

# Globeform's Kentucky Derby Special '25

Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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## GLOBEFORM RANKING

### KENTUCKY OAKS (G1) 9 fur dirt, Churchill Downs May 2

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	11	GOOD CHEER <b>WON</b>	113p	111+ 113p - 110p	Cox / L Saez
4p	7	LA CARA	109p	109p - 104 - 107p	M Casse / Davis
4	14	QUIETSID	109	109 - 105 - 92+	J A Ortiz / J L Ortiz
5	8	FIVE-G	<del>108</del>	<del>107+ 108 - 105p</del>	<del>Weaver / M Franco</del>
6p	2	SIMPLY JOKING	107p	107p - 102p - ?p	Beckman / Torres
7p	10	TAKE CHARGE MILADY	106p	106p - 0 - 104p	McPeek / Hernandez Jr
8p	6	BALLERINA D'ORO	105p	105p - 99+ 101p	Brown / TBA
8p	1	EARLY ON	105p	105p - 101p - 97p	Joseph Jr / TBA
8	9	TENMA	105	105 - ?+ 104p	Baffert / J Hernandez
11p	3	FONDLY	102p	102p - ?p	Motion / TBA
11	12	ANNA'S PROMISE	102	102 - 97p - ?p	David / TBA
13 / 18	5	QUICKICK <i>GF 100 in Nov '24</i>	100 / 95	95 - 89 - 100	Amoss / TBA
13p	13	BLESS THE BROKEN	100p	100p - 96 - 96	Walden / TBA
18	4	DREXEL HILL	95	95 - 95 - 86	Beckman / TBA

*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 Kentucky Oaks

2024	THORPEDO ANNA	GF 121p	Ken McPeek	Brian Hernandez Jr
2023	PRETTY MISCHIEVOUS	GF 115	Brendan Walsh	Tyler Gaffalione
2022	SECRET OATH	GF 118	D Wayne Lukas	Luis Saez
2021	MALATHAAT	GF 117p	Todd Pletcher	Johnny Velazquez
2020	SHEDARESTHEDEVIL <i>Sep4</i>	GF 120	Brad Cox	Florent Geroux

Average winning Globeform: 118.2

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## GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

**GOOD CHEER** sets the standard in this year's Kentucky Oaks and she is obviously the one to beat. Unbeaten in six starts, the Brad Cox trained daughter of Medaglia d'Oro takes **Globeform 113p** into the battle. That's a solid rating and there is probably more to come from this well bred filly - especially as she gets a proper stamina test. It is, however, not a very high rating for an Oaks favorite and it does not set her *that* far apart from the two closest to the ranking. True, she has been impressive in her own way, taking race by race without any sort of fuss, but she looks way too short in the early bookmaker lists (mostly 6/4) and the morning line has her at 6/5. Perhaps that's what will happen; she will get a lot of attention, but it is too short.

If she improves again and jumps up to Globeform 118 or higher, something that is entirely possible, well, then Good Cheer will be extremely hard to beat in this field - but who can say for sure that this will happen? She returned her best rating to date when crushing three rivals to win the 8.5-furlong Rachel Alexandra Stakes easily by 6 1/4 lengths at the Fair Grounds in February. Making her first start at three, Good Cheer stayed on strongly coming down the lane, proving different class to Gowells Delight and **BLESS THE BROKEN**. It was hard not to be taken by such a good seasonal bow - but it would be somewhat careless to turn a blind eye to the fact that she went off at 1/20 for that race. The opposition was better than such odds would have it though. Bless the Broken went on to win the Bourbonette Oaks on her next start (beating a pair of stakes placed allowance winners), while Gowells Delight had another crack at Good Cheer in the Fair Grounds Oaks in March, a race run over the same trip as the Rachel Alexandra.

Good Cheer was once more much the best in that event; coming from just off the pace she beat the non-staying and little experienced filly Ahavah by 3 1/2 lengths and galloping out well after passing the winning post. Gowells Delight was third, this time beaten 5 3/4 lengths, while **QUICKICK** ran fourth. Good Cheer ran to GF 111+ on this occasion. Looking at times, it's interesting to note that neither of these Fair Grounds preps had a strong pace and, assuming stamina is going to be her game, that may not have suited Good Cheer. She met better horses when beating this year's Honeybee & Fantasy Stakes winner Quietside by 2 1/2 lengths in the Golden Rod Stakes here at Churchill Downs last fall. That was the day we knew she could deal with classy opposition. So far this term she hasn't be asked to do that.

To knock a horse that wins with ease just because its ratings aren't particularly high makes no sense. In many cases it's a case of 'not having to do any more' to win; in her case to remain unbeaten. Good Cheer is a worthy favorite, no doubt about that, and both the way she runs and the way she is bred suggest that stretching out to 9 furlongs will be right up her alley. Medaglia d'Oro won the 10-furlong Travers Stakes and he was narrowly beaten in the Breeders' Cup Classic, and her dam, Wedding Toast - a daughter of Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense -, notched up an excellent treble when taking the Ruffian Stakes, Ogden Phipps Stakes and Beldame Stakes in her 5yo season, proving efficient from 8 to 9 furlongs. Medaglia d'Oro is also the sire of top class fillies Rachel Alexandra (who won the Kentucky Oaks), Songbird and Elate, and in Good Cheer he might just have another such female ambassador. Though should we back this Oaks favorite at cramped odds? Probably not - use her as a key in exotics is fine, but as short as 6/5 in the win market is hardly worth taking. That morning line odds really is short, all things considering. True this Kentucky Oaks field isn't a very deep one but there are still too many unknown factors for 6/5 to be a sensible bet.

**LA CARA** is an interesting Oaks contender coming off a career best effort; **Globeform 109p**. This daughter of Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense impressed when winning the Pocahontas Stakes at Churchill Downs last year, only to disappoint in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies at Del Mar (distant sixth). The Pocahontas win was against rather ordinary opposition so perhaps La Cara wasn't such a good filly after all? The answer came when she resurfaced in the Suncoast Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs in early February. Making every post a winning one, La Cara took the extended mile event with ease, beating Untapable Stakes winner Her Laugh (who did miss the break badly) by 6 1/4 lengths. Her Laugh went on to finish fifth to Good Cheer in the Fair Grounds Oaks, beaten 7 3/4 lengths. La Cara went for the Davona Dale at Gulfstream Park next, but came up short by 2 3/4 lengths to the subsequently ill-fated The Queens MG, who produced an impressive display that day. Mark Casse has later explained that he used the Davona Dale as a means to get >>>

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>>> to the Ashland Stakes at Keeneland five weeks later, and that he did not have La Cara primed for the race at Gulfstream Park. He certainly did when heading into the Ashland. Dylan Davis sent La Cara straight to the lead and she won readily by 1 1/4 lengths from **TAKE CHARGE MILADY** - who was staying on late. The 8.5-furlong Ashland, with its short stretch run, was always going to suit La Cara and the question as she goes to Churchill Downs is about stamina. Much has been made of the fact that her runner-up was closing in on her but don't overlook another factor; La Cara actually idled in front as she was coming down the lane, and she probably had a bit more up her sleeve. It's not an absolute given that Take Charge Milady will outstay her this time; but it's even less likely that La Cara will have a smooth on-the-lead trip in the Kentucky Oaks. With a whole bunch of prominent runners in the field that is unlikely to happen. La Cara has post 7, with Five G and Tenma directly to her outside. Those two may also be sent from the word go and thus make it hard for her to get into a comfortable rhythm - though Tenma probably isn't as fast as the other two. Apart from Simply Joking (2), there isn't much speed to La Cara's inside - so there's a good chance that she can get to the rail or at least get in to lane two, and save ground. Her chances should not be underestimated. Will she stay? Hard to say. Her dam, Cara Caterina (Bernardini), was a turf / synthetics maiden also trained by Casse. He ran her mostly over 6 and 7 furlongs but she was second in a mile maiden at Ellis Park. She was half-sister to To Honor And Serve though, and he had stamina. Winning the Remsen Stakes at two and running third in the Florida Derby at three, he later captured the Woodward Stakes and the Cigar Mile.

**QUIETSIDE** has done nothing wrong as she has been prepared to the Kentucky Oaks racing exclusively over 8.5 furlongs at Oaklawn Park. After running second, well behind **TAKE CHARGE MILADY**, in the Martha Washington in January, this Malibu Moon daughter took both the Honeybee Stakes in February and the Fantasy Stakes in March. She raced in the first two all the way in both races, beating subsequent Gulfstream Park Oaks winner **FIVE G** by a length in the Honeybee and out-battling Silverbulettday Stakes winner **SIMPLY JOKING** to win by 3/4 length in the Fantasy. There's not much between these four on ratings and Simply Joking, who was making a relatively late seasonal debut in the Fantasy, may well get the better of Quietside in the Kentucky Oaks. While Quietside was race fit and enjoyed the run of the race, Simply Joking ended up in a vulnerable position under pressure on the lead. If she needed the run, which seems likely, that run should be marked up; and - although she was ridden to win - her rider was not unduly hard on her when it was clear that the battle could not be won. Simply Joking has had just three runs; that spells lack of experience but it also means that she is more likely to improve than many of the others in this field. A prominent runner, Simply Joking has a good starting point from post 2, while Quietside was handed post 14, something that can be difficult for a horse that us used to going forward. >>>

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**TAKE CHARGE MILADY** went from her near six-length win in the Martha Washington to a troubled day to forget in the Honeybee Stakes to a game runner-up effort in the Ashland Stakes at Keeneland, where she did her best work late and passed the winning post 1 1/4 lengths behind gate to wire winner **LA CARA**, who seemed to have bit more in the tank. Take Charge Lady came from off the pace and she ran like a filly wanting to go further - and definitely one that will appreciate the long stretch at Churchill Downs. With so much speed signed on, this race is likely to set up well for a filly with her running style, so she must also be respected - but her foot problem the past week is a real worry (reportedly she may scratch).

**FIVE G**, who had won the Cash Run Stakes by 9 lengths at Gulfstream Park on New Year's day, franked the Honeybee Stakes form by winning the Gulfstream Park Oaks on her next start. She went down by a length to **QUIETSIDE** in the Honeybee, and ran to the same level of form in the GP Oaks, a race she took gate to wire, beating **ANNA'S PROMISE** easily by 2 1/4 lengths. Five G has shown that she stays 8.5 furlongs but 9 furlongs at Churchill Downs might stretch her stamina a bit too much. She looked all speed when winning the one-mile Cash Run Stakes and she utilized her speed also in the Honeybee and the Gulfstream Park Oaks.

**MAY 1 UPDATE: FIVE G HAS BEEN SCRATCHED**

**BALLERINA D'ORO**, who gets red hot Flavien Prat in the saddle, improved when she pipped **EARLY ON** by a nose to win the Gazelle Stakes over 9 furlongs at Aqueduct in early April, having run second to Muhimma in the Demoiselle over the same course and distance last year and third behind The Queens MG and **LA CARA** in the Davona Dale Stakes over a mile at Gulfstream Park this March. Ballerina D'Oro and Early On both returned Globeform 105p at Aqueduct, in a race that actually wasn't run to suit either. A strongly-run event is likely to bring out better form and this pair should not be ruled out by Trifecta / Superfecta players. Early On was even more compromised by lack of pace when finishing second to **FONDLY** in the Virginia Oaks back in March. The winner got first run on her in a paceless 8.5-furlong contest there and the impression was that she would be a better Kentucky Oaks candidate than Fondly. The counter argument would be that it was Fondly's second race and that she is entitled to move forward quite a bit.

**TENMA** represents California, where she has won the Starlet Stakes, the three-runner Las Virgenes Stakes and the five-runner Santa Anita Oaks. Historically, such a record would make a filly one of the favorites for the Kentucky Oaks, if not *the* favorite, but Tenma has been making hay on what has become rather an arena for easy pickings these days, and she needs to improve to make an impact at Churchill Downs. That said, we are still waiting to see what happens when this Bob Baffert trainee gets a stiffer test, both when it comes to class and distance. She beat her barnmate Silent Law by 2 1/4 lengths in the Santa Anita Oaks, covering the 8.5-furlongs in 1.46.15. The mile time of this Oaks was 1.38.96, almost two seconds slower than the mile split in Journalism's 9-furlong Santa Anita Derby, and it was hard to be impressed by Tenma. Her runner-up Silent Law was a well beaten third to Look Forward in the 7-furlong Santa Ynez Stakes back in January (Look Forward was subsequently 10 3/4 lengths behind **LA CARA** when sixth in the Ashland Stakes). Silent Law won the 6-furlong Anokaia Stakes from Practical Dream last year but she was beaten by the same rival when they met in the 7-furlong Desi Arnaz Stakes three weeks later. Tenma takes a nice win streak into the Kentucky Oaks and she has an accomplished team in her corner of the ring, so there may be lots of people willing to back her - possibly making her poor value. The trouble with this filly is that not only has she been clocking ordinary times, she has also been beating ordinary looking rivals - but we all know the old saying "no horse can beat more than what's put in front of it".

**FONDLY** is the dark horse in the mix, having had just two starts - winning both, including the Virginia Oaks over 8.5 furlongs at Colonial Downs, where she was bit lucky to get the better of **EARLY ON**. Fondly was part of the pace and got first run on Early On, who finished much the best from four to five lengths behind to cut the deficit down to half a length. Early On, who was beaten just a nose by **BALLERINA D'ORO** in the Gazelle Stakes at Aqueduct three weeks later, looks the one of these two that will be best suited by a stamina test; but Fondly is the one with low mileage and good chance of significant improvement. >>>

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**CONCLUSION:** With four, perhaps even five, prominent types in the field this should set up well for the favorite Good Cheer and she is impossible to oppose. One of the speed horses - perhaps *the* speed horse - is La Cara and there was a lot to like about the way she won the Ashland Stakes. It's very hard to pick one horse to stick in the B-field of our selections box in this race. If the pace doesn't become too strong then La Cara has a chance; if it becomes wicked then she may be found wanting at the business end of the contest. Ballerina d'Oro and Early On, who looks way too big at 30-1 on the morning line, were separated by just a nos in the Gazelle Stakes, like the Kentucky Oaks run over 9 furlongs. One thing to note from that race is that they were both actually compromised by the moderate pace - yet drew right away from the opposition because of their class. That prep may have been a lot better than is appears on paper and these two will stay the distance on Friday.

So here's to plan; use La Cara and the two coming out of the Gazelle as B-horses and compile two different Trifecta plans; one for a moderate pace and one for a strong pace. Moderate pace; La Cara hits the board, strong pace; Ballerina d'Oro and Early On may both come rolling late to get a slice each. A Trifecta where they both hit the board or a Super where they are both in the first four will pay well. This is ambitious, but the thinking is that if Ballerina d'Oro is good enough to make an impact then so is Early On - who **at 30-1 really is worth a bet** across the board / each way bet.

This is not a good betting race - so let's keep stakes low.

## GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS | Based on a fast or good track

<b>A</b>	<b>11 GOOD CHEER <b>WON</b></b>
<b>B</b>	1 EARLY ON, 6 BALLERINA D'ORO, 7 LA CARA
<b>C</b>	2 SIMPLY JOKING, 3 FONDLY, 10 TAKE CHARGE MILADY, 14 QUIETSID

**Good Cheer / Fair Grounds Oaks:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrSVcK7tMjI>

**Good Cheer / Rachel Alexandra Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2crYugrtg8>

**Good Cheer / Golden Rod Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGXSz5ksec8>

**La Cara / Ashland Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og6aG89INGc>  
2nd Take Charge Milady

**Ballerina d'Oro & Early On / Gazelle Stakes:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ6d5XQGmjY>

**Fondly & Early On / Virginia Oaks:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNJWtU1rRVY>