

Globeform's Belmont Week Special

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



10

5:08 ET



GLOBEFORM RANKING

ACORN STAKES (G1) 9 fur dirt, Saratoga June 5

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	ALWAYS A RUNNER	118p	118p - 103p - ?p	C Brown / J L Ortiz
3	3	MEANING	115	115 - 111p - 109p	McCarthy / J Hernandez
5	2	COUNTING STARS	113	113 - 110p - 108p	M Casse / I Ortiz Jr
9p	1	PROM QUEEN	109p	107 - 109p - 99p	B Cox / Prat
17	4	MAXIMUM OFFER	101	101 - 84 - 97	McPeek / Geroux

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 Acorn Stakes

2025	LA CARA	GF 116	Mark Casse	Dylan Davis
2024	THORPEDO ANNA	GF 126	Kenneth McPeek	Brian Hernandez Jr
2023	PRETTY MICHIEVOUS	GF 114	Brendan Walsh	Tyler Gaffalione
2022	MATAREYA	GF 118+	Brad Cox	Flavien Prat
2021	SEARCH RESULTS	GF 115	Chad Brown	Javier Castellano
2020	GAMINE	GF 130	Bob Baffert	John Velazquez

Average winning Globeform: 119.8



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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

ALWAYS A RUNNER has reached a very high level in a short space of time, and this daughter of Gun Runner looks set to be the star of the distaff division in 2026. Making only her third start; after a low key maiden win at Tampa Bay Downs and a somewhat workmanlike win in the Gazelle Stakes at Aqueduct; she turned it on with an impressive performance to win the Kentucky Oaks by 1 1/4 lengths from **MEANING**, with **COUNTING STARS** a length further adrift in third place. These are not big margins but the Chad Brown trained filly was much the best - and she is the one who is likely to make significant improvement. She produced Globeform 118p at Churchill Downs. Coming from off the pace, she relished the 9-furlong trip, and a repeat performance will make her hard to beat in the Acorn. If she improves once more, well, then she will be impossible to beat. She broke her maiden by 6 1/2 lengths when making her racecourse debut at Tampa Bay Downs in early February (as the 3/5 favorite), and progressed to GF 103p by landing the Gazelle Stakes over 9 furlongs at Aqueduct two months later. Always a Runner showed good stamina at Aqueduct, and having won over the Oaks distance is a plus, but the Gazelle was not a strong race. Always a Runner went into much deeper waters in the Kentucky Oaks and she was well up to the task. She can't be opposed here. Her odds will be too short for a win bet - though she can still become useful for wagering purposes; not least as a single for Pick 5 players and in the middle of a nice Pick 3 made up by the Wonder Again Stakes, Acorn Stakes and the New York Stakes.

MEANING also improved in the Kentucky Oaks, her first start outside of California. Keeping on well from just off the pace, she returned **Globeform 115** in her runner-up effort 1 1/2 lengths behind **ALWAYS A RUNNER**, and she is probably going to be the main threat again. There was no more than a length down to the third placed **COUNTING STARS** but Meaning looks more likely to improve again. The Kentucky Oaks was her first try over further than 8.5 furlongs and she showed good stamina. She beat Explora by 1 1/2 lengths when receiving 4lbs from her runner-up in the one-mile Las Virgenes Stakes at Santa Anita in February, and the competition was nowhere near as stiff as she followed up in the Santa Anita Oaks two months later. Meaning was still quite impressive though, taking the race comfortably by 2 lengths from her far less accomplished barnmate Brooklyn Blonde, who was 13 3/4 lengths clear of the third placed Bank Shot (she was a lot closer when third also in the Las Virgenes).

COUNTING STARS raced in fourth for most of the way in the Kentucky Oaks and she stuck around gamely to get third, improving to **Globeform 113** in the process. The Mark Casse trainee was 3/4 lengths behind Explora when running second in the Honeybee Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Oaklawn Park in early March, and she improved by about a length on that form when winning the Fantasy Stakes over the same course and distance four weeks later. Racing up with the pace throughout, she was much the best in that contest, coming home 5 1/2 lengths in front of her barnmate Search Party, who was beaten 3 1/2 lengths when fourth in the Honeybee. Counting Stars was pulled up in the Martha Washington Stakes back in February; ignoring that mishap she has a very consistent record and she most certainly belongs here. Could we see the exact same 1-2-3 as in the Kentucky Oaks? It is quite possible.

PROM QUEEN is the one who might have something to say about that. Not enjoying as good a trip as the top three, she checked in fifth in the Kentucky Oaks, beaten 4 3/4 lengths by Always a Runner. It seems unlikely that she can turn herself into a win contender but Prom Queen is lightly raced and open to improvement; with a good chance of hitting the board. She improved to **Globeform 109p** when winning the 8.5-furlong Gulfstream Park Oaks in late March, beating subsequent Black Eyed Susan Stakes winner My Miss Mo easily by 2 3/4 lengths after sitting close to the pace all the way and outclassing her rivals coming down the lane. She was not able to get a similar trip at Churchill Downs - and there's a lot to like about this daughter of Quality Road. If she improves again (quite likely) she can make more of an impact this time. >>

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MAXIMUM OFFER won an 8.5-furlong allowance race at Churchill Downs by 1 1/4 lengths in early May and her form was given a boost when the runner-up, Betty's Pearl, won a similar event by 6 1/4 lengths on Saturday - but this is still a big step up in class for Maximum Offer. Having run fourth to subsequent Fantasy Stakes second Search Party in the Martha Washington Stakes at Oaklawn Park in February but been well below that level when fifth in the Fair Grounds Oaks in March, she bounced back to form with a game, prominent run at Churchill Downs and she will probably be pace factor in the Acorn.

CONCLUSION: Always a Runner to win again and Meaning to run second again; it's hardly an original idea but it is what's most likely to happen. Always a Runner can be a single in horizontal exotics, while the Trifecta plan is a simple one where we have Always a Runner first, Meaning second and Counting Stars / Prom Queen in third. Adding one ticket where we have Prom Queen only in third gives us a shot at a bit of value.

The Pick 3 plan will be included in the Wonder Again Stakes preview.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	5 ALWAYS A RUNNER
B	3 MEANING
C	1 PROM QUEEN

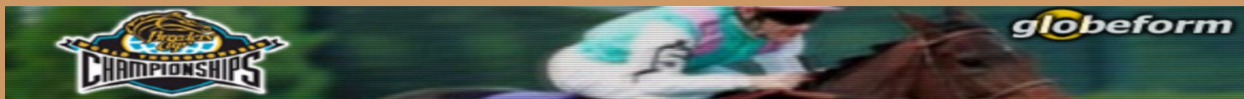
Always a Runner / Kentucky Oaks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhuFyRIGxLE>
2nd Meaning 3rd Counting Stars 5th Prom Queen

Meaning / Santa Anita Oaks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSISu0xO8Dk>

Meaning / Las Virgenes Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCe4JX3SbWE>

Prom Queen / Gulfstream Park Oaks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWPXqDhAsAU>

Counting Stars / Fantasy Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xef4VhywyWk>



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UPDATED MAY 31



GLOBEFORM RANKING

BELMONT STAKES (G1) 10 fur dirt, Saratoga June 6

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

POSSIBLE CONTENDERS

Rank	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)				
0p	GOLDEN TEMPO	115p	115p - 105p - 102	DeVaux / J L Ortiz
0p	RENEGADE	115p	114+ 115p - 112p	Pletcher / I Ortiz Jr
3	COMMANDMENT	112	103 - 112 - 111p	B Cox / TBA
4p	CHIEF WALLABEE	111p	108+ 111p - 108p	W Mott / Alvarado
7p	EMERGING MARKET	108p	98+ 108p - 106p	Brown / Prat
8p	GROWTH EQUITY	107p	107p - ?p	Brown / TBA
11p	POWERSHIFT	104p	100+ 90 - 104p	Pletcher / L Saez
25	OTTINHO	90	88 - 84 - 90	Brown / D Davis
25	VITRUVIAN MAN	90	90 - 82 - 90	O'Neill / Fresu

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Most recent winners of the Belmont Stakes

2025	SOVEREIGNTY	GF 130	William Mott	Junior Alvarado
2024	DORNOCH	GF 121p	Danny Gargan	Luis Saez
2023	ARCANGELO	GF 114p	Jena Antonicci	Javier Castellano
2022	MO DONEGAL	GF 120	Todd Pletcher	Irada Ortiz Jr
2021	ESSENTIAL QUALITY	GF 120	Brad Cox	Luis Saez
2020	TIZ THE LAW	GF 120p	Barclay Tagg	Manuel Franco

Average winning Globeform: 120.8

BELMONT STAKES (G1)

10 furlongs dirt Saratoga, June 6

Projected runners

Trainers

CHIEF WALLABEE	William Mott
COMMANDMENT	Brad Cox
EMERGING MARKET	Chad Brown
GOLDEN TEMPO	Cherie DeVaux
GROWTH EQUITY	Chad Brown
OTTINHO	Chad Brown
POWERSHIFT	Todd Pletcher
RENEGADE	Todd Pletcher
VITRUVIAN MAN	Doug O'Neill

[NYRA's Belmont Stakes contenders info page](#)



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