at three, but he bounced back well as a 4yo last fall, when he won two good sprints for the Brad Cox team. Having run third in the Malibu Stakes at Santa Anita in December '23, he was not seen again until last October, when he returned with an impressive 6.5-furlong win in a stakes quality allowance heat at Keeneland. He made all to win by 1 3/4 lengths from Kavod, who has franked the form with two good wins since, most notably in the Duncan F. Kenner Stakes at the Fair Grounds. Giant Mischief improved to **Globeform 116p** at Keeneland and he did not need to run up to that mark to win the Fall Highweight Stakes over 6 furlongs at Aqueduct in late November. Not on the lead this time but close to the pace, he took that event readily by 3/4 length from the subsequently disqualified Runninsonofagun (who was giving him 5lbs). Giant Mischief did not have to pull out all the stops and he galloped out with energy. Runninsonofagun has since run well in two similar contests; taking third in the Gravesend and second in the Toboggan, so the form stands up well.

*Trainer Brad Cox took Giant's Mischief out of the Thanksgiving Classic at the Fair Grounds and ran him in the Fall Highweight at Aqueduct instead; reportedly because he did not like post 1 in the Thanksgiving (he had the widest post at Aqueduct). This time he has been handed post 3; with no speed to his inside but with two early speed runners, Booth and Jaxon Traveler, to his outside. What to make of this? Hard to say, especially as those two are both trained by Steve Asmussen. Are they going to take each other one?*

**CONCLUSION:** There is some speed signed on here and we can expect to see a fast pace. Closethegame Sugar is quite fast early but he does not need to be on the lead; his two good wins last year were gained by stalking and pouncing, so this should set up well for him. Giant's Mischief, perhaps more likely to be part of the early pace, could be the main danger. He has two above him on the ranking (Booth, possibly dubious form) and Miles Ahead (fragile) but he is improving and his best form to date came over 6.5 furlongs. A bit of stamina is likely to come useful inside the final furlong in this race. Closethegame Sugar and Giant Mischief to run 1st / 2nd or 1st / 3rd in a Tri Plan may be the answer. The two at the bottom of the raking can be left out, making this an economical plan.

## GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

<b>A</b>	<b>8 CLOSETHEGAME SUGAR</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>3 GIANT MISCHIEF</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>4 BOOTH, 7 MILES AHEAD</b>

**Closethegame Sugar / Kelly's Landing S:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or5pBq1wT64>

**Giant Mischief / Fall Highweight Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTqrK8OT-gY>

**Giant Mischief / Keeneland alw (R6 / 4 h 27 min):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D08UWLFspa0&t=18092s>

**Booth / Commodore Stakes (R4 / 26.30 min):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXnUBuacwIM>

**Miles Ahead / Thanksgiving Classic:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMjncQkr0rw>

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