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Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell



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GLOBEFORM RANKING

THE MINT KENTUCKY TURF SPRINT (G2) 6 fur Turf, Sat. Aug. 30

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	11	NOBALS <i>GF 116 in Nov '23 & Nov '24</i>	116 / 108	108 - 108 - 115	Rivelli / Gaffalione
1	2	HOWARD WOLOWITZ	119	0 - 119 - 107p	D'Angelo / I Ortiz Jr
3	7	ARREST ME RED	113	112 - 106 - 113	W Ward / Alvarado *
3	6	KHADEM <i>GF 114 Kent. Downs Aug '24</i> <i>GF 117 Ascot June '24</i>	117 / 96	96 - 95 - 114	Hills / Dettori
5	4	ARZAK <i>GF 115 in Nov '24</i>	115	103 - 94 - 104	Trombetta / L Saez
5	9	DURANTE	113	107 - 113 - 110	Jacobson / Torres
5	5	BEAR RIVER	111	111 - 104 - 0 - 111	Desormeaux / Graham
5	10	PIPSY	110	90+ 110 - 106p	Walden / Rosario
7	1	IMPLEMENTATION	109	109 - 107 - 107	Joseph Jr / M Franco
9	12	CHARCOAL	107	102 - 107 - 97	Wisner / Concepcion
5 / 12	3	ONE TIMER <i>GF 111 Kent. Downs Aug '24</i>	111 / 104	97 - 103 - 102	Rivelli / Loveberry
7 / 11	8	AIR FORCE RED <i>GF 111 in Sep '24 & Mar '25</i>	111 / 107	104 - 103 - 107	Powell / J L Ortiz
ALSO ELIGIBLES					
9 / 18	13	AXTHELM <i>GF 104+ in Jan '25</i> <i>GF 107 Kent. Downs Sep '24</i>	107 / 98	95 - 96 - 98	Joseph Jr / Alvarado *
4 / 8+	14	EAMONN <i>GF 108+ in Mar '25</i> <i>GF 112 in Apr '24</i>	112 / 108+	106 - 90 - 106+	Orseno / Castellano
11	15	HIGH FRONT	105	105 - ? - ?	S Asmussen / K Asmussen

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

NOBALS is top ranked, based on his two best performance being worth **Globeform 116**; and is set to receive 4lbs from Howard Wolowitz. He returned GF 115 when coming back from a break at Churchill Downs in May (beat Chiseler and **ONE TIMER** easily by almost four lengths) but his two recent starts have been uninspiring and the question must be whether we have seen the best of this 6yo sprinter. In addition, there is the worry about the course. He was fourth in this event last year but well beaten and some way below his best form. He ran a game race to be second behind **ARREST ME RED** in the Big Daddy Stakes over the Tapeta track in March, and he had ended 2024 on a high note when bouncing right back to his best to beat Canada's undisputed sprint champion Patches O'Houlihan by three parts of a length in the Kennedy Road Stakes over 6 furlongs on Tapeta at Woodbine in November. That run was as good as his win in the 5-furlong Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint at Santa Anita in 2023. Plenty of back class here folks, but will some of it resurface one day, and if so will in be over this undulating course?

HOWARD WOLOWITZ is the best horse in this field. He came up with a top notch performance when winning the Holiday Cheer Stakes over 6 furlongs at Turfway Park last December and if he is back to that sort of form he will take all the beating as he returns to Kentucky Downs, where he won the 6.5-furlong Franklin-Simpson Stakes last year. He was much the best at Turfway, where he raced up with the pace all the way and beat the in-form Run Carson (who was coming off two solid wins) quite easily by 1 1/2 lengths. **ONE TIMER** was a non-threatening third, beaten 4 3/4 lengths.

Howard Wolowitz moved up to **Globeform 119** with this run and he was well fancied for the 1351 Saudi Turf Sprint in February - but had an absolute off day in the desert end ended up second last. He has had plenty of time to recover from that trip, recent works have been strong, and he is the logical selection in this sprint. Morning line 7-2 looks tempting and some bookmakers have him as big as 9-2, which is great value. With a bit more luck this colt could have been placed in last year's Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. Howard Wolowitz was at the back of the field early in the championship event, racing a bit keenly and looking immature still, was then forced wide on the turn and finished with interest coming down the lane - without being given a hard time by his rider. He passed the winning post in ninth place but was beaten no more than 3 lengths by the winner, Starlust, who won the race from Motorious and AG Bullet.

ARREST ME RED always runs well here at Kentucky Downs (and often at other venues for that matter) and he must be considered. Coming off good runner-up effort in a close finish to the Mighty Beau Stakes at Churchill Downs in June, when he split Joe Shiesty and Run Carson, he has been rested specifically to come fresh to this race and running him straight off the bench has worked well before. He was close to his best - Globeform 113 - at Churchill Downs, while his absolute best came when he beat **NOBALS** by half a length in the Big Daddy Stakes at Turfway Park on his seasonal debut. Arrest Me Red showed the same level of form to win a 6.5-furlong allowance heat at Kentucky Downs last year; he's a likely player this weekend.

KHADEM and Frankie Dettori is a combination that will get plenty of attention and it's easy to understand why. He won the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot last year, and produce another good run to finish second to the outstanding turf sprinter Cogburn in the Kentucky Turf Sprint. Here we have a contender with winning form at an even bigger stage, form over the course, and one of the world's best jockeys on his back. What's not to like? In short; his recent form. Khaadem has been really dull in his tow race in England this season and perhaps he is a spent force. Then again, perhaps he is simply an older horse who needs to be livened up a bit to decide it's time to put on a show again? Tracks like Kentucky Downs, where everything is a bit different and not at all boring, sometimes bring veteran runners back to life.

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ARZAK ran well when fourth to Ag Bullet in the Jaipur Stakes at Saratoga in June, then found a mile unsuitable in the Kelso, before simply disappointing when fifth behind **BEAR RIVER** in the prep for this race at Ellis Park four weeks ago. He is much better than that run and deserves another chance to shine on the big stage, something he has done in the past. His best performance to date came in the 5.5-furlong Woodford Stakes at Keeneland back in 2023. Closing in from just off the pace, he was an emphatic 2-length winner from Our Shot, running to **Globeform 116** to gain his seventh win. He has added just one more win since (in the 2024 Shakertown, also 5.5 fur / Keeneland) but he has run close to the same rating for placings in top events; most notably when beaten just 1 1/2 lengths when sixth to Starlust in last year's Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint at Del Mar; a course that hardly suits him - and now we are wondering whether Kentucky Downs suits him. He has been here once before; finishing sixth in the 2022 edition of this contest. That was before Arzak became such a good horse though, so it's not a result to pay much attention to this week. At his best, Arzak can match strides with the best of these.

DURANTE (who tries turf after three good runs on dirt), **BEAR RIVER** (who is coming off a career best when beating Coppola and **NOBALS** four weeks ago and looks big at 20-1) and **PIPSY** (an improving filly who was visually impressive winning at Keeneland and Saratoga before being 'heel clipped' and wiped out in her last start) are very closely matched on form. Pipsy probably has the most upside but Bear River has delivered a couple of taking performances - he could also hit the board.

EAMONN, who looks unlikely to get into the race, should be included in Trifecta plans if he does, at least to smaller stakes. This deep closer could surprise. His previous outings at Kentucky Downs have not been too good but the thing about this horse is that he rather unpredictable. The long stretch will suit him perfectly if he decides to roll; though first he would need two defections to get a berth.

CONCLUSION: Howard Wolowitz is an easy selection; his class sets him apart and those bullet works at Saratoga indicate that he is ready for a big run. Arrest Me Red is the one it feels most comfortable to rely on underneath and he becomes the lone B-horse. One way to play here might be to use him as 2nd or 3rd with the the others in the selection box + (to smaller stakes) add a Superfecta ticket with Arrest Me Red in 4th behind Howard Wolowitz and the others in between. That way we stand a good chance of collecting if our A-horse wins and our B-horse finishes in the first four.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS | MINT KENTUCKY TURF SPRINT

A	2 HOWARD WOLOWITZ 2nd (blocked) Trifecta: 243-1
B	7 ARREST ME RED 4th Superfecta: 1129-1
C	4 ARZAK, 5 BEAR RIVER 1st at 19-1 , 6 KHADEM 3rd , 10 PISPY, 11 NOBALS

Howard Wolowitz / Holiday Cheer Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl1rAgF8YnA>

Howard Wolowiz 9th / Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch00_XcWai8&t=97s