

Globeform Subscription Service

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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5:47 CT

GLOBEFORM RANKING

APPLE BLOSSOM HCAP (G1) 8.5 fur dirt, Oaklawn Park, Apr 11

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	ROLL ON BIG JOE	119	119 - 118 - 117	Hess Jr / Leparoux
1 / 10	3	BOOTH <i>GF 115 also in Apr '25</i> <i>GF 116 in Count Fleet '25</i>	116 / 107	107 - 115 - 102	S Asmussen / E Asmussen
2	7	TEJANO TWIST	116	116 - 114 - 110	Hartman / Arrieta
2	1	MAXIMUM BOURBON	110	110 - 110 - ?+	D'Amato / Vazquez
3	4	MAD HOUSE	111	111 - 0 - 111	Van Winkle / Lopez
5	6	WENDELSSOHN <i>GF 110 in Oct & Nov '25</i>	110	105+ 106 - 92	Hartman / Velazquez
6	2	TOUGH CATCH	107	107 - 104 - 99	Stewart / J L Ortiz
6	8	DREAMINBLUE	105	103 - 105 - 96	Morse / Bejarano

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 Count Fleet

2025	BOOTH	GF 116	Steve Asmussen	Erik Asmussen
2024	SKELLY	GF 116	Steve Asmussen	Ricardo Santana Jr
2023	SKELLY	GF 114	Steve Asmussen	Ricardo Santana Jr
2022	JACKIE'S WARRIOR	GF 120+	Steve Asmussen	Joel Rosario
2021	C Z ROCKET	GF 121	Peter Miller	Florent Geroux

Average winning Globeform: 117.4

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

ROLL ON BIG JOE is the best horse in this field and understandably the favorite, though he is not in an easy spot for his return after a two-month break since winning the King Cotton Stakes over 6 furlongs at Oaklawn Park in February. Ridden up with the pace (though not leading), he battled on gamely to take that contest by half a length from **TEJANO TWIST**, who carried 7lbs less than Roll On Big Joe. **WENDELSSOHN** finished third. Tejano Twist only has 1lb less than 'Big Joe' here, so it should be hard to fancy his chances; but Tejano Twist has run much better in two wins since and it's not a given that Roll On Big Joe will beat him again. If the favorite runs to **Globeform 119**, as in the King Cotton, well, then it's game over for the rest; but this eight-runner field has as many as six speed horses and the favorite is one of them. >>>

>>> Sure enough, he can sit just off of the pace but (barring scratches) the pace is almost certain to be wicked. Note that the pace in the Whitmore (won by Tejano Twist) was almost a second faster than the King Cotton pace and the final time was 0.5 sec. better. This time, we will probably see a 'Whitmore pace like' again. One thing we can say is that this can really test Roll On Big Joe, it is just an early season G3 but it came up tough and how he copes with it will tell us whether he's going to be up to matching strides with the very best in this division. Prior to the King Cotton, he won the Bet On Sunshine at Churchill Downs by 4 1/2 lengths and the Ring the Bell at Oaklawn (beating Banishing and **TEJANO TWIST**).

TEJANO TWIST may be a veteran but he has never been better than last time out, when he came with his customary charge from well off the pace to beat **TOUGH CATCH** easily by 2 lengths in the 6-furlong Whitmore Stakes in March, with Gold Sweep third and **WENDELSSOHN** fourth, beaten 2 1/2 lengths after tiring from having set a fast pace. Tejano Twist was so much the best; he even won the race under a hand ride, and he has been rated as a three-length winner. The way he performed one could have attached a "p" to his career high **Globeform 116** earned on the day, indicating that better can be expected - but he is after all a 7yo with 47 starts under his belt so let's not get too carried away. What he is, however, is a deep closing course and distance specialist coming off an impressive win and now finding himself in a field absolutely loaded with early speed. Priced up at a **massive looking 6-1** on the morning line, Tejano Twist has an excellent chance of winning the Count Fleet. He has been beaten three times by **ROLL ON BIG JOE** in the past and **BOOTH** beat him when winning this event twelve months ago; still, this does look like an opportunity for sweet revenge for the son of Practical Joke. It is also encouraging that the Whitmore win came on the back of a similar performance in a good allowance race just 13 days prior, when he outclassing the odds-on favorite **BOOTH** to win by 3 1/2 lengths. Unless he suffers the dreaded bounce, Tejano Twist will be tough here.

MAXIMUM BOURBON, sold for \$400,000 and transferred from Joe Sharp to Phil D'Amato last month, takes a step up in class after three solid performances in good allowance races, all over 6 furlongs at the Fair Grounds. He led from gate to wire when beating dual allowance winner Benji Star by 2 lengths in January, pressed the pace before drawing off to come home 3 lengths clear of the consistent yardstick Attache in February, and was in a close stalking position when beaten 1 1/2 lengths by Built when the latter set a new track record in March. Given 116lbs by the Oaklawn handicapper, Maximum Bourbon is well in at the weights compared to ratings here, and the 6-furlong trip is clearly his optimum - but post one and being part of the speed *will* be tough. His rider Ramon Vazquez has been down to 117 in a few stakes this year so a significant overweight will probably be avoided (if any). Still, this contender is a bit hard to fancy; ratings say that morning line 3-1 isn't too far off - other factors say that it is. He's a possible Trifecta horse.

BOOTH improved to **Globeform 116** when winning the Count Fleet last year, and he has confirmed that he was worthy of that figure twice since; with a direct follow-up win in the Maryland Sprint at Pimlico in May and a last gasp defeat against Banishing in the Jeff Hall Memorial at Ellis Park in July, when he was caught in the very last stride and beaten just a nose. The Asmussen team has had a lot of success in this sprint, not only by sending out the winners of the last four editions, but also in 2019 (Mitole), 2014 (Lemon Drop Dream) and 2013 (Justin Phillip). Booth was given a break from the Jeff Hall and right up to a 6-furlong allowance race here in early March, when he ran evenly to be second, 3 1/2 lengths behind **TEJANO TWIST**. He may have needed the race but his route to success here 12 months ago was via wins in the Commodore and the Whitmore, so his profile this time is quite different. Part of the speed, he has to get back to form close to his personal best to have a winning chance.

MAD HOUSE, a solid winner of the Gallant Bob Stakes over 6 furlongs at Parx last September (but well below par at the Breeders' Cup), was impressive on his seasonal debut in allowance company at Tampa Bay Downs in early March. Going off as the odds-on favorite over 6 furlongs, he jumped straight to the lead and was in full command coming down the lane. He won by 3 3/4 lengths from Dreaming of Kona, who beat the third placed Chrome Ghost by a nose. Dreaming of Kona flopped in the Army Mule next time (ran as if something was amiss at 48-1) but Chrome Ghost did better on his subsequent outing, taking second just half a length behind Damon's Mound in the NYRABET Sprint at Tampa. Mad House was back to his best as he outclassed these rivals. He earned **Globeform 112**, slightly higher than last year's Gallant Bob rating, and the clock also confirmed that it was a strong performance; by stopping it in 1.08.85 the son of Vekoma was less than a length off a track record that has stood since 2012. So should this lightly raced 4yo be as big as **15-1** for the Count Fleet? Probably not. At such odds **he's the value bet** and well worth a wager. >>>

| *After the scratch of second favorite Maximum Bourbon (3-1), Mad House went off at 9-1 and won* |

>>> He is one of a bunch of speed runners in the field, so that's not ideal, but we are dealing with a late developing sprinter with every right to improve. He was also a late foal by the way. Unraced as a juvenile, he won the last four races leading up to the Breeders' Cup at Del Mar (where he very ran fast early, struggled with the turn and dropped back); admittedly the first three were at Canterbury, but they were strolls and he surprised a few when beating Gateskeeper by 2 3/4 lengths in the Gallant Bloom. Mad House was 23-1 on the day, Gateskeeper went off at 83-1 and the third placed Fire Pit was a 56-1 chance. It was correct to say that it was a race where more fancied horses didn't turn up, but how badly could they all have run? Bob Baffert's 2/5 favorite Barnes blew his chances by a slow beginning but ran on to be fourth, while last out stakes winner Retribution ran fifth and Jersey Shore winner Neoequos checked in sixth. Are we supposed to believe that these all ran as if they had left one leg behind in the barn? Runner-up Gateskeeper hasn't raced since, Fire Pit was coming off a stakes second to Retribution (but ran poorly twice after the Gallant Bloom) and Barnes crushed high class rivals in the Perryville Stakes a month later. Mad House's big win at Parx was a legitimate performance and he more than confirmed the level first time out this year.

TOUGH CATCH has progressed nicely through his last four starts and he improved to **Globeform 107** to get second behind Tejano Twist in the Whitmore Stakes in March, having run to GF 104 to win an allowance race over the same trip a month earlier. He pressed the speed in the Whitmore and he made all at a fast pace then turned back pressure from allowance winner Go Captain to beat him by 2 1/2 lengths in the allowance heat. In good form, yes, but another step up will be needed here and it's a tall order.

CONCLUSION: Going against Roll On Big Joe isn't easy in this office - where he has a high star - but the pace makes the race, nowhere more so than in sprints like this one, and Tejano Twist is the one who will probably be dealt the best hand as the contest develops. In great form, more or less in love with this venue and handed a nice post position, he has a lot going for him. **6-1** would be a great price; but let's see what the betting public has to say about that. Roll On Big Joe becomes the obvious B-horse; after that it's tricky to choose one, though we don't have to. This C-horses is what it is. Mad House could be preferred but Booth and Maximum Bourbon both also have a chance of hitting the board. The main portion of the money must go on a win bet, and playing the Trifecta can be done with few lines.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	7 TEJANO TWIST
B	5 ROLL ON BIG JOE
C	1 MAXIMUM BOURBON, 3 BOOTH, 4 MAD HOUSE

Roll On Big Joe / King Cotton Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoYpwQ4ZYnA>

Tejano Twist / Whitmore Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyI3H1xOohg>

Mad House / Tampa Bay Allowance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mii62q43gBU>

Mad House / Gallant Bob Stakes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFB1n9Ak_r4